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Returning from the Dead His Secret Lover Chapter 1831

Natalie ended up lazing in Ian's room.

The fact was that she was afraid of Matteo. He was tall and looked like he enjoyed playing pranks on others. Hence, whenever she went out and saw him, she was always afraid that he might lift her up again.

Hence, she sat on Ian's couch and played obediently.

Meanwhile, Susan was cooking outside. Since there were suddenly so many guests, she became busy.

Luckily, Kurt was there to help.

"Kurt, I didn't expect you to know how to cook! How impressive. Did you know that Timothy doesn't know how to do anything? He just asks for everything that he needs. I wonder if he'll starve to death in the future."

Looking at Kurt, who was cutting the vegetables skillfully, she was surprised and envious.

A smile formed on Kurt's lips.

Naturally, he knew how to cook after training at SteelFort for a few years. The training was not just limited to combat—survival skills were taught as well.

Furthermore, he had a glutton with him; thus, there was no way that he would not know how to cook.

Kurt tried his best to help Susan prepare the food.

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“Time to eat! After we are done, let’s take a look at Ian’s project.” Matteo was always optimistic. When he saw that the food was served, he ran to Ian’s room.

When Natalie saw him, she shuddered in fear. She ran away from the couch and crawled into Ian’s arms.

Ian was speechless.

Matteo complained, “What’s wrong with her? Why does she always run to you whenever she sees you, but treat me like I’m a ghost?”

Ian replied, “All right, let’s go out and eat.”

Then, he pushed his big-built brother out of his room and pulled Natalie out of his arms.

With his large figure, Matteo would undeniably intimidate children. Since he had been in the military school for quite some time, he was very strong and muscular. Furthermore, he was a prankster.

On the other hand, Ian did not train so intensely due to his health and was much thinner. His introverted personality made him seem more approachable too.

However, this was only Natalie’s perspective. Any other person would think that Ian was cold and aloof whenever they saw him.

“Let’s go and eat,” instructed Ian calmly as he gazed at Natalie.

While being carried by him, Natalie blinked her large, watery eyes.

“Can I sit with you? Kurt is definitely sitting next to Vivian, so I can’t sit there. There’s also Matteo and the other dude...” Natalie pouted as she revealed a fearful expression.

Is she serious?

The veins on Ian’s temples throbbed.

However, left with no choice, he could only take Natalie out.

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Susan asked, "Huh? Is she with you all this while? It's no wonder I didn't hear anything."

When she brought the food out and saw Ian bringing Natalie out, she was very surprised. She walked over and stroked her tiny head.

"Your name is Nat, right?"

"Yeah!"

When Natalie saw how gentle Susan was, she immediately took a liking to her.

Susan asked, "Do you want to sit with me? He might not know how to take care of you."

She pointed at Ian, who had never taken care of anyone.

Natalie looked at both of them.

A handsome big brother or a gentle big sister... Never mind! I'll fill my tummy first before playing with him.

Natalie allowed Susan to carry her away obediently. The meal ended in a fun and lively exchange between those young men and young ladies.

After eating, Ian agreed to take them to the project area.

Hence, the whole gang left enthusiastically.

"Ian, how's the project looking? Are you going to turn everything into a commercial district?" asked Vivian since she was quite knowledgeable about businesses.

Ian passed her a blueprint.

"It's going to look like this for now, but I want the surroundings to form a business ring. That's how we can maximize profit. So, we'll wait and see how things turn out after business starts."

"That's possible. But do you want to add something more unique?"

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Vivian suddenly made a suggestion after receiving Ian's blueprint—a contrast to her usual carefree personality.

What? Something unique?

Ian glanced at her. Matteo, who was driving in the front, and Kurt in the front seat also turned around simultaneously.

"What do you mean?"

"Like classical architecture, you know? The show that I organized in Elysium, Yorksland, helped the place to shoot to popularity. We can look for something similar to that," reminded Vivian.

Everyone had to admit that among the triplets, Vivian was the most naturally gifted in terms of business. In short, she had inherited the good genes from both Sasha and Sebastian.

A smart man like Ian immediately understood what she meant. Ideas started surfacing in his mind rapidly.

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He was not as talented as Vivian since his strength was in the area of research. However, with his highly intelligent brain, he understood her idea immediately.

Soon, he came up with a strategy.

"Are you talking about an international modeling competition?"

When Susan heard that idea, her mouth fell agape in shock.

Isn't that too much? This is only a small project. Is there a need to spend so much?

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However, when Ian raised that idea, all the others agreed unanimously, especially Vivian.

“That’s a good idea! We can leverage the Hayes Corporation brand and organize a large-scale modeling competition! This building will have its first headline.”

“Sounds reasonable,” agreed Kurt.

Matteo and Timothy did not even need to say anything. They merely followed the majority’s opinion.

Half an hour later, everyone arrived at the building and Ian brought them on a tour around the place. After ensuring that the project was feasible, he would have to consult Sebastian.

Since Solomon had not returned, Sebastian was in charge of the final decision.

Indeed, when Sebastian, who was all the way at Jadeborough, heard that idea, he thought that it was quite good. However, he changed it a bit—the international modeling competition could just be for clout. They could just invite a few international models, while the rest of the participants could be locals.

The Hayes Corporation would host the competition. They could announce that that place would be the origin of Hayes’ first foray into the fashion industry.

“Oh my God! Daddy is like a god.” Vivian was extremely impressed by Sebastian when she heard the final plan.

Ian and the rest immediately changed the strategy at the office. Since it was almost time for the opening ceremony, almost everyone played a part in it.

Vivian offered, “I’ll be responsible for contacting the supermodels. Lady Adalyn can help me with that.”

Matteo said, “I’ll be in charge of rebuilding the place. If this is the final plan, we must redo the surroundings and extend it by a few more kilometers.”

Kurt chimed in, “I’ll take charge of safety! You can leave the entire project to me.” He was the most ambitious.

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Ian patted his shoulder gratefully and passed him the contact details of the captain of the security team.

As for Susan and Timothy, their task was to contact the competitors. After all, they had studied there for a long time.

After returning home, Timothy scratched his head and asked, "Susan, who should we look for?"

Susan glanced at her school, which was nearby. She thought about it and said, "I wonder if there's anyone from our school who'd be willing to join."

"Our school?"

"Yeah! We can invite anyone to join the modeling competition. It's somewhat like a talent show. If that's the case, even students from our school are eligible."

Susan was smart enough to have understood the ingenuity of the plan instantly.

Timothy's eyes lit up.

Immediately, the siblings split up. Timothy was in charge of looking for guys, while Susan looked for girls.

"A modeling competition organized by the Hayes Corporation? Oh my God! I'm going! I'm so going!"

Amongst the girls, Zaylynn was the first to jump in excitement upon hearing the news.

If she was already so excited, the other girls would naturally be equally so.

Within one afternoon, Susan managed to find many people who wanted to join. She had a jolly good time looking at all of them, who were blessed with long legs and slender waists.

It was the same for the guys too.

Although Yasmin knew about the competition, she did not dare to say anything.

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With her looks and figure, she was more than eligible to join the competition. However, she did not dare to do so. She felt like a clown that had been dragged to a dark corner, hidden from the light forever. She could only enviously watch the other girls grab that rare opportunity.

“Why aren’t you going, Yasmin? You’ve got such a good figure. If you sign up, you’ll definitely be selected!” A voice rang out from behind.

She immediately turned around and looked at the student council secretary, who had approached her.

“I...”

“You don’t dare to go? If you’re scared, I’ll accompany you there. This is an amazing chance. Although I know that your dream is to become a top financial planner, winning Hayes Corporation’s modeling competition is also a shortcut to success!” stated the student council secretary directly.

The secretary was right. This was the easiest shortcut to reach success.

If the Hayes Corporation truly had an intention to expand into the modeling industry, it would be influential enough to secure a huge market. The model who won the competition would definitely become famous. When that time came, she would be drowning in invitations.

There was no one definite path to success. Many people would realize that their route to success would not be the same route that they had dreamed of initially.

Hence, this would not conflict her dream at all.

However, Yasmin lowered her gaze despondently.

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"No, I don't like it."

With that, she left with her head still bowed.

Seeing that, the student council secretary had no choice but to sigh and walk away.

Yasmin quickly returned to her dorm. To her surprise, she received a message on her phone immediately upon returning.

Anonymous: I want you to attend that competition.

Crash!

Her phone fell to the ground. She glared at it in utter terror, as if she had just encountered a ghost.

Feelings of fear, shock, and disbelief were written on her face immediately.

Why? Didn't I already delete him? Why can he still contact me? How did he infiltrate my phone?

Shuddering, she stood there for more than a minute, completely paralyzed. It was like something terrifying like a plague or a vicious demon was lying on the floor instead of her phone.

She wished for nothing more than to smash it into pieces.

In reality, she did that. However, when she stepped on the phone, it started blaring loudly. There was nothing more despairing than this.

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Oh god, is there no way out of this?

In the end, she picked the phone up with a despondent look and placed it against her ear robotically.

“What are you doing, Yasmin? Do you think that you can cut off contact with us just like that? Let me tell you this. From the moment you contacted us, you will never be able to get rid of us. Don’t even think of escaping us!” reminded the person viciously over the phone. Every word was like a venomous snake sinking its fangs into her flesh, causing her to shudder in fear.

However, she was at her wits end.

“Yasmin, don’t forget that you’ve got blood on your hands. Someone died. Although you didn’t kill the person personally, you’re involved in every step. You can’t prove yourself innocent anymore,” he continued harshly.

Yeah! There is no way I can wash the blood off my hands. It looks like I can only follow them to hell now!

“What... What do you want to do? Ian’s siblings are here. There’s no chance for you to kill Susan and her brother!”

“That’s why I’m making you join the competition,” revealed the person sinisterly. “Let me tell you this—Sebastian’s eldest son has a mental illness. Sebastian sent him to the University of Pollerton and made him in charge of the Hayes Corporation’s project in order to train him. If Ian ruins the project, what will happen to him?”

“I’m really looking forward to this. If someone dies, it’ll be even more entertaining!” added that vicious man.

Immediately, Yasmin felt like darkness was engulfing her again as she stood in her room. She smashed her phone onto the ground and shrieked shrilly.

She finally understood how despair and fear felt like—once she stepped into the abyss of darkness, there would be no path of return.

The next day arrived.

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After all their effort yesterday, those who stayed in the apartment completed their tasks exceptionally. The next step was to continue with their own duties.

“My task is to design clothes today. Within a week, I’ll finish designing all their outfits.”

“Sure!”

On the temporary meeting table, which had been repurposed from the dining table in the apartment, everyone started reporting their work progress before even having breakfast.

Ian, who was in charge of the project, was pleased when he heard about Vivian’s progress.

It was Matteo next. “I’ve already found a renovation team. After your side is done with the blueprint, we can start work immediately.”

“My security system is almost done too. I can ensure that not even a fly can escape my eyes.” Kurt handed his blueprint up too. If he was the one in charge of security, the outcome would undoubtedly be good.

As the top assassin of SteelFort, this was a piece of cake for him.

Ian glanced at Timothy and Susan. While Timothy did not make much progress and had only found a few guys, Susan produced a long list of names.

Vivian exclaimed, “You’re so amazing, Aunt Susan! You managed to recruit so many people in such a short time! Who are they?”

“Some are my schoolmates. When they heard that the Hayes Corporation is organizing a modeling competition, everyone was so excited that they raced to sign up. Another portion of them is made up of less popular celebrities whom the Neal family had recommended to me.”

After Susan introduced the first list, she whipped out another one.

Wow, celebrities!

Everyone’s eyes lit up.

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If there were celebrities joining, the competition would definitely attract more attention. The building and the business district surrounding it would be even more popular as well.

Everyone glanced at Susan, admiring her intelligence.

Ian was gazing at her too, not concealing the look of approval that was showing in his eyes.

Since everyone was done with their preparations, the next step was to start working on them. After eating breakfast, they all left. There was only Ian, who was the chief in charge of the project, and the six-year-old Natalie left in the apartment.

They just stared at each other for a while...

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"Don't worry, Ian. I'm a very easy baby. You don't need to feed or coax me. Just bring me along with you wherever you go!"

When the six-year-old girl saw Ian frowning, she immediately carried her bag, ran to the entrance, and waited for him.

I'm so obedient, he'll definitely bring me along!

In the end, Ian brought her along and arrived at the building half an hour later.

"Oh my God! Where did this little girl come from? She's so pretty!" exclaimed Yvonne and the rest in shock when they saw Natalie.

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Looking at the lady pinching her cheek, Natalie flashed a sweet smile at her.

“I’m Natalie, Ian’s little sister. In the future, I’m going to be his wife!”

“W-What?” When she said that, everyone in the building was dumbfounded.

Meanwhile, the water in Ian’s mouth spurted out in the office.

“What are you talking about, Natalie? Who allowed you to spout such nonsense?”

“I’m not saying nonsense! When I grow up, my dream is to become your wife, Ian. Daddy said that it is possible. As long as I try my best, I can definitely become your wife.”

With that, the cute little girl stared at Ian with her head tilted to the side. Drool came dribbling down her mouth again.

Yvonne and the rest doubled over in laughter, unable to control themselves.

Indeed, Natalie seemed like a child who was raised by an eccentric guy like Brandon. Furthermore, there were photos of him, a huge celebrity, and his daughter published occasionally. It was obvious that he doted on her greatly.

Rumors had it that because his daughter loved to draw, he just lay there and let her tie his hair, apply lipstick to him, and even paint his nails...

It was no wonder that he had raised a daughter who wanted to marry Ian.

Meanwhile, Ian fumed at the side.

When Vivian and Kurt returned at noon, he made a huge fuss and urged them to send Natalie back to Jadeborough.

Vivian asked, “Why? I’ve got so much work to deal with now. The models will be arriving soon!”

Yvonne explained, “Ms. Vivian, this little girl declared right in front of everyone that her dream is to become your brother’s wife!”

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"Yeah! Hahaha!"

Everyone could not help but burst out laughing again.

Vivian muttered, "Um..."

Kurt was speechless.

After a long while, Vivian scratched her head.

"So you already found out, huh? Ian, this is all Uncle Brandon's fault. She has been pasting your photo above her cot since young."

"She was willing to come over for your sake," added Kurt calmly.

The building was so quiet that they could hear a pin drop. At that moment, everyone fell silent, their gazes flitting between Ian and Natalie.

They completely ignored Ian's extremely grim expression.

What a bloody mess!

Furious, Ian sent a message to Sasha and scolded Brandon for his failure in educating his child.

Sasha was speechless. A few seconds passed before she finally replied to his message.

Sasha: Ian, Brandon did that because Nat was diagnosed with lymphoma when she was three and almost lost her life. To motivate her and encourage her to continue with her treatment, he mentioned you.

Ian: Me?

Sasha: Yeah! Because you were born prematurely, so your health wasn't that great. Furthermore, since your blood type is special, your father had to take a helicopter to search for hospitals multiple times just to save you.

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Sasha: By using you as an example, Brandon hoped to encourage her to continue living. After she emerged victorious from the battle against her illness, she has been treating you as her idol.

Sash revealed this hidden past to Ian and even sent a few photos from back then.

Ian fell silent after seeing the photos.

Natalie was curling up on the bed like a weak little kitten. Her face was deathly pale and her eyes were shut. Even her nose was filled with all sorts of pipes.

"She's just a little kid. At six years old, she doesn't know what being a wife means! Don't be angry, Ian. She's just fooling around like a child," assured Vivian at the most critical moment.

She glanced outside the office and saw Natalie completely engrossed in playing with a little dog, her butt poking out.

In the end, Ian decided to ignore this matter. He lowered his head and scrutinized the first batch of name lists.

Yasmin Snow?

When he saw the last name, a menacing look immediately appeared over his initially relaxed expression.

Ian: Why is Yasmin's name here?

Susan: Huh?

Perhaps Susan was busy, she did not react immediately.

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When Ian noticed that, he sent a photo of the name list gloomily. Even through the phone, his fury and displeasure were glaringly obvious.

Susan was at a loss for words.

How should I explain this? Since that student council secretary specially approached me, I can't possibly refuse. What happened between Yasmin and me hasn't been publicly revealed yet.

When Susan read the message on the screen, she could already imagine Ian's furious expression. Not knowing how to reply to him, she sent a few words back.

Susan: The school recommended her.

Ian: So what?

Susan: Ian, no one know about our conflict yet. If you contact the school and force her to withdraw from the competition, she might see me in a bad light again.

Susan's last sentence had a pleading note.

Yeah! That's what I'm the most afraid of. I can already feel that Yasmin's state of mind has changed drastically. Sometimes, I'm even terrified by her. At the Neal residence the other time, she approached Timothy directly!

Susan just hoped that everything would become peaceful again.

Ian read the message in the building. Although there was still some lingering anger within him, he could sense her pleading tone. Hence, he did not say anything else.

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At that moment, Kurt arrived.

“Kurt, I want you to keep an eye on someone.”

“Who?”

Kurt was a bit surprised. From his impression, it was rare for Ian, who had a very calm and rational personality, to want to keep an eye on someone so warily.

He picked up the name list.

“Yasmin Snow?”

“Yeah, she’s Duncan’s elder sister. After realizing that Susan and Timothy were from the Limmer family, she has been acting shady in the dark. She’s already responsible for someone’s death.” Ian did not hide anything from Kurt.

When Kurt heard that, he was in disbelief.

So it’s her! Is this Uncle Sebastian’s true objective in asking me to come here? Does he want me to bait all these people?

The intelligent man immediately understood.

Nodding, he memorized Yasmin’s name and face. Soon, he left.

By the time night fell, the few of them had returned to the apartment. However, Vivian soon noticed that Kurt had not come back yet.

“Where’s Kurt? Why hasn’t he returned?”

“I think he’s still dealing with the security system. Hey, you’re too much. Why aren’t you showing concern for me? I didn’t even manage to take a sip of water after coming back,” complained Matteo while answering her question. He had just returned to the apartment as well.

Vivian blushed.

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Just when she was about to pour some water for Matteo, she spotted a pair of tiny hands. Natalie placed a cup of water in front of Matteo before turning around and dashing away.

“Huh? Nat?”

“Wow! It’s Nat! You love me the most, don’t you? Come here and let me give you a hug!”

Natalie had already hidden behind Ian. When Matteo saw her, he quickly beckoned her to come over. However, she was unwilling to do that.

Grabbing Ian’s shirt, she poked her head out and snuck a peek at Matteo carefully before hiding again.

“Hahaha!”

Matteo was taken with how adorable she was. His heart softened as he stood up from the chair and walked over, wanting to carry Nat over.

“No! I don’t want him to carry me! Ian, save me!” screamed Natalie before snuggling into Ian’s arms, as if Matteo was a beast.

This made Matteo unhappy.

He stared at Natalie gloomily. “This is so weird. Do I look very scary? Why is she so scared of me?”

“You don’t look scary. It’s just that your actions are! Nat is still a child. How can you be so violent? If you want to have a good relationship with her, you need to be gentle and coax her,” analyzed Vivian.

When Matteo heard that, he slapped his forehead in realization and quickly took out something from his pocket.

“Come here, Nat. Look at what this is! If you come here, I’ll let you play with it.”

Still clinging to Ian, Natalie glanced at him.

What’s that? Is that a toy?

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In the end, Natalie allowed Matteo, who was as tall as a skyscraper to her, to carry her. She sat on his lap and started playing with a robot he had brought from the building.

Time passed quickly. Soon, it was time for the building's opening. Everyone was done with their preparations as well. The media reporters who had heard about it quickly rushed over.

"Even the reporters are here. Seems like today's event will be big." When Ian received the news, he specially summoned Kurt over to his room and told him that.

A calm expression hung on Kurt's face.

Actually, he wanted to ask Ian something. The main event for today is the project he's in charge of. Why is he constantly thinking about that issue? What is he really focusing on?

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