Returning from the Dead: His Secret Lover Chapter 941 - 94

"But... that doesn't mean he has to harm uncle. They're brothers, after all. He could have voiced out about the mistreatment he had to endure. Why did he choose to do such a vicious act?"

After recollecting himself, Devin eventually pinned all the blame on his father for what happened.

Jasmine was beyond exasperated upon hearing that.

Sebastian, who had heard everything standing behind, also felt a blow to his heart.

This is where Devin's different from his parents. Even though he might lack responsibility and capability, his views are often righteous. And he always looks at the whole picture before judging.

"What did you say? How could you say that your dad was vicious? What an unfilial son you are! If he didn't do what he did, you wouldn't even have a place in the Jadesons right now!"

Jasmine burst into devastation as she accused her son loudly.

A grim look crossed Devin's face.

No longer wanting to argue with her, he continued pushing his father's corpse and moved forward.

Jasmine lost her mind upon seeing that, and she climbed onto the railing beside her.

"Jasmine, what are you doing?"

"That's right. Mrs. Jadeson, what are you doing? Please come down now!"

The Woodses behind her and the watching crowd got startled by her act.

Devin immediately turned around when he heard the commotion.

"Mom, are you out of your mind? What are you trying to pull here?"

"Out of my mind?"

Jasmine, who had gotten onto the railing, let out a smile. Staring at Devin, she let go of the railing and stood up unsteadily.

Devin was in utter shock upon seeing that.

Sebastian, who was nearby, was also bereft of speech.

By then, Sasha and Janice had arrived with the kids on the ground floor. Their hearts skipped a beat upon witnessing what was happening upstairs.

This woman is definitely crazy!

"I'm not crazy, son. I'm just thinking. Since you've abandoned your dad, let me accompany him then. After I'm gone, please take care of yourself."

Overwhelmed with fright, Devin did not know how to react.

Gaining back his senses, he immediately rushed toward his mother.

But before he could reach her, she jumped off the railing. Sebastian also failed to catch her in time.

"Mom!"

A miserable wail of agony cut through the air, echoing throughout the hospital's corridor.

In that instance, pin drop silence filled the space.

Everyone froze on the spot as they gazed down upon the woman who was now an unidentifiable mess of gore and flesh downstairs.

Sebastian could not believe what was happening.

As for Sasha, who was downstairs, she was in utter astonishment.

Did she actually jump? Why? She'd been creating a fuss in Oceanic Estate from yesterday until now. I know that she did all that to save Stephen, but even if Stephen was dead, she still got Devin, no? She didn't need to pull such a desperate act.

Sasha stared numbly at the scene, unable to comprehend why Jasmine jumped.

Right then, she sensed someone appearing beside her. Staring at the gruesome scene, she trembled incessantly as she lifted her head.

"Sab?"

"Why? Why didn't you guys stop her?"

The color drained from Sabrina's face as she look at the man upstairs.

Sasha opened her mouth and wanted to explain to her. No one was able to react in time when Jasmine lashed out.

But the words got stuck in her throat as she followed Sabrina's gaze and looked toward Devin.

She could barely recognize him.

There was no trace of life on his face as he stared down at his mother's body, unmoving.

His eyes were filled with utter coldness and a trace of hostility.

Sasha had never seen Devin like that.

In the end, Devin collapsed to the ground.

He had been up for the entire night due to his father's suicide. And now, he had to witness his mother's death in such a brutal manner. No one would be able to endure that mentally.

Sebastian immediately arranged to send Devin into a ward.

As for Jasmine...

"Sebastian, please leave it to me. Old Mr. Jadeson has woken up. You should go inform him about this."

Sasha came over and took the initiative to handle the matter.

Sebastian was in the worst mood at that moment.

He hesitated for a while and eventually agreed.

"Just give me a call if you can't handle it." He did not forget to remind Sasha before leaving.

Sasha was still nauseous as she witnessed Jasmine's suicide from a close range. Even as a doctor, it was a massive blow to her.

However, upon hearing Sebastian's words, she felt a slight sense of warmth spreading through her heart.

Returning from the Dead: His Secret Lover Chapter 942

"Okay, I will. By the way, Sebastian, don't burden yourself too much. This has nothing to do with you. I'm sure Devin understands it and won't blame it on you."

Sasha tried to comfort him as well.

Of course, she did not mention the expression she saw on Devin's face before the latter fainted.

Sebastian nodded lightly upon hearing her words.

With that, he went to Jonathan's ward, while Sasha and Janice went to handle Stephen and his wife's funeral.

As for Sabrina, she came to Devin's ward.

For her, it was a good thing that the Hayeses were finally able to avenge all their grudges at the White House. They had been waiting for this moment for ages, after all.

Yet, as she stared at the unconscious man in bed, her heart sank.

"What did your mom tell you before she died?"

She cast a question toward the pale-looking man.

No one could hear Jasmine's last words, for they were too far from her at that time.

Plus, Jasmine deliberately lowered her voice back then, as though she only wanted Devin to hear it.

So, what exactly did she say? Why did he show such a hostile look after she died? I've never seen him like this.

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A vague uneasiness slowly crept up on Sabrina.

Just then, the door opened, and a familiar woman barged in abruptly with a group of people.

"Kira? Who let you in here?"

Sabrina stood up instantly, her face darkening as she looked at the woman.

Kira was not intimidated at all as she turned a blind eye toward Sabrina.

"Sabrina, what are you talking about? These are my parents, along with Devin's uncle and aunt. Devin's parents are both dead now. What do you think we come here for?"

To Sabrina's slight bewilderment, Kira threw her question back with a domineering gesture.

Uncle? Aunt?

Sabrina's confidence somehow faded upon hearing that.

She's right. They're Devin's relatives while I'm just an outsider to him.

"No matter what you want, Sebastian was the one who made the arrangement. You have no right to move him." She had no choice but to use her brother's name.

"Sebastian?"

Kira scoffed upon hearing that.

"Sabrina, did you forget why Aunt Jasmine and Uncle Stephen died in the first place? It was all because of Sebastian."

Sabrina was rendered speechless by that.

"By the way, there's a reason why I brought my parents here. Aunt Jasmine had instructed us before she came here. She said if anything happened to her, the Woodses must come here and take her son away!"

As Kira spoke, she took out her phone and played a voice recording.

Sabrina's face fell.

I didn't expect her to play this card.

In the end, Sabrina had no choice but to let them leave with Devin.

It was already two hours later when news of Devin being taken away reached Sebastian's ears.

Jonathan was there as well.

"Why didn't you call me right away?" Sebastian's first reaction was to blame Sabrina.

At that moment, Jonathan, who seemed to have aged a lot, made a gesture toward Sebastian, signaling to him not to blame Sabrina.

"Maybe it's better for him to stay at the Woods Residence. Red Pavilion is a mess now. If he goes back, he might just get more upset," Jonathan uttered in a composed manner.

Nevertheless, regardless of how calm he tried to act, his pale and haggard face revealed how devastated his heart was.

An old man like him should be enjoying his peaceful retiring life by now.

Yet, he just found out that his younger son was harmed by his elder son. And in such a short time, he lost both his elder son and daughter-in-law.

It was indeed a miracle that he could still talk consciously after such a blow.

"I got it. Please rest well."

Sebastian was still behaving indifferently, but he finally said something caring.

Jonathan lifted his head, his eyes dimmed with sorrow. "How's it going at the White House? I heard from Mark that Franklin had admitted that he was the mastermind. Is that right?"

"Yes, he and Alfred have been arrested. Next, they're going to be prosecuted by Congress. If everything goes smoothly, they will get locked up for the rest of their life."

"That's great!"

Finally, Jonathan's eyes lit up with slight hope.

The enemy he had been chasing after all these years was finally brought to justice.

With that, his emotion instantly improved by a lot.

But the next moment, his gaze turned stern as something crossed his mind.

"I heard from Mark that you hacked into the White House's internal surveillance system in the midst of bringing Franklin and Alfred down. How did you manage to do that? Could it be that you've recovered already?"

Returning from the Dead: His Secret Lover Chapter 943

| Sebastian furrowed his brows as he did not expect Jonathan to ask that |
|--|
| For a moment, he wanted to ignore the latter and walked right out. |

Eventually, however, as he stared at Jonathan's eyes that were filled with expectation, Sebastian chose to give in.

"Is it so important whether I've recovered?"

"Of course!"

"Why?"

"Because I want to know if the price we've been paying all this while is worth it."

Sebastian found it hard to believe Jonathan's reasoning.

Is it worth it? How do we define the worth of everything that happened? If he thinks that it is worthy to sacrifice so many lives for me to recover and for him to feel less guilty, then congratulations. His wish came true. But has he ever thought that all of this happened because of him in the first place?

Nevertheless, Sebastian nodded faintly in the end. "It's just as you wished."

Upon hearing that, Jonathan got overwhelmed with utter excitement.

Tears started welling up in those pair of aged eyes.

"That's good then, that's good..." He could not suppress his emotions.

Sebastian ignored Jonathan as he took a glimpse at his watch. He planned to pay a visit to the funeral house.

"Don't worry about what happened to your uncle. Even if he didn't end his life, I would have sent him to the military court. Your dad..."

Jonathan choked on his words.

Hearing that, Sebastian paused in his tracks.

Is he finally mentioning Dad?

He froze on the spot but did not turn his head, implying that he wanted to hear more about his father's past.

Staring at Sebastian's back, Jonathan bit his lip and continued, "I admit I was too overbearing back then. After I withdrew from the border, even though I held an important position, many people in the White House looked down upon me. They thought I was nothing but A brusque man, and they used to go against my family. Because of that, I wanted to train your dad."

Jonathan's eyes trembled slightly as though he could see his talented son in front of him.

Only Jonathan knew how much expectation he put on Shin.

Ever since Shin was a kid, Jonathan had been pouring his sweat and blood to give the former the best of everything.

He hoped that Shin could revitalize the Jadesons. And he also hoped that after Shin become the head of the family, he could conquer the entire White House. Jonathan wanted to prove to the world that his family was above everyone else.

Yet, Shin, who bore great expectance, eventually fell for a woman.

"When I first heard of your mom, I was outraged. I didn't expect the heir that I've been cultivating would get destroyed by a woman. Thus, I forced your dad to leave her. But your dad was unwilling to give in. He stole the household register from the house and married your mom secretly. I was so pissed that I could not sleep for days."

Jonathan still got a little emotional as he talked about the past.

His anger was indeed reasonable. Anyone would get enraged if something they had been cultivating diligently for years got stolen by another party.

Nonetheless, blood ran thicker than water. In the end, he chose to accept Shin's decision.

It was just like what Jasmine told Devin before she ended her life. She said that Stephen took Shin's letter and was prepared to plead with Jonathan for forgiveness.

But Jonathan said that he had long forgiven Shin.

Forgiveness was meant to be a good thing.

But little did Jonathan know that the moment he forgave a son who did wrong, at the same time, he would lose a son who had been obeying him throughout his whole life.

Sebastian tried hard to listen till the end.

But still, he was unable to keep his calm as he mocked, "The biggest mistake that you've made was not your domineering harshness, but that you failed in your method of education!"

At that instance, Jonathan's pale face turned even more solemn.

No one had ever dared to say that to me.

Yet, Sebastian showed no intention to back down at all as he continued to accuse Jonathan, "Do you think you can revitalize the Jadesons by using your brutal army style? You have a habit of categorizing all your family members into levels, including your sons. You only treat those who you've deemed worthy well, while you ignore those who you've deemed useless. Do you think they are pawns in your army? Or do you see them only as weapons without souls?"

Returning from the Dead: His Secret Lover Chapter 944

"You..."

Jonathan's face flushed red from agitation upon hearing Sebastian's words.

However, he could not refute what Sebastian said. Indeed, all these years, he had been implementing his ways of training the army on his family.

And it was obvious that Stephen belonged in the category where he was deemed to be useless.

"Jonathan, family members should be the most important people to you. If you act so biased, do you expect them to be obedient? After all, everyone has sinful natures within them. You should feel lucky that they went after my dad back then and not you!"

Sebastian's words pierced through Jonathan's heart mercilessly, leaving the latter utterly speechless.

He stared at his grandson with a bewildered look, as though he just got slapped right in his face.

At the age of eighty, it was his first time getting accused like this.

Yet, he failed to find a word to rebuke those accusations. That kind of feeling was worse than any physical torture possible.

Beep, beep, beep.

Out of the blue, the ECG monitor sounded an alarm.

Sebastian raised a brow as he cut a stare at Jonathan, who was boiling with rage.

With that, he opened the door. "Nurse, please call for Dr. Wallen."

After Grayson arrived at the ward anxiously, Sebastian walked out and left.

Grayson was rendered speechless by Sebastian's action.

D*mn! Are the two of them still in a conflict? I thought they had sorted it out.

Meanwhile, inside the funeral house, Sasha had incinerated Stephen and Jasmine's bodies.

Janice came out with a jar of ashes in her hands. "Sasha, are we taking these back to Red Pavilion? But there's no one at home right now. And Devin's still in the hospital."

"Let's take them back. It's fine. I'll be there."

Sasha made the decision after staring at the two jars of ashes.

With that, they carried them carefully in their hands, getting ready to head to Red Pavilion.

"Look. They're over there. Hurry! Go get Aunt Jasmine's ashes!"

To their astonishment, a young lady along with a group of people charged toward them just as they were about to leave the funeral house.

Sasha's face fell.

The young lady was none other than Shanae, who she had encountered a few times before.

Did she come here for the ashes?

Holding onto the jar tightly, Sasha tugged at Janice and they took a few steps back.

"Janice, I need you to take these jars inside and call for help. I'll block them from entering."

"But..."

Janice was reluctant to leave Sasha alone.

Before she could say anything, however, Sasha had given her the other jar and pushed her back inside.

At that moment, Shanae and her men had reached the door.

"Sasha, you'd better hand over the ashes right now. Or else, don't blame me for hurting you," Shanae threatened upon seeing Sasha blocking the way.

Isn't she the daughter of some prim and proper family? And hasn't she been acting innocent all this while? How could someone like her show such a ferocious look?

Sasha sneered coldly, without any intention to let them through.

"Why should I give it to you? Jasmine was one of the Jadesons. Even if she is dead, the funeral will be held at the Jadeson residence. What does it have anything to do with the Woodses?"

She showed no trace of fear, the attitude she displayed was that of the lady of the Jadeson family.

Shanae's face darkened upon hearing her words.

Do you actually think that you're the lady of the Jadesons? I should have been the one in this position!

"Bullsh*t!"

She scolded, "My aunt is dead because of you guys. How dare you say that she belongs to the Jadesons? You bunch of b*stards. You caused my uncle's death, and now my aunt's. What makes you think you have the right to keep her ashes?"

With that, she beckoned the men behind her, and they charged toward Sasha.

Sasha shouted upon seeing that. "Whoever dares to take another step forward, the Jadesons will never let you off!"

She used the Jadesons to try and intimidate them.

But to her bewilderment, those people who were used to be afraid of the Jadesons, seemed indifferent about it that day.

Not only did they not back up upon hearing Sasha's words, but their murderous aura seemed to have amped up.

Seeing this, Sasha failed to react in time.

Thump!

She felt a sudden pain at the back of her head as something hard hit her. In the blink of an eye, she failed to hold the big group of people back.

"Sasha!"

Inside the funeral house, Janice let out a desperate shriek upon seeing what happened through the window.

As Shanae's men were banging on the door, a green army-colored SUV came into view behind.

Returning from the Dead: His Secret Lover Chapter 945

"You must have a death wish!"

The SUV stopped not far from the group as a tall figure emerged from it swiftly.

Emitting a murderous aura, he got behind Shanae's men without making a sound.

Without any hesitation, he grabbed the neck of one of the men.

"Ahh!"

An ear-piercing scream filled the air.

One of Shanae's men was flung back before he could even recognize who grabbed him. Landing heavily on the floor, he could not get up for a long while.

That was scary! Who the hell is this?

Seeing this, the rest of Shanae's men, who were banging at the door, stopped and shifted their gazes behind them.

Right at that moment, the tall man cast a forceful kick toward them.

Crunch!

His kick connected to one of the men's back and a bone-cracking sound rang out.

The impact was so powerful that as the one who got kicked flew backward, the rest got blown away as well.

Screams could be heard as a number of them collapsed to the ground.

"Ahh!"

Sasha, who got beaten to the ground, got pulled up by the man almost simultaneously. He then hugged her tightly.

"D-Darling..."

Still holding her head with her hands, Sasha was left in astonishment as she recognized Sebastian's face.

Right then, his expression was thunderous. Especially when he noticed the wound on Sasha's forehead, his gaze turned even more murderous.

"I'm telling you right now that none of you can get out of here alive!"

He glared at them, his eyes blazing with fury, as though he was a hungry beast that just got released from its cage.

The remaining Woodses thought he was about to make a move again, and they all trembled incessantly and began withdrawing slowly.

They were aware that the man before them had gone through professional training before.

There's no way we, as ordinary people, could defeat him.

They, including Shanae, grew wary of him.

However, Sebastian made no more move against them. Nonetheless, what happened next plunged them into desperation as two other jeeps appeared in their sights.

After the jeeps rolled to a stop, a dozen bodyguards came out from it.

"Mr. Sebastian!"

"Arrest all of them and send them to the cops. Sue them for public disturbance and smuggling of human ashes."

"Yes, Mr. Sebastian!"

In the blink of an eye, the Woodses were surrounded by a dozen of bodyguards. Before they could react, they were all rounded up and sent into the jeeps.

We'll admit to causing a public disturbance. But we didn't smuggle human ashes. That's a capital offense!

All the Woodses were dumbfounded as they sat in the jeeps.

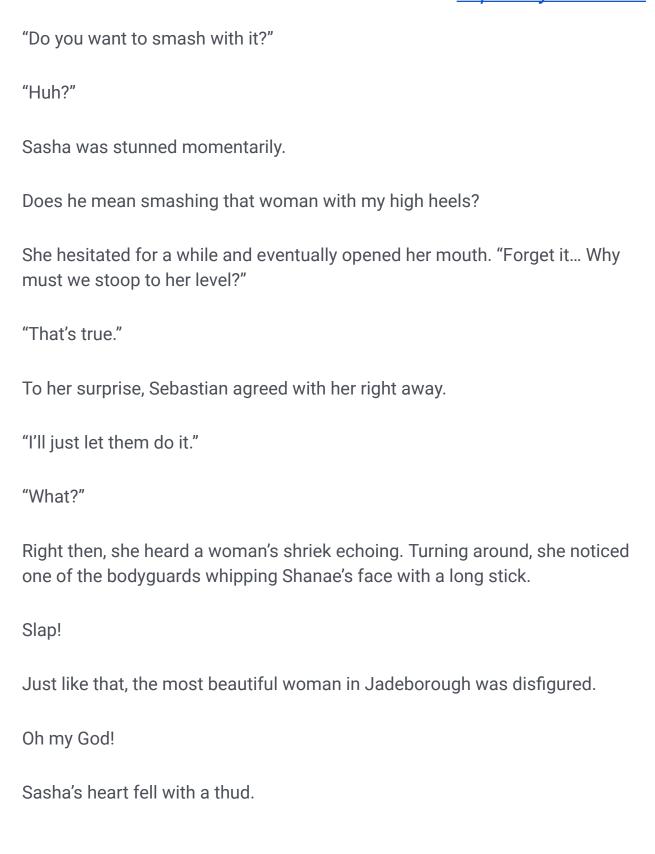
Shanae, who was still outside the jeep, stared fearfully at Sebastian.

She paled in fright as she did not expect the most powerful man of the Jadesons to show up here. At that moment, she regretted all her arrogance and recklessness.

"I... I didn't smuggle human ashes. I'm only here for my aunt's ashes.

She was stuttering, trying to explain.

Sebastian did not even bother to listen to her as he shifted his gaze toward Sasha. The next moment, he turned his attention toward the stilettos that Sasha was wearing.



The bodyguards were not from the military but Jonathan's army in Oceanic Estate. With that, they possessed all sorts of weapons.

Moreover, they were not bound by the law as well.

Yet, just because Shanae hurt Sasha, Sebastian ordered the bodyguard to whip at Shanae's face, disfiguring her.

Sasha's heart was pounding frantically as she locked her gaze upon Sebastian's handsome face.

Isn't he treating me a little too good?

Sebastian treated Sasha so nicely that she even suspected that he had returned to his old self.