

Returning from the Dead His Secret Lover Chapter 1976-1980

Chapter 1976

That evening, both of them left the office under everyone's nose and headed to the hotel.

No one dared to lift their head and steal a glance at the couple, let alone make any passing comment about it.

So, she's his fiancée! Who would have thought that a plain Jane like Susan was the one who stole the show at the much-anticipated engagement ceremony held by the Jadesons three years ago? How could we be so blind and fail to recognize our lady boss?

Ian and Susan walked out of the company arm in arm.

"I was told that the villa is ready. Shall we pay the place a visit?" Upon getting into the car, Ian turned his head sideways and asked as he recalled Melvin's words.

There was a sparkle in Susan's eyes when she heard the news.

"Sure! Let's go there now."

Finally, she was not as dejected as the time when she first returned from Atlantius. The way Ian had publicly defended and protected her during the day, coupled with his distinctive sense of dominance, appeased her resentment.

Looking at Susan, a thought flashed through Ian's mind. What is she thinking? We've been through so much to be together. Even if doom's day is approaching, she has no reason to doubt my love for her.

Soon after, the couple headed to the new villa.

Everything had been pre-arranged by Solomon. Before their return, he had instructed Melvin to source for a great unit and purchase it in advance. This was so that the couple could move in right away.

"Wow!"

Susan was overjoyed the moment she opened the huge doors with beautiful floral designs carved on them. Although it was not a very large villa, the Erihalian style luxurious decoration made it look tremendously grand and magnificent.

"This is such a nice house. In the future, we can furnish it and gradually build our dream home together."

"What do you have in mind?"

Seeing her eyes all lit up, Ian switched off his buzzing phone and accompanied her for a stroll around the garden.

“We can plant some flowers over here. If you like, we can also reserve a plot to grow some vegetables. Oh, we can create a permaculture garden and grow lots of pineapples!”

“Pineapples?”

Ian was fascinated by the idea.

With great interest, he approached Susan and looked in the direction that she had pointed. At that moment, he could picture in his head a garden full of sweet pineapples.

It’s going to be very lovely.

In the past three years, they had a home of their own in Jadeborough, which was gifted to them by Sigrith.

It was a rather small unit, only about a thousand square-foot, located in a commercial building. However, they designed and decorated every nook and cranny themselves according to their preference and made it their ideal home.

Hence, that was their favorite place whenever they were in Jadeborough.

None of their seniors living in Oceanic Estate had an opinion about it.

After dinner, Ian went shopping with Susan, just like what they used to do when they first moved into their old house.

Susan asked, “Ian, shall we change the style this round? We went with a minimalist interior the last time. Why don’t we go with Erihalian royal court-style decorations and furnishings?”

While they were selecting furniture, Susan picked up an artistic nightstand and asked the man standing next to her cheekily.

Ian’s brows snapped together at her sudden suggestion.

She can pick whichever style she likes, but can she stop calling me by my name? Didn’t she have a special term of endearment for me at the office today?

Ian slowly stretched out his arm and reached for a similar-style object on the display shelf.

“Sure. We should also combine the bedrooms this time around, okay?”

“Huh?”

“If we go with Uncle Solomon’s plan, we are probably going to stick around here for quite some time. So, combining the two bedrooms is just a matter of time”

He spoke with such calmness as though he did not feel awkward talking about the topic at all.

Susan, on the other hand, blushed almost instantly.

Why is he so direct? Doesn't he feel shy talking about such things?

"Um... Why don't we take a look at other stuff first? There are plenty of things we haven't bought yet." She changed the topic abruptly because she did not know how to respond to him.

Right then, Ian spotted a pink bedside lamp.

"Hey, Darling?"

"Hmm?"

"This looks great, doesn't it? Let's get one and place it in the other room. Our daughter can use it in the future." He chucked the lamp into the shopping cart right away.

Susan was at a loss for words.

She desperately wished for the ground to swallow her up at that moment.

He's really going overboard!

Moments later, a special yearning brewed within her as she gazed at the pink lamp in the shopping cart. She started looking forward to building a future with him.

As for our daughter... Well, what will be, will be, I guess.

It took them a long while to have everything set up in the villa before they could leave for the hotel.

Nonetheless, they had a good night's rest.

The following morning, they reported to work as usual. Ian was as busy as a bee, whereas Susan continued settling yesterday's accounts at the Finance Department.

"Bad news, Ms. Limmer. The tax authority is here. They demanded to check our accounts."

"What did you say?"

Susan raised her head and caught the drastic change of expression on Aubrey's face.

Chapter 1977

The unexpected visit of the tax authority puzzled Susan.

Although the branch here is always in the red, all of its accounts are properly recorded. In fact, they paid all of the required taxes too, not a dime was left out. I've personally checked everything, and I'm sure of it. What's the purpose of their sudden visit?

A wary look flashed across Susan's face. Soon, she exited her office.

"Mr. Tanner, this is our newly appointed finance director"

The receptionist introduced several officers dressed in uniform to her the moment she stepped out of the office.

Susan scrutinized them and then proactively offered a handshake. "Hi, Mr. Tanner. I'm Susan Limmer, the person in charge of the Finance Department. Nice to meet you."

"Ms. Limmer?"

Unfortunately, Tucker Tanner paid no heed to her.

He looked very arrogant, seemingly the type that came deliberately to cause unnecessary trouble.

"I'm here today to investigate the recent export case.

I received a phone call from the customs this morning stating that Hayes Corporation did not register those goods."

Tucker then waved his hand to signal his subordinate to whip out some official documents while Susan watched on, unfazed.

When she was handed the documents, she tilted her head and quickly skimmed through the pages.

"Aubrey."

"Yes, Ms. Limmer?" responded Aubrey who was standing by her side the entire time.

Susan instructed her softly, "Go to the Sales Department and find out what's going on. Additionally, ask the two staff who completed the customs clearance to come over here immediately."

"Understood, Ms. Limmer." She went to carry out her task at once.

Then, a thought dawned on Susan, and she called out to Aubrey again. "What is Mr. Hayes up to at the moment?"

"If I'm not mistaken, he's out with Mr. Ginn," replied Aubrey.

"All right. If that's the case, there's no need to inform him about this. Go on, then." Susan made a decision on the spot.

Once Aubrey left, Susan smiled and gazed at Tucker and his team from the local tax department.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Tanner. Please allow me to learn from my colleagues what happened first. Let me take you to the reception room. Once I have understood the whole situation, I'll come back to you for a detailed discussion. Is that okay?"

"Are you serious, Ms. Limmer? You have no idea what went wrong? Why did Hayes Corporation send you here in the first place, then?" Tucker was obviously displeased.

Susan plastered a smile on her face and kept her cool. Instead of arguing with him, she led the team into the reception room and personally served them coffee.

Ten minutes later, Aubrey returned with the sales manager.

"How is it?"

"Ms. Limmer, I'm the manager of the Sales Department. There was one order which we did in a rush. The goods were handed over to the shipping container first before we completed the procedures. Regardless, the customs officer was aware of it and gave US permission to do so." The manager could not help feeling wronged when he was explaining the incident in person.

Clearly, the tax officers are in for pedantic fault-finding.

Susan collected some data and invoices received from customs clearance and headed into the reception room.

"I'm sorry to keep you waiting, Mr. Tanner. I've been updated about the incident. You're right that Hayes Corporation did skip a step when exporting the goods. However, our sales staff has confirmed that the case has been declared to customs, and we've obtained the green light from them to go ahead. Please take a look at the documentation. It shows that we've done all the necessary procedures."

Susan passed the stack of paperwork to Tucker, only to be given a cold shoulder by him.

"You've obtained permission? Who approved it? How come I'm not aware of this at all? If it's exactly as what you said, why would the customs still call up the tax department?"

"That's right, Ms. Limmer. Everything needs to be supported by evidence. We can't work based on your claims. You know, even Tilan Palace never dared to do anything quite like this.

Tilan Palace? There, he said it. So, that's what it's all about, huh?

An icy glint flashed across Susan's eyes even though she kept smiling politely at them.

"Mr. Tanner, Hayes Corporation places heavy emphasis on quality and reputation in all that the company does in Astoria. We're counted as one of the very best in the world because we're a trustworthy company. If you think that we aren't as good as Tilan Palace, then I can get Mr. Hayes' advice on what to do next. This can be easily resolved. Let us know how much the fine is, and I'll see to it that Hayes Corporation pays exactly that amount."

Susan continued, "However, I have one reminder for you, Mr. Tanner. We agreed to set up a branch here and invest our resources only because your government has put in a lot of effort to liaise with the Foreign Affairs Department and applied for a collaboration with US umpteen times. To date, Hayes Corporation is still suffering from a deficit. Should you and the customs plan to nitpick on every single matter, I'll suggest to Mr. Hayes to go and seek Mr. George's advice and see if the corporation would like to withdraw all investment."

Susan, who was apparently half the age of the officers, was readily admitting the mistake made by the company's employee.

Chapter 1978

However, the next moment, she was able to shift the conversation toward the real motives of the tax department visit to Hayes Corporation. While saying her piece, she maintained her calm and civilized behavior.

In an instant, the reception room fell dead silent.

She's good! She even mentioned the matter of economic development between the two countries. Right then, everyone, including Tucker, was stunned.

"Withdraw all investments? You must be joking, right, Ms. Limmer?" he asked.

"Oh, no. On the contrary, I'm being dead serious." The smile on Susan's face faded, and she stared firmly at him. A chill ran down Tucker's spine when she did that.

After all, her features had never been the sweet or dainty type. Instead, she had always looked calm, rational, and elegant.

Indeed, a woman like her could always exude a domineering aura. Even if she were to keep quiet, she would still be intimidating.

Just then, Aubrey uttered, "Mr. Tanner, she's actually Mr. Hayes' fiancée. In other words, she's the future lady owner of Hayes Corporation. Do you really think she would joke with you?"

Hearing that, everyone fell silent.

After around ten minutes, Susan sent them off and watched them leave before bringing the documents to her office.

"Ms. Limmer, is this the end of the matter?"

"No. They came here today to do what they were doing to Tilan Palace, and they're just trying to take advantage of Hayes Corporation. From now on, remember to get my permission before approving any payments to them," Susan instructed.

"Yes!"

The Finance Department was shocked upon receiving such decisive and ruthless instruction from their newly appointed superior. If we do that, we'll be going against all the local tyrants here. Hayes Corporation will surely face a lot of troubles in the future.

Although they were all impressed by Susan's boldness and intelligence, they were also starting to grow concerned.

Ian had only found out about the matter after he returned to the office in the afternoon.

Melvin was in the office, and he was incredibly worried about the consequences as well. "Mr. Hayes, what Ms. Limmer did will most probably ruin the relationships we have with the other parties, such as the government officials and the local underground organizations. I think Hayes Corporation will run into problems in the near future."

Upon hearing that, Ian glared at him coldly and asked, "So? Do you want Hayes Corporation to be like Hugo and rely on others to survive here?"

"No... That's not what I meant." Beads of cold sweat started to form on Melvin's forehead right away.

Obviously, that wasn't what he meant.

In fact, he was genuinely worried. After all, Southeast Astoria is a lawless region. If we were to do business here, things aren't going to be as easy as in other regions.

In the end, Melvin could only leave worriedly.

That evening, Ian and Susan went back to their new villa after they got off from work. That was when they started having a discussion about the matter.

"Undeniably, Melvin is right to be worried. When the tax authority came today, he had confirmed Melvin's theory. The government officials are in bed with the underground organizations," Susan uttered while putting up her favorite wallpaper in the villa.

Ian remained silent for a while. Hayes Corporation is a law-abiding corporation. Since its establishment, the company had never done anything shady. It's a foolish endeavor that they'd try to take advantage of Hayes Corporation.

While passing a sketch drawing he had drawn to Susan, he said, "From tomorrow onward, I'll get two men to stay with you at all times to protect you."

Huh? Susan immediately turned toward him and looked at him with a changed expression. "Why? Are we in danger?" she asked.

"It's possible. I've gone to their chamber of commerce today, and I've made myself clear. I told them Hayes Corporation will never join those organizations. Hayes Corporation will simply be Hayes Corporation, no more, no less." A grin appeared on Ian's face.

Upon seeing that, Susan knew roughly what he meant.

She then took the sketch drawing from him and hung it at the spot they both liked.

Suddenly, she asked in a serious tone, "All right. I'll leave that to you. By the way, Ian, should we get your mom and the others to decide on the date we should

move in? I think that's only appropriate."

Ian frowned. / have no problem with the suggestion. However, shouldn't she address me differently? Before she had the time to react, he went up to her, wrapped his arms around her, and carried her off of the chair.

"Ahh!" she yelped.

After carrying her off the chair, he pulled her into his embrace and looked down at her. They were so close to each other that she could feel his breath on her face when he asked, "Ms. Limmer, I can promise you anything in the world. But in return, I'd like you to promise me something as well."

Susan blushed instantly. Her heart was pounding, and she shied away nervously. "W-What is it?" she stammered.

"From now on, don't call me by my name." "What?"

Chapter 1979

Still Stumped, Susan raised her gaze and looked at Ian in confusion. "If I don't call you by your name, h-how should I address you, then?"

"You'll address me as 'Hubby; of course!" Ian couldn't help but instruct blatantly.

Susan was stunned, and her face flushed crimson immediately.

"But we haven't gotten our marriage certificate yet. If I address you so, I—"

"Marriage certificate?" Ian seemed like he had just realized something.

With a slight cock of his brow, he suddenly let go of her and said, "Wait here."

Susan was startled. "What are you doing?"

"I need to make a call."

"What for?"

"I'm going to get my parents to collect our marriage certificate for US." With that, Ian ran up the stairs. He was really going to call home and get his parents to collect their marriage certificate.

Is he kidding? How could he get his parents to collect our marriage certificate? Susan was amused. She then quickly followed him upstairs and rushed into the bedroom to stop him.

However, when she got there, she saw that he had already switched on the television and contacted Oceanic Estate through video call.

“Oh? Ian, Susan! You’ve finally called, huh? What a pleasant surprise! What have you guys been up to?” Sasha was tutoring Natalie when Ian called. She was over the moon to receive the call from them.

Seeing that, Susan had no choice but to steel herself and greet her future mother-in-law. “Hi, Mrs. Hayes. We... We’ve been busy getting our new house ready.”

“Is that so? Are you guys done with it, then? Are you guys doing it yourselves? If it’s too taxing, I can send some people over to help you guys,” Sasha uttered.

“It’s all right. That won’t be—”

Right then, Ian interrupted and said, “Mommy, you don’t have to trouble yourself with that. I need you to help Susan and me to collect our marriage certificate tomorrow.”

What the hell? I can’t believe he just drop such a shocking piece of news out of nowhere! Can’t he see that Mrs. Hayes and I were in the middle of a conversation?

Susan was stumped.

Sasha, too, was startled.

Regardless, she was still incredibly happy with Ian’s decision. “You’re asking me to collect your marriage certificate? Have you guys decided on that?”

However, I can’t help you guys to collect the marriage certificate. Both of you will have to go to the civil affairs office and do it yourselves.”

Sasha couldn’t help chuckling at how clueless her son was. He’s already twenty-three. How could he not know something as basic as this? I wonder how Susan has been spending her life with him for the past three years. Could it be that she had been the one doing all the worrying for him?

As soon as those words fell, Susan felt awkward right away. Ian, on the other hand, looked utterly confused.

“When you got married to Daddy back then, didn’t Grandpa do everything for you guys? Daddy wasn’t even around to do it,” Ian uttered.

Suddenly, a familiar tall figure appeared on the screen of the video call and fumed, “You brat! Are you done? How could you get someone else to do such an important thing for you? Do you even want to get married in the first place? Where’s your sincerity, huh?”

After he scolded Susan and Ian with a grim expression, he ended the call right away.

Both Ian and Susan fell silent.

After a while, Susan noticed how sullen Ian looked. She tried her best to compose herself, and she tugged on his sleeves. "Don't be upset, okay? I-I'll do as you say... Hubby..."

Her cheeks were as red as the glow of dusk. While overwhelmed with embarrassment and awkwardness, she finally addressed him as he wanted.

Upon hearing that, Ian turned and glanced at her.

Meanwhile, in Oceanic Estate, Sasha was infuriated after Sebastian ended the call abruptly.

"Sebastian, what did you do that for? Ian is right, isn't he? It's a fact that you didn't collect our marriage certificate with me. So why are you throwing a tantrum now?" She glared at him angrily to show how dissatisfied she was with what he did back then.

D*mn that bratty son of mine! Sebastian froze momentarily.

"Darling, I was wrong, okay? Why don't we register for our marriage again?" he asked.

"Huh?" Sasha was pissed off. "What do you mean by that? You'd better say it to me clearly, Sebastian."

"Well... I mean, I owed you a lot, Darling. I didn't collect our marriage certificate with you, and I didn't give you a grand wedding ceremony. I've promised you a lot in the past, but I couldn't make good on my promises because of all the things that had happened."

"So?" Suddenly, Sasha had a bad feeling about it. Why is he admitting his faults all of a sudden? Knowing how sly and cunning he is, he must be up to something!

Chapter 1980

"That's why we should do everything again, Darling. Well go to the civil affairs office, divorce each other, and then marry each other again before setting up the wedding. What do you say?"

As expected, once Sebastian got permission to reply, he spilled his plans in a thoughtful manner.

Sasha was silent as she grabbed her slipper from the floor.

Sebastian jumped in shock when he saw that.

Natalie was speechless as she watched the renowned, fearsome man being chased by his wife out of the door with a slipper.

She lowered her head, pulled out her phone, and typed: Matt, your mommy and daddy are fighting.

Matteo was speechless when he read the text.

A few minutes later, he called.

Natalie, who was lying on the desk, saw the caller ID. Her dark eyes, which appeared even more brilliant and pretty after she grew up, lit up immediately like the stars in the sky.

“Matt...”

“Mhm. What’s wrong, Nat? Why did my mommy and daddy fight?” Matteo sounded pretty anxious on the phone.

Even his voice was higher-pitched.

It was natural for him to be shocked, since he had never seen his parents fight before. They were usually loving and affectionate toward each other, especially his father. He knew his father loved his mother a lot.

That was why he was pretty shocked when he suddenly heard that.

Natalie told him the whole story in a small voice, starting from Ian’s call to their parents’ argument. Her description was clear.

She had grown up, after all.

When Matteo learned what actually happened, he relaxed. “Ah, I see. In that case, you should just ignore it. You only need to focus on doing your homework.”

“Mhm.” Natalie nodded her head and agreed.

Matteo was about to end the call when he heard her speaking again. “I got ninety-five marks for the exam this time, Matt. I only need five more marks to accomplish your request.”

“Really? That’s great, Nat. Good job!” He didn’t hesitate to compliment Natalie, yet she wasn’t happy.

Instead, after she listened to his reply, a tinge of anxiety appeared on her delicate and pretty face.

“Is that all?”

“Hmm?” He didn’t react to it in time. “What do you mean?”

Silence ensued on the other end of the line.

What she was referring to was the promise he made to her before.

For the past three years, no one knew that the reason Natalie was able to stay obediently at Oceanic Estate for her education was because of Matteo’s promise. He had promised her that if she worked hard and gained one hundred marks in sixth grade, he would bring her to attend a middle school in the area he lived.

That was why she had been working really hard for the past three years.

She wasn't smart. Her mother, Willow, was an ordinary person while her father, Brandon, was pretty average too.

That was why her grades had always been mediocre.

After three years, right before she was heading to sixth grade, she actually achieved ninety-five marks.

She hung up the call. When Sasha returned to the room, she saw no one inside.

"Where is she?" When she saw the incomplete homework on the table, she panicked.

Sebastian was right behind her, and when he saw that, his eyebrows furrowed as well. They went out to look for her.

The intensity of their worries increased when they couldn't find Natalie anywhere in Oceanic Estate that night.

"Where did she go? She was all okay when she was doing her homework! Why did she suddenly disappear? Did someone come in and abducted her?" Sasha was so worried that tears were gushing out of her eyes.

It couldn't be helped, since Natalie was the only person alive who had a blood relation to her best friend. She couldn't imagine how she would face her friend if the child went missing.

Seeing how his wife was getting extremely anxious, Sebastian, who was worried she might break down, comforted her first before giving Devin a call and asking him to bring people over. They would conduct a thorough search over the entire Jadeborough.

No one in the Jadeson family rested for the entire night.

The next morning, everyone was shocked that Matteo, who was supposed to be at the foreign police headquarters, suddenly appeared in front of them.

"Matteo, you... Why are you here?"

"Where's Natalie? Did you all find her?" That was the first thing he asked after traveling back to the country overnight.

Sasha was stunned.

At that moment, Sebastian also understood something.

Half an hour later, they found Natalie in Matteo's room. She was hiding inside Matteo's wardrobe. When she was carried out of the wardrobe, she was unconscious.

"What exactly is going on?" Jonathan got so furious that he pounded the floor with his walking stick.

Sasha wasn't sure what to say.

In the end, she could only watch as her son carried Natalie in his arms and rushed the little girl to the hospital before following them.