

Can't Win Me Back Chapter 1361 - 1370

Chapter 1361

"I believe the public is aware of Ms. Alyssa's upright character. She wouldn't have performed the surgery on David if he were an indecent chap because that would be endorsing evil. Am I right?"

Josh had dropped a highly suggestive and shocking statement. David was known as a good-for-

nothing with questionable ethics. Because of that, Josh did not bother to clear David's name, seeking

instead to vindicate him. He couldn't care less for David's reputation.

However, Alyssa was a different case altogether. Josh opted to announce Alyssa's surgery on David at

this critical time to establish her alliance with the Schmidts.

He wanted the world to believe that Alyssa would ultimately side with the Schmidt family despite her

virtuous character.

"I hereby offer a sincere apology on behalf of David and the Schmidt Group for taking up everyone's

time," Josh concluded. "We will exercise greater caution in the future and humbly heed the public's

feedback and criticism."

With that, the news stream ended. Alyssa's face mirrored the coldness of a winter's night.

Similarly enraged, Xavier cursed in a quivering voice, "Damn it! That bastard Josh Schmidt is dragging

Madam Alyssa down with them!"

Surprisingly, Alyssa did not seem fazed even though Josh had tarnished her reputation. While she was

angry at Josh's speech, she had since calmed down.

Only Jasper seemed agitated by the move Josh had pulled. She sensed him tensing up, and his skin

was cold to the touch. The veins on his hand bulged threateningly.

Jasper and Alyssa resembled each other in this aspect. Unbothered by their own problems, they were more concerned with the well-being of others.

She noticed the gloom in his eyes. A storm seemed to be brewing. His puffed chest pressed against her back.

His silence spoke volumes of his anger.

"Jasper, calm down. There's no need to let this anger consume you." She squeezed his hand with a reassuring smile, coaxing him gently. "Josh Schmidt is like a wild beast. He wanted to bite me, but all he could do was snarl at me through the TV screen. It doesn't bother me, so don't let it bother you."

"How can I not be bothered?" His breath grew uneven. His fist tensed up and trembled in her grip.

He vowed, "I will not let this slide. I will make Josh pay and endure twice the suffering of David."

"I share the same thought, but we must not lose our composure because of his words." She worriedly

pressed her fingers against his throbbing temples and massaged them. "You have a serious headache

problem. You know it'll worsen with emotional turmoil. Please care for your health, even if it's for my sake.

Despite her comforting words, he failed to keep his calm after Alyssa fell victim to Josh. His deep love for Alyssa led him to lose his cool and rationality.

"Madam Alyssa, the netizens are launching online attacks against you. I suspect that 80 percent of

them are bots hired by Josh." Xavier browsed through a barrage of insults, nearly cracking his phone's screen out of anger.

Jasper immediately instructed, "Get the PR department to monitor the comments!"

Chapter 1362

"Whatever. We can't control what others say, so let them be. Josh Schmidt might think he's dealing a

blow to me, but he has underestimated me." Alyssa declared, lifting her chin proudly and smiling. "We

don't have to do anything at all."

"Lyse." Jasper's breathing grew heavy. He held her hand tighter.

"Fame always comes with trouble. The netizen's attack only proves my popularity."

Waving her hand,

Alyssa added, "Remember, explaining yourself is dumb behavior. You're not going to rip your heart out

to prove a point when accused of having an ugly heart, are you? Let's ignore that troublemaker, Josh

Schmidt. He's going to shoot himself in the foot one day."

Then, she put on a serious face and said, "I'm more concerned about the girls who suddenly changed

their minds. I suspect the Schmidts have pressured them into it."

"They come from ordinary families. There's no way they could fight against the Schmidts." Lowering his

gaze, Jasper analyzed, "As for the two minors, they not only suffer from the Schmidts' threats. If the

scandal is publicized, they might risk media and public scrutiny.

"They are victims, but society will gossip about them. There might be awful commenters who brand

them as loose women and a 'willing victim.'"

"A willing victim?" The term dropped like a bomb on Alyssa. She felt a jolt of shock across her body.

Jasper's level-headed and cruel assessment dealt a huge blow to her. She could already imagine the horrible remarks.

"It takes two to tango."

"Things don't happen for no reason."

"It's their fault for wearing miniskirts."

"Why did it happen to them and not someone else?"

The victims would be forced to endure slander after all they had gone through, pushing them deeper into the pain of being labeled as "willing victims".

"They have a long life ahead of them. Their parents might care more about public perception than

seeking justice. I do not agree with their decision, but I empathize with them."

Jasper pulled Alyssa into a hug when he noticed color draining from her face. Her shoulders trembled

incessantly. He rested his chin against her neck and tightened his grip as if he wanted to be one with her.

"Jasper, I'm fine. I just feel sorry for those girls." Choking on tears, Alyssa muttered in a feeble tone.

"You're overly kind, Lyse." He patted her on the back. "But I would love you to stay true to yourself—

bright, passionate, and kind."

He would willingly take on any challenge for her as long as he could keep her happy and carefree.

Feeling cheered up, she gathered herself and said, "Jasper, can you make the arrangements for me?

I'd like to meet the girls one-on-one."

"Are you planning to convince them to testify?" Jasper's brow twitched in surprise.

"They changed their mind not because they didn't care for justice. They feared retaliation from the

Schmidts." She smiled brightly and explained, "I will make it clear that I'm here to defend them against the Schmidts."

After David's release from the detention center, he was ferried back to the Schmidt Residence in all the

pomp. On his way home, he indulged in red wine in the luxury car, scrolling through mean comments

about Alyssa Taylor and laughing out loud like a repressed maniac who was back in action.

The netizens commented. "Alyssa Taylor performing surgery on David Schmidt? Why did she save that scoundrel? Are they secretly dating or what?"

"I was right. The tycoons are all in it together. They benefit from each other, and Ms. Alyssa is no different, even if she acts all righteous. Us peasants are the ones who ultimately suffer."

"Alyssa Taylor, I'm so disappointed in you. You've lost a fan! I am disgusted!"

"Hahaha! Josh, look at these comments. They're fucking explosive!" Crossing and swinging his leg,

David remarked, "One of them even suggested that I was dating Alyssa Taylor!

Hahaha! I bet Jasper

Beckett would die of envy when he read it! Say, will he come at me tonight?

"Well, it'd be fucking awesome to date Alyssa Taylor. See her body? It must feel great fucking that ass!"

Josh, disturbed by David's vulgar speech, cut him off sternly, "Feel great? Can you even enjoy sex now?"

"Why do you always hit me where it hurts?" David looked aggrieved.

"Alyssa is not an easy target. Do you even have the guts to mess with her? She might send you to hell."

"Tsk, can't I even dream about fucking her?" David licked his lips in a lewd fashion.

Josh shook his head in disdain. He wouldn't have even spoken to David if they weren't siblings.

Meanwhile, David couldn't wipe off the grin from his face when he scrolled through the negative comments.

Josh swirled the wine in his glass and snorted. "You're pretty optimistic, aren't you? I'm surprised you're still smiling when the netizens are mocking you.

"Why not? I don't need them to tell me that I'm an animal." David grinned maliciously and rubbed his

chin. "Anyway, Alyssa Taylor has been dragged through the mud. I so love ruining the reputation of a respectable lady.

"She's always acting like she's better, steering clear of our family, but she ends up getting entangled with us. I bet she's now crying under the covers. Josh, you should take advantage of this opportunity to

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deliver a blow to her reputation! Make her the next Sophia Kirkman!"

"I will continue to control the narrative. I don't need your reminder." Josh gave his brother a side eye and smirked proudly.

Upon seeing the return of his favorite son, Victor cried and hugged David, putting on a cheesy show of family reunion.

"David, you need to thank Josh for this!" Victor said with a renewed look of trust and approval for Josh.

"Josh, you did a great job! You met my expectations for you. What would the Schmidt Group do without you?"

"Dad, you flatter me." Flashing a humble smile, Josh remarked, "David is my brother and your precious son. Of course, I will always help my family and share your worries."

"See, Dad? Josh is the only one in the family who cares! We're goners without Josh. I wouldn't be standing in front of you." Smirking in resentment, David added, "But look at Jimmy. What has he done for the family from the start? He'd rather see our family in chaos so that he could take advantage of the situation."

"David, that's not fair. We have Jimmy to thank for stabilizing the company's stock price and managing our projects in Kontina," Victor argued sternly.

At that moment, they were interrupted by a knock on the door. Smiling, Jameson wandered in. "David, I'm so glad you're home safely."

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David stared hostilely at Jameson's innocent and friendly expression. Raw anger shot through him. Just as he was about to go off, Josh shot an icy glare at him, hinting at him to hold back. David's mind immediately cleared up.

When they were in the car just now, Josh had remarked that Alyssa Taylor might not be the mastermind behind David's arrest.

Memories of their conversation resurfaced. Back in the car, Josh had mused, "She would have dealt with you right after you assaulted Tatiana if she wanted to. She wouldn't have waited until now to make a move. Besides, no one else except me knows the details of your relationships with those girls."

"Who's that motherfucker that wanted me dead? I'll tear them into pieces!"

"It's Daisy."

"R-Right! That filthy bitch! She must have snitched on me for a reduced sentence! I'll send someone to teach her a lesson!"

"Even if she knew about your relationships and snitched on you, there wasn't much she could do as a prisoner. The police wouldn't have gotten their hands on the evidence. So, someone outside the prison must have worked with her to retaliate against you."

"Who? Who's that?" David raged on, repeating the same question like an idiot.

"It can't be anyone else but Jameson. I looked into the visitor log, and he was the only one who visited Daisy at prison lately.

Since he's in Dad's favor, we'll gain nothing from going against him. Let's regain Dad's trust and lay low until we have a chance to get rid of Jameson."

"This is great! God has blessed the Schmidt family! My three sons are by my side now!" Holding David in one arm and Jameson in another, Victor was immersed in the joy of reunion. Tears filled his eyes. "We need to unite as a family and work hard for the

Schmidt Group. Let's not get into trouble anymore.

"Josh, you've done a lot this time, but Jimmy has been a great help too. He helped us stabilize the stock price and advance the projects in Kontina. So, I'm thinking..."

"Dad, I know you had your share of good news today, but I have one more to add," Josh cut him off arrogantly.

Jameson's demeanor immediately froze. He waited with bated breath.

"Oh, do you have more good news for me, Josh? Tell me about it!" Victor didn't mind being interrupted as he was in a great mood.

"Bring it in," Josh ordered.

His secretary immediately walked in with a document and handed it to Victor.

Victor accepted the document with much confusion, but he soon realized what it was and beamed widely. "Hahaha! This is awesome, Josh! Isn't this a new project you closed? What a huge surprise!"

The smile froze on Jameson's face. Under his crystal-adorned sleeve, his fist clenched.

"I secretly planned to close this project for a while, but it was in limbo for a while, so I didn't bring it up. I didn't want to get you excited over nothing." Josh flashed an honest smile and explained, "I am only announcing it to you now after signing the agreement. You know, I'm a little slow, unlike Jimmy-he's pretty slick and speaks his mind to get what he wants."

"Isn't that right? Jimmy was the most rebellious when we were kids. After 15 years, he came home to Dad and turned out as the most obedient among us all," David chimed in to mock Jameson with a look of disdain. "Should have come home earlier if you truly cared about Dad, Jimmy. You moving home doesn't feel as sincere after all these years away."

Then, he added, "That was a joke! I can be pretty blunt. Don't take my words to heart!"

Jameson squinted hatefully at David and retorted, "I guess it's hard for your brain to keep up with your mouth after the detention and all the drugs you took."

David gritted his teeth, resisting the urge to lunge at Jameson and shred him to pieces.

"Gosh, look at you guys. You've never stopped quarreling since childhood. You should get along well as a family. Can't you behave like Winston's kids and give me some peace?" Victor said.

He was excited about David's release and the new project Josh secured. Hence, he didn't take the siblings' squabble seriously.

Josh advised, "Jimmy, you need to work hard for the company now that you're the executive director. Come to us for help if you run into any issues with the projects. We are always open to a discussion for the sake of the company."

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Then, Josh flashed a generous smile and patted Jameson on the shoulder, saying, "Dad is getting old, and recent events have taken a toll on him. It's time for him to rest. Come to me for work discussions instead of bothering Dad."

"That's right, Jimmy. You have a lot to learn from Josh—he's the president after all," Victor chimed in, reinstating his trust and respect for his eldest.

Jameson glared at Josh, his deep eyes spelling danger, but managed a humble smile. "Josh is indeed capable. I have much to learn from him. Josh, best of luck with your new project." Leaving the study with a scowl, Jameson walked down the corridor. Josh caught up, calling out,

"Jimmy, why the rush? Dad wants to have dinner with all of us."

"Do you really want to have dinner with me?" Jameson spun around and fixed his piercing gaze on Josh.

"Of course. Why not?" Josh broke into a smile, unable to suppress the glee from his recent victory. "I

enjoy seeing you seething from losing out to me. More than anything, I'd like to see your disappointed face when you're seated across from your victim, who is now safe and sound. That must be really amusing to see."

"I'm afraid I'll have to let you down. I'll never waste my energy on trashy people and events," Jameson snapped and adjusted his glasses.

"Tsk," Josh replied, clicking his tongue. He did not clap back at Jameson because he was in a good mood as he had regained Victor's approval.

"Mr. Schmidt!" Carl hurried over to Jameson, hushing when he noticed Josh.

"Does everyone address you as Mr. Schmidt?" Josh taunted. "There's only one Mr. Schmidt in this family —me, the president of the company. But I'll generously allow you to indulge in your fantasies."

Then, he took out a hanky and absentmindedly wiped his hand that patted Jameson on the shoulder.

"And you shall remain a sewer rat, ruling over your men in the darkness."

Josh then tossed the hanky near Jameson's feet and marched away.

Jameson might not have been offended by Josh's previous insults, but Josh's final remark had utterly

crushed him. His glasses could no longer hide the menacing look in his eyes.

"Fuck! Does that scoundrel think he owns the company just because of a minor success?" Carl spat and cursed on Jameson's behalf.

"Why would he suddenly get hold of a Tsulu resort development project? Look into this later," Jameson gritted his teeth furiously and ordered Carl.

"Got it, Mr. Schmidt." Carl handed Jameson a long stainless steel sanitization box with two hands. "Sir wanted you to have this. It just arrived today."

Jameson felt his chest tighten. He took the box and held it tight.

Carl added, "Sir also has a message for you. He said to give it careful consideration before you take the drug. It's potent."
"I got it," croaked Jameson.
"Mr. Schmidt, the netizens have been attacking Ms. Alyssa online ever since Josh dragged her through the mud. Would you like me to handle it?" Carl asked courteously.

A dangerous look arose in Jameson's eyes as he squeezed the box out of shape. Moments later, he heaved a heavy sigh and replied, "It's fine."
Stunned, Carl gasped, "A-Are you really letting go?"

Chapter 1366

"Lyse is like a pure and innocent goddess to me. No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't get any nearer to her. You will never understand the extent of my pain." Jameson shut his eyes and grappled with the piercing heartache.
His heart drummed against his ribcage, begging to be freed. Trapped in despair, it was a howling beast demanding to be released.
"I had once wanted the best for her. But now, I even entertain the idea of hurting her. If she's a goddess, I'd like to defile her, pulling her to my level..."
He thought, "Alyssa Taylor, I am a cunning scorpion. A scorpion is cruel in nature. It'd sting the frog that helps carry it over the river."
"But I won't kill you. I'll simply love you in my own way."
It didn't take Jasper long to get his hands on the addresses of the two young girls. The next afternoon, Xavier drove Alyssa and Jasper to meet with the two victims in the hope of convincing them to serve as witnesses in court.

To avoid imposing pressure on the girls' families, they deliberately showed up in an ordinary black sedan. Alyssa and Jasper dressed in simple suits. Jasper did not look much different from his usual self, as he always commanded a regal air and looked good in whatever he wore. On the other hand, Alyssa had transformed into a wholly different woman. She showed up barefaced, looking as humble and trustworthy as a public servant. Despite her low profile appearance, she looked dazzling because she carried herself with confidence. She seemed to carry a glow with her that attracted the attention of the opposite sex. It might be a crude description, but a man would harden upon laying eyes on her. "Hey, can you stop staring at me in that manner?" Alyssa had goosebumps after being stared at for ten minutes or so and inched further away from Jasper. "It feels a little perverted." Jasper could not hold back anymore and pulled her into his arms. He accused, "Lyse, you're seducing me." "B-But I did nothing." Confused, she pressed a hand against his chest. "You look so sexy in this outfit." His eyes filled with desire. He held her chin and attempted to kiss her. Even when she was dressed in a monotone outfit, she still looked alluring to him. "No. Jasper, we're on a serious mission. I'm not in the mood for this." She pressed a finger against his lips with a long face. "I'm sorry, Lyse." Feeling bad, he sighed. "It's my fault for not being sensible." "You lived like a monk in the past, but now, you're... horny all the time." She pouted. Grinning, he teased, "Do you want me to return to who I was?" "Can you?" "Of course not." His breath tickled her ear. He gently massaged her nape and added, "I'm living a secular life now. Can't take one more day of asceticism." She bit her lip and blushed in embarrassment.

At that time, Xavier stepped on the brakes, and their car rolled to a stop in front of an old apartment block.

Chapter 1367

"Mr. Beckett, Ms. Alyssa, we're here. This is Maggie Madison's home," announced Xavier while scanning the environment.

Having grown up in a highly educated family, Xavier had performed dirty work for Jasper over the years, but never had he witnessed such an awful living environment. Since they did not have bodyguards with them, he felt quite tense.

Unlike Xavier, Jasper calmly got out of the car. As it had rained earlier, Jasper stepped right into a muddy puddle as soon as he disembarked. The mud splashed all over his expensive shoes, but he remained unbothered and seemed at home.

"Mr. Beckett! Look out! The ground—" Xavier tried to warn Jasper, but it was too late.

Jasper said casually, "It's fine."

Alyssa had wanted to follow suit, only to be lifted off the seat. She gasped and panickedly wrapped her arms around Jasper's neck.

He had lifted her into his arms because he didn't want her to walk in the mud. He grinned and said,

"What are you panicking over? I always have a good grip on you."

"Mm... You should have warned me. I was shocked!" Punching his chest playfully, she understood his concern and said, "It's just a water puddle. I'm not that fussy. Look, I had my fair share of hard times abroad. I'm not a flower in a greenhouse."

"That was the past. You have me now." He slowly placed her on the ground and held her by her waist.

He silently vowed, "Now that you have me, Lyse, I will treat you like a princess." Frowning in confusion, she asked, "Xavier, why did you take a detour to Maggie Madison's place? The other girl lives closer. We could have visited her before Maggie. It's along the way."

"Uh, Madam. The girl and her family. They refused to see you and Mr. Beckett," Xavier hesitantly admitted with a sigh.

"What's wrong?" Jasper furrowed his brows. Alyssa took his hand with a determined look in her eyes and said, "There's no need to explain. I understand their feelings. We're not parents, and it's hard for us to imagine what they're going through. The victim must be mentally tortured right now and sensitive to any changes.

"Even if we visit them with good intentions, they might feel pressured because of our social standing. Besides, it's understandable that they refuse to entertain us after how the Schmidts had threatened them before this."

Looking tense and hostile, Jasper nonetheless nodded after careful consideration. The girls' parents hailed from an ordinary family, lacking power and wealth. They were vulnerable against the Schmidts, who could easily crush them. The victim's parents likely did their utmost to protect their daughter.

Alyssa and Jasper both felt sorry for the victim. The trio made their way to the top floor of the apartment. The sights on their walk sent shivers down Xavier's spine. As a clean freak, he found the stained walls, accumulated trash, and unruly children unsettling.

"Do you find this apartment intolerable?" Jasper spoke, wrapping an arm around Alyssa's shoulders.

He calmly explained, "The slum where I lived with my mom before returning to the Beckett family was

far worse than this."

"N-No, Mr. Beckett, I..." Xavier's heart leaped into his throat as he struggled to come up with a reply.

"The conditions of a home are less important than living with the people you love.

Anywhere was home

for me as long as I was with my mom. After she passed, I can never see Seaview

Manor as home, no

matter how comfortable it is. I miss the time I lived with my mom."

He teared up from recounting memories. Tightening his grasp on Alyssa's waist, he rasped,

"Thankfully, I have Lyse by my side. I. I have a home again."

Fame, power, and wealth held no significance to him. All he ever wanted was to

build a simple and

cozy home with his lover.

Chapter 1368

Alyssa looked up into his eyes which burned with passion. She understood him

well even without

exchanging words.

Alyssa, Jasper, and Xavier went to the top floor past a narrow corridor and stood in

front of the door of

the innermost unit. Before they could knock, an old woman with a walking stick

slowly made her way

down the stairs.

Upon seeing the trio in black suits, the old woman appeared triggered and started

trembling. Tapping

her stick hard on the ground, she hissed, "H-How dare you show up at the

Madisons' again?

"Do you think you can easily bully the poor single mother and her daughter,

thinking they don't have

anyone to stand up for them? They said they would retract the lawsuit, so what

more do you want? Do

you want them dead?"

Alyssa and Jasper exchanged glances, knowing that the Schmidts must have shown up to threaten

and harass the Madison family. They could imagine the snicker on the faces of those bullies from the

Schmidt family.

"No... Ma'am, please calm down. We're not the same as them! We're here to help," Xavier explained

while approaching the old woman, but she immediately waved her stick at him without bothering to listen.

"Get lost! I've lived long enough, and I'm not afraid of your threats! I'll fight you!" bellowed the old

woman. "I watched Maggie grow up. What a nice and kind girl she is. She's like a granddaughter to me,

and I will not let any one of you bully her. Get lost now!"

She waved her stick again, and from the looks of it, she seemed ready for a showdown.

Xavier did not manage to dodge the attack in time. He was hit on the arm and grimaced in pain. When

the old woman waved her stick for the second time, Jasper hurriedly stepped forward and grabbed her

stick to stop her.

"Jasper! Don't hurt her!" Alyssa worriedly warned him.

Her heart was drumming wildly.

"Ma'am, we come in peace." Jasper slowly dropped his arms. With an earnest gaze, he explained

calmly, "We're here to help Ms. Madison. We're not the same group of people who visited her before

this.

Please trust us."

The old woman scrutinized the good-looking young man and the ravishing young lady standing beside

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him. They looked like a match made in heaven, and more importantly, they seemed much kinder than

the group of hostile hooligans who had visited the Madisons.

In the middle of the confrontation, the door to the Madisons' creaked open. Alyssa, who stood closer to

the door, turned and stared into the face of Maggie's mom.

"Who... Who are you?" Gina Ricci stared at the visitors warily.

"Mrs. Madison, how are you?" Alyssa greeted Gina with a gentle and polite tone.

"Don't be afraid.

We're not gangsters, and we're not from the Schmidt Group. We learned about Maggie's situation, and

we're here to seek justice for her."

"You're. You're seeking justice for Maggie?" The expression froze on Gina's pale face.

"Yes. We're ready to subject the culprit to the law. He must pay dearly for his actions," Alyssa declared

with a burning passion.

Gina was shocked by the sudden offer, but she found it difficult to let down her guard after days of

intimidation and fear inflicted on them by the Schmidt Group. "Who exactly are you?"

"My name is. Alyssa Taylor." Alyssa suddenly hesitated, not knowing how best to introduce herself.

No matter how she went about it, she felt she would only add to the pressure on poor Gina and

Maggie.

"Alyssa Taylor?" Gina's temples throbbed in anger. Her chest rose and fell. There was a gleam in her

eyes. "Are you the daughter of that Belbanks tycoon, the young lady who operated on David Schmidt's

leg?"

Alyssa's chest tightened in fear. "Mrs. Madison, I."

Gina exclaimed, "I see that you've got a hidden agenda. You are on the same side as David! He was

the one who arranged for you to come over and harm Maggie. Am I right?"

Alyssa responded, "No! I..."

"You didn't have good intentions either! I can't believe that you operated on that bastard. You are just

siding with the enemy! I want you to get out! Don't ever come and bother Maggie again!" Gina shouted

painfully at Alyssa. Her eyes were bloodshot as she glared at her.

Alyssa was anxious. Right before Gina could slam the door closed, Alyssa reacted speedily by putting

her hand on the side of the door.

"Mrs. Madison! I am really here to help Maggie! Please hear me out!"

In her anger, Gina picked up a newly-opened bag of laundry powder which was sitting on the window

sill. Without another word, she flung it at Alyssa's face!

Sweat formed on Alyssa's forehead. It was too late for her to dodge it.

All of a sudden, she felt a strong force pushing her away. Immediately after, she found herself

enveloped by a stable and fiery presence.

The arm that was around her waist was firm. She then heard Jasper panting heavily by her ear!

Alyssa was flustered. Following that was a loud smack. The bag of laundry powder hit Jasper on the

back of his head. The white powdery substance fell on his head, shoulders, and back like snow.

In an instant, his black suit had turned white. He looked extremely miserable.

"Mr. Beckett, are you alright?" Xavier was as white as a sheet. Fearfully, he ran over to check on

Jasper.

Alyssa's heart was racing. She was terrified. With her trembling hands, she helped to dust off the

laundry powder on Jasper's head.

"I'm fine. All's good as long as Lyse is fine."

Jasper noticed that Alyssa was being panicky and smiled slightly. He grabbed her cold hands and held onto them tightly. "Were you afraid, Lyse? It seems like you've become more faint-hearted."

"I was afraid that you'd be hurt, silly!"

Alyssa was mad, and her heart ached for him at the same time. She landed a hard smack on his chest.

"Did you think that I was thinking about myself?"

Fortunately, what Gina had thrown was just a bag of laundry powder.

What if she had flung steel cookware or a brick? What if it was a kitchen knife?

How could she not be afraid?

Jasper smiled with his eyes. Deep down, he was moved to see her care and love for him.

Then, he heard a loud slam from behind him. The door to the Madison family's home was shut tight in their faces.

Xavier was dejected. He sighed in extreme frustration, "I guess we were meant to return without

success today, Mr. Beckett and Madam. She didn't even intend to speak with us.

Not even a little bit. Of

all times, it had to be now. How aggressive."

Alyssa felt troubled. She massaged her throbbing temples and said, "We were very hopeful at first.

Unfortunately, Josh exposed the fact that I operated on David prematurely. That had ruined my image.

Now, I am in cahoots with the Schmidts in the eyes of the Madisons."

Immediately after, she laughed bitterly at herself, "Well... I can't really say that it ruined my image. I was

indeed the one who operated on David. I have really sided with the enemy this time."

"Don't say that, Lyse."

Jasper wrapped his arms around Alyssa. He looked at her with a gaze that was full of warmth and

consolation.

"It is a doctor's duty to save lives. At that time, you were simply coming from a place of wanting to save a patient. There's also not much you can do about other people's opinions.

"Moreover, the relationship between both your families hadn't turned awkward back then. David wasn't showing his true colors yet either.

"In my opinion, there was nothing wrong with your decision at the time. It is not your fault even if anyone is now saying otherwise."

Alyssa rested her forehead on his shoulder. She responded in a frustrated and disappointed voice,

"Even so, what's the point when we are the only ones who know what the situation was really like?

"I don't care about having a good reputation. However, without it, it would be a challenge to execute our plan now."

"It's alright. We'll take it one step at a time."

Jasper caressed her back gently and comforted her in a gentle voice, "Don't be discouraged. Try to

look on the bright side. Let's go back for now and think whether there are any other ways that we can go about this.

The trio had no other choice but to go back to the manor. It was already in the evening by the time they returned.

Jasper and Alyssa got out of the car, hand in hand. As they were about to enter the manor, they heard a soft and timid voice coming from behind them.

"Lyse."

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Jasper and Alyssa spun around immediately.

"Taty?" they exclaimed at the same time.

Alyssa widened her eyes. She was overjoyed. She let go of Jasper's hand and ran toward Tatiana, who was standing alone by the side. She gave Tatiana a warm hug. "How long have you been waiting for? Why didn't you go in? Mrs. Rosie is in. She recognizes you, and she'd let you in. Why were you just waiting here?"

"I'm sorry for just showing up like this, Lyse. Sorry for bothering you and Jasper." Tatiana's voice

sounded weak. Listening to her like that made Alyssa feel bad.

"Don't be silly. Do you know how much I missed you?"

Alyssa stroked Tatiana's soft cheeks and smiled. "Two days ago, your brother-in-law, Jasper, was just suggesting for us to go on a trip after this busy period. We can even travel around the world!"

Jasper was stunned to hear Alyssa's words. In the next instance, his heart filled with warmth. His brows relaxed, and he broke into a smile.

Tatiana had long acknowledged his identity as her brother-in-law. Even so, to hear it coming directly from Alyssa signified a stamp of approval. The happiness and sense of satisfaction were indescribable.

Alyssa raised her eyebrow playfully and said, "He will be paying for everything anyway. He's loaded, so you can swipe his limitless black card all you like. I should just take this opportunity to raise the value of your dowry."

Jasper pouted. He laughed lovingly and helplessly at the same time.

Alyssa treated others absolutely generously. On the contrary, she was calculative when it came to him.

He did have a black card, but Alyssa and her brothers probably had a whole stack of them. Even so, she still wanted to use his money.

The saying that daughters were the apple of their parents' eye was true. Her heart would still be with

her family even if she were married.

That being said, Jasper would succumb gladly.

What use would his money be if not for his wife to spend?

"What... What dowry? Quit teasing me, Lyse." Tatiana's face blushed as red as a tomato.

"I wasn't teasing you. I was serious about it."

The expression on Alyssa's face was serious. She blinked and continued, "Your marriage with Sean

would need to be planned out eventually. Once you're set on marriage, everything will progress swiftly.

It's not a bad thing to start preparing early."

Upon hearing that, Tatiana pressed her lips together lightly. She furrowed her brows into an

inconspicuous frown of worry.

"Oh? Also, did you come alone? Where's Sean?" Alyssa asked in a surprised tone.

The tears in Tatiana's eyes glistened. "He doesn't know that I've come to see you. I didn't tell him..."

she hesitated.

Jasper could tell that she had more to say, so he probed in a warm voice, "After coming all the way, I'm

sure that Taty has many things to talk to you about. Let's head in, Lyse."

"Ah. What was I thinking? I was overjoyed to see her. I became too focused on catching up with her."

Alyssa linked arms with Tatiana and entered the door joyfully.

Rosie was thrilled to see Tatiana, too. She welcomed their guest by preparing fruits and snacks. She

served her happily. At the same time, she kept asking Tatiana how she was doing.

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Tatiana sat on the couch demurely. She cradled the warm cup of tea in her hands but didn't take even a sip from it.

Jasper observed her behavior and felt pity for her. She was also Winston's daughter.

But all that she

could get and control was much less than Alyssa, who was well-loved by all.

The marriage alliance with the Schmidts had turned to dust. Even so, it was still obvious that she was still restricted by her identity as one of the Taylors.

Truth be told, Alyssa was the only one who could live freely.

"You don't look too good, Taty. Are you feeling unwell?" Jasper sat down next to Alyssa. He expressed his concern as Tatiana's brother-in-law.

Tatiana shrugged and shook her head slightly.

Alyssa held Tatiana's hand in hers. "Taty, did you and Sean come across any difficulty? Don't tell me that the Lynch family went to look for you again. Or was it Winston who blabbered again?" she asked.

"Lyse. I. I'm worried for you."

Tatiana's eyes welled up as if they were filled with bitter regret. She continued, "There are so many comments on the internet now. Those comments are detrimental to you. They made me so angry after reading them that I couldn't even sleep well.

"I've been replying to the nasty comments all day, but there are just too many. I wouldn't be able to reply to all of them even if I had more pairs of hands."

"Oh my, I thought there was something serious!"

It wasn't a concern to Alyssa at all. She broke into a wide smile. She gave Tatiana's chilly hands a light squeeze.

"Don't be silly, Taty. Just think about it from a different perspective. That just means that I've got a huge reputation. Public slander is still a type of publicity. It's all still online traffic—something that not everyone can get, even if they want to.

"I'm considering to promote KS Group's products. I have to seize this opportunity with all the online attention to advertise our product. I want to turn this crisis into my success!"

