

Can't Win 931

Chapter 931

"It was the last thing she said to me,

Upon hearing that, all three of them fell into a heavy silence, lowering their heads.

The poor woman. In her last moments, she hadn't thought about her life but about how to reveal the truth and let justice prevail.

Cyrus frowned, thinking out loud, "So Nina's death should also be related to her knowledge of this secret."

"Yes. Otherwise, the cunning and careful Madam Sophia wouldn't suddenly lose her head and send an assassin to kill Nina, trying to silence her." Alyssa clenched her fists in anger, her eyes reddening.

"She has quite the guts. She actually dared to target you!"

Recalling what happened to Alyssa that night, Cyrus couldn't contain his anger and slammed the table.

"You have five brothers and a father who's filthy rich. How dare she go after you? Even without Dad's help, any one of us could kill her without her knowing."

At this moment, Jasper's eyes turned cold.

What had happened to make Sophia act so recklessly?

Alyssa smirked, and her expression was extremely cold. "Silencing Nina by killing her was Sophia's idea, no doubt. But sending someone after me might not necessarily be her plan.

“I think it’s very likely that Betty faked the order or took the opportunity to go after me. After all, given Sophia’s cunning and calculative behavior, she wouldn’t act so recklessly. This looks more
That made sense.

Jasper couldn’t help but nod slightly

“What the fuck? Isn’t Betty Sophia’s daughter? Well, it seems like the mother and daughter are colluding. They can have a family reunion in prison!” Cyrus cursed loudly, wishing he could twist their heads off.

Alyssa took a deep breath, her heavy gaze shifting to Jasper.

Sophia’s secret. She... killed Madam Anne... the evidence the phone...

Jasper was perplexed by her intense gaze. He didn’t quite understand what it meant.

Alyssa turned on Nina’s phone, flipping through the entire photo album without finding anything unusual.

She thought that if it was evidence, it should be a recording or something similar, so she opened the voice recording app.

Sure enough, there was a voice recording.

Alyssa lowered her eyes and tapped open the recording.

The recording quality wasn't good. The volume was low, and the voice was muffled, as it had been recorded secretly in a closed.

environment.

However, the interrogation room was especially quiet at the moment, as all three of them were holding their breath. Even the sound of a pin dropping on the floor could be heard.

Therefore, the conversation between Sophia and Betty was clearly

audible.

"Mom! You should distance yourself from Dr. McAlister. I think he

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the secret to Jasper's mother's death has to carry it to their graves. As long as he stays alive, he is a death threat to you."

At once, Jasper's pupils trembled violently.

His mother?

"It won't happen. It had been almost 20 years since the incident. The evidence is long gone. Unless that bitch, Anne, comes back from the dead to accuse me, no one will know how she died back then!"

When Alyssa heard that, her heart skipped a beat. A burst of anger raged in her.

Chapter 932

Cyrus was also stunned. He hadn't expected this incident to be related to Javier's former wife, Anne Bartley.

Her death was a confusing case from years ago. If brought to light, it would undoubtedly lead to a grim fate for Sophia.

No wonder Sophia had been so desperate to kill Nina.

"Jasper." Alyssa gazed at Jasper with concern.

At this moment, Jasper was staring at the phone with dark eyes. The tears in his eyes were more heartbreaking and hard to look at than

the broken screen.

"What do you mean by no one? There's Liana!"

This matter involved Liana too?

Alyssa felt a chill down her spine.

It was evident that Jasper's mother's death hadn't been an accident but a carefully orchestrated plot by Sophia.

When Alyssa had been married to Jasper, she had asked Rosie about Anne's death. However, Rosie had always been hesitant to talk about it and had kept the details about it a secret.

Rosie had mentioned that Jasper didn't like anyone probing into

Anne's death.

She had also said that Jasper had been a carefree and cheerful young

man before Anne's passing. He was nothing like that now."

Anne's death had dealt a devastating blow to Jasper. It had almost destroyed the once-lively boy.

20 years

assed,

Meanwhile, Sophia, the murderer, was living in luxury, enjoying all the wealth and glory life had to offer. Where was justice?

"Pfft, she's nothing! She is a chess piece that is no longer useful. If she wants to come back to Solana City, she had better sew her mouth shut. By the way, you do have someone keeping an eye on Anne's maid, who I bribed, don't you?"

"Yes, she is far away in Rolanda. She opened a small restaurant there. She had benefited from us, so I'm sure she will bury the secret with

her."

"Good. Very good." Sophia suddenly burst into a sinister laugh. In the dim interrogation room, she sounded like an evil spirit.

"That bitch probably feels guilty toward her son even in death. She probably can't even forgive herself in hell..

"Thinking about how that bastard was played by Liana and will never know the truth about his mother's death brings me great pleasure. No matter how much I suffer, as long as I think about this, I feel extremely satisfied."

Suddenly, there was a loud bang.

Breathing heavily, Jasper suddenly stood up, sending his chair crashing to the ground.

He had blood-shot eyes, and every inch of his body was filled with an imminent explosive tension, as though he were ready to kill.

“I’m going to kill her.”

Shocked, Alyssa watched the tears stream down his red-rimmed

eyes. She felt that his tears were filled with hatred and mixed with

blood.

She had never seen Jasper so angry and desperate.

His pale lips trembled slightly. The overwhelming blow had pushed him into an abyss. The pain of learning the cruel truth was as

excruciating as having a limb cut off and being engulfed in flames.

“I’m going to kill Sophia. I’m going to kill her.”

At this moment, Jasper’s mind was completely consumed by anger and rage. He clenched his fists tightly, like a wild beast gone mad, crashing wildly in the cage of hatred

“I will send everyone related to my mother’s death to hell!”

Before the words could settle, he had already rushed out of the door. "Jasper! Calm down. Calm down, please."

Chapter 933

In the urgency of the moment, Alyssa exerted all her strength and wrapped her arms around Jasper from behind, securing his tense waist tightly.

"Jasper! Lyse is right!"

Cyrus also stepped forward, blocking Jasper's way. He looked into the latter's pale face. The sadness in his eyes made Cyrus feel deeply distressed.

"Taking a life demands a price. You're a good person. Why give your life for these wicked animals? If you really want revenge for your mother, you have to stay rational and clear-headed.

"Yes, Sophia deserves to die. But if you take action, it just means one life for another. Is it worth it for that bitch? If something happens to you, what about Lyse? Have you thought about her?"

Cyrus had said so much, but it seemed like only the last two sentences acted like a strong and effective sedative for Jasper.

Alyssa was exerting all her strength on Jasper's back. She closed her eyes, tightly holding onto his waist. Even though her face was soaked with cold sweat, she pressed against his back, not moving.

She could feel his breath and racing heartbeat gradually calm down. Even so, she refused to relax a bit.

She understood him. If it had been her mother, she would have probably reacted even more terrifyingly than he did.

After some time, Jasper finally regained his rationality. He gently covered her red, clenched hand with his cold one.

His voice was trembling and hoarse as he said, "Lyse, I'm sorry. I

Alyssa's heart wrenched, and she shook her head with closed eyes.

Jasper was sometimes so silly that it made people feel sorry for him. Even at a time like this, he was still apologizing to her. What was he at fault for?

He was clearly the most miserable person in the world at this

moment.

"But Lyse, what should I do?"

Jasper's eyes, numbed by pain, continuously shed tears. He stood stiffly, as if his heart had been dug out and thrown into a dark and boundless abyss, freezing his core.

"Why am I so stupid? The murderer who killed my mother was right in front of me and lived with me for 20 years, but I knew nothing about it.

"Lyse, tell me. Besides killing her, what should I do? How can I get justice for my mother?"

"It will come. Justice will be meted out soon."

Alyssa gently stroked his trembling back. Her voice was gentle, soothing his soul, which had been torn apart by hatred.

"I hate Sophia and Betty just like you. I want them to pay with their lives too. I'll help you, Jasper. I'll do everything I can to complete this

revenge with you.

“I will be with you the whole way and bear all the unknown dangers with you. We must both be fine and watch the evildoers go to hell.”

Jasper had tears in his eyes and closed them tightly, firmly holding

onto her hand.

I will be with you.

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It was you Before a god

turpussing countless honeyed phrases in the world

They had finally come together, not for love but for revenge

Evers so. Jasper was already extremely satisfied

“Mom, if you’re in heaven, please bless me once,” he prayed.

Chapter 934

Too much had happened that night.

Even Cyrus, a professional police officer, couldn’t fully digest it. He had initially wanted Jasper to go home and rest. Yet Jasper was extremely stubborn and insisted on providing his statement.

His current condition wasn’t good at all.

Seaview Manor was a place that brought him unbearable grief and hatred. It was now somewhere he couldn't bring himself to stay.

But if he went to Newton's place, he feared he wouldn't be able to hold back his emotions and might break down in front of Newton. That would make the old man worry.

Jasper stood at the entrance of the police station in a daze and suddenly forced a bitter smile.

The president of Beckett Group, who was worth tens of billions, was

now like a lost soul with nowhere to go.

It was pitiful, ridiculous, and truly tragic.

"You can stay at my place tonight," Alyssa said in a gentle tone, making Jasper spin around and stare into her eyes in disbelief.

He even thought that he might be hearing things due to excessive grief. After all, he didn't dare to dream of such things.

"I... can just go to a hotel for a few days."

"Don't overthink it."

Alyssa's eyelashes trembled slightly. "You can't go back to Seaview Manor now, and I don't want you to go to Grandpa's place and make him worry. If you stay in a hotel, I won't feel at ease either.

“I’m afraid you might do something rash. If something happens to you, avenging your mom alone will be more difficult, and the process will be prolonged. I just simply don’t like the feeling of fighting alone.”

Jasper frowned, his gloomy eyes still moist.

The feeling of fighting alone.

He understood her. He understood her feeling of unilaterally pouring out her heart and soul, only to receive nothing in return.

In her youth, she had passionately pursued him, but he had been. unaware of her love or even presence.

She had married him three years ago, but he had never responded to

her fervent love, not even once.

Jasper turned his worn-out face aside, blinking back his tears. He had already lost control of himself in the interrogation room. He didn’t want to show his vulnerability in front of Alyssa again.

“Whether you agree or not, I must stay with you tonight. If you choose a hotel, I’ll stay in the hotel with you. If you choose to sleep on the streets, I’ll sleep on the streets with you.”

When Alyssa became stubborn, Jasper could never win against her.

Jasper’s pale face blushed at her words, and his heart beat fast.

Although he didn’t want to get ahead of himself, it did sound like a wife accompanying her husband.

“Well... I’ll stay at your place tonight, then.” His voice was low and

hoarse.

“Enough of that. Haven’t you gone to extreme lengths for me? Don’t be so polite. Let’s go.”

Alyssa’s heart was also inexplicably pounding hard. She quickly took

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Jasper swallowed and smiled. Just like an obedient husband, he followed behind her.

Since Sean had been injured, Alyssa’s villa had been empty, giving it an eerie feeling. Even stepping inside sent shivers down one’s spine.

Jasper walked in. Although he was someone who had never paid attention to unnecessary things, he suddenly looked like an excited child.

His eyes were wandering and sparkling with an excited glow. He didn’t want to miss any trace of Alyssa’s life.

This was his first time entering Alyssa’s home. Before this, he had only been able to stand outside in the rain.

Chapter 935

At this moment, for the first time in his life, Jasper felt a sense of vanity. He suddenly wanted to take a picture and send it to Landon.

“Who said only you can come here? Look, I’m here too!” he thought.

“Jasper, what are you looking at?”

Alyssa glanced at him with surprise. “Do you know that the look in your eyes just now was like a thief’s?”

“Sorry.” Jasper quickly withdrew his gaze, feeling like he had lost control again.

“Except for the last room on the left on the second floor, you can go into any other room you like. The fridge in the kitchen should have some ingredients Sean left there. If you want to eat, make it yourself. I don’t have a chef here,” Alyssa said calmly, turning to go upstairs.

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“Why can’t I go into that room?” Jasper asked foolishly.

“Because that’s my bedroom.”

Alyssa suddenly stopped, looking back at him with a faint smile.

“Don’t worry. I don’t have any secrets that can’t be seen, nor do I have any old lovers that I can’t forget. If you want to visit my bedroom, you

can do it now.”

She mischievously teased him again.

Thinking of those old photos of certain people that he still carefully preserved in the study until now, her heart felt an inevitable pang again.

Since she still cared, she couldn’t help but mention it whenever she had the chance to tease him.

After all, she was just a human, not a saint. Wasn't she allowed to show some temper?

"Lyse..."

Jasper's eyes became slightly red. He knew she was still upset about the villa incident.

But at the same time, a flame of hope ignited in his heart. If Alyssa truly had no feelings for him, and if, as she said, they were only together again for revenge, then she had no reason to bring up this

matter.

The fact that she had mentioned it meant she cared. She cared about his past and about him.

"You can do as you like. I'll go upstairs."

Alyssa's voice was noticeably melancholic. "I hope you adjust your mentality quickly. Our revenge is about to begin."

"Lyse, I've already sold that villa. I've already destroyed everything inside, except for my mother's photos."

Jasper felt as though a heavy pressure was pressing on his chest, making it almost impossible for him to breathe.

Alyssa was cold. "That has nothing to do with me. Those are your personal belongings. How you want to deal with them is your

business."

"I know the existence of those things hurts you."

“It’s because you want them to exist. You couldn’t bear to throw them away.” Alyssa chuckled lightly, sounding as if she was relieved.

“I completely forgot about that. I sold the villa to Xavier a long time ago. It’s just that he hasn’t had time to deal with it.”

Jasper knew his explanation was weak, but he still tried his best to explain, “That night, I was drugged and in a haze. I have no memory of what happened.

“Landon didn’t want me to stay in a hotel in that state, but he couldn’t send me back to Seaview Manor. He only remembered that I had that villa, so he sent me there-”

“Jasper, I said it’s your business. It has nothing to do with me.”

Closing her eyes, Alyssa raised her hand to stop him from speaking further. “Alright, I’m tired.”

“Why does it have nothing to do with you? Don’t you resent me for that?” Jasper was so anxious that he started sweating, and his breathing became heavy.

“I resent you for many things, not just this one.”

Jasper felt a sharp pain in his chest. It made him clench his fists.

“But now I feel that there’s nothing to resent anymore. It’s all in the past.” Alyssa’s tone was casual.

She turned around slowly, but even she didn’t realize that her eyes were already reddening.

“Jasper, let’s look forward. Even the most painful memories aren’t worth mentioning in the face of hatred, right? It will only affect our speed in getting vengeance.”

“I’m going upstairs.”

Suddenly, Alyssa felt a weight on her back, and her body leaned forward sharply.”

Jasper hugged her tightly from behind, enveloping her entirely. He wished he could meld her into his body.

His firm and warm chest pressed against her slender back. His intense heartbeat pounded into her, making her head dizzy. A soft and tingling sensation spread from her back to her chest.

“Jasper,” Alyssa called hoarsely as her breathing became rapid.

There was a clear sense of resistance in her tone, but this time, she didn’t struggle.

“How could it not be worth mentioning? I won’t allow you to say that.”

Jasper tightened his embrace, his arms holding onto her fragile waist. Meanwhile, his hot breath sprayed onto her neck. “20 years ago, I lost the most important person in my life.

“20 years later, I found the only woman in my life. I don’t want to lose you again. You’re everything to me. Lyse, after losing you, every day I live feels like hell.”

Death wasn’t frightening. He could die for her thousands of times. He was just afraid of losing her.

Jasper’s chin rested on her hair, gently rubbing against it. He choked

up again.

He was usually high and mighty, like a god from the heavens. He had never lowered himself like this, like a dog wagging its tail and begging.

Alyssa faintly heard his suppressed sobbing. Tonight, his pride in being strong and resolute had been shattered and scattered on the ground. How could she bear to step on it again?

She had seen him bravely fighting on the battlefield and knew how ruthless and fierce he could be.

Yet at this moment, she felt that he was pitiful.

So she didn't dwell on this matter, considering it as showing him.

mercy.

"Uh... It hurts..." Alyssa shrunk her shoulders in Jasper's embrace.

"Hurts? Where?" Jasper panicked, holding onto her shoulders.

"Ah! You're going to kill me! Right here!" Alyssa was in pain, gasping for breath. Her body trembled in his arms.

Back at the police station, she had bound him with her body to keep him calm. It had caused the wound on her arm to split open, but she

hadn't noticed.

She had only felt it after leaving the police station, but she was good at enduring pain. She had planned to go upstairs and deal with it herself.

Unexpectedly, Jasper wasn't sensible at all. He kept talking about all sorts of things and had even hugged her and refused to let go.

Not letting go was one thing, but he had used so much force. Why didn't he just crush her?

Only now did Jasper realize the situation. Shocked, he quickly released her.

He felt something wet and warm on his sleeve. Looking down, he couldn't help but pale.

In fact, her wound had been bleeding for a while, but she was wearing a black suit, so it wasn't visible.

"Why are you so silly? Why didn't you say anything earlier?" Jasper was both anxious and heartbroken. He even raised his usually deep

voice.

"Why are you yelling at me like that?" Alyssa frowned, biting her lip. Her pitiful appearance made him itch.

Jasper was taken aback, only now realizing that his tone had been too harsh.

Yell? How could he dare to? In front of Alyssa, he had an extremely

low status.

Chapter 937

It wasn't a heavy slap. Compared to before, Jasper could treat this as a gentle caress from Alyssa. The thought made him smile.

Meanwhile, Alyssa wondered what was wrong with the bastard. Had he no shame?

"W-Why are you taking my clothes off?" Alyssa asked, wrapping her arms around her chest as she blushed unknowingly.

Jasper gazed tenderly at her. "I'm tending to your wound."

What an outrageous reason! Jasper was really getting worse by the -day!

"You... you could have waited until I was dressed in something more. suitable or cut my sleeve off right away. Why did you have to strip my shirt off?" Alyssa's face was flushed red as she glared at Jasper.

Even her chest had a pink flush on it now. "How shameless can you

be?"

"We used to be married, Alyssa. We've slept together both during marriage and after the divorce," Jasper replied.

Alyssa's breath hitched for a moment. Her lips pulled taut as she recalled how Jasper had begged her to satiate him that night.

The feeling of his warm body pressing against hers and how she had wrapped herself around him replayed in her mind.

It was as if she had been the one who had been more enthusiastic

and passionate.

The thought upset her even more!

Jasper's voice was raspy as he spoke, the desire blatant in his eyes. It

one else has ever seen. Wouldn't it be too insincere of me if I truly behaved like you said I should?"

“Jasper... you...” Alyssa was about to speak when Jasper leaned closer to her, making her shut her eyes in fright.

She could feel his warm hands gently undressing her further. With a soft tug, the shirt around her shoulders fell to the ground..

Alyssa mewled meekly.

Jasper’s heart pounded erratically as he stood before her. Even his breath seemed to be warm, like summer air.

“Relax, Lyse. How can I tend to your injury if you don’t move your hands away?” Jasper murmured softly.

His words were so silky smooth that they made Alyssa obey him uncontrollably. She shakily set her arms down.

The sight of her full breasts made the blood in Jasper’s veins heat up.

His eyes were filled with burning passion as his breathing grew more erratic. They ran across her body before stopping at her slim waist.

Jasper had felt how soft Alyssa was there before. Even now, he still couldn’t forget how he had held her waist as they had reached their climax that night.

He had truly had a taste of the finest...

Jasper couldn’t hold back anymore. He wanted more of it, as if he were addicted.

He wanted so much more.

Jasper's hands were trembling as he helped bandage Alyssa's injury, using what little willpower he had left.

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able to execute treatment well, as what he had learned years ago had been etched in his DNA

Alyssa spoke up. "Thank you. Can you~"

All of a sudden, Jasper caged her with his chest. "You can thank me another way, Lyse

He couldn't hold back anymore

Jasper raised her chin with his finger, as if he were some desert traveler dying of thirst who had stumbled upon an oasis. He kissed her on the lips, all tongue and teeth as he deepened the kiss

Can't Win Me Back novel (Alyssa and Jasper)

Chapter 938

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It was as if she had been the one who had been more enthusiastic and passionate.

The thought upset her even more!

Jasper's voice was raspy as he spoke, the desire blatant in his eyes. It was clear he was holding back. "I've seen all of you, including what no one else has ever seen. Wouldn't it be too insincere of me if I truly behaved like you said I should?"

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He had truly had a taste of the finest ...

Jasper couldn't hold back anymore. He wanted more of it, as if he were addicted.

He wanted so much more.

Jasper's hands were trembling as he helped bandage Alyssa's injury, using what little willpower he had left.

Alyssa's heart warmed at the sight of how well he had treated her wound.

Jasper's first aid technique was still as top-notch as ever. He was able to execute treatment well, as if what he had learned years ago had been etched in his DNA.

Alyssa spoke up. "Thank you. Can you—"

All of a sudden, Jasper caged her in with his chest. "You can thank me another way, Lyse."

He couldn't hold back anymore.

Jasper raised her chin with his finger, as if he were some desert traveler dying of thirst who had stumbled upon an oasis. He kissed her on the lips, all tongue and teeth, as he deepened the kiss.

Chapter 939

What Jasper would give to devour Alyssa whole. That way, she would always be a part of him and could never escape.

"Jas-mmh—" Alyssa's words were muffled as Jasper ravaged her lips. Her eyes were moist, whether from grievance or from being overwhelmed by the kiss..

Jasper wasn't going to let her go that easily. Their night was surely going to be a sleepless one.

He was able to skirt his hand around her injury and gently remove the

final shred of clothing on her body.

With it, Alyssa's defenses crumpled. Her body softened under his.

touch in an instant.

“I’ll ... I’ll be gentle this time, Lyse. Can you trust me, please?” Jasper murmured.

Alyssa closed her eyes as she moaned softly. Jasper took that as a yes’.

The temperature in the room increased as their passion was unleashed.

Jasper kissed Alyssa again, no longer restraining himself, though he was gentle.

He had improved since last time. Alyssa didn’t feel any pain anymore. Instead, she felt pure waves of pleasure that made her drunk with ecstasy.

What kind of love was this?

She hated Jasper so much, yet when it came to this, all she wanted

It was another tiring night that made Alyssa absolutely exhausted. Yet she was unable to rest properly, given how sore her body was.

Jasper had performed pretty well. Who knows, maybe Landon had taught him something new that had helped his skills improve.

Jasper finally knew a little foreplay, unlike before. But that didn't mean Alyssa could withstand an entire night of soreness.

What did he think he was? A machine?

As Alyssa thought about all this, she laid in bed like a cat, gently. licking her swollen lips.

She sat up suddenly, realizing that Jasper was no longer beside her. Her heart skipped a beat as she touched his side of the bed.

The sheets were cold now. He had clearly left a while ago.

Alyssa sat back against the head of the bed as faint disappointment filled her chest.

She had been tormented by Jasper to the point that she had cried out. last night. Since her throat was dry, she went downstairs to get a drink of water, unbothered about Jasper's whereabouts anymore.

Alyssa was halfway down the stairs when she heard sizzling sounds. from the kitchen.

It smelled fragrant and... a bit burnt?

The smell made Alyssa jump to attention. She ran down to the

kitchen.

What she saw took her breath away like nothing else could.

Jasper's strong back was facing her as he stood with an apron tied

algple

The more she observed Jasper, the more she noticed how muscular and attractive he was.

His sleeves were rolled up to his biceps. His muscles pulled taut whenever he flipped the pan in his hand, exuding pure testosterone.

Alyssa narrowed her eyes playfully as she crept up behind him.

Her footsteps were silent because she was barefoot, so Jasper was clueless about her presence.

A loud, sizzling sound rang out in the air suddenly.

Chapter 940

Hot air blasted out of the pan. Jasper wiped away the sweat on his face and sighed. "Dammit. Burnt again."

Only then did Alyssa see the countless burnt eggs in the trash bin beside the stove.

"Pft. The heat is too high, silly. You'd go through an entire chicken farm without succeeding at this rate," she teased.

Jasper's heart skipped a beat as he turned around, meeting Alyssa's

eyes.

"Did I... wake you?" he asked nervously.

“No, my biological clock did. I don’t have a habit of sleeping in,” Alyssa replied.

She then pointed at the trash bin beside him, teasing, “You’re lucky Sean isn’t around to see this. He hates it when people waste food. If he had been here, he would have made you scoop everything back out and eat it.”

“I would be fine with that. I never wasted food during my time in the army,” Jasper replied lightly.

It wouldn’t be a first for him.

Alyssa knew how serious Jasper could be at times and that he was indeed capable of doing something like that. She hurriedly waved her hands. “I’m kidding. Don’t actually go eating that.”

“I really underestimated the art of cooking. I used to think it was easy whenever I watched Rosie cook. Now that I’ve actually tried it, I can see just how difficult this technique is,” Jasper said.

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As he gazed at the messy kitchen countertop, guilt filled his chest. “I know you must’ve been so tired and put in so much effort to cook for me in the past.”

Alyssa blinked quickly, conflicted emotions filling her heart.

“I... I wanted you to have breakfast I made for you. But it looks like Sean will have to buy some for us this time.”

Jasper smiled bitterly. “Sorry, Lyse. Give me some more time to practice. I’ll improve.”

Alyssa immediately saw through his intentions.

Jasper hadn't once stepped into the kitchen in their three years of marriage. Rosie had told Alyssa it wasn't purely because of his prejudice against her, but because he had never liked the smell of

smoke and oil that came from the kitchen area.

The smells reminded Jasper of the slums he had lived in with his mother. Their house had been surrounded by shabby eateries that constantly emanated the heavy smell of cooking.

No matter how hard they scrubbed their clothes, that smell never left.

Right now, Jasper was willing to cook for her and do something he had never done before. He truly doted on Alyssa, even crossing his

own boundaries for her.

Warmth filled Alyssa's chest. She gently nudged Jasper away. "That's enough of terrorizing my house. Let me cook."

She coughed suddenly, her allergy acting up again after inhaling the

smoke earlier.

Didn't Jasper know to switch on the hood?

"What's wrong, Lyse? Did you catch a cold?" Jasper asked worriedly.

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Alyssa covered her mouth and mumbled, "I'm fine. I'm just allergic to smoke. I just need some fresh air."

Allergic... to smoke?

Jasper's eyes widened in shock.

When did she get this allergy? Or had she always had it and he just

hadn't known?

Had Alyssa spent those three years cooking for his entire family while suffering from her allergy like this?

Alyssa had just taken the frying pan from him when Jasper hugged her tightly from behind.

"How am I supposed to cook with you like this?" she asked.

"Don't. Don't cook anymore." Jasper buried his face in her neck, pain filling his eyes.

"Let me do it for you from now on. I'll learn to cook whatever it is your

want to eat."

"No need. You don't have the talent." The moment Alyssa said that, she pursed her lips tightly. It felt like she had misspoken.

For a moment, she had made it sound like they were an old married couple. It was as if she had acquiesced to a shared future together.