

# CAN'T WIN ME BACK

## Chapter 371

Alyssa might not be in the lobby, but she was aware of all the happenings in the hotel.

“Ms. Alyssa, Mr. Beckett and Mr. Schmidt are here. They wanted to meet you. What should I ...” Sean placed a finger on his Bluetooth earbud and turned around, lowering his voice.

Jasper and Jameson immediately straightened up, their expressions growing tense.

“Meet me? What for? Are they looking for a discount?”

“They won’t leave without meeting you. I can’t call the security on them, can I?” Sean was stuck between a

rock and a hard place because of the two obstinate men.

“Ask them what they’re here for.” Alyssa’s voice was devoid of warmth, like a judge in court.

“Ms. Alyssa would like to know your purpose for meeting her,” Sean said with a hint of irritation.

“I’m here to invite her to dinner as a thank you.” Jameson smiled and nudged his glasses. “I have mailed

the signed CD to my mom, and she loves it so much. She wanted me to treat Ms. Alyssa to a meal, or

she’d feel bad.”

After explaining, Jameson shot a mocking glance at Jasper. He was confident that the kind and soft-

hearted Alyssa wouldn’t turn him down if he mentioned his mother.

Even if Alyssa weren’t interested in him, she’d likely prefer him over Jasper, the cruel bastard who had

hurt her.

Sean turned to Jasper for an answer. Jasper merely replied, “For work.”

Jameson furrowed his brows at Jasper’s curt reply. After moments of silence, she instructed Sean, “Bring

Mr. Beckett to me.”

Jameson and Sean were stunned by her decision. A joyous smile lit up Jasper’s face, like a mistress who finally got her lover’s attention.

“Mr. Lynch, please bring me there.”

Sean turned around, angry. “Come with me!”

Jameson was blinded by rage when Jasper left. A vortex of anger swirled inside him, and he felt he might explode at any time.

1/2

Carl instantly knew that Jameson met defeat when the latter returned to the underground parking alone.

He quietly helped Jameson into the car.

Jameson sat in the back and closed his eyes like he was resting, but his tense jaw suggested that he was simmering in anger.

Alyssa called Jasper in for a meeting. Humiliation spread through his body, as though she had physically slapped him in front of a romantic rival.

“Mr. Schmidt, where to?” Carl carefully questioned.

“Did I ask you to speak?” Jameson sneered. Carl hurriedly hung his head and broke out in a cold sweat.

After a prolonged silence, Jameson finally opened his eyes and cracked his knuckles. “Look into the relationship between Landon Harper’s sister and Jasper Beckett.” 1

“D-Does Landon Harper even have a sister?”

Jameson did not reply, but a stern look flashed under his glasses.

“I’ll look into it soon!” Carl stammered fearfully. Jameson shut his eyes in satisfaction. “Take me to The Millennium.”

The Millennium was a private clubhouse Jameson had established in Solana City five years ago and registered under Carl's name.

The woman working in the clubhouse was his source of information in Solana City, helping him establish connections.

This time, she might serve a different purpose.

At that thought, Jameson adjusted his glasses with an eerie grin.

Sean led Jasper to the entrance of the restaurant's kitchen. As they approached, Jasper smoothed his tie and instinctively glanced at the reflection on the wall beside him to inspect his appearance.

He'd never experienced this level of nervousness, not even when he received awards in the military or held his first meeting as the group president.

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"Ms. Alyssa wants you to go in." Sean turned aside as though Jasper was infectious.

"Thank you."

Sean snickered, openly displaying his disgust. "You don't have to thank me. It's all because of Ms. Alyssa's generosity. I would have beaten you up and thrown you out." With that, he left the back kitchen. 1

Jasper inhaled and stepped into KS World Hotel's spotless back kitchen that looked like a sterile lab with

white decor and stainless steel tables and equipment.

The air was quiet. The only thing he heard was his breathing and his beating heart.

Turning a corner, he spotted a slender figure standing by the wide table that only highlighted her petite frame.

Today, Alyssa was charming in the white chef uniform, her hair tied and tucked neatly into the chef's hat.

She wore a transparent mask on her face and was fully focused on shaping a ball of dough into pastry.

She did not even notice his presence.

His eyes turned misty when he recalled Mrs. Rosie's words.

She told him, "Mr. Jasper, the desserts you ate are not store-bought or made by pastry chefs. Madam

made them for you! Even the house chef admitted that he is not as talented as she is!

"Look at you, wolfing them down. You did not know how much effort she'd poured into a tiny piece of

dessert. She spent her day in the kitchen making the desserts without a word of complaint about her

body aches."

His expression wavered as the memory tugged at his heart. It was the first time he had ever seen Alyssa

in the kitchen.

Apparently, she had spent the three years in his home, pouring her love and effort into the food, while he

had never truly appreciated her.

He was a jerk who wasted her affection.

Alyssa frowned as she shaped the dough into choux pastries for Ada Kingsley, who wanted to take them

home to Mosgravia for her mother.

The dessert was incredibly challenging, and after a whole afternoon's work, Alyssa had only managed to

make four successful choux pastries.

1/2

"Phew! Finally," she exclaimed with relief, wiping the sweat from her forehead after successfully making

the fifth one.

Suddenly, a loud crunch broke the silence, and she looked up in shock, her eyes widening. Then, she

screamed, "Jasper Beckett, you-"

Jasper calmly met her gaze as he chewed on her pastry. Only three choux pastries remained on her tray.

“I didn’t give you permission to eat that! Spit it out right now!” Her face flushed with anger, and she was

tempted to punch him in the face.

He disregarded her screams and took a slow bite, enjoying himself.

“You bastard! My desserts are not for you! Stop it right now!” Eyes flaming, she rushed to grab half of the pastry puff in his hand. Panicking, he stuffed the rest of it into his mouth.

“You prick!” she bellowed in fury. The floor was still wet from the cleaning, causing her to accidentally slip

and fall into his arms.

The impact sent his back ramming into the table. He frowned at the pain but secured his arms around her

waist to make sure she was safe.

Her breathing became erratic after she sensed the touch of his fingers. Her lips pressed against his,

separated only by her face mask.

They stood there in silence. He narrowed his eyes, trying hard to suppress the growing desire inside of him.

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Alyssa’s eyes wavered, and she sprung to her feet by pushing herself away from Jasper’s muscular chest. She hurriedly stumbled backward and slammed her back against the fridge door.

Her breathing remained uneven. Beads of sweat dotted her forehead. Despite having a face mask on, she

could feel the heat from his lips lingering on hers.

Damn it! Why did she...

Gasping for air and flushed with emotion, she angrily tore off her mask and tossed it to the floor. It was

now contaminated and utterly useless.

Meanwhile, Jasper slowly rose to his feet, leaning against the table's edge. There was a hint of exhaustion

in his face, like a beast after a hearty meal.

He pursed his lips to maintain composure, but his heart continued to race.

"Does your back hurt?" He was still in a daze after the accidental kiss. Still, he maintained his composure.

His tone sounded icy, just like usual.

"None of your business!" She seethed with anger over him helping himself to one of her pastries. "I never

permitted you to eat my pastries. I didn't spend the afternoon making them just to feed you."

"It's been a while since I tried your desserts. I'd love to have a taste again. I remember how you used to

make them for me."

He felt enticed when he saw Alyssa putting her heart into the desserts. Before he knew it, he was

compelled to pick one up and take a bite.

He was driven by impulse, even thinking that he should take advantage of the opportunity, for it was hard

to come by.

"Hah! That was in the past!" There was still fury in her eyes as she declared, "I cooked for you because i

was your wife. Who do you think you are, eating my desserts now? I'd rather feed them to a dog than have

you eat them!"

Her cutting remark crushed him, and his eyes hardened. He stared very hard into the abyss of her eyes

but found no traces of that woman who'd spent the day making desserts for him.

Can love be lost? Would there be nothing left?

With a sullen face, Alyssa shifted her attention from Jasper, carefully placing the remaining desserts on

the tray before putting it into the storage and closing the door. She was wary of him.

1/2

“I was being rash. I didn’t know that the desserts meant so much to you. Sorry,” he apologized, knowing that he was in the wrong. Therefore, he was ready to take whatever she hurled at him.

Her lashes trembled briefly before she turned her back to him and washed her hands in the sink. She remarked impatiently, “I thought you were here for work matters? Spit it out. As you can see, I don’t have

all day. You’re just causing trouble here.”

He choked and breathed heavily. “I am here to tell you that I’m no longer in charge of Ada Kingsley’s

wedding planning.”

Her hands paused under the flowing tap. She chuckled. “Well, of course. She’s already signed the deal

with KS World. The only thing you’re responsible for now is the controversy surrounding Berenike Hotel.”

Ignoring her taunts, he continued, “Javier has handed the responsibility over to Betty.”

Alyssa finally turned to face him, a frown on her face.

“You’re a smart woman, and you know that things are not as simple as they seem,” he mumbled with

worry in his eyes as he glanced at her.

“Did you make the trip just to tell me this? Typical Jasper Beckett, always so self-centered.” She sneered

and placed a hand on her hip. “Let me guess, you are still upset after losing the bid. So, you came

complaining about Betty, hoping I’ll deal with her. Are you using me to seek your revenge?

“Even if Betty wanted to play dirty, that halfwit wouldn’t stand a chance against me. She’d need to be

reborn for a better shot.”

Jasper's tense jaw relaxed a little. He smiled gently, thinking that Alyssa was rather adorable when she was cussing at others, as long as he was not the subject.

"Even so, Betty is not that dumb. She's got Sophia backing her. Anything she hasn't considered, Sophia will help her strategize."

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"Sophia is a calculative cunt. I'm concerned that they might try something against you. I wanted to give you a heads-up so you can be prepared," said Jasper.

Alyssa's clear eyes flickered before she turned away.

"That's all. I'll leave you to your work now." He shot her another loaded gaze before leaving.

"Wait, Jasper," she suddenly called out to him. He felt his chest tighten as he swiftly turned back.

"Why did you tell me all of that? You're the type to look at the big picture. Whoever from the Beckett

Group takes over the Ada Kingsley account will still boost the influence and reputation of Berenike Hotel.

It's something you've been working on." She threw him a quizzical look. "So, why did you tell me that?"

"Because I want you to win," he responded with a genuine and innocent look in his eyes. It was a rarity

after his many years of hustling in business.

"And why do you want me to win?"

"You were once my wife-"

She cut him off with a scoff. "You never showed me any kindness when we were married. What's all the

talk about gratitude after the divorce? Is this a joke? 2

"Leave, now. I won't send you off."

Defeated for the second time, he felt a lump in his chest, as though he had choked on the pastry.

At night, Betty showed up at the Harper Residence. Zoe had called Betty earlier that night, inviting the

latter to the Harper Residence to discuss urgent matters.

The ladies shuffled into Zoe's private music studio and closed the door behind them.

"Zoe, why did you call me so late at night?" Betty sounded curious.

"It's been five days since KS World announced their partnership with Ada Kingsley. Have you figured out a

way to knock out that Alyssa bitch?" Zoe crossed her arms and interrogated Betty.

Betty's pride was challenged. Her temper flared because no one had ever talked to her with that attitude

at home.

She grumbled, "It's only been five days. I'm not a superhuman, Zoe. It takes time to come up with a

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will help her strategize."

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Two weeks away from Ada Kingsley's wedding, Alyssa was busy updating the proposal from Ada's

comments.

She also had to oversee the on-site decorations and review crucial documents concerning materials, costs, and manpower. On her worst day, she managed to grab only three hours of sleep.

Still, she enjoyed the hustle. As long as there was something in it for her, she would feel invigorated by

the frenzy.

After joining the team meeting in the morning, Alyssa returned to her office, where she munched on her sandwich and approved documents.

Sean knocked on the door to deliver coffee and shook his head at her tired and adorable look. "Eating while working is bad for your health."

"I don't have time! I have another fashion event to attend later this afternoon," Alyssa replied, taking a hearty bite of her sandwich without once looking up from the documents.

"Why is your schedule so packed today? I was about to book a spa for your relaxation during your free time." Sean felt sorry for her.

"Save that for after the wedding. I'm swamped with work. There's no time for relaxation," she said, lifting

her coffee cup and meeting Sean's eyes. "Any updates from Betty and Sophia's end?"

"I have been keeping an eye on them, but they did not make any move." Thinking hard, he wondered,

"We've been making lots of preparations today. Could they have given up because they couldn't figure out a better plan?"

Meanwhile, Alyssa replayed Jasper's words in her head and sneered. "I think we shouldn't let our guard

down. This is a rare opportunity for Betty, and she'd want to prove herself to Javier. She's not going to give up."

Just then, there was another knock on the door, and Avery entered with an elegantly wrapped white gift

box in hand. "Ms. Alyssa, these are the desserts I brought from the kitchen. I had them wrapped as per your request."

"Thank you. Place them on the coffee table," Alyssa replied.

After Avery left, Sean went up and unboxed the pastries. The cute little choux pastries reminded him of

Alyssa's focused look when she was baking, which brought a smile to his lips.

"Sean, get ready. We're leaving soon."

1/2

Jasper returned to his office in the afternoon after a meeting.

"Mr. Beckett, the host of the jewelry show sent you an invitation a week ago. Ada Kingsley will be there today as well. Should we-" Xavier reminded Jasper, only to be cut off.

Jasper dismissed him without hesitation, stating, "I'm not going."

"Uh, are you sure?" Xavier blinked. We've already been embarrassed once when Ada Kingsley chose KS over us. People will speculate if we're absent from the event. Journalists will have a field day, twisting the story to make us look petty for snubbing it just because KS World won Ada Kingsley's project."

"Betty will be there. She's in charge of Ada Kingsley's project, after all," Jasper was unmoved and scoffed. "Like attracts like. Betty's always jumped at the chance to attend extravagant events like that."

"Ahem. But I've just received word that Madam has arrived at the venue."

Jasper's eyes sparkled. He ordered, "Get me a change of clothes and get the car ready."

Xavier grinned at Jasper's swift change of mind when it involved Alyssa.

AX, the luxurious jewelry brand, hosted its show at the Solana International Convention Center this year. Many renowned designers and A-list celebrities were in attendance, turning it into something like an

awards ceremony.

Ada Kingsley's attendance attracted the most attention, as she was the most popular star at the event

and AX's brand ambassador in Mosgravia.

Betty and Zoe received the coveted invitations to the event due to their social status. When they stepped onto the red carpet, they were reluctant to leave and kept posing for the cameras. Even the reporters and photographers were irritated at the duo.

They would have settled down on the red carpet had the emcee not ushered them along. Someone whispered, "What the fuck? How embarrassing of them to loiter on the red carpet!"

[HOT]Read novel Can't Win Me Back Chapter 376

"That's not all! How could they walk the red carpet after Ada Kingsley? Who do they think they are?"

"I didn't take any photos of them. Just a waste of my storage space."

"I know Betty is Javier Beckett's daughter; and I heard that Zoe is Landon Harper's sister. They might not

be famous, but they're filthy rich. I bet they paid a huge sum to show up last!"

Betty and Zoe entered the venue with satisfaction, thinking that they had garnered enough attention.

To their dismay, they found reporters clamoring to interview celebrities like Ada or brand designers. No

one wanted to interview the two young ladies at all.

"This is unacceptable! Are they blind?" Betty stomped when she was given the cold shoulder. "How dare

they ignore us? They don't know their stuff! Don't they know I could end their careers if they get on my bad

side?"

"Reporters are only after those who are worth something. They'll come after you like sharks lusting for

blood if you're famous, well-connected, or influential," Zoe released her frustration by taunting Betty.

"Fine, fine. I don't know anyone in the industry because Mom doesn't want me to be in touch with the

media. She says that rich people should keep a distance from the average folks for prestige." Betty might

be Zoe's partner in crime, but she was no pushover.

She feigned innocence and took a dig at Zoe. "But Zoe, you're a socialite in the city and the mentee of a

famous pianist. Why didn't they interview you at all? It's ridiculous, don't you think? I'm angry for you.

Should I get a few reporters to chat with you?"

"Hmph, there's no need for that. I prefer keeping a low profile and hate being watched like animals in a

zoo!" Zoe scoffed, anger stirring within her.

The two fake ladies rolled their eyes at each other and turned away.

Suddenly, they heard a flurry of footsteps from behind.

"Look! It's Alyssa Taylor!"

"Wow! I didn't see her on the red carpet. Turns out she's in the venue! That's very slick of her."

"She's the only one here who's truly low profile. Not to mention, she managed her hotel efficiently and

secured the bid for Ada Kingsley's wedding. She's beautiful and capable, unlike those who just throw

money around for a red carpet appearance."

1/2

The reporters might not have called Betty and Zoe out, but the two women felt like they were being

slapped and shamed.

The reporters swarmed toward Alyssa. In the chaos, two of them bumped into Betty and Zoe, nearly

pushing them to the ground.

"Argh! Are you blind or what?" Betty growled, regaining her balance.

Meanwhile, Zoe trembled with anger

as she watched Alyssa being surrounded by reporters.

"Ms. Taylor, what are your thoughts on winning the bid against the Beckett Group for Ada Kingsley's

wedding?" a reporter shouted a question.

"First of all, it's my honor to work with Ms. Kingsley. I am grateful for her trust in KS World. Secondly, I'd

like to emphasize that the Beckett Group is not on the losing side just because they went after the same business opportunity as we did.

“The Berenike Hotel has a longer history than the KS World Hotel and has always set the benchmark for the industry. I hope there won’t be any prejudice against the Berenike Hotel, and please don’t assume that this competition will strain the relationship between KS Group and the Beckett Group.”

Alyssa knew that she had staged a perfect comeback, but she knew it was important to be moderate.

She’d be dumb to gloat about her victory or lower her class by hitting out on the Beckett Group.

“Gosh, Ms. Taylor is so charming! I’m smitten with her!”

“Exactly. She remains humble even after winning the project. She has a likable personality. I thought she

was mean to wrangle the opportunity from the Beckett Group, but I’ve changed my mind!”

People showered Alyssa with compliments, which only fueled Zoe’s resentment. She clenched her fists,

shaking with anger.

All of a sudden, she noticed the ruby earrings in gold on Alyssa’s ears and the matching necklace on

Alyssa’s neck.

The Pigeon Blood Rubies are the rarest and the most expensive of all rubies.

Betty stared longingly at the huge rubies on Alyssa’s neck and swallowed hard in envy. Zoe was similarly jealous of Alyssa but soon spotted a detail and quickly hatched a plan.

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Alyssa did not attend the jewelry show to flaunt her status as Winston Taylor’s daughter. She had two

goals.

Firstly, to address the allegations of snatching the opportunity from Beckett Group through media

interviews to stop the speculations.

Secondly, she delivered pastries to Ada at the venue, mainly to monitor Betty's movements and gain

control over the situation.

She would never allow that calculative bitch to gain the upper hand.

Ada showed up with a distinguished middle-aged man dressed in a brown suit.

"Ms. Alyssa, allow me to introduce you," Ada said with a smile. "This is Vincent Carter, the global CEO of

AX and a dear friend of mine."

"Vincent, this is Alyssa Taylor, the manager of KS World Hotel. She's a talented lady!"

Vincent, a native of Yoarkley with blonde hair and blue eyes, hailed from a blue-blooded family.

"Mr. Carter, it's a pleasure to meet you. Welcome to Solana City," Alyssa greeted him with a warm smile

as she extended her hand.

"Nice to meet you too, Ms. Taylor. It's our honor to have you at AX's show," Vincent replied in halting

Cyrrisian and shook her hand.

Ada's eyes darted between the two. She sensed that something was off. This should have been the first

encounter between Vincent and Alyssa, but they gave off a feeling that they were familiar with each other.

The reporters were gaping at the two. Vincent had royal blood and carried himself with poise and

haughtiness. However, he beamed warmly at Alyssa like she was family.

Everyone was in awe of Alyssa. They assumed that it was only normal for a ravishing beauty to attract the

attention of men.

“Ms. Taylor, what a coincidence!/I didn’t expect to run into you here.” Zoe lifted the hem of her floor-

length gown and trotted to Alyssa with the grace of a swan.

Her dark eyes sparkled. A fairylike smile appeared on her face.

Alyssa squinted at Zoe with a sharp gaze. Next, she gave Zoe the cold shoulder and turned to Vincent

and Ada with a smile. “Let’s chat on the side.”

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Zoe was shaking in anger when she was blatantly ignored. How could they dismiss Landon Harper’s little

sister?

Vincent and Ada had the same thought of finding a quieter spot to chat.

When they were about to leave, Zoe forced a smile suddenly and announced, “Ms. Alyssa, your jewelry set today is stunning! The pairing of Pigeon Blood Rubies and rose gold is classic indeed. It immediately

attracted my attention from afar.”

Her comment immediately drew everyone’s attention to Alyssa’s jewelry. Alyssa responded with a

gracious smile, saying, “Thank you.”

“But the jewelry isn’t from AX, right?” she bluntly pointed out.

The onlookers did a double-take and found it out, too. Alyssa’s jewelry was gorgeous, but anyone with

decent jewelry knowledge could tell it wasn’t an AX product.

This appeared to have gone against the rules of the AX brand, and Alyssa had committed this faux pas in

front of the global CEO.

“It’s AX’s jewelry show today, but you’re wearing pieces from other brands. That seems rather inappropriate, don’t you think?” Zoe raised her chin with a mocking look.

She continued, “Considering your status and the backing of the Belbanks KS Group, showing some respect to the event’s organizer shouldn’t be a difficult task. After all, you’re here for their event, aren’t

you?

“Or perhaps you’re wearing your own brand and using this show as a platform to promote your products?”

That’s impressive. What a capable businesswoman you are!

“You’ve certainly displayed remarkable sales and marketing skills!” Zoe’s caustic remarks hit the mark, leaving the reporters staring at Alyssa and murmuring among themselves.

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“Alyssa Taylor should have known such basic rules of the industry!”

“Of course she does! Maybe she just wanted to take advantage. These businesswomen always play dirty.

Perhaps she had used the same tricks to win Ada Kingsley’s trust and beat Mr. Beckett!”

“Tsk tsk. To think that I admired her before. Now, looking at her again, she seems quite shameless.”

Zoe snickered, feeling victorious for getting Alyssa into trouble.

She thought that Alyssa had become too arrogant and decided to teach her a lesson that day, with the

best approach being character assassination.

Little did Zoe know that Jasper had arrived late and had witnessed the scene. He stood in the shadows

quietly and cast an icy glare at the gloating woman.

Tall and gorgeous like a deity, he stood stiffly in his suit and wore a glum expression.

“Mr. Beckett, that girl is bullying Madam!” Xavier was worried.

Jasper pursed his lips and leaned forward. The look in his eyes hardened as he halted in his tracks. “Let’s

wait and see.”

“Wait?” Xavier widened his eyes, looking baffled.

“She’s not just any woman. She’s Alyssa Taylor, and she will figure something out,” Jasper said with a

fondness in his narrowed eyes that he seemed unaware of. “Even if she’s out of ideas, she has me.”

Xavier gaped at Jasper in disbelief and pressed a hand against his chest.

Jasper went on, “No one’s messing with my ex except me.” 2

Xavier wondered if Jasper was the same person. The look in Jasper’s eyes was enough to melt the

glaciers. It was a pity that Alyssa was not there to see it for herself.

Meanwhile, public opinion had turned against Alyssa. Her decision to wear jewelry from other brands at AX’s event sparked controversy. Many considered it a cheap ploy to promote other products, not to

mention a violation of the rules. /1

Betty, who had been hiding behind Zoe, was relishing in schadenfreude. However, she couldn’t help but feel uneasy about Alyssa’s composure. She had expected Alyssa to appear frightened and helpless, but that was far from the truth, and it infuriated her.

“Miss.” Vincent, who had kept his silence, suddenly chimed in with an amused look, “I believe you’re

1/2

the world.”

“That’s correct, Mr. Carter! I absolutely love AX’s jewelry, and this particular collection is my favorite!\*

Zoe’s eyes lit up with hope, her heart racing when she finally captured the CEO’s attention.

“Since you claim it’s your favorite, you should know that the ‘Eternal Bloom’ collection drew its inspiration

from the talented designer Alexa’s ‘Dark Desire’ collection.”

Vincent shifted his knowing gaze onto the swaying golden rose earring on Alyssa’s left ear.

From Jasper’s perspective, Vincent’s was a suggestive and flirtatious glance. He felt uneasy and

burdened when Alyssa was subjected to Vincent’s gaze.

“Ms. Alyssa’s jewelry is from Alexa’s ‘Dark Desire’ collection. In other words, the popular ‘Eternal Bloom’

collection wouldn’t exist without ‘Dark Desire.’”

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There was a collective expression of shock among the onlookers.

Even Ada Kingsley, who was not only Vincent’s good friend but also Alexa’s number one fan, found tweet

taken aback by Alyssa wearing jewelry from the elusive “Dark Rose” collection—a name the bad beard of but never seen. She briefly experienced a rare moment of envy at Alyssa’s wealth.

Alyssa quietly cast Vincent a grateful look. There was no need for her to explain herself. This was Vincent’s turf, and it was his job to address those who were up to no good. She wouldn’t need to lift a

finger for something as insignificant as Zoe’s slander.

Jasper’s eyes had never left Alyssa. There was a hint of envy in them. He was sure that Alyans knew t

man, and the two shared a close relationship at that.

“Who’s that old man?” Jasper demanded to know.

“Vincent Carter is the global CEO of AX. His grandfather holds the title of the last Duke of Yoarkley, and

his grandmother is the founder of AX. In simple terms, they own the brand, and he has been appoints

CEO simply because of his family ties,” Xavier explained.

He continued, “Vincent has inherited the dukedom from his grandfather and owns vast estates bestowed by the monarchy. He’s also one of the top five wealthiest individuals in Yoarkley, worth tens of billions

Madam is so cool for having a duke as a friend!”

Jasper breathed hard and swallowed. He tightened his fists unhappily.

“Is Mr. Carter speaking up for Madam? Ooh, has he fallen for her?” Xavier exclaimed at his discovery and

sighed.

He added, "If that's the case, Madam stands a chance at becoming a duchess. Her family background is impressive enough, and if she marries into royalty... Gosh, she'll reach a whole new level of fame and power!"

"That's impossible. She won't be interested in Vincent. That guy is as old as her dad," Jasper muttered with a deep frown.

However, Xavier was worked up "That might not be the case! Who knows? Madam might be interested in older men! Why else would she have fallen for you? You're six years older than her."

Jasper shot a death glare at Xavier. A six-year difference paled in comparison to a twenty-year age gap!

Xavier, scared witless, quickly sealed his lips and gestured to keep his lips "zipped", in what seemed like a cute but pitiful move.

him. Instead, he was dismayed at and threatened by the availability of excellent suitors around Alyssa.

"Oh my god! The CEO of an international luxury jewelry brand admitted publicly that their products took inspiration from Alexa's work! Isn't that like digging their own graves?"

"I don't think so. I appreciate his honesty. Besides, they were only inspired by Alexa's work; they didn't directly copy her designs."

"We did base our entire collection on her designs," Vincent confessed after overhearing the reporters' discussion.

He further elaborated, "Madam Alexa was well aware of it. I privately confirmed with her, and she even granted us permission to create the 'Eternal Bloom' collection inspired by her 'Dark Rose' series. She was actively involved in the design process."

A collective gasp of astonishment filled the room. Meanwhile, Zoe's once-gleeful expression had frozen in disbelief.

"That's why I'm delighted that Ms. Alyssa wore Alexa's jewelry for our event," Vincent added, his gaze briefly drifting toward Alyssa before looking away.

"There's another detail that you might not be aware of, Ms. Harper." Alyssa chuckled. "AX has maintained a good working relationship with Alexa.

"AX's VIP members are familiar with the rule that allows them to wear Alexa's designs at any AX event.

Not only that, the wearer will be upgraded to the VVIP seat.

"But that's not all. AX also offers a lifetime of free repair and jewelry care services to customers who own

pieces by Alexa. Ms. Harper, why did you not know about this rule if you're a huge fan of AX?"

Zoe's face paled. She was speechless. She might own many jewelry from AX, but the entry barrier for a membership was beyond her means.

Not only did she have to meet a minimum spending threshold at AX stores, but the brand also thoroughly evaluated membership applicants based on their family backgrounds.

As she couldn't secure membership solely by virtue of being Landon's sister, she was unaware of the unspoken rule among the AX members!

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Book

a step back, putting some distance between herself and Zoe to steer clear of the ongoing controversy.

The reporters who came to their senses scrutinized Zoe.

One of them remarked, "So, Ms. Harper was pointing fingers, even though she wasn't even a VIP member

at AX. That's quite absurd."

Another chimed in, saying, "She should have minded her own business."

A third reporter added, "She believes she can have a say just because she bought a few pieces from AX.

Look at her, making these bold accusations in front of the CEO, who probably doesn't even know her

name. It's rather tactless. She's no match for Ms. Alyssa!"

Zoe couldn't help but grumble inwardly about the media. How could they compare her to Alyssa?

Zoe's mind went blank as she almost blacked out from the anger. That was the greatest humiliation she

had endured in her young life.

Alyssa paid no attention to Zoe as she left the scene, chatting merrily with Vincent and Ada.

The reporters flocked after them, leaving Zoe behind. Her face drained of color.

"Zoe! T-This is bad!" Betty hurried over and tugged on Zoe's arm. She hissed nervously, "Jasper is here!"

"J-Jasper? Where?" Feeling guilty, Zoe sweated profusely.

"He was standing not far away and saw everything that happened! He appeared out of nowhere, like a

ghost. I didn't even notice when he arrived or how much of it he saw!"

Zoe inhaled sharply and rigidly turned around. She spotted Jasper's tall, stern silhouette glaring at her

from the shadows.

A suffocating sensation gripped her throat. Her breathing, heart rate, and thoughts seemed to stall.

"J-Jasper!"

Furrowing his brows, Jasper coldly shook his head and walked away with Xavier following closely behind.

Zoe had a sick feeling in the pit of her stomach. She stumbled backward. Jasper's gaze seemed like a

knife, severing the ties between him and her. a

1/2

+15 BONUS

Zoe buried her face in her palms and sobbed loudly in the washroom. Her delicate eye makeup was smudged, and her eyeliner and glitter were everywhere.

She grumbled, "Damn it! Why isn't that bitch dead yet? She should've been run over by a car or something!"

She cried not only because Alyssa outmaneuvered her at the event. More damningly, Jasper caught her in the act of creating trouble for Alyssa. This time, she could not talk her way out of it. 1

"Exactly. Why hasn't karma caught up with her?" Betty cursed Alyssa alongside Zoe, but she was secretly gleeful about Zoe's defeat. (1

"Why didn't you do anything about it? Not a word from you!" Zoe released her anger on Betty.

"I-I was too dumb to think of anything. You've always been the one to come up with ideas. I'm useless here. If I were smarter, I'd have handled Alyssa myself," Betty hurriedly explained.

Between sobs, Zoe hissed, "Is there no news from Abigail yet? Has she not found anything to exploit?

That useless loser!"

"Stay calm. She will help us because she hates Alyssa to the bone."

Right then, Betty's phone buzzed. After checking the caller's name, she grinned evilly and waved her phone at Zoe. "Guess who this is? It's a call from Abigail!"

Zoe clenched her jaw. "This time, I want Alyssa Taylor to crash! I want all her efforts to go to waste!"

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