

## Can't Win 971

### Chapter 972

“How shameless of you to speak about Alyssa as her ex-mother-in-law!” Jasper finally stepped forward without hesitation and mocked Sophia, “You’re Dad’s second wife, and I’m not your son. You do not have the right to claim you were Lyse’s mother-in-law.

“Still, Lyse respected you and tried her best to fulfill your unreasonable demands when she was married to me. She endured you and Betty’s bullying. Why did you skip that part?”

Alyssa felt a lump in her throat and wiggled her finger as she was reminded of the bitter past. Jasper did not need to look at her to empathize. He gripped her hand firmly and declared, “Lyse married me because she loved me. Is love a sin?

“I was the one to blame for the divorce. I did not see through Liana’s true colors and continued flirting with her after I was married. I

unknowingly hurt Alyssa, not realizing that all the while, she was the one I loved.”

The cameras flashed again in a frenzy to capture Jasper’s act of protecting his ex-wife and his confession about his extramarital affair.

Sophia’s expression crumbled. Betty stared agape at Jasper’s explosive statement. They never expected him to give up everything- his status and reputation-for Alyssa.

They underestimated his feelings for Alyssa. He’d rather sacrifice himself to protect Alyssa. He would rather suffer a blow in his reputation to uphold her innocence.

Trembling, Alyssa watched as Jasper stood firmly in front of her. She choked on her tears, touched by his empathy, which meant more to her than his declaration of “I love you”.

+25 BONUS

Jasper scanned Sophia and Betty's faces before turning to the crowd. "I will make this clear for the last time-I was the one at fault in our divorce. Alyssa was not to be blamed. I will take legal action against any media who wrote a single article demeaning her. Those who start rumors will pay a huge price for doing so."

His words came as a huge shock. Shuddering, Sophia and Betty stumbled backward and gave up on confronting Alyssa.

Cyrus, admiring Jasper's courage, clapped his hands with respect." That was cool."

Jonah and Silas nodded in approval. Axel, who hid in a corner, smiled with satisfaction as he placed a cigarette between his lips, mumbling, "Not bad. You act more like my brother-in-law now."

A reporter suddenly came forward and questioned loudly, "Mr. Beckett, why do you frequently meet up with Ms. Alyssa if you're divorced? I have been following your updates. Whenever Ms. Alyssa gets into trouble, you will show up to help. Are you nice to her because she was your ex-wife, or do you still have feelings for her?"

The other reporters chimed in, "Mr. Beckett, what is your current relationship with Ms. Alyssa?"

Feeling helpless in the onslaught of questions, Alyssa heard Jasper reply, "She was my ex-wife. Now, I'm her man."

While speaking, he looked at her. They both teared up when their eyes

Chapter 973

Alyssa did not shy away from Jasper's passionate gaze this time. She melted inside, wondering how deep his love for her was, seeing how he was close to tears when he looked at her.

Meanwhile, Sophia and Betty were in hot water because they had nowhere to escape. Alyssa stood in their way, and the reporters swarmed behind them.

At that moment, Rosie played a recording on her phone in front of the crowds. Amid the hushed silence, they were shocked to hear Sophia cursing her maids from the recording..

The reporters gasped, "Oh, my God! Quick! Get that on video!"

Another questioned, "Is that how a woman in her position should behave? Even the market vendor I know has better manners!"

"If we air this, we might have to censor it from the beginning till the

end!"

All color drained from Betty's face. She had her fair share of abusing maids at home and worried that Rosie would play a recording of her

actions.

Rosie lifted her phone high and yelled, "Look! This is how much Mrs. Beckett cares for her maids!"

"How dare you do this to me, you old bitch! Stop playing it!" Fuming, Sophia charged at Rosie to snatch the phone, but the Taylor family's bodyguards stopped her from getting any closer to Rosie.

The media recorded the scene, showing Sophia comically clawing at the air when the bodyguards held her back.

Rosie taunted, "Oh, Mrs. Beckett, are you triggered by just one

viny:

the tip of the iceberg of your abusive behavior over the years."

+25 BONUS

With that, Rosie played another recording. Everyone instantly heard a sound that resembled a slap in the face.

In the recording, Sophia shrieked in an abrasive voice, saying, "Nina Carle, are you dumb? How could you mess this up? We're not going to keep useless people around!"

Sophia paled and started trembling when she heard the recording. In the recording, Nina replied in a pain-filled voice, much to the dismay of the people at the funeral. "I-I'm sorry, Madam Sophia. I'll clean it up now. Ah-"

www

Betty's voice emerged, and she sounded as horrible as her mother. Nina, did you not hear me? You need to get your ears checked!"

"Sorry, Ms. Betty. I'll be there soon..."

Sophia and Betty were speechless when Rosie provided the evidence. Seething, Silas nearly charged at the mother and daughter to scold them but was held back by Jonah and Cyrus.

Silas snapped, "Are you still living in the last century? How could you abuse your maids? Even the royals in history did not treat their servants that way!"

Axel clicked his tongue and shook his head. "Silas can be quite frightening when he's triggered."

Alyssa felt resentful when she heard the recording. Her throat went dry.

Jasper held her by the waist, a gesture to calm her down, but he nearly lost his temper as well.

There was a commotion among the reporters after Sophia and Betty were called out. Sophia gritted her teeth and dragged Betty out of the

+25 BONUS

LOL YV

Alyssa and Jasper felt a sudden chill. They looked up and saw Nina's expressionless grandmother splashing a bowl of hot soup at Sophia.

Sophia screamed at the top of her lungs. Scalded and reeking of the soup's contents, she had never been in such a humiliating situation before.

Chapter 974

Betty, who could not step aside in time, was also drenched in soup. She nearly heaved from the stench.

The onlookers gasped at the turn of events. They did not expect Nina's bedridden and ill grandmother to take revenge for her granddaughter with a will of steel. The old woman glowered at Sophia.

Her determination won her the respect of everyone present.

"You evil woman! Get lost! I don't want you standing in the way of Nina!" Despite appearing frail, the old woman yelled loudly with rage, "If you don't leave, I will break your head with the bowl!"

"I don't have any purpose in life after losing Nina. I have nothing more to lose, and I am not afraid of going against you!"

Sophia and Betty enjoyed a high-profile arrival at the funeral but ended up escaping from the scene with tails between their legs.

The reporters left after that. They would have a field day writing ne articles on Javier and Sophia. Although Nina’s funeral started in chaos, it wrapped up smoothly.

Unfortunately, Nina’s grandmother fainted out of anger at Sophia and Betty’s interruption. The Taylor family rushed her to the hospital, where she would receive the best care.

Alyssa sat on the couch in the lounge, looking dejected. Although she and Jasper had the upper hand, she trembled with heartache and

when she thought of the recording in which Sophia and Betty abused Nina.

anger

Jonah and Silas were busy dealing with the media. Jasper might have

was thoroughly protected, just in case.

+25 BONUS

Cyrus wanted to keep Alyssa company, but he had to leave because of some work at the police station.

Only Sean, Tatiana, Axel, and Jasper were by Alyssa’s side. She crossed her arms in front of her chest, looking confused. “Is the air conditioning turned on? I feel cold.”

“No, Lyse,” Tatiana replied with worry. “Did you fall sick? I’ll get you a blanket.”

When Tatiana proceeded to leave, she noticed Jasper putting his jacket around Alyssa. He acted so tenderly as if he was holding a newborn.

Alyssa looked up at Jasper, feeling touched. He knelt in front of her and gazed into her teary eyes, desperate to read her pain and emotions.

“Lyse, I know what you’re thinking,” he remarked curtly.

Moved by his words, she mumbled tearily, “It’s just... I feel... cold

Gripped by a crushing pain, he pulled her into a deep embrace whispered in her ear, “Are you still cold?”

She bit her lips, her body almost melting under his embrace. She shook her head gently.

He coaxed her affectionately, saying, “You won’t feel cold again if I’m around.”

He knew that Alyssa was affected by the sad memories. She had yet to recover from Nina’s death.

It would take time to heal from trauma. He vowed to treat her with patience and care.

+25 BONUS

Axel, Sean, and Tatiana felt reassured upon seeing Jasper and Alyssa wrapped up in a quiet hug. Tatiana, always the emotional one, teared up when she saw the touching scene.

Suddenly, she felt a warm sensation in her hand. Sean had gently interlaced his fingers with hers.

Chapter 975

Tatiana’s breaths became ragged, her cheeks deepening in color. She held Sean’s hand silently, both blushing in embarrassment but not letting go.

When Alyssa gathered herself, she told Jasper, “Mrs. Rosie can no longer work at Seaview Manor after what happened today. If you and Mrs. Rosie don’t mind, I’d like her to work at Heightsnew Villa in Belbanks.

“If she prefers retirement, I will buy her a place in Belbanks so she could retire comfortably. I will be worried for her if she stays in Solana City. Sophia and Betty might give her trouble as payback.”

“Lyse, my sentiments exactly,” he replied, looking content. “I’d prefer Mrs. Rosie to leave Solana City temporarily and return only after I’ve taught Sophia a lesson. But I do not mind if Mrs. Rosie settles down in Belbanks. That sounds good as well.”

“I’m just concerned she won’t want to leave because she’ll miss you, she teased, squinting at him.

Bright-eyed, Jasper rubbed her fingers and responded, “She wo miss me. She once said anywhere is home when I’m around her that doesn’t happen, she’ll at least need her Madam to be with

“I-I’m no longer her Madam!” Blushing, Alyssa panicked and turned he face away, ignoring him.

He chuckled and caressed her head. Axel could not stand watching the lovey-dovey couple and sneaked out of the lounge to smoke.

At that moment, Jasper received a call. He checked the caller ID, and his eyes gleamed. “Lyse, I need to answer the call. I’ll be back soon.”

She watched as he left the lounge, and her chest tightened.

+25 BONUS

Outside the lounge, Jasper picked up the call. Landon asked, “Jasper,

the arrangements are in place. When do we make our move?”

“Let’s leave in my private jet this evening,” replied Jasper with a serious look.

“Just use my jet! Don’t worry about the fuel costs!” Landon graciously offered. “You get the best because you’re Lauren’s brother!”

“Your jet is an older model. It’s too slow,” Jasper explained flatly.

Disheartened, Landon grumbled, “Damn it! You always make me look bad.” Then, he questioned, “Have you told Lyse about it?”

Jasper shut his eyes, clenched his fists, and took a deep breath. “I can’t tell her. I know her well. She is a righteous person who will do anything it takes to take revenge with her own hands.

“If she learns that I’m searching for Jeffrey Snyder, she will definitely want to come with me, and I won’t be able to stop her. Bringing her to Tsulu would be reckless. It’s dangerous there.”

Landon sighed, “You’re the epitome of doting on your spouse.” Then, he added, “I’m the same.”

Jasper teased him, “Don’t go blowing your own trumpet.”

Once they took down the enemy, Jasper hoped his best friend could find happiness with his dear sister. At the same time, he yearned for a fresh start with Alyssa.

After the call, Jasper smoked by the window instead of returning to the lounge. He stood there, trying to organize his thoughts.

Suddenly, he heard gentle footsteps approaching him from behind.

Chapter 976

Jasper whirled around, drawn in by a pleasant fragrance. Alyssa leaned closer to him, her eyes shining brightly. She placed her arms by his side, her plump lips hovering before him.

He swallowed hard and blushed at the fatal attraction of her moist lips.

Alyssa purred, "Have you forgotten what I said to you?" Her hand traveled down to his chest and traced its way to his abdomen.

His heart raced as he stared intently at her rosy lips. Just when he was about to kiss her, she took the cigarette from between his fingers and placed it between her lips.

She took a long drag but started coughing violently. Her face reddened.

He pinched her flushed cheeks and teased her, "Oh, you silly thing! Don't force yourself if you don't know how to smoke."

"I don't understand... Cough... What's so appealing about smoking?" She tossed the cigarette on the floor and stomped on it. "You and Axel smoke all the time. What are you, a chimney? I should play the documentary of lung cancer on a loop to scare you out of it!"

She blushed after her minor outburst.

Jasper fixed his eyes on her and tossed his box of cigarettes into the trash can. Hugging her by the waist, he breathed on her face, tickling her skin. He had a look of desire in his eyes. "I'm sorry, Lyse. I'll try my best to quit smoking. No. I WILL quit smoking."

"I know it's hard for a longtime heavy smoker to quit cold turkey. I'm not unreasonable. Just smoke less," she mumbled with a smirk.

+25 BONUS

"No. I must quit smoking," Jasper insisted. He was pulled back to memories of old and felt a pang of pain. "You advised me to quit smoking many times, but I never listened to you. I'll do whatever you ask me to. It's just that

She blinked. "What?"

Blushing, he asked a question like a naive schoolboy, "Can I watch TV all day at your place if I quit smoking?"

In his 30s, he seemed to have just learned how to love a woman.

Alyssa chortled and teased him, "What a foolish question."

He loved seeing Alyssa smile and wouldn't mind playing a fool forever to make her smile.

Suddenly, she asked, "When are you leaving?"

He checked his wristwatch and replied, "It's about time now."

"Shall I see you off?"

"It's fine. You need to rest after a busy day."

"Jasper Beckett," she blurted out without warning, and soon, she gave him a tender kiss on tiptoe.

The kiss was much better than their last awkward kiss. She intended for it to be a quick peck, but she underestimated his feelings for her.

Pinching her chin, he kissed her deeply, their tongues dancing with each other.

Finally, Alyssa pushed against his chest. As they moved away, strands of saliva lingered between their lips.

He licked his lips and savored the sweet kiss, complimenting her, Lyse, you're getting better."

She initially wanted to punch his chest out of shyness, but she settled with straightening his tie and smoothing the wrinkles on his suit like a caring wife

She reminded him, "Come home soon. If you're late, I won't keep the door open for you"

## Chapter 977

The video capturing Sophia and Betty at Nina's funeral went viral online. One wondered if Jonah influenced the narrative or if the reporters had ganged up against Sophia because of the absence of scenes featuring Alyssa and Jasper.

Instead, the footage showcased Rosie's accusations against Sophia and Nina's grandmother's soup attack.

Alyssa and Jasper's divorce should have been more sensational news than maid abuse allegations against Sophia. Still, cowed by the pressures exerted by Jonah and Jasper, no reporter dared broach the subject of the divorce to protect their career.

Despite brief online gossip regarding Alyssa and Jasper's secret marriage, the discussion soon died down after all the media attention on Sophia's behavior.

The netizens turned the photo of Sophia drenched in soup into a gif and shared it online. Not only that, but it was also transformed into various jokes and puns. The situation spiraled beyond the control of the Beckett Group's PR team.

"ROFL! I can't wait for more Sophia Kirkman scandals! Living for it!"

"She deserves jail for exploiting someone's death and mistreating her staff."

"Like mother, like daughters. Bet her two girls are no better."

"Eldest daughter's a real piece of work, but the second one keeps a low profile. She might be alright."

“A woman like Sophia Kirkman can’t raise a decent daughter. They’re all cut from the same cloth!”

reputation plummeted, and Betty, who had her fair share of scandals, suffered a blow to her standing, all due to her mother’s actions.

However, Sophia and Betty’s reputational damage failed to satisfy Alyssa and Jasper. They wanted to utterly ruin Sophia and Betty’s lives.

After Landon was done with work and making arrangements for Jasper, he headed home to say goodbye to Lauren.

In the car, he scrolled through the comments on Twitter and even created an alternative account to argue with the netizens who had involved Lauren in the scandal.

It was amusing to see the arrogant Landon Harper engaging in petty arguments for the sake of his beloved wife.

Trembling, the driver wiped away his sweat and tried to focus on driving. Suddenly, Landon yelled, “Angie!”

The driver paled and responded with fear, “M-Mr. Landon, you made Angie look after Madam Lauren at the villa. She’s not here.”

“Oh, fuck. I forgot,” Landon replied, rubbing his forehead and sighing.

Those who worked for Landon had been instructed to address Lauren as “Madam”.

Landon had even planned to transfer half of his stock ownership and all his properties in Solana City under Lauren’s name. It was a plan he had thought about for a while but had yet to carry out.

He planned to formally propose the idea after seeking Lauren's family's blessing for their marriage, which he intended to do after his Teulu trip. Before proposing the marriage, he needed to lend a hand

vuoper unTU

+25 BONUS

It was not purely out of his loyalty to Jasper; he made the decision for his benefit because he refused to have a bitch for a mother-in-law. Why would he want a ticking time bomb in his marriage?

Unable to contain his impatience, Landon called Angelina. "Angie, monitor online comments! Catch anyone speaking ill of Lauren, and I'll beat them to a pulp. I'll sue those netizens gossiping about her, too!

"I have been on it without you mentioning it. Just like you, I do not wish to see Madam Lauren harmed by the scandal," Angelina replied.

Having worked under Landon for many years, she knew his character and thoughts well.

"Excellent work! I'll increase your bonus later." Landon nodded with satisfaction.

Chapter 978

Angelina, burdened with guilt, sighed as she admitted, "There's another problem. Madam Lauren found out about Nina's death through the news about the funeral."

Landon's chest tightened. His worst fear had become a reality. Angelina continued, "It was my fault. I didn't anticipate the news reporting on the funeral so soon because there was an embargo.

"Anyway, that's not an excuse. I did not do my job well. So, instead of the bonus, you should be giving me a penalty," Angelina willingly offered to be punished.

“That’s not your fault, Angie. You are busy taking care of Lauren while handling work matters for me. It’s tough for you,” Landon replied with worry. “How is Lauren holding up?”

“Madam Lauren is not doing well. She’s been crying. Please come home now and check on her.”

“Sure. I’ll be back soon.

After hanging up, Landon felt increasingly agitated and concerned at the thought of Lauren alone crying. He kicked the back of the driver’s seat and snapped, “Go faster if you want to get paid this month.”

“Sure!” The driver stepped on the accelerator urgently.

When Landon rushed home, he immediately went to the bedroom to check on Lauren without changing.

Angelina greeted him by the door. “Mr. Landon.”

“Is she in there?” Landon’s heart raced.

+25 BONUS

“Yes. She isn’t eating or drinking, and she refuses to leave the room,” Angelina reported.

She bit her lower lip with a troubled expression, saying, “I dare not enter the room. You know that she needs you the most.”

Landon gently pushed the door open. Despite the daylight outside, the curtains were drawn, and the lights were off. It was a depressing sight to see.

“Darling? Darling?” Landon searched every corner-study, bedroom, changing room, bathroom-but found no sign of Lauren.

Panic set in, and he sweated profusely. "Lauren? Lauren?"

Hearing his distraught calls, Angelina entered the room to join the search. He exclaimed, "She's missing!"

"How could that happen?" Angelina looked shocked. "I was standing by the door all the time. She did not leave the room at all!"

Her words struck Landon like lightning. His face turned white, and his heart nearly jumped out of his mouth. He rushed over to the window, drawing the curtains open while imagining morbid worst-case

scenarios.

Fighting his fear, he finally gathered his courage and looked down. He was instantly relieved to find nothing unusual.

Sighing, he felt drained and sweaty. Angelina shared his fear. Lauren's psychological issues made them worry she might harm herself if triggered.

Chapter 979

"Search for Lauren," Landon yelled, slamming a fist onto the window sill with rage. "... even if you have to turn the place upside down!"

"Roger that! I'll get a few people to look for her," Angelina answered and immediately went into action.

Silence encapsulated the room, which soothed Landon's nerves. After calming down, he heard a vague sobbing from somewhere in the

room that tugged at his heartstrings.

“Lauren!” Elated, he ran into the bedroom, where the sobbing grew louder. His heart shattered with each cry.

Finally, he stopped in front of the closet. The sobbing was loud and clear, accompanied by the ruffling of clothes.

Slowly, he opened the doors, only to hold his breath at what he saw

next.

Lauren’s frail body curled in a damp corner like a stray with no home.

She hugged her knees, her dark bangs clinging to her sweaty forehead. After hiding in the closet for a while, she looked a little out of breath, and her cheeks were flushed.

“L-Landon ...” She burst into tears when she saw him. “Is Nina dead?”

Is it true?”

Landon could not bear to see teardrops rolling down her cheeks. He opened his arms and lifted her out of the closet.

He was surprised when he touched her skin. Her skin was hot to the touch, probably because she hid in the closet for too long.

Teary-eyed, he choked when he comforted her, “I’m sorry. Lauren, I’m

really only.

At

+25 BONUS

loss for words, he could only repeatedly apologize to her as he tried to navigate his messy thoughts.

“Is Nina ... dead? Is it real...” Lauren repeated the question.

He patiently coaxed her, “Nina went to a better place. She’ll be happier there.”

Soon after, Lauren fell into a deep sleep, perhaps due to exhaustion, the lack of air, and the extreme sadness.

Landon quickly called the Harpers’ family doctor to check on her. After confirming that she was suffering from grief and low blood sugar, the doctor gave her an IV drip and prescribed bed rest, much to

Landon’s relief.

Kneeling by the bed, Landon held Lauren’s hand throughout the checkup. His lips brushed against her arm anxiously.

Angelina appeared and informed Landon, “Mr. Landon, your car is ready. It’s time to go.”

After a pause, she whispered, “If you don’t feel like leaving Madam Lauren, I can go on your behalf. Looking for a criminal in Tsulu is a dangerous mission. Unlike in the past, you have commitments now. It’s better to stay out of risky missions.”

He insisted, “No, I have to go.” He pressed Lauren’s hand on his chest and spoke with affection and determination, “I made a promise to my only friend, Jasper, and I have to keep my word.

“Besides, things wouldn’t have turned out this way if that bastard had not killed Nina. Lauren wouldn’t have fainted from crying. Once I get my hands on that motherfucker, I will make life hell for him!”

Given the influence and capability of the Harpers, Jeffrey Snyder would not leave Tsulu alive. It was too bad that Jasper insisted on

+25 BONUS

mission’s difficulty had increased, and he had to tag along to help Jasper.

Angelina reminded him, “If so, please be extra careful. I prepared bulletproof vests for you and Mr. Beckett. Make sure to wear it...”

Chapter 980

“Gosh, Angie, you nag me more than my mom! I hired you because you were quiet, but why are you getting more talkative over the years?”

Landon teased Angelina.

Angelina pressed her lips and took a step backward with an awkward expression. Over the years, Landon had cycled through numerous partners, but she was the one constant presence at his side.

She had assumed various roles for Landon in the past-secretary, bodyguard, dance partner, and confidant. She had even posed as his significant other to fend off persistent admirers when necessary.

Being by Landon’s side felt as natural as breathing to her. She was accustomed to being indispensable to him, never having been with another man.

They weren’t lovers, but they knew each other better than lovers. Now that Landon had found his true love, Angelina decided to stay out of his private life to avoid annoying him.

“Angie, I think the next few days might be more challenging for you.” After kissing Lauren, Landon grimly reminded Angelina. “Please stay by Lauren’s side. From tonight, you will share a room with her. Lock the doors and windows at night. Do not let down your guard.”

“Understood, Mr. Landon. I’ll do just that,” Angelina nodded with determination. “I’ll keep a vigilant eye on Madam Lauren. I swear on my life she’ll be safe and sound when you return.”

Meanwhile, the Beckett Group employees were swamped by work as they tried their best to clean the mess for Sophia.

+25 BONUS

Javier had issued the orders not because he wanted to save Sophia. He did it to salvage the reputation of the Beckett Group, which the scandal had marred.

Since Jasper assumed the presidency, the Beckett Group underwent sweeping changes, rapidly expanding its business in Solana City and across the continent of Andgalbia. This success drew the ire of rivals who sought any opportunity to attack.

As the Beckett Group aimed for a partnership with the second wealthiest company in Mosgravia, any PR scandal could jeopardize their réputation, leading to stock price plummeting and the potential collapse of the partnership negotiation. Their adversaries were poised to seize such an opportunity.

“Javier Beckett, what excuse do you have? Until when are you going to defend your wife?”

Several top leaders stood in two rows outside Javier’s office,

sweating profusely and remaining silent.

The office was in disarray. Newton, who was in a wheelchair, flung all the items on the desk at Javier. A pencil holder hit the corner of Javier’s forehead and formed a bump.

Despite the aggression, Javier stood there in silence and stared at the floor. Throwing things in a fit of anger seemed to be a culture of the Beckett family.

“I was blinded by the red on the charts when the stock market opened this morning! You should also check out how the media portrayed our family!”

Enraged, Newton pointed a finger at Javier and chastised him, “They said we were a family of devils who would do anything for money! Because of your wife, our family’s reputation suffered!”

+25 BONUS

Javier clenched his jaw and his fists as he was consumed by rage. He had witnessed everything Newton mentioned and felt just as infuriated.

Many times, he warned Sophia to keep a low profile, but she did not seem to listen at all. She acted as she pleased and caused significant trouble for the family. His indulgence over the years was the root of her brazen attitude.

Despite feeling guilty, Javier could not bring himself to admit his mistake in front of Newton. He refused to acknowledge that he made a wrong decision in the past.

Taking a deep breath, he gritted his teeth and explained, “Sophia has been reflecting on her actions at home. I grounded her in Seaview Manor. She can’t leave without my permission.

“Dad, I believe she attended the funeral for our family’s sake. Whether she truly intended to pay her respects to the maid was another matter altogether, but I assume she showed up to protect the Beckett

Group’s reputation. Things would have gone smoothly had it not been for Alyssa’s interruption.”