

Can't Win 1091

Chapter 1091

Alyssa, clinging to Jasper's arm, grumbled slightly, "You've got some nerve."

"I'll need to put in the effort to win my woman," Jasper rasped, casting a loving look at her.

She warned, "There are three things Winston hates the most in his life—taking away his wife, taking away his daughter, and taking his wife and daughter away from him."

He stared at her, dumbfounded.

"You'd better look out. He's more vindictive than me. He won't go easy on you after what happened today," Alyssa muttered.

Suddenly, she questioned, "Are you ready, by the way?"

"Of course. I will always carry out your orders to the best of my abilities," he replied softly, causing her to blush.

Before she could speak, she noticed Zoe glowering at her from a few steps away. The sight of Zoe unsettled her. Although she had accepted Jasper and put the past behind her, Jasper and Zoe's past scandal remained a thorn in her flesh.

"Jasper, I've been waiting for you," Zoe cooed with a bright smile.

"And I've never asked you to do so," Jasper responded in an icy tone that sent shivers down her spine.

Still, she gathered her courage and lied, "We agreed to make an entrance together, didn't we? You were distracted and went up to Ms. Alyssa for a chat, so I waited for you. Jasper, did I upset you somehow?"

The look in Jasper's eyes darkened. Zoe was gripped by fear, but she couldn't afford to back down. She vowed to drive a wedge between the two by all means.

Alyssa recoiled a little and loosened her grip on Jasper. Just when she experienced a moment of doubt, Jasper held her hand firmly and walked past without casting another look at Zoe.

When he walked past Zoe, he snapped, "Get lost."

Humiliated, Zoe trembled in resentment as her cheeks reddened. The audacity to tell her to get lost in front of Alyssa!

Staring hatefully at the two figures, Zoe came up with a terrible idea.

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Once they entered the racecourse, Alyssa shook off Jasper's hand and turned away from him with a frown.

He called out to her, "What's the matter? Are you upset? Lyse! Where are you going?" He anxiously trailed behind her when she left without looking at him.

After they wandered into a deserted corridor, she finally stopped in her tracks when no one was around. Her eyes were red, and color seemed to have drained from her lips.

She grumbled, "Why are you running after me? You should meet Zoe. She's waiting for you."

Knowing she was upset because of Zoe's action, Jasper hugged her as he grappled with indignation and worry. He explained, "Lyse, she was talking nonsense to turn us against each other. Please do not trust her. I never asked her to wait for me!"

Alyssa's attempts to free herself were futile, and she gave up.

Chapter 1092

Truth be told, Alyssa didn't believe in a word that came out of Zoe's mouth, but she held a grudge somehow.

"I know. I get it. You're still upset at me for that hotel incident," Jasper coaxed her.

It pained him tremendously to learn that Alyssa was hurt by the hotel scandal in which he was framed. "It's my fault for being dumb. I should have been more careful, but I got set up.

"Anyway, I'm to blame, so punch me if it makes you feel better. Do anything you want to me, but please don't ignore me."

Jasper had acted so humbly to cheer up Alyssa, something he'd never do for anyone else.

"I know you're smart," she remarked with a sigh and turned around in his arms to look at him. "Even if you were cheating, you wouldn't have left behind all the clues and attracted a swarm of reporters to take photos of the evidence."

He smiled wryly at her remark. "Lyse, stop teasing me."

"Remember when you said you panicked because of me?"

"Somebody sent me photos of a woman who looked exactly like you, entering a hotel with another man. I was afraid you'd be taken advantage of, so I rushed to the hotel."

"Fuck! Do I look like the type who'd sleep around with men? Use your brain!" Alyssa furiously slapped him on the head.

"Yeah. Thinking back, I was dumb. The trap itself was poorly designed, but I fell for it anyway." He rubbed his head from the painful slap.

Alyssa added, "You told me someone had wiped out the photos on your phone but was too angry to take your word for it. I discussed it with Axel. He tried it out, and it actually worked. We were only skeptical because we had never attempted it before."

One question remained. Alyssa was curious about the woman who bore a striking resemblance to herself. She would love to meet her.

She explained while subtly praising herself, "I'll look into that woman with Jonah and Axel's help. With that angelic face, why would she shy away from the public?"

"Thank you, Lyse. Thanks for trusting me." Jasper, his breathing growing heavy, pulled her into a hug. Finally, he couldn't resist kissing her. Putting a hand on her waist, he pushed her against the wall.

"Mmm—That's enough—" Alyssa panted, her heart pounding from the sudden kiss.

Pushing against his firm chest, she complained, "My makeup's going to smudge. We still have an event to attend."

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The news of Winston showing up to the event with Lyla spread like wildfire through the venue. Some bored rich attendees, who had quietly wagered on the identity of Winston's plus-one, lost large sums instantly.

At the same time, Sophia angrily scrolled through Twitter, almost crushing her phone in hatred. Alyssa and Lyla were trending, with users praising their beauty and fashion sense.

The compliments surged, replacing any mention of Lyla's dark past. Not only that, the netizens claimed that Lyla had surpassed Sophia in terms of looks.

Despite scheming against Lyla with all means and marrying Javier Beckett, Sophia remained second to Lyla's charm after 30 years, a bitter pill to swallow.

Perhaps too agitated, she sensed the urge to urinate and had to pathetically close her legs tightly as she trembled.

"What's the matter? Are you unwell?" Javier questioned in a hushed voice when he noticed Sophia's odd behavior.

"N-No ..."

"If you're not feeling well, I'll have Rory send you home," Javier responded coldly while looking away.

His dismissive behavior fueled Sophia's anger, as he treated her like a disposable prop after making their entrance.

Out of spite, she resolved to stay put.

Chapter 1093

At that moment, Sophia received another push notification from Twitter—Jasper and Alyssa had topped the trending topics. The discussion showed no signs of cooling down anytime soon.

Every time Jasper and Alyssa showed up, they would effortlessly capture all media attention and be the talk of the town. The duo's synergy could potentially make them a formidable force if they decided to join forces in business.

Javier did not look at all pleased by the attention. Sophia, staring at the trending topics on Twitter, taunted, "How lucky is Winston Taylor to have a daughter like Alyssa? Anywhere she goes, she becomes the center of attention. Everyone else fades into the background.

"Jasper did not even bother to cover up his relationship with her. Javier, let's take the chance to propose a marriage to Winston. Alyssa made us look like bad guys when she concealed her identity to marry Jasper. Since we owe Winston one, why don't we make it up to him?"

Just then, the Harpers settled into their seats. Penelope, situated just an aisle away from Sophia, frowned when she overheard Sophia's suggestion to Javier.

Each word from Sophia was sickening. With Sophia in the role of the family matriarch, the Becketts ought to consider themselves fortunate not to witness a decline in their standing.

The prospect of Zoe marrying Jasper was a headache for Penelope, for it meant dealing with Sophia in the future.

Having witnessed Jasper growing into a man, Penelope acknowledged that he was a fine young man, but she couldn't overlook the complexities of the Beckett family. Jasper was nothing more than an illegitimate child who happened to be helming the Beckett Group for the time being. However, he was clearly not Javier's favorite.

More importantly, he had a half-sibling, Justin, who loomed as a potential successor. Time was running out for Newton to protect Jasper's position in the family.

Due to all the reasons above, Penelope wasn't a fan of Zoe marrying Jasper. On top of that, Jasper was a divorcee much older than Zoe, making him a less ideal candidate.

"Dad, Mom is right," Betty chimed in. "Look at Jasper and Alyssa, acting all love-dovey. I think Ms. Alyssa is interested in remarrying him, and Jasper is more than willing to do so. They're definitely in love. Dad, you should just approve of their relationship."

After years of dealing with Javier, Betty knew her father very well. Speaking up for Jasper and Alyssa would only irk Javier.

Javier repeatedly watched the photos, where Jasper appeared cautious before Alyssa. His anger simmered as he declared, "I don't care. My son will never remarry a woman he ditched—I will not approve of the relationship!"

"Who cares if Alyssa is Winston's daughter? My son is not a doormat!"

After Javier vocalized his disapproval, Sophia and Betty exchanged silent, smug glances.

The Schmidts finally joined the other families in the VIP seat area. As the president of Schmidt Group, Josh was busy greeting friends and guests in the indoor hall with his wife, Clarissa Sparks, leaving Jameson and Daisy to escort Victor to his seat.

Victor merely waved a hand nonchalantly at Cornelius, saying, "Hey, Mr. Cornelius! It's been a while." Although Victor was the family patriarch, he should have initiated a handshake out of courtesy, as he was considerably younger than Cornelius.

Seeing that, Cornelius refused to rise from his seat and replied in an equally dismissive tone, "That's right. It's been a while."

The silent rivalry between the two magnates unfurled from that moment.

Chapter 1094

"Jimmy, I heard that Uncle Winston and his family have arrived. Go welcome them. We're the hosts—we can't neglect our friends," Victor deliberately urged Jameson to leave, raising his voice for the Becketts and the Harpers to hear.

Through his gesture, he indirectly hinted that, unlike the Taylors, the other two families weren't worthy of the Schmidts' respect.

Javier and Cornelius' expression crumbled at Victor's dismissive move. The air was tense with awkwardness.

"Will do, Dad." Jameson left the seating area while adjusting his glasses. His expression darkened—he just learned that Alyssa and Jameson had made their grand entrance, even embarrassing Zoe while they were at it.

Concerned that the two might publicly announce their relationship, he was determined to prevent any complications, especially at such a significant event.

Once in a quiet corner of the corridor, Jameson stood in the shadows and dialed Carl's number.

Carl answered promptly, "Mr. Schmidt, at your service."

"Have you finalized arrangements with the media?" Jameson inquired.

"Everything's taken care of. The scripts are ready. Once we get your green light, national media outlets and social media platforms will release the news simultaneously."

"Excellent." Jameson grinned in satisfaction. He smirked. "Release the news on the conflict between the Becketts and the Taylors and the possible partnership between the Taylors and the Schmidts. I have sent some men to snap some photos discreetly to back up the claims."

Carl expressed his concern, "Will do. But are we moving too fast?"

"You probably heard of what happened on the red carpet just now. If I don't make a move, it'll be too late. I can't watch as Alyssa falls into the hands of that awful jerk." Jameson curled his trembling fists as he was consumed by hatred at the thought of Alyssa and Jasper holding hands.

He added, "I need to be one step ahead. Their relationship is wretched and damned, and it should meet its end."

At the same time, Cornelius checked the time and frowned. "Is something wrong? Why isn't Landon here yet? Give him a call."

"Sure, Dad," Penelope replied and picked up her phone with concern.

"Where's Zoe? Why is she missing as well? Without Bill around, these kids are getting out of hand by the day!" Cornelius looked pained and fell silent, the mention of his late son, Bill, weighing heavily on his mind.

Having read Cornelius' mind, Preston forced a smile as he crushed the cigar between his fingers.

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As Jasper had other things to work on, he merely hung around with Alyssa for a while before going their separate ways.

Alone, Alyssa headed toward the VIP seating area, the sound of her heels clicking resonated in the empty corridor.

At that moment, Zoe shouted, "Hey, stand there!"

Ignoring her, Alyssa continued walking.

Chapter 1095

From the start, Alyssa sensed that Zoe had been following her, but she wasn't bothered by it.

Zoe, clutching her cumbersome dress, jogged up and blocked Alyssa's way. "Are you deaf or what? I told you to stay!"

As Zoe was in a rush, she accidentally stumbled, which was hilarious to Alyssa.

Alyssa snapped, "And why should I listen to you? Who do you think you are?"

Zoe scowled. "You—"

"Spit it out or leave. I don't have time for chit-chat," Alyssa spoke with a smug grin and a frosty look in her eyes.

Zoe unknowingly quivered, intimidated by Alyssa. Somehow, she sensed that Alyssa was growing to resemble Jasper, even the looks of their eyes, like an old couple.

"It appears you have nothing important to say. Well, get lost, then," Alyssa remarked.

Just as Alyssa was about to leave, Zoe hissed, "You can't possibly think Jasper is serious about you, right? He's just playing along because you're a Taylor!"

Alyssa chuckled. "I know whether he's playing along. If what you said was the truth, you would have watched as I made a joke out of myself. You wouldn't have confronted me shamelessly like you just did."

Zoe, taken aback by Alyssa's logic, was at a loss for words.

Alyssa leaned closer with a mocking smile. "By the way, Ms. Zoe, the most pathetic people in the world are those who lie for personal gains but end up living in their delusions."

Ashamed, Zoe trembled from head to toe. Her tricks appeared to not work on Alyssa because Alyssa and Jasper had talked through the misunderstanding. Still, she would not give up just yet.

Zoe gritted her teeth and flashed a malicious grin. "Alyssa Taylor, do you really believe in every word out of Jasper's mouth? I thought you were smart, but you were just a fool who got played by sweet talk."

Alyssa chuckled. "Save your effort. Do you think I'd believe in you?"

"It's up to you, but I have to tell you something." Then, Zoe inched closer and whispered sarcastically into Alyssa's ear, "You saw the media taking photos of Jasper when he came to my hotel room. Have you ever wondered what happened when we were together?"

"I just came out of the bath at that time, fully naked. He hugged me tightly. I recall his hot and heavy breath ... Hahaha ..."

Anger flickered in Alyssa's eyes. While she trusted Jasper, the mental image of him with Zoe was unbearable.

"He rubbed his clammy palms on my waist. Maybe he enjoyed the feel of my smooth skin. Why else would he keep his hands on me?" Zoe covered her mouth and chuckled. "Haha! Just look at your face. Jasper didn't tell you any of that, did he?"

"Of course, he'd keep it a secret from you. He's just like any other man who prefers young women, even if he claims otherwise."

"Zoe Harper," Alyssa warned, her expression cold.

"Oh, are you upset? I thought you said you wouldn't believe in me. You have no choice but to trust me because I'm telling the truth!"

Chapter 1096

Zoe betrayed a hint of insanity when she noticed Alyssa's anger. She poked her cheeks, taunting, "Slap me if you dare! I bet you're dying to slap me. Come on!"

Alyssa dug her fingernails into her palms, knowing that taking Zoe's bait and laying a finger on Zoe would only put her at a disadvantage.

To her surprise, she heard a loud sound as she witnessed Zoe slapping herself. Zoe did not have mercy on herself at all—her cheeks were swollen, and her carefully styled bun came apart.

With that, Zoe grinned maliciously and strumbled out of the doors. Then, she held her cheek and dramatically collapsed on the floor, drawing the attention of onlookers—media, guests, and staff alike.

Those nearby shifted their gazes onto Zoe before noticing Alyssa by the door.

"What happened? Let's check it out!"

"Did Alyssa and Zoe have a brawl? And over what? That's quite crude."

"What else could it be? Probably a spat over a man!"

"Jasper Beckett, right? Isn't he quite the catch? Seems like a lot of ladies are vying for his attention!"

"It seems that Ms. Alyssa slapped Ms. Zoe without mercy. Just look at Ms. Zoe's swollen cheeks."

"This doesn't look good at all. Given their social standing, they shouldn't be fighting in public. That really changes my impression of Ms. Alyssa."

Guests engaged in gossip, largely pointing fingers at Alyssa, painting her as the aggressor and criticizing her conduct.

Armed with cameras, the reporters eagerly rushed over and encircled Zoe. Thriving on the attention, Zoe began to play the victim.

Trembling, she pointed accusingly at Alyssa, tears streaming down her face. She sobbed, alleging, "Alyssa Taylor, you've crossed a line! I understand you may resent me for the scandal with Jasper, but I've never betrayed you or badmouthed you. Why are you targeting me and slapping me? Do you think your status as Belbanks' tycoon's daughter gives you the right to bully us?"

Zoe cried her heart out, touching the hearts of the reporters. The public sentiment turned against Alyssa as someone remarked, "So what if she's the daughter of Winston Taylor? We're in Solana City now! Do the Taylors still think they own the place?"

"Zoe is a respectable young lady. There's no reason she should be bullied. If I were there, I would've fought back!"

Alyssa scoffed at the ludicrous gossip with disdain. The smile on her lips was as icy as winter.

Her response to Zoe's allegations left everyone stunned. Alyssa quipped, "Fascinating. I've never witnessed such a spectacle in my life."

Shooting a threatening look at Zoe, she continued fearlessly, "I'll admit, I did entertain the thought of hitting you, but I was pleasantly surprised when you decided to slap yourself. It saves me from getting my hands dirty. What a lucky day!"

Chapter 1097

A collective gasp swept through the onlookers after they learned that Zoe might have slapped herself. Judging from her swollen cheeks, they expressed shock at the cruelty she had inflicted upon herself.

All colors drained from Zoe's face. She stammered, "A-Alyssa Taylor, w-what are you on about? I'm not crazy. Why would I slap myself?"

Alyssa clicked her tongue and shrugged. "I guess you're crazy. Not only that, you scared the hell out of me. I should have demanded compensation for emotional distress. How dare you accuse me of something you did to yourself? Do you think you can slander me just because you bear the Harper name?"

In the midst of the audible gasps, camera flashes illuminated Zoe's bewildered face.

The surrounding onlookers engaged in hushed chatter. "Ms. Alyssa is known to be generous and kind. She has been involved in charity work and even took the initiative to arrange the maid's funeral. I don't think she's the type to frame Zoe Harper."

"Even if Ms. Alyssa hit Ms. Zoe, there must be a good reason for doing so."

"She might have hit Ms. Zoe out of jealousy. That's not right. I will not change my opinion of her."

Alyssa was through and through with the tasteless conflict among the ladies, and she looked down at Zoe's clumsy tactics.

She staunchly believed that the innocent had no obligation to defend themselves and didn't mind being misunderstood. If anything, she emerged as the victor today, given that Zoe had harmed herself.

Just as she was about to leave the center of gossip, a concerned cry pierced through the crowd. "Zoe, what happened? Who did this to you?"

The crowd made way for Cornelius, the other Harper family members, and their bodyguards. The entourage hurried over to check on Zoe.

Zoe trembled in tears. "Grandpa ... Mom ..."

Penelope immediately assumed Alyssa was the aggressor after seeing her precious daughter disheveled and lying on the ground with swollen cheeks. At the same time, Alyssa looked on with an arrogant and disdainful expression.

"Help Zoe from the floor!" Cornelius ordered the bodyguards, who swiftly acted and even formed a barrier to keep the reporters away.

"My darling Zoe!" Penelope enveloped Zoe in a protective embrace and fixed a stern gaze on Alyssa. "Ms. Alyssa, if you have an issue, take it up with me. Why would you bully my daughter?"

"Mom, calm down. You're not in the best health. I'll be fine ..." Zoe pretended to comfort Penelope thoughtfully, earning additional sympathy from the crowds.

Meanwhile, the Taylors had arrived at the scene, creating a stir. The situation escalated after Zoe's dirty trick alarmed the Harpers and the Taylors.

Cornelius rested his hands on the walking stick and cast a hostile glance at Winston. He fumed, "Mr. Winston, your daughter is pretty hot-tempered, isn't she? The guts to slap Zoe in broad daylight.

"I can tell you've spoiled your beloved daughter, Alyssa. But Zoe is precious to us as well. You and Alyssa need to take responsibility for what happened."

He was adamant to show the Taylors that the Harpers were not to be messed with.