

Can't-win-me-back Chapter 696

Chapter 696

Chapter 696

Finally, Landon found Lauren in the playground, sitting alone on the children's swing.

"Lauren..."

Lauren's hair and her red cloak were coated in a layer of snow, making her look like a snowman,

Silly girl. How long has she been sitting out here in the cold?

Heart aching at the sight, Landon slowly walked up to her. "There you are, Lauren."

He knelt down on one knee before her, sweaty palms holding onto her cold hands that were locked

around her teddy bear.

"How ... how did you find me?" Lauren asked, blinking in surprise.

"Our hearts are connected, Lauren. I would be able to find you no matter where you go," Landon croaked

out lightly.

He caressed her flushed cheeks as the pain in his chest swelled. "You're never running away from me

again, Lauren."

Lauren's eyes grew downcast as she went silent.

"It's so cold out here. Why don't you come home with me?"

"I want to live with Grandpa, Landon." Lauren slowly inched her hands out from Landon's.

"I called Grandpa's assistant, Mr. Gorham, earlier. He said he'll send someone to pick me up right away."

"You... don't want me anymore?" Landon asked sadly.

Lauren shook her head, lips pulling taut. "I-I don't want to make things hard for you. I don't want you to be

angry with your mom.

“Please don’t be angry at her anymore. She’s your mother, you need to listen to her.”

“But I only want to listen to you.” Landon’s gaze was tender as he brushed off the snow on Lauren’s shoulders.

He cupped her cheek with his hand, knowing his cool palm would help soothe her still-stinging cheek.

“You should hurry and go home, Landon. Mr. Gorham will be here to pick me up soon,” Lauren ushered him even as her own heart hurt at the suggestion.

“Let me ask you something, Lauren.” Landon swallowed nervously, his eyes brimming with tears.

“Do you love me?”

Love.

Love?

Lauren blinked in surprise. She looked up at Landon, her lips parting as if to speak yet no words came out of them for several long seconds.

Landon’s heart ached so painfully.

What was he thinking? What happened to it being enough that only he loved her?

Lauren was no ordinary girl. He couldn’t do this to her.

“Landon,” Lauren called softly.

She gently raised her hands, placing them on top of Landon’s.

“I love you.”

He had been in her heart from the very beginning.

It might have been since the first time he had kissed her, or when she had secretly sketched that drawing of him.

Or it might have been each and every time he had stood by her, without a care about what the rest of the world thought.

She didn't know what love was, but this all-encompassing feeling in her heart might be it.

Landon's heart pounded in his chest as tears flowed down his cheeks.

He had enjoyed the company of countless women throughout the years, but this was the first time he had felt truly in love.

The lovers hugged one another tightly in the snow.

Landon tried wrapping her closer and closer still in his coat, but it wasn't enough.

He wanted Lauren to be buried deep in his heart.

Chapter 697

Chapter 697

Landon hurried to the hospital in the wee hours of the morning after coaxing Lauren to sleep, where he

soon joined Becketts and Taylors.

Unable to take it anymore, Newton had retired to a VIP ward to rest with Javier's help.

"Jonah, I just interrogated that son of a bitch."

Jonah had gone to the end of the hallway to answer a call from Cyrus.

"I've been in this line of work for so long. I could instantly tell he's hiding something from us! But he just

won't crack!" Cyrus exclaimed.

"What did that asshole tell you?" Jonah asked solemnly.

"He said he attacked Madam Lyla because he used to be her top fan. He's harbored anger toward her

ever since she quit the industry, feeling like she betrayed him.

"Can you imagine that bullshit? Madam Lyla was the actress of the century back then! Who does he think

he is to be able to bag someone like her?" Cyrus yelled, venting out a whole night's worth of anger to his brother.

Jonah frowned. "Get to the point."

"Sorry, Jonah. I got too carried away."

Cyrus composed himself and said, "The jackass said he attacked Madam Lyla because seeing her

triggered all the sadness he had felt over the years because of her.

"He's not fooling anybody with that nonsensical story! Someone ordered him to do this. I'm sure of it!"

"Your interrogation results are similar to what I figured," Jonah said lightly.

Cyrus said, "This is all I could dig out so far, Jonah. The guy was really meticulous to erase everything

suspicious from his phone, too.

"There's no sign that he was instructed by anyone at all. My guess is that he used a spare phone to

communicate with whoever instructed him. They planned this out very thoughtfully."

"What if this isn't the first time he's done this?" Cyrus asked.

Jonah narrowed his eyes and said coldly, "Then I don't trust a word he's said. It's all too much to be a coincidence.

"You can immediately tell that someone orchestrated this behind the scenes. I need to figure out who tried to hurt Madam Lyla."

"Understood. I'll do my part as well, Jonah."

Cyrus paused before asking, "How is ... how is Jasper doing?"

"He's still in a critical state," Jonah answered tightly.

Cyrus really didn't know what to say to that.

"But I'm sure the odds will turn in his favor. Lyse is operating on his brain as we speak. It's been five hours

now.”

“What?” Cyrus nearly spat his drink out.

“O-operating on his brain? Does she think he’s some practice dummy? Lyse’s way of getting revenge on

her ex is... quite something!”

“We need to trust Dr. Snow’s medical expertise. To her, brain surgery shouldn’t be a difficult task.” Jonah

smiled, recalling his multifaceted sister.

“Doctor... Snow?” Cyrus gasped.

“That skilled, well-known medical expert who has saved countless patients from death’s door again and

again... is Alyssa?”

Jonah chuckled proudly. “Yes, your baby sister.”

He could imagine Cyrus’ jaw hitting the ground through the phone.

“Damn! That’s fucking awesome!”

Chapter 698

Chapter 698

The Beckett family remained gathered outside the surgery room until 9:00 am the next morning.

Javier and Newton stared fixedly at the door, with the former helping the latter stand.

Sophia had used the excuse that she was tired to return home to rest. Newton despised her, and she

didn’t give a damn about Jasper. So there was no point faking her concern any longer.

“Why isn’t Lyse out yet? It’s been so long.” Winston gazed at the surgery room, feeling uneasy.

“Brain surgery isn’t a small feat. Some take entire days to complete.” Jonah consoled his father, patting

his back.

“Don’t worry. Lyse is stronger and more capable than you think. This surgery will definitely be a success.”

“I’m not worried about that. I’m just concerned that Alyssa won’t be able to handle staying up for an entire night without rest.

“Isn’t she tired? Did she have time to eat a bite or drink some water?”

If Jonah hadn’t stopped Winston, he would have barged into the room to check on Alyssa himself.

Jonah smiled lightly, “Here I thought you were worried about... the one being operated on.”

Winston glanced at Newton who remained anxiously worried in the distance, frowning lightly.

“The kid ... gets a point for saving my darling daughter. He’s gone from a negative one to zero now.”

Jonah pursed his lips. He didn’t tell Winston anything more because he had promised Alyssa to keep those secrets.

This wasn’t the first time Jasper had saved Alyssa. There was that time at Crater Mountain Park too, which had nearly killed him.

“Dad, let me ask you a question. If

“Jasper! Oh, Jasper!”

Before Jonah could finish speaking, a whining, sobbing voice cried out.

The atmosphere in the hallway swiftly changed. Both Newton and Javier turned to the source of the noise.

Zoe was running over to them sobbing terribly, her high heels clicking loudly on the floor.

“What are you doing here, Zoe?” Landon hurriedly went up to stop her.

This is no place for you to cause a scene. Hurry up and go home!”

The moment Zoe glanced up at him, he jolted in shock.

There was a sheer coldness in her eyes Landon had never seen before. It was so alien and strange to him,

as if Zoe was no longer his sister of 20-something years.

He no longer saw the trust and faith she used to have for him.

Zoe then gritted her teeth and shoved Landon away before running over to Javier and Newton.

“Grandpa Newton! Uncle Javier! How is Jasper? Has he woken up yet?”

Zoe’s eyes had turned swollen red with her crying, creating quite the pitiful sight with her hitching sobs.

“Who is...?” Newton asked, confused.

“Dad, this is Landon’s kid sister, Zoe Harper,” Javier introduced, feeling touched at how upset Zoe was all

because she was worried for Jasper.

His tone grew gentler as he spoke. “She always came over to visit us when she was a child. She was

close friends with Jasper, too. He always treated her as his own sister.

“Zoe went to study overseas afterward. She got back this year.”

“Oh... Landon’s sister, huh.” Newton nodded, but he said nothing else.



Chapter 699

Chapter 699

“Jasper has... always been really nice to me since I was a kid. He looked after me a lot, and so, he’s the

most important person to me right now...

Zoe wiped her tears, shoulders quaking as she sobbed. “After hearing that he got hurt last night, I was so

worried I didn’t sleep a wink.

“I wanted to come over first thing last night, but Landon wouldn’t let me. He was worried I would cause

more trouble for you.

“I’m so sorry, I should have come over earlier. That way I might still have been able to help out some...”

“Poor thing. We see your efforts, dear girl,” Javier said with a sigh, approval apparent in his eyes.

“I’m really grateful that you still care about my son. I’m so glad you two have been friends since young.”

“We still have a close bond now, too, not just when we were kids.”

Zoe blushed shyly, saying, “I’ll be here as long as Jasper needs me.”

There was no doubt as to what she was implying.

Landon’s expression turned ugly. Zoe’s outright confession and attitude toward Jasper really was

embarrassing to her status.

“Is Mr. Harper’s sister interested in Jasper, too, Jonah?” Winston asked curiously, nudging his son, who

was sitting beside him.

“It looks like it, yes.”

“What does Jasper feel about her then? Is he interested?” Winston narrowed his eyes.

Jonah shook his head. “As far as I know, no.”

It wasn’t that he was helping to put in a good word for Jasper. He had just come to understand just what

kind of man Jasper was.

Jasper was a single-minded creature, really. When he had liked Liana, all he had cared about was her.

Not even someone as wonderful as Alyssa had been able to move his heart.

Now that Jasper had realized his faults, he only had eyes for Alyssa and no one else.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have sacrificed himself again and again for her.

"I really don't understand what these young girls are thinking these days. What's so fine about the Beckett kid? They're all lunging at him like bees to honey."

Winston wrinkled his nose, grumbling, "My sons are all still single and just as handsome as Jasper

Beckett.

"The Harper family are a decent lot. If they have a daughter, why don't they consider one of my sons? Go

and win her over, Jonah!"

Jonah's heart clenched. "I don't like women."

"What? What did you say?" Winston's brows furrowed.

"What I mean is, Ms. Harper isn't my type."

Jonah cleared his throat and said wryly, "Can't you tell she's already set her eyes on someone else? Drop

the matchmaking and leave us in peace, Dad."

"What misfortune befell upon me to have none of my sons grow up to become like me?"

“All you and your brothers care about is business, not women!” Winston grumbled, shaking his head and dropping the topic.

“I’m grateful that Ms. Harper still cares about my grandson at this time. You can go back home now.”

Newton remained distant. There wasn’t even a hint of a smile on his face. After all, he had no patience to deal with outsiders when Jasper was still in critical condition.

“I heard... Jasper got hurt because he was saving Ms. Alyssa.” Zoe wasn’t going to let her golden opportunity to make a good impression in front of Newton go to waste.

“I can’t do much for Jasper right now, but... I can pray for him here. I won’t leave until he wakes up.”

“No need, Ms. Harper.”

Newton forced a smile on his face, saying kindly, “I accept your gesture, but I’m a materialist. I would rather believe in the doctors’ capabilities and science than prayers.”

Chapter 700

Chapter 700

Zoe’s heart dropped into her stomach. Face flushed, she hurriedly explained, “I don’t mean anything

untoward. Grandpa Newton, nor do I want to cause anymore trouble for you guys ... I’m just trying to do what I can to help!

‘t may not be the most capable, but at least I never injured Jasper! I didn’t hurt him so bad that he ended

up suffering on a cold surgical table!”

“Enough, Zoe!” Landon cried, walking over to stop her.

Newton’s expression grew cold. He asked sharply, “Are you blaming Alyssa? Do you think she was the one

who did this to my grandson?”

“...I....” Zoe stammered.

Of course she did! Of course, it was Alyssa’s fault!

But Zoe couldn’t say that out loud. Newton was clearly biased towards Alyssa.

Just then, the sound of doors opening rang through the hallway.

Everyone turned to see the surgical room doors open.

Winston and Jonah leapt from their seats while everyone else hurried over to the door.

Two medical personnel exited first, followed by slow, heavy steps.

A shorter figure walked out the door, clad in a mask and surgeon’s garb.

However, it did nothing to take

away from her beauty.

She took a deep breath and took off the mask.

The moment Zoe saw who it was, she was left stunned to her core. Her eyes were just as wide as her

mouth.

How could this be...

The person who had operated on Jasper... was this bitch?

“Lyse... oh, Lyse!”

Winston and Newton ran over, each holding onto her shaking hands.

Their hearts ached at the sight of Alyssa’s tired eyes and the red marks on her face left by the surgical

mask

Lyse, is Jasper ? Newton asked hesitantly.

Alyssa heaved a great sigh, holding his hand tight. “Jasper must have heard your prayers while he was unconscious, Grandpa. I’ve successfully removed the blood clots from his brain. The surgery was a success.”

Everyone cried out in sheer joy.

Landon clutched his chest, his heart finally able to find peace.

“Thank goodness! Oh, thank the heavens!” Javier’s hands were held tight together as he muttered gratefully.

“What heavens? Alice was the one who performed the surgery. You should be thanking her!” Newton glared at his son.

Though Javier was prejudiced against Alyssa, he still couldn’t not say anything for fear of ruining his public image.

So he went over to her and said quietly, “Thank you so much, Ms. Alyssa. Thank you for saving my son’s life.”

“No need, Mr. Javier.” Alyssa sighed deeply.

Jasper only ended up like this because he saved me. Saving him was naturally my rightful duty.”

This is all thanks to you, Alice! All you!” Newton hugged her tight, tears nearly falling down his cheeks.

Alyssa consoled him for a while before slowly turning her cold gaze to Zoe, who was standing stock still a distance away.