

# CAN'T WIN ME BACK

## Chapter 1811



After a night of excessive partying, Betty was woken up by a waitress in the washroom. She didn't even have time to clean up the filth from the lower part of her body before she slipped out through the back door.

By the time she stumbled out, the sun was high in the sky. It was already the next afternoon.

In no condition to return to Seaview Manor looking like a mess, Betty returned to her exclusive suite at the Berenike Hotel to scrub away the remnants of the previous night. Vivid memories of her encounter with the muscular model kept replaying in her mind.

"Damn," she thought, "size really does matter."

It was a shame she hadn't exchanged contact information with him. She would have enjoyed a repeat performance.

Once cleaned up and dressed in fresh clothes provided by a staff member, Betty was once again the picture of a refined lady. She instructed her driver to take her back to Seaview Manor.

Upon entering, she heard voices coming from the living room.

"Do we have visitors, Barry?" she inquired.

"Yes, Ms. Betty. Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson are here with Mr. Freddy. Mr. Javier is currently speaking with them."

Surprise flickered across Betty's face. Freddy was indeed Zoe's loyal lapdog. He truly wasted no time.

Smoothing her hair and forcing a smile, she entered the room.

"Guests, Dad?" she interjected with feigned surprise. "Oh, Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson! And Freddy, what a pleasant surprise. Lovely to see you all."

Javier couldn't ignore the faint scent of alcohol clinging to Betty. He frowned in disapproval but maintained a calm exterior in front of their guests.

Orlander and Minnie looked down upon Betty. So, they simply returned her greeting with perfunctory smiles. They picked up their tea cups and sipped on their tea.

Meanwhile, Freddy avoided making eye contact with Betty, maintaining a respectful demeanor in front of his future father-in-law. It was as if he wasn't the same naked man who had been with Zoe that night.

"It's a shame that we're unable to meet with Lauren today, Mr. Javier. Freddy has prepared some gifts for her. He wanted to give them to her personally," Minnie remarked with a smile.

"Our Freddy," Orlander chuckled, clapping a hand on Freddy's shoulder, "never had a girlfriend! He gets flustered around women. But for Lauren, he's going all out!"

To everyone's surprise, Betty burst out laughing, shattering the pleasant atmosphere. Smiles froze on Orlander's and Minnie's faces. Freddy, fearing exposure, broke into a cold sweat.

"I can vouch for that, Dad. Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson aren't exaggerating. What they said is true. Freddy and I were schoolmates. He is indeed an honest, hardworking man," Betty interjected, a pregnant pause following her words as she glanced at Freddy, whose face had drained of color.

She continued, "Freddy and Lauren are a perfect match. There is no one more suitable than him to marry her. He knows her well, and they'll be marrying within their class."

Javier's expression soured visibly.

"We should leave now. We've taken up enough of your time," Orlander said, rising from his seat.

"Mr. Javier, let's arrange another meeting when Lauren is back. Our families and the children should meet again," Minnie suggested eagerly.

Javier coughed softly, his expression troubled. "I'm sure both of you have seen the recent news. My daughter's current mental state..."

"We came here in person, Mr. Javier. This should demonstrate that Lauren's condition doesn't bother us in the slightest. We don't mind it at all."

#### Chapter 1812



Orlander boomed with laughter, his voice radiating warmth and generosity.

"My son has been smitten with Lauren since school! After seeing her again at the Schmidt's cocktail party, he couldn't get her out of his mind. Freddy genuinely cares for Lauren. Your concerns are unfounded!"

Minnie chimed in, "Exactly! You could say Freddy and Lauren are childhood sweethearts!"

Betty scoffed inwardly. Childhood sweethearts indeed, except Lauren wasn't Freddy's sweetheart.

Javier's frown eased upon hearing their words.

The Hodgsons then left Seaview Manor in their luxury car. Orlander and Minnie sat together, with Freddy facing them.

"It seems Mr. Javier has a favorable impression of you."

Orlander sat with his legs crossed. He had now come round.

In a more relaxed tone, he remarked, "While Lauren may not be your social equal, you're right— marrying her would boost my chances in future elections. Moreover, your career prospects would certainly improve as Javier's son-in-law."

Though Freddy's expression remained stoic, his eyes betrayed his discontent.

Orlander, noticing his downcast demeanor, scoffed. "I know Lauren has mental health issues. But look at it another way—it's not all bad. Once she's part of the Hodgson family, she won't wield power or cause trouble.

"And when her condition worsens, you'll become her primary caretaker. Wouldn't that give you complete control over her Beckett family fortune?"

"Freddy, the future of your father's career lies in your hands," Minnie added eagerly, her eyes gleaming with anticipation for the marriage alliance.

Freddy stared out the window, a wave of gloom washing over him as he remembered Zoe's instructions.

Exhausted from her previous night's activities, Betty was about to retreat upstairs after the Hodgsons' departure when Javier stopped her.

"How did you know that Mr. and Mrs. Hodgson were here to discuss a marriage alliance?"

Betty was momentarily taken aback by the question. Her mind raced as she struggled to come up with a response.

Finally, she managed an awkward laugh and stammered, "I, uh... just picked up on their eagerness. They brought Freddy and gifts for Lauren, so I assumed they were proposing. Dad, are you seriously considering marrying Lauren to Freddy?"

Javier narrowed his eyes, a cold glint flashing within them. "Lauren's marriage to Landon is definitely not happening. He is not her only option."

A wide smile stretched across Betty's face, fueled by Lauren's misfortune.

"I'm just not sure who it was who colluded with the Harpers to hurt Lauren." Javier gritted his teeth.

"The thing I hate most is when people attack me from behind. When I find out who it was, they'll pay dearly for what they did."

Betty's smugness was short-lived as her heart leaped into her throat.

Suddenly, firm footsteps echoed from outside the living room. Moments later, Newton, in his wheelchair, flanked by Jasper and Ben, entered.

Jasper observed the tension in Betty's demeanor and remarked to Javier, "It's rare for us to be on the same page."

#### Chapter 1813



Betty's breath hitched. The sight of Jasper was like a predator spotting its prey, sending a primal jolt of fear through her. She longed to disappear, to vanish into some dark, forgotten corner.

Javier shot Jasper a cold glance before rising and approaching them. "Dad, why didn't you tell me that you were coming? I could have welcomed you properly."

"I'm not a guest here; I'm returning to my own home. I don't need a grand welcome," Newton replied sarcastically, his tone laced with disdain for Javier. Their strained relationship was palpable.

Javier's expression darkened at his father's sharp retort. It was a clear reminder that Seaview Manor belonged to Newton, not him—just because he lived there, it didn't mean that he owned the place.

"Grandpa, I heard that Lauren has been recuperating at your place. How is she? Is she feeling better?" Betty hurried over and stood behind Javier. She immediately made herself look like she was showing concern for her sister.

"Lauren is doing much better. She's been eating well at my place."

Newton then turned to Jasper with a hint of suspicion. "Jasper, you brought us here. Did you have something to discuss?"

Jasper knelt to adjust the wool blanket covering Newton's legs, his gaze piercing and cold.

"Haven't you both been desperate to find the one who conspired with the Harpers, the one who leaked Lauren's diagnosis and attacked the Becketts from the shadows? The culprit is closer than you think," he said, his voice low and menacing.

With those words, Jasper fixed his gaze on Betty, whose face contorted in fear.

"Why... Why are you looking at me?" Betty stammered, panic evident in her voice as cold sweat formed on her forehead. She began to retreat slowly, almost knocking over the expensive tea set on the nearby table in her haste.

"What are you implying? Don't tell me you think I leaked that information! Don't scapegoat me just because you can't find anyone else to blame!"

Newton and Javier stared at Betty in shock.

Newton widened his eyes, his grip tightening on the armrests of his wheelchair. "Jasper. Are you saying that Betty conspired with the Harpers to hurt Lauren?"

Javier glared at Jasper sternly. "Jasper, this isn't a small matter! Lauren is your sister, but so is Betty. Even if you have grievances with her because of Alyssa, you can't throw baseless accusations. You need evidence for such accusations!"

Betty seized the opportunity to deflect blame. "Exactly! You're just trying to pin this on me to appease Alyssa's grudge!"

Meanwhile, Alyssa, completely unrelated to the conversation, sneezed, wondering who was talking about her.

Jasper continued staring at Betty without saying a word. Betty felt extremely uneasy.

How laughable was that? The individual harboring nefarious intentions could no longer restrain the anxiety brewing within herself.

"There are only four people who could access Lauren's report—Grandpa, Dad, myself, and Sophia, who's dead.

"I'm certain that Grandpa and Dad wouldn't have done that. Sophia might have made a deal with you and disclosed Lauren's diagnosis report to you," Jasper reasoned calmly but assertively, his demeanor unwavering.

Betty felt like she was suffocating, as if Jasper's presence was wrapping around her throat, depriving her of air.

Unable to accuse Newton and Javier, Betty could only accuse Jasper to deflect blame. "Then it could've been you! During the Jesseltons' dinner party, Zoe exposed Alyssa's inability to conceive, and at the horse racing event, the Harpers and the Taylors clashed!

"Maybe you orchestrated this drama to get revenge on the Harpers, even if it meant ruthlessly sacrificing your own sister! And your cutthroat maneuvers against competitors are well-known throughout Solana City. Your reputation precedes you!"

"Betty! Don't speak to your brother that way!" Newton reprimanded sharply. "Jasper has worked tirelessly for the family and Beckett Group. Don't insult him! If Jasper is truly as awful as you say, then perhaps there's not a single decent person in the whole family!"

Those words ignited a storm within Javier. His expression darkened with each passing moment.

"Grandpa! There has to be a limit to your unconditional defense of him!" Betty stomped her foot, her mind a whirlwind as she desperately searched for a way to defend herself. "Last time... I did make two mistakes. But they were all because Sophia instigated them! She ordered me to do those things! She'd tricked me!"

#### Chapter 1814



Betty continued, "Jasper can't just pin everything on me because of what happened before! I won't take the blame!"



"Jasper, even if you want to confront someone about what happened to Lauren, you should start with the Harpers! Are you trying to stir up more trouble at home?" Javier glared at Jasper angrily, clearly siding with Betty.

In truth, he wasn't particularly fond of Betty.

What angered him was the fact that Jasper and Newton were singing the same tune. They looked like they were trying to sideline him as the head of the family. He couldn't stand it.

"Landon will handle the Harpers. As for our side, there's no need for you two to worry. I'll take care of it."

Jasper's icy gaze returned to Betty's face. "Betty, I'll ask you one last time. Did you give Lauren's diagnosis report to the Harpers?"

"No! It has nothing to do with me!" Betty glared with crimson eyes, adamantly denying her involvement.

"Very well."

Jasper raised his voice. "Xavier."

Xavier, who had been waiting outside, strode in and respectfully greeted, "Mr. Jasper, Mr. Javier, Mr. Newton."

"Bring out the gift I prepared for Betty," Jasper ordered calmly. His good-looking face looked so chillingly cold that it was bloodcurdling.

"Yes, Mr. Jasper."

After a glare at Betty, Xavier picked up the remote from the coffee table and turned on the massive television in the living room.

Not only that, he cranked up the volume to maximum, ensuring not only Newton and Javier could hear but also the helpers lurking around the edges of the room.

"Faster... Faster... This is thrilling... Fuck me hard!"

The obscene scene, coupled with lewd language, bombarded everyone present.

In the cramped bathroom, a completely naked Betty posed in various scandalous positions with a male model. Their limbs entwined as she excitedly gyrated and screamed wildly.

Xavier quickly averted his gaze. He had reluctantly watched it once in private and dared not look again. It was too disgusting.

If this footage made it overseas, Betty would likely become a top-tier adult film star. She was slutty enough, but her figure was lacking.

Newton and Javier couldn't believe their eyes. That woman in the video who was more promiscuous than a prostitute was actually Betty!

Just then, a clattering noise sounded.

Betty's complexion drained of all color as she stumbled backward, crashing onto the coffee table and sending drinks cascading onto her skirt. Tremors racked her body as she collapsed onto the floor, overwhelmed by the ordeal.

The man she had been intimate with last night had not only filmed her but had also passed the video to Jasper.

Was that male model Jasper's doing? Did he orchestrate that model's appearance to tempt her into taking the bait?

"Enough! Turn it off now!" Forced to witness his daughter's sex tape, Javier was utterly embarrassed.

Newton and Ben dared not look at the video for another second.

Driven by embarrassment and anger, Newton trembled as he struggled to rise from his wheelchair. He staggered to Betty, raised his arm, and gave her a hard slap across the face.

"You shameless thing! You've disgraced our family's reputation!"

Betty cried out as a searing pain shot through her cheek. The world spun around her, leaving her disoriented and buzzing.

The slap resounded loudly enough for all the helpers outside to hear.

The extent of Newton's rage was palpable.

Jasper raised his hand expressionlessly. Xavier, understanding the signal, promptly turned off the television.

"Betty, I trust you wouldn't want to share the fate of your executed mom and to have the whole country reveling in the scandalous private life of the Beckett family's daughter, would you?"

Jasper met Betty's gaze with chilling indifference. A slow, predatory smile spread across his lips, the kind that didn't reach his eyes. "Did you give the diagnosis report to the Harpers?"

Betty was gripped with such fear that beads of sweat trickled down her forehead.

It was the most chilling smile she had ever witnessed. It was as if Jasper himself were the devil coming from the depths of hell.

## Chapter 1815



Finally, Betty completely broke down. She slumped to the ground, sobbing uncontrollably. "Yes... It was me..."

Everyone was stunned.

Javier was dumbfounded. "What did you say? Say that again."

"Mom gave me that report. I handed it over to Zoe. That's how it got out."

Betty wept tragically. With the truth exposed, she had no choice but to come clean to protect herself.

Compared to the video spreading nationwide and becoming a spectacle, admitting fault seemed like the better option.

In the end, she was still a member of the Beckett family. So what if she schemed against Lauren?

Her father, who placed utmost importance on both his own reputation and that of the family, would undoubtedly come forward to shield her.

"Why would Sophia give you the diagnosis report?" Newton was so furious that he had difficulty breathing.

"I-I don't know... Maybe she'd gone crazy from all the drugs she took."

"You used Sophia's notorious behavior as leverage, threatening her to give you something that could ruin Lauren's marriage, didn't you?" Jasper's eyes darkened. Flames of anger were brewing within.

"I... I..." Under immense pressure, Betty's mind went blank.

Jasper's speculations rang true, and she couldn't even come up with a rebuttal.

"You despicable creature! You're worse than an animal!"

Newton slapped his thigh in fury, barely managing to stand with Ben's support.

"Lauren is your sister!"

You grew up together. She's been so good to you and trusted you as her elder sister. How could you do this to her?"

"You're unbelievable! You're just like your dead mother!" Javier was utterly disappointed in Betty.

"All of you pushed me to do this! Is it all my fault?"

Betty completely lost it, screaming like a mad woman, "Grandpa, you always claim to love me, but you secretly favor Lauren in everything!"

"I was the one who liked Landon first, but you matched him with Lauren! Why does she get all the good things? I'm not inferior to her!"

Newton was stunned to hear that.

But in the blink of an eye, his expression darkened again. With tears welling up in his eyes, he stepped forward and slapped Betty even harder than before.

Jasper and Javier were both shocked.

Betty's eardrums throbbed painfully, causing her face to glisten with cold sweat.

"What I hate most is when women fight over men, even resorting to desperate measures like harming their own family!" Newton roared with bloodshot eyes. His heart was aching so much.

"Back then... just because I loved your grandma and wanted to marry her... her evil sister viciously assaulted her, leaving her deaf in her left ear."

Jasper and Javier gaped, speechless. Even Ben, who thought he knew Newton well, was astounded.

No wonder Newton always spoke louder to Doris, often embracing her and whispering tenderly when alone. It all made sense now—why she could never quite hit the right notes despite her love for music.

Yet Newton continued to delight in Doris' singing, listening to her melodies repeatedly without ever growing weary of them.

Doris, who had lost hearing in her left ear, never uttered a word of complaint. Her smile was always warm and radiant, making it hard to believe she had a disability.

Newton had used his love to meticulously mend her flaws.

"What you've done today is no different from that evil woman! You're even more malicious! You used a third party to harm your sister!"

A furious Newton pointed accusingly at Betty's pale face. "I don't have a granddaughter like you! Don't ever claim to be my granddaughter out there! You're not worthy!"

"Grandpa..."

At this moment, Betty was truly panicking. Javier didn't like her, Newton completely loathed her, and Jasper was her archenemy.

Was there still a place for her in this family?

"Betty, since you've admitted it, there's nothing more to say."

Jasper looked coldly at Javier. "Dad, how do you plan to handle this?"

Javier was filled with rage, not just because Betty had schemed against Lauren but also because she had colluded with the Harpers, stabbing her own family in the back.

Betty was an ungrateful double-crosser. However, he didn't want Jasper to handle this matter.

If the punishment was too severe, it would tarnish his reputation. Besides, he was the head of the Beckett family, so dealing with internal affairs was not Jasper's place.

"Confine her to the villa. Seaview Manor's backyard will be the extent of her permitted movement. I'll handle her from here."

Jasper shook his head. "That's too good for her."

Javier frowned. "Then how do you suggest we handle this?"

"Cut off all her financial resources, exile her abroad, and never let her return to Solana City."

Jasper's words were cutting, and his tone was unyielding. "And that's not all. Betty will get on her knees and apologize to Lauren."

#### Chapter 1816



Betty's face at this moment was even paler than a sheet.

Asking her to apologize to that dumbo on her knees was a fate worse than death.

She immediately looked toward Newton, but his face was full of anger. He didn't even bother to make eye contact with her. It seemed he was determined to abandon her.

Seeing Newton ignore her completely, she then kneeled before Javier. She clung to his legs, pleading desperately with tears streaming down her face, "Dad! I know I was wrong... I'll never do it again."

"Exiling me from Solana City and not allowing me to be by your side is already cruel punishment! I'm your daughter too. Don't I deserve any respect? Will he only be satisfied when he drives me to my death? Dad!"

Her desperate cry sounded like she was the one being bullied.

Frowning, Javier wanted to pull her up. After all, it was quite undignified to have so many helpers watching this scene. But Betty clung to his legs like a parasite. He probably couldn't kick her off, even if he tried.

"Jasper, the punishment you proposed is already severe enough. Let's skip the apology," Javier said. Even though his words sounded like a negotiation, his tone was commanding.

Jasper's dark eyes glinted with a piercing coldness as he pressed his lips into a thin line.

A spark flickered in Betty's tear-filled eyes, a sudden rekindling of hope in the depths of her despair. Perhaps Javier still saw her as his daughter, offering a sliver of mercy.

After the storm passed and Newton's anger subsided, she would still have a chance to return to Solana City and live her carefree days.

Just as Betty was secretly delighted, Jasper's cold voice rang out, "She handed Lauren's report over to treacherous people, exposing her condition to everyone and hurting her so deeply. And you want to resolve this matter quietly? No way."

"Jasper, just because you're the CEO doesn't mean you can do whatever you want!"

Javier's eyes were red. He was clearly angry. "I'm your father. You have to listen to me!"



"Betty is your daughter, but isn't Lauren as well? You're biased, letting the innocent Lauren suffer mentally while constantly forgiving Betty, who committed such a crime."

Jasper's words were sharp. Smirking, he continued, "By doing this, aren't you disregarding Grandpa's anger? How is this any different from slapping him in the face?"

If Javier wanted to use his father's status to suppress him, then Jasper would use Newton's revered status to counter—everything could be countered, after all.

"You...!" Javier was so enraged by the counterattack that his breathing turned erratic.

Although Newton remained silent, the firm look in his eyes when he gazed at Jasper clearly indicated his strong support for him.

"You're right. Both Betty and Lauren are my daughters! As a father, I can't stand to see my two daughters fighting each other. We're family. This cycle of retaliation must end!"

Javier's eyes were full of disdain as he continued, "Moreover, I don't want to see my daughters fighting over Landon, that womanizer!"

"My daughters may not be perfect, but they're Solana City's most noble heiresses. What is Landon? He's nothing but an ignorant, spoiled brat! He's not fit to be my son-in-law!"

Jasper's eyes narrowed, and his hands clenched into fists beneath his exquisite sleeves.

If this man weren't his father, he would have hit him so hard.

Javier continued, shifting the blame onto Landon, "I raised my daughters with the utmost care. Yet Lauren lived with that brat for so long without any proper

status. And on top of that, those Harpers had the audacity to hurt her! I haven't even settled that score, and now this family turmoil!"

## Chapter 1817



Javier continued, "Betty is indeed at fault in this matter, but isn't the main responsibility on the Harpers?"

He was quite good at sophistry as he attempted to regain control of the narrative. "Who knows, maybe it was Zoe who instigated, tempted, or even threatened Betty into doing what she did.

"Even if not, ultimately, it was the Harpers who publicized Lauren's condition! Jasper, instead of confronting the Harpers, are you now turning against your own family? How can you do this?"

Betty immediately began to weep, mimicking the pitiful demeanor of her late mother.

"In any case, sending her abroad should settle this matter. I don't want any more turmoil in the family." Javier's tone was resolute, leaving no room for disagreement.

Jasper's eyes darkened, and he gritted his teeth to suppress his anger.

He was not a reckless man. He knew that further confrontation would only fuel Javier's competitive spirit, causing him to defend Betty even more.

"Fine, skip the apology." With these words, Jasper strode over to Betty and actually extended his arms to help her up.

Betty stood there dumbfounded. Looking at him in confusion, she barely managed to stand upright.

Unbeknownst to her, as soon as she steadied herself, she heard a rush of wind by her ear.

Without a word, Jasper raised his robust arm and delivered a resounding slap to Betty's already swollen face.

Betty was caught off guard by the blow. The pain left her unable to even cry out. Blood trickled from her mouth, and there was a ringing in her ear.

Jasper was no ordinary man. He had a military background. His strength was formidable, enough to disorient even a grown man, let alone a woman.

The helpers outside were all frozen in shock.

They marveled at how particular Jasper was. He had to get Betty's face in the right position before slapping her.

"This slap is for Lauren. You're heartless, even going as far as scheming against your own sister. You don't deserve to be called human."

Before the words could settle, Jasper delivered another slap. It sent Betty crashing to the ground once more, unable to get up.

"This slap is for Landon. Your actions have caused my best friend to suffer. You deserve to face the consequences.

"Betty, if you dare plot against anyone close to me again, I won't spare you, even if you escape to the ends of the earth. When the time comes, not even God can protect you."

With this final warning delivered calmly, Jasper walked over to push the wheelchair, leaving with Newton and Ben.

Meanwhile, Javier stood motionless in place.

When he regained his composure, he gritted his teeth in frustration and couldn't help but lash out at the bewildered Betty.

"You conniving, treacherous thing! Get up and pack your things. Get out of the country and stay there!"

"Dad... Dad..."

Betty covered her throbbing ear, shouting in distress and panic, "I can't hear you... Jasper has made me deaf... I can't hear anything!"

Javier's pupils dilated, and a chilling sensation gripped his heart.

### Chapter 1818



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Can't Win Me Back by Ginger Sue Chapter 1818

After what had happened, it was absolutely impossible for Betty to stay in Solana City any longer.

However, Jasper was still wearing a frown.

He called Landon as soon as he left Seaview Manor, but there was no answer.

This situation was rare in their nearly 20 years of friendship, so it made him feel uneasy.

That evening, Alyssa brought out the teddy bear cake that Cyrus had sent to share with Lauren.

In the warmly lit room, Alyssa brought the cake to Lauren. Her eyes were filled with affection as she said, "Lauren, try this cake. It arrived in the morning, and I've been craving it but couldn't bear to eat it. I've been waiting to share it with you."

Lauren's slender body leaned against the head of the bed. Her fair and tender face appeared pale and gaunt. It was a heartbreaking sight.

"Alyssa, eat if you want to. You don't have to wait for me."

Alyssa blinked. "No way. This was bought for you."

"Who bought it for me?"

Alyssa hesitated slightly.

Sensing that hesitation, Lauren gently asked, "Was it... Cyrus?"

"Yes, Cyrus bought it for you." Now that it had been revealed, she had no need to conceal it anymore. Otherwise, it would seem pretentious.

"Has Cyrus visited?"

Lauren was pure-hearted. At the thought of Cyrus, her moist eyes brightened a little. "He came all this way. Why didn't you let him come in and sit for a while?"

"He's a busy man. He still has to go back to the police station to handle cases."

"Then... Alyssa, could you call Cyrus later and thank him for me?" Lauren's beautiful eyes showed sincerity.

Alyssa smiled and nodded. Suddenly, a hint of bitterness welled up in her chest.

She could tell that Lauren had no appetite. She barely ate dinner just now, let alone dessert.

But she still tried hard to take each bite, swallowing them down. The corners of her eyes, which were tinged with a faint pink, exuded a subtle sense of contentment.

"It's really nice. Alyssa, you should try some too."

"Okay."

Alyssa couldn't help but choke up. She had squeezed the teddy bear cake so hard that its expression looked miserable.

Lauren had learned to take care of others' emotions and not let her loved ones worry. During the day when Newton was around, she always ate heartily just to avoid worrying Newton.

But the more Lauren did this, the more Alyssa felt uneasy and distressed.

Lauren had grown up. She no longer had a carefree and innocent life.

At that moment, Alyssa noticed Lauren's hair was let down. She asked in surprise, "Lauren, where's your favorite clear quartz hair clip? I don't see it."

Lauren's hand, holding the cake, suddenly stiffened. Her long lashes fluttered as she answered, "I... gave it to Angie. I asked her to return it to Landon."

Alyssa's heart clenched, and she quickly grabbed Lauren's cold hand.


"Lauren! You've returned the hair clip to Landon? Are you... okay with that? Do you know what that means?"

"I know."

Lauren's voice was almost inaudible, and her bright eyes seemed like shattered crystals. "It means... I'm breaking up with Landon."

Chapter 1819





"Lauren, look at me." Alyssa firmly grasped Lauren's slender shoulders and stared into her dim eyes. "Are you really going to do this? Are you willing to part with him?"

"Don't do something you'll regret. Once you lose some people, you may never find someone like them again."

"Alyssa, I've thought this through. It's not a rash decision."

Smiling contentedly, Lauren slowly closed her eyes. "Separating is the best outcome for Landon and me. Having been together and sharing unforgettable memories is already enough for me."

"I love the lively Landon from before, so I want him to return to being himself. Being with me would only hold him back and burden him."

Alyssa's heart wrenched as if it were being crushed.

When Alyssa returned to her room with tears, Jasper was already waiting for her.

"Lyse, why are your eyes so red? Did you cry?"

He hurried over and wrapped his arms around her slender waist. After pulling Alyssa into his embrace, he said tenderly, "Who upset you? I'll help you vent."

"With you protecting me, who would dare to upset me?"

Alyssa rested her forehead against his shoulder, feeling the warmth of his body gradually calm her mind. "It's Lauren."

Jasper immediately became concerned. "What happened to Lauren?"

"Lauren wants to break up with Landon."

"Why?" Jasper's breathing became rapid.

"The recent events have been too much for her. She's scared and tired, and she feels like she's holding Landon back."

Alyssa raised her face and hooked her arms around his neck. She sighed with frustration. "I understand how she feels. When you love someone too much, you start to be cautious. You won't be able to fully immerse yourself and enjoy the relationship without reservations like before."

"No wonder... I tried to call Landon all day today, but he didn't answer. Looks like he knows." Jasper's jaw tightened slightly as he couldn't help but be worried about Landon's situation.

With all the troubles happening and now facing a breakup with his beloved, that day might possibly be the darkest moment of his life.

"Even if Landon can sort out the issues with his family, what about Lauren? Grandpa and your dad are likely to hate the Harpers. How could they allow Lauren to marry him?"

Alyssa looked frustrated and helpless. "Remember how my family reacted back then? Lauren's situation is even more serious than mine. It's a complete conspiracy by the entire Harper family against her. They're bullying and manipulating her like she's a fool.

"Any parents with a conscience wouldn't send their child into a lion's den. And did you see Landon protect her? He didn't. Something even more terrifying might happen next time. Who would dare gamble with the safety of their child?"

"Landon is capable of protecting Lauren. I feel like someone is directing the Harpers from behind or perhaps acting behind the scenes."

Jasper's brows furrowed. "Otherwise, I don't think Zoe and Preston have the ability to do this."

"I think the same. Let's wait for news from Cyrus."



As soon as Alyssa finished speaking, Jasper's phone vibrated.

He pressed the speakerphone to answer. "Xavier, what's up?"

Xavier's voice was filled with excitement. "Mr. Beckett, I just received news from our people that after you slapped Betty today, Mr. Javier immediately sent her to the hospital for treatment. Guess what?

"She's deaf!"

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Jasper's face remained indifferent, but Alyssa's eyes widened. She even shouted in excitement, "Deaf?"

"Yes! It's real. I've already gotten the diagnosis report. I'll send it to you right now. Betty is still in the hospital. I heard she's completely deaf in her left ear, with hearing loss in her right ear. She's already using a hearing aid."

Xavier's ecstatic voice echoed in the room. "Mr. Beckett, you're incredible! That wasn't just a slap. That was one hell of a slap!"

"Don't exaggerate it, Xavier," Jasper reprimanded with a frown.

Alyssa burst into laughter, clapping her hands joyfully until they turned red.

"Haha! That's great! It's perfect karma! Who asked her to mock Lauren all the time? I want to see how arrogant she'll be now."

When she met Jasper's unwavering gaze, her smile froze, replaced by a blush spreading across her cheeks. "Um, am I too—"

Before she could finish her sentence, Jasper seized her in a fierce, aggressive kiss, swallowing her words.

He held her closely against him and ran his hand up her spine to the spot he favored while savoring the warmth of her lips.

As the woman in his arms trembled slightly, Jasper mischievously spared her at this moment. He rubbed his thumb over her rosy lower lip and chuckled softly. "Are you wondering if you're too evil?"

Alyssa was captivated by the tender depths of his eyes. Her eyes glistened with emotion, and she found herself slightly breathless.

"I think you should be even more evil..." Jasper's palm returned to her waist, kneading it gently. "Your evil side drives me crazy."

A flush spread across Alyssa's cheeks, and she playfully tapped his chest a couple of times.

Noticing his heavy breathing and reddened eyes, Alyssa knew that his desire was stirred. He wanted her again.

"Madam, it's a pity that you missed it. Mr. Beckett was so cool today!" Xavier's loud and clear voice broke through the romantic atmosphere. "He took Mr. Newton with him today and confronted Betty in front of Mr. Javier and everyone at the Seaview Manor.

"Mr. Newton slapped Betty and left her with no dignity. Mr. Javier wanted to protect her to save the family's reputation, but Mr. Beckett wasn't lenient. Not only did he kick her out of Solana City, but he also slapped her twice. We just didn't expect to have an unexpected gain."

Blinking, Alyssa gazed at Jasper with a hint of doubt.

"Betty's crimes are too numerous to list, but she shouldn't have been so foolish as to seek Jasper's protection in front of me."

Jasper's expression was cold, but his hand on Alyssa's waistline was burning. "She can't blame me for her being deaf. If she wants to blame anyone, blame

Javier for not agreeing to my request to have her apologize to Lauren on her knees. I wouldn't have needed to slap her twice if he had agreed."

"When did you start talking nonsense so seriously?" Alyssa saw through his thoughts in an instant.

As she talked, she loosened the knot on his tie. "You're not a reckless brute. You deliberately slapped her hard, intending to disable her."

After pecking her lips, he came clear. "So, I'm evil too. We're a perfect match."

"Not necessarily." Alyssa's eyes flashed with a hint of darkness. "Xavier, how many days will Betty be staying in the hospital?"

"Probably two or three days."

"Can you arrange for someone to get close to her?"

"Except for the attending physician, no one can get close at all. Mr. Javier's people are guarding Betty's ward." Xavier was frustrated.

Betty became another fuse in the intensifying relationship between Javier and Jasper.