

CAN'T WIN ME BACK

Chapter 1833



"You don't agree?" Javier's expression darkened coldly. His menacing glare was devoid of any warmth or affection a father would have for his son.

"Jasper, I am not dead yet, but are you already thinking of taking over my duties?"

"If I didn't give you the chance, would you even be able to become the president of Beckett Group? It seems like you've become arrogant. Do you really think that you achieved everything by your own merit?"

Facing his father's insults, Jasper was more worried for Lauren than angry at his father.

If Lauren really married into the Hodgson family, he couldn't imagine what kind of crazy things Landon would do after he found out.

Perhaps he would spiral into depression. Perhaps he would be so crushed that he would never recover from his heartbreak.

Lauren was not strong and brave like Alyssa, who would stand up for herself. She was the most obedient child among the siblings. She was gentle and weak, accepting whatever obstacles life threw at her without protest.

Besides, she was the one who initiated the breakup.

"Your brother is just ill; he's not dead yet. Don't think that just because you're the president and Newton favors you, you can do whatever you want without a

care in the world! You insolent brat, how dare you defy your own father and rebel against my decisions again and again!"

Javier's thinly veiled threats continued, "A few days ago, I went to Mosgravia to visit Justin. He looks much better than before."

Jasper's eyes narrowed as a glint appeared in his dark gaze.

"Justin told me that when he gets better, he'll return and reunite with our family again."

Javier looked down at Jasper, his words dripping with menace. "Your grandfather and I always prioritized the eldest son. Justin has just been away for too long and has become distant from us, which is why you had the chance to showcase your abilities to Newton.

"When he's back, Newton will surely compensate him out of guilt. By that time, who knows whether you'll still have a place in Beckett Group? You'd better think about that carefully!"

In the middle of the night, Xavier brought his investigations on Harper Group to meet Jasper.

Smoke curled lazily around them in the study. Jasper's slender, calloused fingers held a cigarette while he studied the documents intently. His gaze was mysterious and dark, concealing his emotions.

Seeing that the ashtray was almost full, Xavier couldn't help but sigh. "Mr. Beckett, I know you're feeling upset, but to smoke so much like this... it might reduce your sperm count..."

Jasper arched an eyebrow, and his icy gaze bore into Xavier's eyes. "Are you a sex therapist? Or are you a nosy know-it-all?"

Xavier pretended to cough. "No, no, I'm just a dumb idiot."

He sighed again. "Madam Alyssa hates the smell of smoke; you know this as well. I was just worried that when you return home, she'll get angry if she smells smoke on you."

"These two days, I'll be at Seaview Manor accompanying Lauren. I've already told Lyse."

The mental image of Alyssa with her hands on her hips, pouting and nagging him made his heart beat faster and his blood run wild.

How he wished he could pull her into his arms and dominate her, entangling their limbs the whole night.

"Mr. Beckett, you must be in a terrible mood. If it weren't so bad, you wouldn't have resorted to smoking behind her back."

Xavier asked out of concern, "What's going on?"

"Xavier, there are no issues with these documents. Send them to Mr. Harper later." Jasper's tone was neutral.

"Yes." Since Jasper wasn't willing to share, Xavier refrained from probing.

"Also, hand over your duties to others for the time being. Focus on your investigations on the Hodgson family."

Xavier asked, "The Hodgsons?"

Jasper narrowed his eyes. "Orlander Hodgson."

Xavier's eyes widened. "The mayor?"

"Start from Orlander, then his wife and his son Freddy. Investigate as much as you can, gather every piece of information."

When he finished talking, a light knock sounded on the door.

"Jasper, are you there?"

"It's Lauren."

Jasper stood up and hurriedly went over to open the door.

Lauren stood awkwardly outside the door in the dark, wringing her fingers.

"Lauren, it's so late. Why aren't you asleep yet?" Jasper asked gently.

She pursed her lips. "Jasper, can I tell you something?"

"Of course, come in."

Jasper invited her in as Xavier left the room to give them privacy.

"Lauren, don't take what Dad said to heart. No matter what, I will not let you marry into the Hodgsons.

Alyssa will not agree either."

"Jasper."

Before he finished his words, Lauren lowered her head and spoke up, "You and Alyssa have done a lot for me. It's enough.

"About my matters, you guys don't need to worry about me anymore."

Jasper's heart sank. "Lauren, what do you mean?"

Lauren felt tears prickling her eyes. She blinked hard, forcing her tears back.

"I'll listen to Dad. I'll marry into the Hodgson family."

Chapter 1834



"Lauren, what in the world are you saying?" Jasper, who was usually calm and composed, reacted in shock. He placed his hands heavily on her

shoulders. "Marriage is not child's play. This is a matter of your lifelong happiness!"

"Do you not know what kind of person Freddy is? Did you not see how he was acting intimately with Zoe? Aren't you worried that this might be a plot from Zoe to mess with you and Landon?"

Lauren let him shake her shoulders as tears rolled in her eyes along with the shaking.

"Did you really fall out of love with Landon? Look into my eyes and tell me. do you really not love Landon anymore?" Jasper's brows knitted together tightly as he bombarded her with questions.

"Jasper, I'm a grown woman. I'm no longer the child who locked herself in her room all day, not daring to speak to anyone. I'm no longer the girl whose only companions were drawing blocks and dolls."

Lauren's voice was soft, but her resolve was firm. "I know what I'm doing; I know what I want."

Jasper's voice trembled. "Is marrying Freddy what you want?"

"Since I can't be with Landon anymore, who I marry doesn't matter."

"Who said that you can't be together with him? He loves you so much that he can give up everything! As long as you don't give up..."

"Jasper, I'm tired."

Lauren's face sank as she shook her head lifelessly. "If Landon betrayed his family and gave up his inheritance for me. I would never be able to live with this guilt. Even if I stayed with him, I would not feel happy."

"But if I don't marry into the Hodgson family, I fear I will not have a day of peace. I'm scared. I'm even more scared that I'll bring trouble to Landon and hurt Angelina."

"Breaking up. is the best outcome for us."

Jasper slowly let her go. He couldn't swallow the bitterness in his throat, just as he couldn't find any words to say.

That day, when Angelina returned the pearl hair clip to Landon, he became seriously ill. The combination of heartbreak and shock made him throw up blood.

After a checkup at the hospital, they found that he had severe gastritis. It was a result of his irregular schedule and frequent consumption of alcohol during business gatherings.

This time, his gastritis worsened, so he had to be hospitalized.

However, aside from Angelina and Jordan, no one knew about it.

Landon was officially the chairman of Harper Group. However, he didn't even arrive on time for the very first board meeting.

In the meeting room, Cornelius sat at the main seat and glanced at the empty seat beside him with annoyance.

"This is the first meeting, but Mr. Landon isn't even here. The audacity..."

"See, "The Tyrant" isn't an empty title. Now that he'd successfully gained power, eventually, he won't even give a shit about Mr. Cornelius."

"It's too early to joke about this. Mr. Preston was just defeated; he's not dead yet. If Mr. Landon continues like this, when Mr. Cornelius finally has enough, the position of chairman might belong to Mr.

Preston again."

As Preston listened to the surrounding gossip about Landon, he couldn't help but grin.

Underneath the table, he was texting Zoe.

"Zoe, I really need to thank you properly about this matter once I have time."

"You're too kind, Uncle Preston."

"It's just such a shame that I couldn't kick that little brat from the chairman's position. The old man still favors him. Truly, what a shame."

"Uncle Preston, a watched pot never boils. You lose to Landon because you're too impatient."

She continued texting, "I heard that Lauren and Landon have broken up. Landon was so upset that he got hospitalized, but I don't know what is the cause of his hospitalization. The Beckett family released a statement that they will never let Lauren marry into our family.

"Not only that, Mayor Hodgson and his wife brought Freddy along to the Beckett's house to ask for Lauren's hand in marriage. They've been quite cozy with each other.

"When Lauren and Freddy have confirmed their wedding date, Landon will be so crushed that he will never recover. He won't be able to retaliate. By then, it will be your time to take revenge!"

Preston's eyes shone with excitement. He was about to reply to Zoe when suddenly a loud bang rang through the room, nearly startling him out of his seat.

Landon's wide shoulders were covered with a sable fur coat. His hands were in the pockets of his black patterned blazer. His domineering yet classy demeanor made everyone hold their breath.

With one kick, the door swung open. Landon bore an expression of indifference and arrogance.

His intimidating presence made Preston look like a pitiful bug that could get squished with just a finger.

"Sorry, I woke up late." Landon yawned.

Preston saw that he looked alert and healthy. Aside from looking a little pale, he was fine. Preston felt disappointed and chuckled.

"Haha... Mr. Landon, you are really quite impressive. You just took over, and you're already shaking things up."

Cornelius frowned. Although the Harper Group was never the most uptight, Landon was too unruly!

"Let's cancel today's meeting. Grandpa and Preston can stay. The rest can leave."

Landon stared at everyone coldly, and his gaze stared daggers at Preston's enraged, ruddy complexion.

"Landon, this is outrageous. How can you call your uncle by his first name?" Cornelius glared at him and slapped the table with his palm.

Landon snickered, "Then what should I call him? Prepillon?"

Preston almost choked in anger.

"Landon!" Cornelius banged the table again.

"If you don't make everyone leave, can you bear to watch what I'll do later?"

Landon leaned on the table with both arms, flexing his muscles as a wicked smile lifted his lips. "If you insist on protecting Prepillon, then I won't hold back in front of everyone."

No one said a word in the huge meeting room.

There wasn't a person who wanted to miss out on this juicy gossip, but they didn't dare to stay as well in case they got into the line of fire.

Cornelius couldn't ignore Landon's threats, and he knew Landon's temper very well. If Landon was threatened, he wouldn't hesitate to light Harper Group on fire. Hence, he could only order the board to leave.

Soon, only the three Harpers were left in the room.

"Landon, why did you make such a big ruckus?" Preston asked angrily.

Landon pulled out a chair and sat leisurely. He tapped his finger against the table without a rhythm, and his smile was sharp and malicious.

"I want Preston to get the fuck out of Harper Group."

Chapter 1835



Landon's words dropped a bomb in the meeting room. Face reddened, Preston slammed his hand on the table and bellowed, "Landon Harper, are you kicking me out? Are you fucking asleep? You were a baby when I was working alongside your grandpa!"

The uncle and nephew finally had a fallout as there were no outsiders around.

"Landon, don't cross the line!" Cornelius chastised his grandson, whom he deemed insane. "I know what's in your mind. You're just trying to avenge Lauren!"

"At the end of the day, you're a Harper and the president of the Harper Group. Your dad had contributed to the company's success too. How can you answer Bill if you make a mess in the company?"

"Besides, your Uncle Preston did not do anything wrong. Lauren has mental issues. Are you sure you can take care of her forever after you married her?"

You don't have that patience; you can never do it! You should end your relationship now rather than regretting it in the future."

"Grandpa, I have just one question for you." Landon stubbornly went off-tangent, ignoring Cornelius' remark. "Do you agree with my decision to kick Preston Harper out of the company?"

"How could you demand a director to leave the board without undergoing due process? You're not serious. Do you take the company as a clubhouse, thinking that you can get anything you want with an order?" Cornelius barked at him.

"Fine." Landon leaned into his chair and raised his voice. "Jordan, come in!" Jordan, seemingly appearing from thin air, shuffled to his side. "Yes, Mr. Landon."

"Grandpa, your birthday is in a few months, isn't that right? Well, it's not your 80th birthday, but I have a big gift for you." Taking a leather envelope from Jordan's hand, he tossed it in front of Cornelius.

Cornelius picked up the envelope with a frown. He took out a stack of photos from within. Every single photo was him holding and hugging hot ladies on a luxury cruise. If any one of them leaked, he would be publicly humiliated.

Preston had wandered over to take a peek, only to be yelled at by Cornelius. "Back off!"

Then, Cornelius turned to Landon, his cheeks twitching in anger. "W-What do you want to do?"

"Grandpa, you're really something. You're still a casanova at this age, just as charming as you used to be." Landon took a cigarette out of the box and shoved it between his lips. Jordan immediately helped light the cigarette.

Landon added, "Too bad that greed is endless. At your age, you should focus on taking care of your health."

Preston instantly formed a guess about the photos, which sent a shiver down his spine. The cruise meeting was tightly protected with armed security. How did Landon manage to shoot photos of the event?

"If you refuse to agree to my demands, I will have no choice but to distribute the photos. The public can have a good look at my charming grandpa." Squinting, Landon took a long drag of the cigarette before putting it out.

Trembling violently, Cornelius seethed. "You—"

"These are not all. Oh, trust me, I have a lot of dirt on you." Landon lazily puffed a smoke ring, eyes half closed. "Every single one of the evidence might land you in jail for life."

"Landon Harper, are you fucking mad? Grandpa raised you from when you were a kid. How could you stab him in the back over a woman? You're an ingrate; you're worse than an animal!" Preston could not believe the lengths that Landon had gone to.

"Lauren isn't just any woman. She's... my wife, and she'll be my only wife in this life." Landon held back his tears. "I'm just fulfilling my duty as a husband. Whoever bullies my wife will pay a price."

Even if Lauren dumped him one day, he'd still love her as much as before. Even if they had to be separated, he'd always see her as his wife.

At the same time, Cornelius pressed a hand on his chest after being threatened by Landon. Landon had gone mad. How could he turn the Harper Group upside down for a woman?



"Grandpa, I know you are an expert at weighing pros and cons. I have laid out my cards. Please take your time to consider your choice." After that, Landon slowly rose from his seat and rubbed out the cigarette on the tabletop.

"Stop!" Cornelius called out to Landon. In a shaking voice, he obliged, "I agree... I agree to your conditions!"

"Dad, I sacrificed so much for the Harper Group. How could you do this to me to protect yourself?" Preston's eyes bulged from surprise.

"That's enough. Don't flatter yourself." Shameful and enraged, Cornelius growled, "You and I know who's the one who made real sacrifices for Harper Group. It was Bill—Landon's dad—your brother!"

"Even without these scandalous photos, I have plans to kick you out anyway. Did you really think I was clueless about your crimes behind my back? I was merely turning a blind eye because I couldn't be bothered.

"I'll take the chance today to get rid of a thorn in my side. You do not have to report to work at Harper Group anymore. From now on, you have nothing to do with the board of directors and the annual shareholders' meeting."

Cornelius was great at giving himself an out.

"You're turning your back on me?" Preston stomped in anger. Despite his age, he reverted to a child whenever he threw a fit in front of his father. He seemed truly agitated and worried this time.

Cornelius barked at him, "Get lost right now!"

Preston knew that no amount of argument would turn his situation around. He had no choice but to glare at Cornelius before leaving in defeat. He slammed the door behind him as he left.

Landon asked flatly, "When are we issuing the official notice of Preston's termination?"

"Within this week."

Landon cast a dangerous squint at Cornelius, who immediately changed his mind. "It'll be done tomorrow morning!"

"Great. I shall wait for the good news." Landon left the meeting room in great strides as Jordan followed closely behind him.

"Landon, I watched you grow up. Even your mom does not know you as well as I do in this family!" Cornelius rasped from behind. "You're not a good match with Lauren, be it in family status or your personality.

"Lauren is too timid. She cannot take charge of the family, not to mention reigning you in. Without a capable woman to support you and take care of the company, you will suffer in your career. Sooner or later, your useless feelings of love will wear out under the test of reality."

Landon paused in his tracks but did not turn around. He stated, "I choose the woman I love. Save your worries. I am capable enough to shoulder everything. All Lauren needs is to stay by me."

Alyssa had been approving documents for the entire afternoon in her office at the KS Group headquarters.

When she was done, she sighed and stretched.

At that moment, she received a call from Silas.

"Hey, Silas, I thought you forgot about me ever since you're with Rose. What makes you call me?" Rose lounged on the couch.

"Lyse, I have a question." After a pause, Silas whispered, "Have Landon and Lauren broken up?"

The look in her eyes grew vacant. "Why the sudden question? And how did you learn about it?"

"Wait. Is it true?" Shocked, Silas mused, "Seems that the incident dealt a huge blow to them."

"Stop going around in circles, Silas. Get to the point."

"I attended the wedding of a fellow prosecutor's son. The wedding was grand; even Mayor Hodgson and his wife were in attendance. I overheard the mayor stating that his son is soon to be engaged with Lauren."

"What?" Alyssa sat up on the couch. Her eyes widened in disbelief. "Who? Who's getting engaged with Lauren? Is it Mayor Hodgson's son?"

At the same time, Sean knocked on her door and entered the office with a stern expression. "Ms. Alyssa, I have something to report to you."

Chapter 1837



Alyssa felt her chest tighten. She motioned at Sean to come over before pressing Silas, "Are you sure?" "Mayor Hodgson has always been prudent. He won't make things public unless it's been confirmed. That's how he managed to enjoy a smooth political career." Silas' tone took a turn. "That's why I believe the news is true. Lyse, is this an arranged marriage? Is Lauren willing to marry a man she doesn't love? Will she be happy?"

The idea of Lauren agreeing to it was preposterous. Something was fishy.

"Grandpa and Javier aren't satisfied with Landon, but they hate Harper Group even more. Even so, Lauren shouldn't marry Freddy Hodgson!"

"Lyse, do you know Mayor Hodgson's son?"

Lyse cracked her fingers angrily. "You can tell he's not a good egg just by looking at that bastard's face."

Silas and Sean grew speechless.

"Anyway, thanks for giving me the huge update. I'll make your favorite beef Wellington when I'm back home."

After the call, Alyssa took a few deep breaths to gather herself. She turned to Sean. "Sean, what's up?"

"Ms. Alyssa, you wanted me to keep tabs on Betty Beckett. Our men tailed her until she arrived at the international airport in Zinfonia. She was picked up from the airport and is now in Mosgravia."

Sean continued with a stern look in his eyes. "Zinfonia is a poor and chaotic country, while Mosgravia is a developed country with plenty of entertainment. I bet someone couldn't bear to see Betty suffer and secretly had her transported to Mosgravia."

"It can only be Javier's action. He probably felt bad for Betty and, at the same time, wanted to create trouble for Jasper." Alyssa seemed rather distracted because of Lauren, who was currently in trouble.

"Ms. Alyssa, you remember who's in Mosgravia, don't you?" Sean reminded her with a serious look.

A cold gleam appeared in her eyes. "You mean Justin Beckett?"

"As he has never shown up, we are absolutely in the dark about his standing in the Beckett family, his character, and his relationship with the other family members. I worry that Justin will accord Betty the best treatment in Mosgravia. If that happens, Mr. Beckett's efforts would go down the drain." Sean's face was clouded with worries.

Pursing her lips, she replied, "I don't think that'll happen. It's been years since Justin Beckett was in touch with the other family members. It wasn't until the last two years that he began to get in touch with Jasper.

"Over the years, he did not maintain contact with Betty, his half-sister. He would have lent her a hand if he had wanted to. What's the point of helping her in secret?"

Deep in thought, Sean nodded in agreement.

"Besides, whether or not Justin helps Betty is the least of my concerns. I am more interested in her health condition." Alyssa snickered.

"Ms. Alyssa, no worries. Our men have arrived in Mosgravia, and they'll keep an eye on her."

Growing anxious, Alyssa checked the time on her wristwatch. "Sean, get the car ready."

"Where are you headed to?"

The thought of Jasper sent a warm current across her body. With tears brimming in her eyes, she replied, "I'm picking up Jasper from work."

As night fell, the city came alive amidst the twinkling lights.

Chapter 1838



After the meeting, Javier and Jasper headed toward the entrance of the Beckett Group building with their secretaries under the protection of their security guards.

A father and son were supposed to be close, but the two of them behaved like strangers, not speaking to each other on the trip.

"Come with me to Southsmire on my private jet later. I've invited Darren Daneman for golf tomorrow morning, and I have a business cocktail party in the afternoon. These events will play a huge role in our future expansion and project launches in Southsmire."

Jasper was about to reply, but he was interrupted by a jarring honking. A Rolls Royce with the Spirit of Ecstasy mascot on its bonnet came to a stop in front of Jasper and Javier.

Jasper squinted at the car as his heart raced.

When the car door opened, Javier heard a melodious voice from within, even though he couldn't make out the figure seated in it. "Mr. Javier, you don't mind me picking up Jasper from work, do you?"

Javier's breathing grew heavy upon recognizing Alyssa's voice. Before he could say a thing, Jasper had eagerly hopped into the car without even saying goodbye to him.

After Jasper joined Alyssa in the car, he held her hand and gently kissed her on the back of her hand. His lips rubbed and caressed her smooth skin with much affection.

Javier's expression fell. He thought, "How shameless and brash of him to do so!"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Javier." Jasper held Alyssa by her waist and stated, "I'm afraid I can't travel with you to Southsmire to golf with Mr. Daneman."

"Jasper Beckett, do not forget your role!" Javier's expression hardened. Gritting his teeth, he hissed, "The partnership with Southsmire will be crucial to the company's expansion in the southern cities by the sea!"

"You can date anytime you like, but how could you prioritize romance over the company's interest? This project is very important. You're showing yourself unfit as the company president."

"It took me nearly five years to lead the Beckett Group to become the top company in Solana City and make myself the top tycoon. This is all to boost our stature in business negotiation. I'm not going to play boring golf and attend boring parties just to ink deals," Jasper declared.

Staring lovingly at Alyssa and kissing her on the temple, he said softly, "I'd rather spend time with my love than waste my time in Southsmire."

Upon hearing that, Javier clutched his fists spitefully as rage pulsed through his veins.

Alyssa gracefully craned to peer at Javier through the car window. She remarked, "Mr. Javier, you may cancel the trip if it is to discuss the late-night district commercial project with Darren Daneman of Oceanic Inc."

Frowning, Javier questioned, "What do you mean?"

"Three days ago, Mr. Daneman had agreed to jointly launch the project with the KS Group." Beaming brightly, she quipped, "There, I saved you from taking a trip."

"What did you say... How is that possible?" Javier looked shell-shocked.

Unlike Javier, Jasper looked calm. "Mr. Daneman is a close acquaintance of Mr. Winston. Oceanic Inc. has worked with the KS Group on more than one occasion. I researched these facts before, but you never believe in my words."

After Jasper closed the car door, the Rolls Royce sped away, leaving Javier freezing on the spot.





Right after the Rolls Royce departed, Alyssa's expression hardened as she punched Jasper in the chest.

"Lyse, be gentle. I don't want you to hurt yourself," Jasper cautioned her, his voice trembling from her strength.

Sean, who was in the driver's seat, stole a glance at them from the rearview mirror and stifled a laugh.

"Jasper, I have a question for you." She poked his chest and asked angrily, "Did you know about the arranged marriage between Lauren and the Hodgson son?"

His eyes wavered. Grasping her hand, he wondered, "Lyse, how did you hear about it?"

"How could you ask that question? I think half of the city has heard about it by now!" Alyssa then proceeded to relay Silas' update to Jasper.

"Damn it!" Enraged, he punched the car window. "By publicly announcing the news, the Hodgson family is pressuring Javier into finalizing the marriage."

"They're being delusional. What era are we in now? They can't possibly force Lauren to marry Freddy!" Clenching her jaw, she said, "If Lauren refuses to marry, not even the president can make her!"

"But Lauren agreed to the marriage."

"What? But why?" Alyssa and Sean gasped in unison.

"Lauren said that being with Landon was too burdensome."

Alyssa remarked, "That's a lie!"

"Lauren thought that she'd only attract trouble for Landon and Angie if she kept dating him. She refused to be a burden to her lover."

"Well, if so, she can leave Landon. Why does she have to marry Freddy?" Looking skeptical, Alyssa surmised, "Has Mr. Javier pressured her? What did he say to her?"

After some thinking, Jasper rasped, "I got into a fight with Javier in front of Lauren over the arranged marriage with the Hodgsons. I might have given her a scare."

This time, it was Alyssa's turn to punch the car window. Fortunately, the solid build of the Rolls Royce was able to withstand their tantrums.

Tearing up, Alyssa struggled to breathe from the heartache. She lamented, "Oh, Lauren. That was to protect you!"

She then explained, "Lauren must be worried that Mr. Javier would hold a grudge against you and hit back at you in the future, taking away the success you had fought for.

"As she was defenseless and vulnerable, she couldn't support you in any way other than to risk her happiness. That was the only way she could protect her beloved brother."

"Oh, Lauren, you silly girl." Jasper, tormented by pain, shook his head. "We can't have her marry Freddy. Never!"

Infuriated, Alyssa cussed, "Son of a bitch! I'd rather Lauren marry Cyrus than that good-for-nothing Freddy Hodgson! I'd rather keep a nice young lady like Lauren for my family."

Jasper pursed his lips. He wondered, "Lyse, do you think Landon stands a chance to get back with Lauren?"

"I... have no idea. A relationship is always the hardest to grasp and make sense of." Resting in Jasper's arms, Alyssa sighed softly. "Lauren and Landon might encounter more obstacles than us. Let's settle the immediate issue before discussing any further."

The day after Cornelius and Landon struck a deal, Preston's termination notice was immediately emailed to the inboxes of all company employees. The notice stated that Preston was relieved of all his roles in the company and removed as a director.

From then on, he had become an unemployed bum who had nothing to do with the Harper Group except when it came to receiving his annual company stock bonus.

Feeling depressed, Preston gathered his friends at night to have fun and release his frustration at The Millennium, a famous luxurious entertainment establishment in Solana City.

Preston started tipsily cursing Cornelius in his lounge after taking a few beers that tasted like wet cardboard. He accused Cornelius of being a wolf in sheep's clothing who'd sell out anyone to protect his interest. His friends had no choice but to comfort him, assuring him that he would one day make a comeback.

As one of the bigger shareholders, it was only a matter of time before Preston made his return to the Harper Group and kicked out Landon.

"I heard—burp—there's a hot chick named Amber Altman at The Millennium. Rumors had it that she was fucking gorgeous. Get her here to drink with me!" Preston, completely smashed, ordered the shift manager.

"Sorry, Mr. Preston. Ms. Altman only serves the VIPs. I'm afraid you can't meet her," the shift manager explained with a polite smile.

Preston glowered at the shift manager. "What the fuck is that nonsense? Am I not a VIP?"

"Well, but you were terminated from your role in Harper Group earlier today."

"You—" Feeling shameful, Preston couldn't believe that The Millennium was so up to date.

"Our last customer who made a scene like you ended up in bad shape. The Millennium covered his medical costs, but physical injuries are nothing compared to the humiliation. Don't you agree?"

"Who was that customer?"

"Josh Schmidt."

Preston instantly went silent. He thought, "Fuck! I guess a man is fair game after he's lost his power."

Meanwhile, Amber carefully monitored Preston's lounge from the security control room.

At that moment, one of her subordinates rushed over. "Ms. Altman, another customer has arrived. His car is entering the underground parking now."

She asked absentmindedly, "And who is that?"

"Landon Harper, the president of Harper Group."

Chapter 1840



A look of shock flashed across Amber's eyes. She stated, "According to the rules, The Millennium does not take in customers without a reservation."

"But Mr. Moses just called. He would like us to host Mr. Landon." The subordinate lowered his voice.

"Not only that, Mr. Moses would want you to monitor Mr. Landon's movements tonight. Make a copy of the security footage as evidence if anything unusual occurs."

Amber, who had served Jameson for many years, instantly understood his intentions. She coldly replied, "Got it."

She shifted her attention back to the screen after the subordinate left. She watched as Landon's car entered the underground parking, followed by his entourage of luxury cars.

Oddly, the cars came to a stop in the darkness without taking further action. Despite that, Amber had a feeling that their inactivity was merely the calm before the storm.

At the same time, Preston's bodyguards assisted him into the underground parking because he was too drunk to walk straight. Legs limp and slurring, he did not once stop cursing out the Harper lineage, including Cornelius and Landon. He seemed to have momentarily forgotten that he was a Harper too.

A strong beam of light blinded Preston and his men when they shuffled through the middle of the parking lot. He instinctively raised his arm to shield his eyes. Following that, a deafening screeching sound of car tires echoed in the empty area.

"M-Mr. Preston, look out!"

When the drunk Preston belatedly came to the realization, a black Bentley had barrelled in his direction, showing no intention of slowing down. The car seemed intent on running over him.

In the face of impending danger, everyone else scampered away; none was willing to shield Preston.

"Argh—Stop! Stop! Don't come at me! Argh!" A chilling scream pierced through the silence.

The Bentley braked when it was about one foot away from Preston. The car hood collided against his round belly, full from dinner.

Though the impact did not send Preston flying through the air, he staggered backward for a few feet before falling hard to the ground.

An excruciating pain shot through Preston's body. The delicacies that he enjoyed for dinner came up his throat as he vomited on himself.

Despite the pain, he scrambled up from the ground. While vomiting, he retreated. He then yelled at his men, "What are you doing there? Fucking charge at them!"

While he was speaking, ten fighters, clad in black and armed with knives, surrounded Preston and his men. Angelina, lovely but murderous, stepped out of the darkness and showed herself in front of Preston.

Preston seemed to have understood something. He dug out his phone while screaming frantically, "What are you guys standing there for? Fight them!"

Preston's bodyguards, knowing they had no way out, bit the bullet and charged at Angelina and her men.

In the deep of the night, the sounds of painful screams and bone cracking echoed through the parking lot. The spacious area seemed like hell on earth at that moment.

After the fighting, a deadly silence enveloped the people in the parking lot. Pools of blood had formed across the ground.

Preston was bruised and bleeding from his mouth from being beaten up by Angelina. His expensive suit had been torn to tatters by the knife attacks.

Angelina stepped on his back, forcing him to kneel on the ground. He begged for mercy, pleading that she spare him from the pain.

At that moment, Jordan courteously opened the car door for Landon. Landon emerged and stepped over the pools of blood with great strides. He arrived in front of Landon and stood still. Despite his silence, he emanated an intimidating air.

"Uncle Preston," Landon said in a frosty tone.

Preston felt sick in his stomach. He trembled uncontrollably.

In the past, he was resentful of Landon for disrespecting the elders in the family. However, the way Landon addressed him as "Uncle Preston" gave him goosebumps.

"L-Landon... We're a family. I watched you grow up!" Preston shed his arrogance and started pleading for dear life. "L-Let's be civil about this. There's always room for discussion!"