Can't Win 871

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The frame slipped from Alyssa's hand, crashing onto the ground and shattering into pieces. Shards scattered in all directions, cutting her ankle, and a few drops of blood oozed from the tiny cut.

"Why are you here?" Jasper's low voice pierced the air, causing her to tremble.

Without turning around, she coldly replied, "Sorry to disturb you. I'll leave soon."

Jasper stared at her figure, draped in his shirt beneath the soft, warm light. Her curves were vaguely visible under the oversized shirt, a charming sight that tempted him to pull her into an embrace.

He swallowed hard. His throat was dry.

Just moments ago, he woke up drenched in sweat, reflexively reaching for Alyssa, only to find the bed empty. He felt relief, spotting her clothes and heels on the ground, knowing she was somewhere in the

villa. He got out of bed to look for her.

The memories of their kisses and the collision of bodies lingered in his mind and heart, but he was unsure

how things unfolded.

Did he force himself on her? Or did he somehow hurt her, making her defenseless against his advances?

Gripped by guilt, he approached her emotionally. Suddenly, she spun around and walked past him. He
quickly held her by the wrist, pleading, "Please don't go."
"You have no right to tell me what to do."
He pulled her into a hug, reminding her, "We slept together."
Staring deep into her emotionless eyes, he said firmly, "Alyssa Taylor, we slept with each other. Don't you
have anything to say to me?"
"No," she replied curtly and dodged his gaze.
Word for word, she said, "Let go."
"Alyssa, I don't take such matters lightly. We're divorced, but I'll take responsibility for last night," he
stated sincerely, tightening his grip on her wrist.
"It's just a one-night stand between adults. You don't have to take responsibility for me. I am solely
responsible for my decision," she snickered, shaking his hand off.
With mockery, she added, "Mr. Beckett, you need to be cautious when you're out and about. Better not fali
into another trap again."

"Alyssa Taylor!" he hissed, feeling stung by her remark. He held her more tightly, prompting her to yell, "Don't touch me! Get lost!" Curling her fists, she punched him on his bare chest in a teary and furious voice. He felt shocked and bad to see her cry, wondering if he was the reason behind it. Ignoring her tantrum, he hugged her tightly, even as Alyssa failed to notice her own tears. She couldn't fathom why she would cry. Did she cry because she slept with Jasper or because he kept mementos of Liana? Clearly, the latter was more heartbreaking. No matter how much she struggled, Jasper refused to let her go. Chapter 872 Jasper insisted, "I will take responsibility for you. I will." "I don't need you to do that. Just let go of me," Alyssa snapped, her warm tears drenching his shoulders." Jasper Beckett, I hate you so. Don't touch me!" "I won't touch any woman except for you," Jasper said in a shaky voice.

His chest tightened when he recalled the pristine bedsheet. Knowing that Alyssa was a conservative woman, she had not slept with him during their three years of marriage and should have remained a virgin at the time of divorce. Last night was their first time sleeping with each other, but there was no blood stain on the sheet. "Why didn't you take responsibility for me when we did it the first time?"	"If you wanted to take responsibility for me, why did you divorce me? Why didn't you take responsibility
"You pushed me away when you should have taken responsibility for me, but you keep bugging me when I don't need you to," she seethed and bit hard on his arm when he was distracted. She so wished she could tear him into pieces. Feeling the pain, Jasper finally released her. She broke free of his arms and escaped from the study, leaving him frozen in shock as he replayed her words just now. His chest tightened when he recalled the pristine bedsheet. Knowing that Alyssa was a conservative woman, she had not slept with him during their three years of marriage and should have remained a virgin at the time of divorce. Last night was their first time sleeping with each other, but there was no blood stain on the sheet. "Why didn't you take responsibility for me when we did it the first time?" Her words made sense now. He looked shell-shocked as he pondered the possibility of them having	for me when we did it the first time?"
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together when they were married.
Why did he not recall it at all?
He stood stiffly and went blank. Finally, he mustered up some strength to press a hand on his chest. It was at that moment he noticed the shattered glass on the ground.
He approached the shards and crouched. He saw the broken frame and the photo of him with Liana from high school.
Gripped by a wave of dizziness, he finally understood Alyssa's reaction.
-15 BONUS
Alyssa rushed back to Jasper's bedroom, put on her clothes, and left the villa as soon as she could.
On her way home, she sped down the road with messy thoughts and tears on her face.
She was involved in a minor car crash when she entered the city area. The hood of her limited edition luxury sports car was completely destroyed.
The owner of the Mercedes-Benz felt relieved as Alyssa would pay for the damages since she was the one who rammed into the back of his car.
If their roles were reversed, he bet he couldn't afford to pay for the damages to Alyssa's La Voiture Noire.
Alyssa cowered in the car. In the chaos, she first thought of Jonah. She shakily dialed his number, and he picked up almost instantly. He was always attentive to his beloved sister.
"Lyse, what's wrong?"

"Jonah, where are you? Come to me. I need you."
20 minutes later, Jonah arrived at the scene in his Rolls-Royce, even running two red lights just to get
there soon.
"Lyse!" Jonah called out to Alyssa as he stepped out of the car.
His heart sank upon seeing Alyssa's sports car in ruins. Usually calm, he panicked for a while.
Julien stepped out of the car and grew nervous at the sight of the car crash. He was ready to perform first-
aid on Alyssa as a doctor. Chapter 873
Jonah swung open the car door and wedged himself into Alyssa's car, scanning for any fractures on her
arms and legs.
"I'm fine. I'm fine, Jonah," she mumbled, tears welling in her eyes and her face drained of color.
Jonah stared at her in shock, knowing something grave must have happened. Knowing Alyssa, she wasn't
one to cry. After all, she had worked on a battlefield. She wouldn't be fazed by a car crash.
Whatever had happened must have been serious.



Mandy was the sole relative who had treated him with genuine kindness. Yet, due to marrying Winston, she was ousted from the family and slandered as shameless and dishonorable.

Because of that, Mandy hadn't visited her family except for that one time. Julien heard that Mandy did it

for Alyssa-she needed to get a prescription of some sort for Alyssa, and for that, she waited three days

in front of her father's study until he finally relented.

Rather than looking down on Mandy, Julien gained a newfound respect for his aunt Winston and his family must have treated her well for her to make such a sacrifice for Alyssa.

"Julien," Jonah suddenly called out to him.

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aid on Alyssa as a doctor.
Chapter 874
Cornelius had roped Landon into a meeting at the Harper Group building. However, midway through the discussion, Landon's phone rang with urgency-it was Jasper, insisting on an immediate meetup at
Jasper's villa by Phoenix Lake.
Due to the urgent nature of Jasper's call, Landon left the meeting under everyone's scrutiny and raced to
the villa.

"What the hell?" Before entering the villa, Landon observed a plume of smoke on top of the structure like an impending volcanic explosion. Turning pale, he hurried into the villa and found Jasper burning stuff in the backyard.

Standing by a metal container, Jasper appeared pale and troubled. He bathed in the glow of the flames in

the container, resembling a solitary statue amid the remnants of a war.

Alarmed by the chaotic scene, Landon approached him. "Jasper, what's going on? What are you burning?"

When Landon spoke, Jasper tossed another item into the fire. Landon took a good look and realized it was a photo of Jasper with Liana.

Jasper questioned, "Did you bring me to this villa after I was drugged?"

"Yeah. This is the only place I know. You always hang out here, don't you?" Landon replied.

Still confused about the situation, he confessed, "I couldn't send you back to Seaview Manor after what happened to you. Bringing you to my place was out of the question. This villa seemed like the best option."

Jasper looked up. "And did you call Alyssa to come here?"

"Yeah. You mentioned her name when you were barely conscious. I wanted to help you as a friend, so I lied to her and got her here," Landon admitted.

He scanned the surroundings and asked, "Hm, where's Lyse? Has she left?"

A crash ensued. Jasper angrily kicked the metal tin over, and sparks landed on Landon.

Landon hurriedly shielded his face with his arm, but the sparks had burned holes through his expensive suit, even burning off a part of his bangs. "What the fuck? Jasper Beckett, are you crazy? Do you want to set me in flames? This is not a sacrificial ritual!" Landon growled at Jasper while he angrily put out the sparks. Jasper, still not fully recovered from his injury, rolled his fists and panted. His shirt was soaked i "Huh?" Julien was surprised at how Jonah addressed him on a first-name basis. "Will you stay here with Sean until he sends you home, or do you want to go with me?" Jonah asked sternly. After a pause, Julien beamed at him. "You didn't have to ask. I'll choose you, of course." "I'll choose you, of course." Jonah felt a pang in his chest upon hearing the declaration. In the past, his ex- lover had uttered the exact words with determination. "Jonah, whatever happens in the future, I'll stand by you. You're the only one that I will protect with my life." The Rolls-Royce headed toward the hospital. Jonah hugged Alyssa tightly throughout the journey and patiently comforted her with a soothing voice. "Jonah, I'm in pain ..." Alyssa mumbled, her face buried in his chest.

Her heart ached as she cried.

"Lyse, tell me. Where does it hurt?"

She closed her eyes and pointed shakily at her heart. "It hurts here."

Jonah was shocked. He breathed heavily and clasped her icy hand, knowing only Jasper Beckett could inflict such pain on Alyssa.

Chapter 875

"Jasper!" screamed Landon, who tried to help Jasper up from the ground. "What's wrong? Why are you

trembling like crazy? Is it cold for you? Jasper?"

"Landon, do you know that..." Jasper clenched his fists with a broken look in his teary eyes. "... the most

hurtful thing for Alyssa is the memories of me and Liana hurting her. I knew it was over between me and

Alyssa when she saw the photos of me and Liana. We're done."

"Who said it was over?" Landon yelped, feeling sorry for Jasper, who was suffering from a heartbreak.

He blamed himself, "This is all my fault! You are so busy, not to mention you're still sick. You don't have

the time to dispose of the villa at all. It's my fucking fault! I'll go to Lyse right now and clear things up!"

Jasper stopped him and shook his head with a bitter smile. "It all started because of me. What's the point

of explaining it to her? That will not change the fact that I've hurt her in the past."

"Jasper," Landon gasped as he fought back tears.

No one had suffered as much as Jasper in love. After Landon tucked Jasper in bed, Jasper drifted to sleep in no time. Jasper's PTSD was more severe than Landon had expected. Thankfully, Landon was the only one who witnessed it that night. He couldn't picture the consequences if Jasper relapsed in front of others. That might cost him everything he worked for in the past ten years. When Landon descended the stairs, Xavier happened to enter the villa. Having heard about Jasper's behavior over a call, Xavier stammered, "M-Mr. Landon." Xavier was gripped by guilt and helplessness. "It's not your fault. Gosh, this is a problem... Landon mumbled, feeling the urge to slap himself. -'ll explain it to Ms. Alyssa tomorrow. I'll resign if she refuses to forgive him," Xavier said with determination while rubbing his eyes "Oh, quit at You have worked with Jasper for ten years. He'll be a mess without you around," Landon semarked poweriesuly Vi

the rubbed in forehead and said take care of the messi made, but Lyse has to agree to see

that
Xavier, you look after desper for the time being Keep his wckness a secret bom everyone, includtal
Xavier clenched his jaw and nodded solemnly.
After Landon had Jasper settled, he returned to the home he shared with Lauren in great exhaustion.
On his way home, he recalled the scent in Jasper's room. As a player, he knew Jasper had slept with
Alyssa last night.
Alyssa must have had feelings for Jasper if she were willing to sleep with him. Landon was perplexed by her intense reaction toward old photos of Liana that Jasper hadn't had time to get rid of.
Was it extreme jealousy?
Chapter 876
"Landon!" Lauren threw herself into Landon's arms when he came home.
She wrapped her limbs around him like an adorable koala.
"It's 'darling," Landon gently corrected her.
Blushing, she obediently called out to him, "Darling."

"That's right. Darling, I'll give you a kiss," he replied and gave her a loud kiss on the lips while touching her
backside with a hand.
After a cozy cuddle in the living room, Landon led Lauren to the bedroom, where he began to undress her
and led her to the bath.
She wrapped her arms around his neck and protested, "I'll bathe on my own."
"How tiring is that? I'll give you a hand," he teased her with a cheeky grin.
"Don't. It's tiring to take a bath with you because you'll be all over me."
"Hm, don't you like that?" Landon raised a brow playfully.
"I like it," Lauren admitted, her blush deepening.
Landon, who was so exhausted that he couldn't keep his eyes open, felt invigorated and aroused upon
seeing his lovely partner.
Soaking in the hot bath, he held her waist and made love to her. Lauren had become bolder since dating Landon. Due to their frequent intimacy, her breasts seemed to have developed as well.
Surprisingly, they were sexually compatible. Each time Landon made love to Lauren, he could set aside his worries and enjoy the moment. After all, Landon had taught Lauren precisely how to please him, and

he was reaping the benefits.

After they were done, he emerged from the bathtub with Lauren in his arms. Then, he placed a towel around her and gently placed her on the sink. He dried her hair and wiped her body with the bath towel.

Lauren enjoyed being taken care of by Landon. Every time, she would close her eyes in pleasure and

happily swing her legs.

However, that night, she noticed Landon was unusually quiet. He didn't indulge in a dirty talk during their lovemaking. Something seemed to be weighing on his mind.

+15 BONUS

Lauren called out softly, "Darling?"

Landon gathered himself and beamed at her. "What's wrong, darling?"

"Are you in a bad mood? Did something upset you?" Lauren inquired.

Unable to keep it to himself after seeing her concern, Landon blurted out, "Yes. It has something to do

with your brother and your ex-sister-in-law."

"Alyssa? What's wrong with her and Jasper?" Lauren asked worriedly.

After giving it some thought, Landon decided to be upfront with Lauren. Although they weren't legally

married, he treated Lauren like his wife. Besides, he believed that she deserved to learn the complicated

dynamics in her family as a grown woman. "Lauren, Jasper made Alyssa upset, but it was all my fault. I don't know how to fix their relationship," Landon explained. Then, he told her every detail, from how Jasper was drugged to how he lured Alyssa to Jasper's villa. Lauren listened quietly. Her eyes twinkled, and she appeared hesitant to speak. Landon grabbed his hair in frustration and guilt. "They never slept with each other when they were married. How could I send Lyse into Jasper's bed after they were divorced? This is so unfair to Lyse. I'm a fucking jerk!" Chapter 877 Lauren suddenly commented, "Alyssa slept with Jasper before." Landon, caught by surprise, stared at her in bewilderment. "What do you mean?" Lauren bit her lips and whispered with a frown, "It happened about two years ago. One night, I wandered around my home because I couldn't sleep.

"I saw Alyssa entering Jasper's bedroom. At that time, Jasper didn't like her much, and they rarely

shared a bed. Most of the time, they slept in separate rooms.

"Alyssa suffered a lot in the three years she was married to Jasper. I could tell that she loved him, but she didn't dare to get closer to him. She could only stay by his side quietly. At night, when Jasper was not home, she would lie in his bed, wear his shirt, and use his cologne, but he never found out about that. "She loved him very much. She was willing to humble herself for him. I felt sorry for her." Even Landon sympathized with poor Alyssa, who had given her heart to Jasper. A farewell wasn't the most painful thing in love-an unrequited love hurt the most. Lauren began, "That night, I saw Alyssa entering Jasper's bedroom. He came home drunk, and his face was red like he had a fever." Landon seemed to recall the events of the day as well. It was Anne's death anniversary. Landon had hosted a dinner event for Jasper with a few friends to cheer Jasper up. It was a night of chaos. Jasper had too much to drink and blacked out. When Landon sent him home to Seaview Manor, it was the butler who helped Jasper into the house. Landon had no idea what happened next. He asked, "What happened after?"

"After that, Jasper went to his bedroom. None of them left the room that night. I was worried and curious, so I opened the door, and I heard them ..." Lauren pressed her lips as her cheeks burned in shame. She was too bashful to describe the scene. Meanwhile, Landon was too shocked to speak. Did that mean Jasper and Alyssa had had sex wh were married? Did that dimwit Jasper sleep with Alyssa without knowing it because he was too drunk? Landon thought, "Wow, he's really a fucking jerk who dumps a woman after sleeping with her!" He asked Lauren, "Have you not told Jasper what you saw?" "How could I possibly go about it? Alyssa clearly wanted to keep it a secret as well." "And how would you know what Alyssa wanted? If you told Jasper he had slept with Alyssa, he might have treated her better," Landon sounded a little cross and harsh as he was anxious. Lauren's shoulders drooped. A look of fear flashed across her eyes.

Landon noticed the change in her eyes. He hugged her while patting her back, coaxing her, "Sorry. It's my fault. I shouldn't have said that to you. I was a little anxious because I just wanted them to be together again."

"At that time, Alyssa was an insignificant existence to Jasper. She knew Jasper disliked her, even hating her. She was worried that Jasper might think she had taken advantage of him," Lauren said.

Tearing up, she explained, "That's why I wanted to keep it a secret for Alyssa. Landon, did I do wrong?"

"No, Lauren. You didn't do anything wrong. You were considerate toward Lyse," Landon replied while kissing her on the ear.

Then, he remarked with resentment, "It's all Jasper's fault! How ridiculous of him to have slept with Lyse and not know it!"

"What can I do? I wish to see them together again," Lauren lamented.

"They will get back together one day," Landon reassured her with a sigh despite his doubts. "I believe Lyse still has a place for Jasper in her heart. One day, they will be together again."

Chapter 878

Alyssa was admitted to a VIP room at Taylor General Hospital. Connected to an IV, she felt utterly drained but far from drowsy.

Jonah sat beside her, carefully tending to the wound on her ankle while resting her leg on his knee. Alyssa, finally sensing the pain, frowned in silence.

Jonah inquired, "Lyse, you weren't at your place in Solana City last night. You didn't come home to Belbanks either. Where did you go?"

His hand trembled slightly as he spoke. Detecting her silence, he pondered, "Were you with Jasper?"

Jonah always approached the topic of Jasper cautiously, knowing it was a sensitive spot for Alyssa. He added, "Julien mentioned you brought him to meet Jasper, but it didn't go well. He also mentioned you received a call and left. Did you meet Jasper afterward?"

Alyssa finally cast him a hollow glance and croaked, "Jonah, I hate myself. I feel so shameless..."

"Silly thing. What are you talking about? You should have self-esteem," Jonah replied, his heart bleeding for Alyssa. "Anyone who says anything of that kind to my sister will face the consequences."

He would forsake any religious faith and teachings for his family. All he desired was for Alyssa to lead a happy and healthy life forever.

Alyssa sobbed in Jonah's arms. She was puzzled by her strong reaction when she saw the photo of Liana

and Jasper. Her soul felt shattered.

At that moment, a nurse entered and announced, "Mr. Jonah, it's time to change the dressing on her

wound."

"Okay," Jonah replied, releasing Alyssa's arms and stepping back.

The nurse removed Alyssa's loose patient robe, revealing a silver silk nightdress underneath. Alyssa

looked pale and fragile in her petite frame.

Despite having helped Alyssa change her clothes and put her to bed when they were kids, Jonah had to

keep his boundaries because Alyssa was a grown woman now.

As he was about to leave the room, he noticed multiple hickeys down Alyssa's neck and c

the corner of his eyes. The marks extended to her chest.

Jonah froze and swallowed hard. Then, he gripped Alyssa's shoulders, nearly digging his
skin.
The nurse was shocked by Jonah's grave expression. Sensing a storm, she wisely decided to leave him alone with Alyssa.
Jonah demanded to know, "Lyse, did Jasper sleep with you? The two of you spent the night together, is that right?"
Alyssa cast a dull stare at him and moved her dry lips. It was a silent admission.
"Did he force himself on you?" Jonah squeezed the words out of his lips.
"No. I consented," replied Alyssa.
Jonah felt as though his world had crumbled.
Jonah exited the room with a somber and intimidating expression.
Meanwhile, Silas and Cyrus, who worked in Solana City, and Tatiana, who was in school, hurried to the hospital. Even Axel rushed over.
Chapter 879
The Taylor siblings were all present out of concern for Alyssa. Liam was the only one absent, being in the military.
"Jonah, why did Lyse have an accident out of the blue?" Tatiana gasped, tears brimming in her eyes.

Feeling bad, Sean wanted to hug Tatiana, but he knew his place as a secretary. It would be inappropriate to do so in front of the other Taylor siblings.

He brushed away his thoughts, but his passionate gaze lingered on Tatiana.

Perhaps a man of his standing was only good enough to stand guard for Tatiana.

"Right, Jonah. Lyse is an excellent driver. Her skills are as good as mine. There's no reason she'd ram into someone's car. By right, she would have been the one who speeds on the roads," Axel said in confusion.

On Axel's way to the hospital, he was gravely concerned by Alyssa's condition, which was rare for someone who had never flinched at the gunpoint of criminals on his missions.

Huddled in the corridor, Silas and Cyrus cast worried glances at Jonah. The air was somber and heavy.

Jonah, looking frosty, clenched his jaw and sank into a long silence.

Silas elbowed him. "Jonah? Say something."

"It was a minor accident. Lyse suffered from some minor injuries, and she was in shock," Jonah finally replied after pulling himself out of anger.

He added flatly, "I'll need you all to take turns looking after Lyse for the next two days. Don't inform Dad and our moms yet. They're with Lyla. I believe Lyse wouldn't want to burden them further. They are now keeping Lyla company. Lyse wouldn't want to add to their worries as well."

"Jonah, you make us sound like outsiders! Lyse is our sister. We will stay back and take care of her even without you telling us!" Axel grumbled indignantly with a frown.

"That's right, Jonah. Lyse is our top priority," Silas and Cyrus chimed in.

After exchanging glances with Sean and coming to a tacit agreement, Tatiana proposed, "Silas, Cyrus, you are both working. Since I'm free, I will take turns looking after Lyse with Sean. Please go home and rest."

"I'm fine, though. I took leave with the police department," Cyrus immediately rejected he

He let out a guilty sigh. "As Lyse's brother, I have never done anything for her. I can't call my brother if I don't stay by her side when she needs someone."

The Taylor siblings were never as calculative and greedy as the children of other distinguished families. Their unity and strong bond were envied by many.

"Jonah, did you arrange for us to take over because you have something else to do?" Silas questioned

with his sharp instincts as a prosecutor.

He sensed that Jonah was acting weird and suppressing rage.

Jonah admitted, "Yes, I need to attend to something."

Then, he looked at the door and hesitated before entering. The nurse had changed Alyssa's dressing, and Alyssa put on the oversized patient robe. She was now resting on the bed with her eyes closed. He had no idea if she was asleep or not.

He quietly approached her and bent over to give her a kiss on the forehead. He mumbled, "Rest well, my princess. I'll be back to visit you again."

Without opening her eyes, she weakly muttered, "Jonah, I'm fine. Don't worry about me."

Her reassurance only deepened Jonah's pain. Tears welled up in his eyes, and he fought against them.

Jonah, wearing a grim expression, headed to the underground parking garage. At his car, he heard Julien's voice behind him. "Jonah!"
Jonah paused, took a deep breath, then slowly turned to face Julien in the dim lighting.
Chapter 880
Despite the dim environment, Julien noticed the anger and tears in Jonah's eyes. It was a shock to him.
Jonah was oblivious to his allure at that moment. Julien was deeply attracted to the pain and vulnerability
underneath Jonah's tough exterior.
Jonah collected himself and fixed his gaze on Julien. "What's the matter?"
Squinting, Julien approached Jonah slowly. Their eyes met, and their breaths intermingled.
Suddenly, Julien reached out and gently caressed the corner of Jonah's eye. Jonah's heart raced, and his
breathing grew heavy.
"I know you feel bad for your sister. I understand your feeling," Julien whispered into Jonah's ear. "But promise me, don't do anything rash. You wouldn't want to worry your princess, right? I'll be worried about
you, too."
Jonah's ears turned red. Some unknown emotions stirred within.

after taking his meds. If he's not doing well, I'll secretly get him to the hospital."

"It's fine, Mr. Landon. The other doctors cannot be of help to Mr. Beckett if even Dr. White is stumped by his condition." Xavier turned to look at Jasper with a heavy heart, musing, "Sometimes, I wonder if there's

a need to take the medicine."

"Why so?"

"The side effects are severe. The medicine will cure Mr. Beckett's tremors, but he will vomit frequently and feel drowsy. It feels like just another form of suffering. I'm worried that he'll be a mess if he keeps taking the medicine."

Hearing that, Landon went speechless in disbelief.

"Mr. Beckett has sacrificed a lot for Ms. Alyssa. She's the reason he's suffering today. Why can't she give him a chance?" Xavier blurted out without thinking.

"Xavier, don't say that," Landon warned and, after a pause, sighed. "Lyse has never done anything wrong to Jasper. It seems like Jasper is going through a tough time now. Just think of it as making up for his mistake."