

CAN'T WIN ME BACK

Chapter 2301



At this very moment, an angel and a devil were locked in a heated debate in Alyssa's mind.

"Alyssa, did you see what that jerk did? He's just a fickle-minded asshole who hasn't changed his ways. Just give up on him soonest. Don't stoop so low!"

"Lyse, you must not give up on him! Jasper only changed because of his brain injury. It's not that he wants to ignore you. Don't let your mind wander!"

"Heck, stop making excuses for this asshole's behavior. Even if he doesn't love Lyse anymore, he still has memories from when they were deeply in love, right? But he's pushing all those memories aside, spending his time with another woman instead. He's heartless!"

"That's not a valid argument. Are they not allowed to break up just because they once had something? And memories? Memories don't hold any real weight!"

Memories didn't carry any weight.

It was a frigid day. Alyssa suddenly came to a halt, letting the icy wind whip against her frail body and dry the tears from her eyes.

All the other voices faded away, leaving that one sentence echoing in her mind.

That was right. To Jasper, Alyssa was now just a memory-someone from his past. He had already moved on while she remained frozen in place, sinking deeper into her misery.

Lost in thought, she faintly heard someone call her name. But her mind was blank, and her body felt frozen in place, unable to move.

"Lyse, watch out!"

It was Justin's voice, breaking through her fog of sorrow.

When she snapped back to reality, a truck was speeding toward her, its driver blaring the horn in panic.

"The brake has malfunctioned! Move aside!" The driver stuck his head out of the truck's window and shouted at Alyssa.

Alyssa's chest tightened, but her legs felt like they were cemented to the ground. Panic surged through her as she realized she couldn't move in time.

In that critical moment, Jasper appeared, his heart sinking as he saw Alyssa in danger. Without hesitation, he ran toward her. But he was too far. No matter how fast he moved, it was too late.

Suddenly, a figure flashed past him, leaping toward Alyssa.

In an instant, just as the truck reached her, the man wrapped his arms around her, shielding her from the impact as they tumbled onto the snow-covered ground.

The truck finally veered off and crashed into a nearby wall with a sickening screech, its hood crumpling on impact. A faint bitter medicinal scent filled the air as Alyssa trembled from head to toe.

Slowly, she opened her eyes, and her gaze met Justin's. His deep-set eyes were filled with worry, and cold sweat dotted his forehead.

"Ms. Alyssa, are you alright?" Justin heaved as he asked in a deep voice.

Alyssa stared at him in shock. Then, she looked toward the wheelchair that had fallen to the ground not too far away. Her heart was filled with a plethora of emotions.

"I'm fine."

As she responded to him, she placed her cold, reddened hands on the ground to push herself up. But suddenly, a

sharp pain shot through her previously injured left leg, leaving her unable to put any weight on it.

"I'll take you to the hospital."

Looking pale, Justin picked her up in a princess carry and hobbled out of the courtyard.

"Justin, put me down! I can walk, Alyssa protested. She struggled in his arms, but he was carrying her firmly, not showing any intention of letting her go.

"Ms. Alyssa, you never have to pretend to be strong when you're before me."


Justin lowered his head and gazed at her deeply. It was obvious that he struggled with taking each step, but he still tried his best to appear relaxed.

"You don't have to worry about me either. I still have this little bit of strength to carry you."

Alyssa's eyes widened, shimmering with emotion.

Meanwhile, Jasper watched them from behind, his lips slightly parted as his heart pounded heavily.





Justin gently laid Alyssa down on the back seat of his car.

Moments later, Sean came running, out of breath. "Ms. Alyssa, are you alright?"

Alyssa forced a smile despite her conflicting emotions. "Don't worry, I'm fine."

Justin, not allowing Alyssa to downplay the situation, spoke up matter-of-factly, "She was almost hit by a truck. She fell on the same leg she had injured in the previous car accident. I'm taking her to the hospital to make sure she didn't aggravate the old injury."

"How did that happen? Guilt washed over Sean. "Ms. Alyssa, it was my bad. I failed to protect you!"

Alyssa shook her head. "It's not your fault, Sean. Everything happened so fast."

Turning to Justin, she said, "Thank you for saving me, Justin, but I don't want to trouble you. My secretary can take me to the hospital."

Before Justin could respond, his expression suddenly changed. He grabbed the car door for support as his body swayed.

Alyssa and Sean were both staggered.

"Mr. Justin!"

At that moment, Sheryl rushed over, quickly supporting Justin. Without hesitation, she slipped two pills into his mouth.

Justin swallowed the pills, his face gradually regaining color, though his breathing remained uneven.

"Mr. Justin, you've overexerted yourself!" Sheryl said, her voice trembling as she patted his back gently, her eyes brimming with tears. "I heard you ran to save Ms. Alyssa. You know your body can't handle this strain. You'll hurt yourself!"

Justin did his best to steady his breathing. He peered over at Alyssa. "No worries... Look, I'm fine, aren't I? I'll just have to take my medications, and I'll be fine."

Sheryl choked, "What do you mean you're fine? Others might not know how you got to where you are today, but I've cared for you for such a long time. Wouldn't I know better?"

Staring at Justin's visibly pained face, Alyssa whispered through trembling lips, "Justin, thank you once again for saving me."

Justin smiled. "All's good as long as you're safe."

"I'll just have my secretary take me to the hospital. You should go back and have a good rest. Alyssa refused to let him take her to the hospital but still politely said, "Nevertheless, I owe you for this. I'll make sure to repay you."

Justin's gaze softened, his eyelashes fluttering slightly. "If you want to repay me, allow me to visit you at the hospital.

Alyssa pursed her lips out of awkwardness.

He had saved her after all. She didn't have any reason to refuse. She could only consent to his request.

Alyssa and Sean finally left the orphanage.

Justin sank back into his wheelchair. With Sheryl pushing his wheelchair, they headed indoors.

"Mr. Justin, you shouldn't risk your physical health no matter what." Sheryl still hadn't gotten over the scare earlier. "Without your health, nothing else matters!"

Just then, Amber was leading a group of lively children their way. One boy, full of energy, accidentally bumped into Justin's wheelchair.

"Where did this brat come from? He didn't even watch where he was going!"

Sheryl's furious glare and stern expression stunned the boy, leaving him frozen in place.

Amber hurried over, pulling the boy behind her. "I'm terribly sorry," she apologized politely.

Justin, resting his hands on the armrests, met Amber's eyes with a calm expression. "It's alright. I like energetic, active children."

Amber froze, her pupils constricting. That voice... it was deep, steady, and so familiar.

Her heart raced, and her hands curled into fists as realization struck her. Wasn't this the voice of the 'Sir' whom Jameson idolized?

Chapter 2303



Although Amber had accompanied Jameson to Mosgravia on several occasions to visit "Sir", she had never actually laid eyes on him.

The only time she had caught a fleeting sound of his voice was by chance. It was brief but distinctly captivating, leaving a lasting impression on her.

"Miss, Miss... You're hurting me," the boy mumbled, lifting his head weakly and drawing Amber's attention back to the moment.

Amber realized that she had zoned out. Anxiously, she led the children away from Justin.

"It's that woman again."

With a condescending expression on Sheryl's face, she continued, "She's really strange. She gets so hostile whenever she sees me."

Justin narrowed his eyes slightly as he turned toward where Amber went. "You've met her before?"

Sheryl scoffed, "I only happened to see her when Jasper and I got here. Seeing Jasper chatting with a woman he didn't know surprised me. Ha! Could it be that those three pills he took awakened the playboy within him?"

"Oh? What did Jasper talk to her about?"

"He asked that woman if they've ever met."

Justin looked away calmly. In a low voice, he muttered, "Go look into that woman's background."

Sheryl frowned, feeling perplexed. "She's just a regular volunteer. Would that be necessary?"

"No one knows my brother better than I do."

Justin curled the corners of his lips upward. He said in a slightly heavy tone, "There aren't many women in this world whom he'd give his attention to on his own accord."

Later that night, Jasper only stayed at the charity dinner for half its duration. Just before the main event-the donation segment-he left, his mood dark.

He sped aimlessly into the night alone.

After quite a while, he hit the brakes without warning. After some hesitation, he took out his phone and dialed a number.

After a few rings, Sean answered, irritation clear in his voice. "Mr. Beckett, what's with this late night call?" Jasper gripped tensely onto the steering wheel, the tightness of his knuckles revealing the strength of his hand.

He pressed his lips together. His throat felt dry and hoarse, so much so that he couldn't bring himself to say anything even after a long time.

Sean lost his patience. "I'm hanging up if you have nothing to say."

"Is Ms. Alyssa at home?" Jasper asked in an extremely hoarse voice, as if he had just swallowed some ice.

"She's at the hospital," Sean answered in a pained voice. "It hasn't been many days since she recovered from her leg injury after the accident, and she's injured it again. She might even need a cast."

"Which hospital is she at? I want to go-

Jasper had just started speaking when Sean finally blew his top. "Jasper, do you know why Ms. Alyssa almost got into that car accident?"

"She has always been a cautious person. She would never make such a careless mistake. It was all because of you that she would lose her focus and be in a state of discomposure!"

Jasper closed his eyes briefly.

In the darkness of the night, his face became as white as a sheet.

"Even if you don't want to be with her anymore, there's no need to go parading your new lover around and rubbing it in Ms. Alyssa's face, do you?"

"Did you lose your memory, or did you actually become dumb? Don't you freaking remember how Ms. Alyssa used to treat you and how much she loved you?"

Jasper frowned. In a deep voice, he clarified, 'I'm not seeing anyone new.'

Sean scoffed, "You don't have a new lover? You must have lost your fucking heart then!"

Jasper pressed his tongue to the roof of his mouth, swallowing hard.

"Ms. Alyssa is at the hospital under KS Group. She's in room number A006!"

Sean terminated the call after saying that.

Jasper's lashes quivered slightly. He repeatedly uttered the hospital room number to himself as he slammed the pedal down and sped into the night.

Chapter 2304



A black Maybach was parked at the back entrance of the orphanage, its lights off and engine idling.

Soon, a figure emerged from the back door, hurriedly approaching and entering the car.

"Sorry for keeping you waiting, Ms. Gillis," the woman apologized respectfully.

Sheryl sat in the car with an air of arrogance, and her legs crossed in a relaxed manner. She handed a brown envelope to the woman.

"Good work this morning," Sheryl remarked.

The woman took the envelope from Sheryl and had a feel of its thickness. She smiled from ear to ear. "All that needed to be done was to cut a brake cable. It was no trouble at all."

Sheryl couldn't be bothered to even glance at the woman she deemed inferior. Her expression remained cold as she spoke. "By the way, have you looked into all the volunteers and the teachers at the orphanage like I asked?" "I have," the woman replied confidently. "I've been here for about a decade. It was a breeze." She pulled out a stack of documents from her bag and handed them over to Sheryl with both hands.

Taking the papers, Sheryl began to peruse them, her eyes narrowing as she scanned the details.

Suddenly, her eyes widened. She pulled out a document with a photograph of a striking woman-Amber Altman, the woman Jameson had groomed as Alyssa's substitute.

"This woman... is a volunteer at the orphanage?"

"Yes, Ms. Gillis. Ms. Altman has been volunteering at our orphanage for over two years. She also donates to the orphanage annually, so she's well-regarded here."

The woman noticed that Sheryl had become quite agitated. Puzzled, she asked, 'Ms. Gillis, are there... are there any issues with her?'

Sheryl lowered her voice. "Does she still volunteer here now?"

"She hasn't been around in a while. But that's not unusual. Volunteers aren't compensated for their work, so they can leave whenever they want. We can't force them to help out here.

"And it's rare to have someone like Ms. Altman volunteer as long as she did. Most people would have given up much earlier, given how exhausting it is."

Sheryl knitted her brows together. "There was a woman named Clara Whitaker who visited the orphanage today. Do you know who she is?"

"Clara Whitaker? I don't. I haven't even heard of that name. Maybe it was her first time here."

Sheryl fell into deep thought. The more she pondered, the more things didn't add up.

Clara's visit was new, yet Amber, who had been a frequent presence, had stopped coming for no apparent reason. And then, Jasper had approached Clara, asking if they'd met before. Despite being unfamiliar with her, he seemed to sense some connection.

A realization struck Sheryl, and her eyes darkened.

Meanwhile, a sports car glided into the underground parking lot of the hospital.

Jasper quickly exited the car and hurried toward room A006.

In the stillness of the late night, the echo of his hurried footsteps was all that could be heard, mirroring the heavy beating of his heart.

The image of Alyssa's near accident, saved only by Justin's quick intervention, replayed in his mind.

His older brother had clung tightly to the woman he once loved.

At that moment, he felt like his heart was being crushed mercilessly by an invisible and inexplicable force. The door to her ward suddenly swung open as he arrived, and Justin emerged in his wheelchair. Jasper stopped in his tracks, holding his breath.

In that bleak and empty corridor, the Beckett brothers confronted each other in a tense, wordless standoff.

Under the sterile white light, Jasper stood out like a striking sculpture. Justin, however, was shrouded in shadow, his sickly pallor the only hint of his

presence. But beneath his sickly exterior lurked a sinister secret-Justin was a monster or perhaps a demon.

In the end, it was Jasper who relented first. With firm, deliberate steps, he made his way toward Justin.

A faint but growing desire welled up inside Jasper. He wanted to see Alyssa.

Just as Jasper was about to enter the room, Justin smiled and opened his arms, halting his progress.

"Jasper, what brings you here at this hour?" Justin asked with a smile on his face.

Jasper swallowed hard, his voice hoarse. "Ms. Alyssa had an accident today. How is she?"

"Fortunately, she's only aggravated the old injury on her leg. She just needs to rest up."

In a low voice, Jasper said, "I'll go see her."

With a profound look in his eyes, Justin said, "Lyse has gone to bed."

Lyse...

Jasper had been the only one to call her by that pet name with such intimacy. Now, hearing another man say it, his vision suddenly blurred, and his heart sank.

An incomprehensible sliver of emotion welled up in his eyes.

"I'll just take a quick peek and leave after that," Jasper insisted, stepping past Justin. But just as he did, Justin grabbed his arm, stopping him cold.

"Jasper."

Jasper froze, his eyes meeting Justin's.

He could feel Justin's grip tightening. In a calm voice, he asked, "Justin, what are you doing?"

"I'm stopping you. Isn't it obvious enough?"

Jasper frowned. "But why?"

"Because I think the current you shouldn't yourself to Lyse." A slight smile came across Justin's face, even though the look in his eyes was grim and cold. "When she had her accident and needed someone the most, I was the one who stayed by her side.

"When she was in danger today, I was the one who saved her in the nick of time. These were times when she needed you the most, but you were nowhere to be found and completely detached.

"And now you're wanting to be a nuisance to her. Is it out of dissatisfaction, or are you seeking her attention?" Jasper's frown deepened, and his lips paled.

As far as he could remember, this was the first time Justin had ever uttered such harsh words to his face, and Jasper couldn't believe it was all because of Alyssa.

"Jasper, ever since you joined the Beckett family, everything has come easily to you-Grandpa's affection, Dad's support, even the role as the company's president. I never fought you for any of that. But Lyse? I'm serious about her. And I won't let you take what belongs to me."

Justin spoke those cutting words with subtle sarcasm, yet his smile remained as gentle as a spring breeze, as if there was no malice behind them at all.

He continued, "Moreover, she is no longer yours. You should make it a clean break since you wanted to break up with her. Or I'll really get mad."





Jasper remained silent. His hands balled into tight fists at his sides, trembling ever so lightly as a dark expression settled over his face.

After a moment of silence, Justin offered a casual smile, ignoring the tension on Jasper's face as he moved past him.

"Justin, I've always respected you since I was young." Jasper's voice broke the silence, hoarse and strained, with his back turned to Justin. "There are things I can compromise on, but some matters, I can't."

Justin, his back still facing Jasper, narrowed his eyes and asked, "Such as?"

"My need to see her now." A fierce determination lit Jasper's darkened eyes. "Justin, I won't deny your feelings for her. It's none of my business. But you have no right to stop me from seeing her either."

"If you and Ms. Alyssa are officially together, I'll never go near her again. You won't even need to say a word. I'll give you both my blessings and wish you a happy life together."

As Jasper said "happy life", his throat tightened, and a bitter taste of bile rose at the back of his mouth. Still, he continued, "But as long as she's not yours, we're equals in her eyes. You can see her, and so can I. If that bothers you, I'm sorry."

The darkness in Justin's eyes hid any trace of emotion on his face. In a cold, detached voice, he asked, "Jasper, do you still have feelings for her? You haven't let go, have you?"

A lump rose in Jasper's throat, and his gaze went blank.

"Jasper," Justin's voice grew deeper, marked by a few dry coughs. "We may not share the same mother, but ask yourself-how have I treated you since we were kids?"

"You've treated me very well," Jasper answered, his breath shallow.

Memories flooded his mind, moments of warmth shared with Justin, four years his senior, a brother who had always been like a father to him.

When Jasper first entered the Beckett family, his life seemed bleak, as he was met with disdain from many. Justin was the first to show him care, standing by him when the household staff mistreated him and offering him a sense of warmth.

Justin was also the one who had put his own life on the line to help Jasper escape that terrifying kidnapping incident. Otherwise, Jasper would have been the one sitting in the wheelchair today, unable to move freely.

"As you can see, I'll be bound to this wheelchair for the rest of my life. And the medications are the permanent part of it too, just to keep me going."

Panting slightly, Justin managed a bitter smile. "I know that I don't deserve Ms. Alyssa. But she's willing to spend time with me despite my broken body.

"Jasper, all humans have feelings. After being overseas and away from home on my own for so many years, I often feel lonely and lost. Oftentimes, I'd ask myself if my life is just going to drift away like this.

"I, too, crave the companionship of someone I love. I, too, want a normal life-to get married, start a family, and have a happy and fulfilling relationship."

Jasper was stunned. His older brother, once so detached from the world, longed for a family? And the woman he wanted to share that with was Alyssa.

Jasper's chest tightened. He recalled the earlier scene at the orphanage, where Alyssa and Justin had shared a smile in the snow-covered courtyard, their eyes filled with joy.

In contrast, every time Alyssa saw him, her eyes were either brimming with tears or clouded with sorrow. He had once been the man she loved. Now, he was only a source of her pain.

"If someone like Ms. Alyssa could be by my side, I'd have no regrets," Justin said, his voice filled with a humble plea. "Jasper, please give me a chance to get to know her better. Help me.

Jasper's entire body tensed, his jawline sharp as he struggled to suppress his emotions. He stood frozen, not even realizing when Justin left.

Not long after, the door to Alyssa's hospital room opened.

Sean stepped out, holding a thermal flask. He was taken aback when he saw Jasper standing rigidly in the hallway. Then his face fell as he mocked, "You got here fast this time."

Jasper's lashes quivered slightly. In a low voice, he said, "Mr. Lynch, I want to see her."

"Oh, really? Ms. Alyssa isn't some animal at the zoo you can just go look at."

With a roll of his eyes, Sean turned toward Alyssa's ward, muttering, "Wait here."



One minute later, Sean came back out of the room. His expression was conflicted as he looked at Jasper. "Ms. Alyssa doesn't want to see you. Please leave."

Jasper balled his hands into fists. "Why?"

Sean sniggered coldly. "Why? Maybe because she's finally woken up. She doesn't want to make the same mistake twice or lose her dignity by chasing after a man who gives her nothing but indifference."

Jasper's face paled, and he fell silent.

Sean's heart ached as he remembered all the suffering Alyssa had endured recently. His eyes welled with unshed tears.

Struggling to suppress his anger, Sean said, "Mr. Beckett, Ms. Alyssa is completely exhausted. Since she doesn't want to see you, please just leave. Don't bother her anymore."

In the study at Seaview Manor, Sheryl laid out all her findings for Justin without holding back.

"I have reason to believe that the woman named Clara Whitaker is actually Jameson's substitute for Alyssa- Amber Altman!"

Sheryl watched Justin, who was sitting behind the desk, working on a piece of calligraphy writing with his head down. He had a composed look in his eyes.

Through gritted teeth, she continued, "No wonder she was so hostile when she saw me today. If she's Amber, it all makes sense now."

"I'm not bothered by her rudeness," she added, "but I'm concerned that she might have caught on. Don't you think she seemed slightly panicked when she met you earlier?"

"She's finally freed herself from Jameson's control. After everything she's gone through, she's found a chance at a new beginning with Mr. Axel."

Justin's pen moved smoothly across the paper as he wrote 'Lyse' in elegant strokes. "Naturally, her first instinct would be to get rid of that face that had put her through so much pain. She doesn't want to live in someone else's shadow anymore.

Sheryl's eyes widened in surprise. "Are you saying that at one glance, you could already tell-

"I merely had my suspicions. That was why I tasked you to confirm them."

Sheryl was utterly impressed.

Justin was intelligent and sharp-witted. If he was perfectly healthy physically, Jasper wouldn't stand a chance against him.

"Mr. Justin, based on Amber's behavior today, I'm afraid she might already be onto us. After all, she's crossed paths with us a few times while working for Jameson.

"Even though she has never seen us before, she might have an inkling. It would be disastrous if Ms. Alyssa found out.'

Sheryl stepped closer, her eyes narrowing with a sinister gleam. "Should I send someone to handle Amber before she becomes a problem?"

"Sheryl, you're being hasty again," Justin said, placing his pen in the holder and shifting his papers aside. He picked up the sheet he'd written on, admiring the strokes. "She may be starting to have doubts, but she hasn't solidified anything yet. If you intervene now, wouldn't that only make it obvious that I'm the one behind Jameson?" "In that case, are you planning to just let it go?"

Sheryl frowned, feeling worried. "Amber is a survivor from Jameson's side. Now she's involved with Mr. Axel. If we don't nip this in its bud, it will come back to bite us!"

Sheryl was crude, straightforward, and cruel. She seemed to embody the saying that there was no worse evil than a bad woman.

"Even if we need to eliminate the problem at its source, we must be patient for now," Justin replied, his smile polite but his eyes holding a glint of something darker. "We need to wait for the right opportunity to deal with this while ensuring our own safety."

At 5:00 am, on a cold winter morning in Solana City, everything remained silent and pitch-black.

Alyssa tossed and turned restlessly on the hospital bed, unable to find any peace in her sleep. After what felt like an eternity, she slowly sat up and climbed out of bed, sluggishly slipping her slippers on.

She was still struggling with her injured leg, so she leaned against the wall as she made her way toward the door.

But when she pushed the door open and looked up, she froze in shock. There, sitting on a cold bench just outside, was Jasper. His eyes were closed, his posture rigid and unmoving.

The dim lighting cast long shadows, highlighting his solitude.

Alyssa's heart skipped a beat, and her breathing became uneven.

Jasper's bloodshot eyes slowly opened when he heard the noise. Their gazes met.

Chapter 2307



The moment Alyssa's eyes met Jasper's, her heart skipped a beat. Her thoughts tangled in a whirlwind, like a ball of yarn unraveled in haste.

How long had he been waiting there?

Had he been here all night?

She couldn't tear her gaze away from his captivating, reddened eyes. Tears threatened to spill, and her heart ached.

And just then, she was reminded of the scene at the orphanage the day before-how Jasper had held Sheryl tightly in his arms under that tree.

Alyssa's frail body trembled. She shifted her gaze away from his face, feeling a tightness in her throat.

In this life, she had faced some incredibly trying times.

During her time with Doctors Without Borders, she endured some of her harshest moments-starvation, freezing cold, and over ten days without a shower. Yet, even in those circumstances, she never felt completely defeated. But now, in front of Jasper, she was on the verge of breaking down.

Just as she was about to shut the door, Jasper shot to his feet and charged forward.

Alyssa nearly slammed the door shut on his hand as he slipped it through the gap and grabbed the doorframe.

"What... What are you doing?" Alyssa's eyes remained fixed downward, unable to meet his gaze. But she could still feel the weight of his intense, unyielding stare.Owned by .

Jasper lowered his head, his breath warm as it brushed against her reddened nose. His chest rose and fell with each deep inhale. "I've been waiting for you."

"Why were you waiting for me, Mr. Beckett? I already told my secretary I don't want to see you."

Alyssa turned her pale face away. With a slight tremor in her voice, she added, "Please leave. I'm exhausted. I'm going back to bed-

"Why are you up so early if you're tired?"

Jasper gazed at Alyssa's supple face. In a deep voice, he stated, "I remember that you've never been one to sleep in. You were always up early-whether to row or to work out."

"It's not like my energy is limitless. I have times when I just want to be lazy." Alyssa shrugged, the corners of her lips curling into a bitter smile. "There was only time I'd ever sleep in. But whatever... Who cares about such a trivial thing? It's all in the past now. It doesn't matter to me anymore."

Jasper's eyes dimmed.

He thought back to when they lived together. They had been inseparable-especially in the mornings after nights spent together. Alyssa would often linger in bed like a sleepy kitten, unwilling to leave due to the lack of sleep.

He wore her down too much by doing it over and over again. He was too captivated by her.

There was not a single night when he would stop at just once. Each time, he would empty himself, fill her up, and eat her out. He would only be done when she tearfully begged him to stop as she left scratches on his back. "Does your injury still hurt?" Jasper queried in a raspy voice. He had an incomprehensible look in his eyes. "It's none of your business. All my matters are none of your business from now on."

Alyssa was well aware that most men wouldn't be able to resist when women showed them their weaker side. However, yesterday's situation was too massive a blow for her.

It really broke her heart. At this moment, she truly didn't want to face him. As such, she mustered up her strength

to close the door. "Mr. Beckett, since you already have someone new, do not come and bother me again. Please leave. Goodbye.

However, Jasper was much stronger than her. She could not close the door, no matter how hard she tried.

"If I don't have someone new, can I stay?" Jasper stared straight at Alyssa.

He was always as calm as a millpond, but at this very moment, his voice sounded a tad desperate.

Alyssa didn't believe his words. All she trusted was what she saw with her own eyes.

Yesterday's incident was the straw that broke the camel's back for all the pain that she had been suppressing for days. She was completely disheartened. It made her wonder if she should just resign herself to fate and allow everything to end like this.

So, was God being fair?

In the beginning, she had been the one who had fought so hard to be with him. She had thought they would end up together after all they'd been through. But now it seemed that fate had decided otherwise. No matter how much she loved him, she was still losing him.

"Jasper... We've already ended things."

Alyssa finally looked into Jasper's eyes. She took a deep breath, suppressing the sorrow that was about to burst through her lungs.

She choked, "You're not thinking about how I feel at all! You're refusing to leave even though I've told you to. What the hell do you want? Don't you know that you're really being a bother?"

Jasper's grip tightened around the side of the door. He disregarded her rant and maintained a firm tone. "I just wanted to see you."

"In that case, who are you here as?"

Chapter 2308



Tears welled up in Alyssa's eyes as she wrinkled her nose slightly and pushed her luck. "A friend? Lover? Ex-lover? Or... someone who's unable to move on?"

Jasper's eyes were as dark as the night sky. "I don't know."

Alyssa stared at the cold, emotionless man before her, overwhelmed with helplessness. No words could describe the disappointment she felt.

"You've seen me now. You may leave."

To her surprise, in the next second, Jasper shoved the door open without warning. As he had exerted too much force, Alyssa stumbled and let out a small gasp as she fell backward.

In an instant, Jasper lunged forward, wrapping a muscular arm around her waist and pulling her close. Their bodies pressed together, so close she could feel his warmth, their breaths mingling in the space between them. Jasper could even see, with much clarity, those tiny pores on Alyssa's supple skin.

"L-Let go of me..." Alyssa's heart raced as she squirmed in his grip.

Jasper's grip on her waist was unrelenting, and each time she tried to wriggle free, it only seemed to heighten the flirtatious tension between them.

"You said you were exhausted. But you seem to have plenty of energy now."

His breathing deepened, and without another word, he scooped her up into a princess carry and strode into the hospital ward.

"You hurt your leg, so don't move around unless you intend to extend your stay here.'

Alyssa welled up silently. She curled up meekly in his arms.

Even though Jasper was taking only a few steps, Alyssa wished he could just hold her like this forever.

Jasper gently set her down, but as soon as she left his arms, his muscles tensed, and a wave of unexplainable sorrow swept over him. His chest tightened in discomfort.

Under the light, something caught his eye. His gaze landed on two gray strands nestled in Alyssa's otherwise dark hair. Those two strands stood out like a sore thumb.

"Ouch!" Alyssa yelped, rubbing her temple and glaring at him as Jasper plucked a strand of gray hair. "You're graying," he said seriously.

Alyssa froze. Her eyes brimmed with tears again. Memories flooded back-when they lived together, she'd often sit behind him in his study, plucking out his stray gray hairs.

"Woah... Jasper, you're done for. You're getting old! I just took these out last week, and now there are more!"

Jasper would chuckle, looking up from his work. "I know how much you love playing with my hair, so I grew a few more to keep you entertained."

"I heard that when men have white hair, it's a sign of decreased libido..."

"Oh? Is that so?" Jasper would then pull her onto his lap, his warm hands roaming, reigniting the spark between them. "I'm sure my darling knows my libido best."

Alyssa blinked away her tears, her heart aching as she slapped his hand away. The gray hair floated to the ground as she cried, "I hate you, Jasper. I hate you so much!"

Jasper frowned. "But why?"

"Don't you know that gray hair shouldn't be plucked? I'll end up growing more of it!" Alyssa's face flushed red. Frustrated, she clenched her fists. "I'm only 26. It's bad enough that I'm stressed to the point of getting gray hairs

-I don't want to age like you!"

Jasper's eyes darkened as he took in Alyssa's teary gaze, her flushed cheeks, and her adorable outburst. For a moment, his mind went blank, and his breathing grew unsteady.

Then, without hesitation, he leaned in, bracing his arm against the wall beside her head, and kissed her deeply. He couldn't help himself.

Chapter 2309



The moment Jasper's lips touched Alyssa's, an overwhelming wave of emotions surged through his chest and rushed to his head. He pinned Alyssa's supple body to the bed, kissing her clumsily and forcefully. Her eyes shimmered with tears.

At first, she struggled slightly, gasping for air. But soon, she surrendered to the kiss she had longed for, lifting her hips and grabbing onto Jasper's shirt as she kissed him back.

Their breaths intertwined, creating a beautiful harmony.

Jasper's gaze deepened as he looked into her moist eyes and at her delicate nose, which, at its tip, was flushed a rosy pink.

That night, they lingered in a breathless kiss.

Suddenly, the sound of a ringing phone pierced the moment. Jasper's and Alyssa's eyes flew open as though jolted awake from a dream. At the same time, an immense pain shot through Jasper's head and spread throughout his body.

He pulled away from the kiss and dashed out of the hospital ward without looking back.

Alyssa trembled as she knelt on the bed. She reached out for Jasper but grasped only cold, empty air. She pursed her lips, red and moist from the kiss.

She picked up her ringing phone from the bedside table, forcing herself to suppress the pain in her heart.

"Amber, is everything okay? Why are you calling at this hour?" Alyssa asked in a concerned voice while she steadied her breathing.

In a low voice, Amber said, "Lyse, I'm sorry... Did I wake you?"

Alyssa wiped away the tears from her eyes and forced herself to sound calm. "No worries, I was already up. You can tell me what's on your mind." Please check at

"Lyse, are you... are you now very close with Mr. Justin Beckett?" Amber asked abruptly, her voice tinged with anxiety.

Alyssa straightened up. "We're not particularly close. It was just because he saved me previously that we've been having a few more interactions recently. Why do you ask?"

"I don't know how to explain it... My mind is in a mess right now." Amber took a deep breath before continuing, her voice trembling slightly. "Yesterday, I was volunteering at the orphanage and ran into Mr. Justin. As I walked past him, I heard his voice..."

"It sounded just like the 'Sir' who manipulated Jameson from behind the scenes."

Alyssa's eyes widened, the lingering tension from earlier evaporating as the air around her turned cold. "Amber, are you sure about this?"

"I can't be 100% sure. After all, there are many people with similar voices. But when I accompanied Jameson to Mosgravia to meet Sir, I overheard a part of their conversation. Sir's voice was unforgettable, captivating even." Amber's voice grew shaky. "I also heard that Mr. Justin has been recuperating in Mosgravia. Could it just be a coincidence? If Mr. Justin is Sir, then his intentions for approaching you... Lyse, you might be in danger!"

Alyssa tightened her grip on her phone. She looked out the window and at the sky, which was starting to brighten. "Sir" had been in Mosgravia, and so was Justin. Moreover, Justin had returned just after Jameson's downfall despite having kept a low profile for years.

Why was that?

Was it solely because he missed home and had almost nursed himself back to health?

But this idea itself was absurd!

Perhaps he felt ready and strong enough and decided it was time to return to the Beckett family to reclaim everything that was rightfully his.

Or perhaps, with Jameson gone, Justin no longer had anyone left to manipulate. So, he could only return to handle matters personally.

Chapter 2310



"Amber, thank you for sharing such crucial information with me. If Justin is this so-called Sir, I have even more reason not to distance myself from him.

"On the contrary, I should go with the flow and get closer to him. It's the only way to expose his true colors and uncover his schemes."

"No, don't!" Amber's unease was palpable. "Sir is extremely dangerous. After years of following him, even Jameson has only seen 10% of his capabilities. There could be someone even more powerful backing him from the shadows.

"And with Mr. Jasper in his current state, he won't be able to protect you like he used to. If Justin sets his sights on you, wouldn't it make it harder for you and Mr. Jasper to repair your relationship?"

Upon hearing that, Alyssa held her breath. Agony surged like waves in her heart.

"Lyse, I know you're a righteous person. You're a heroine among us women, better than many men. But you're not invincible. There are challenges you can't face alone, and you need protection too!

"I'm just a simple person-I don't fight for justice or grand ideals. I just want the people I love, and my friends, to be happy and well. That's all. Lyse, sometimes people need to be a little selfish."

"I used to protect only myself. Now, I've simply returned to that. All I did was let go of someone who wasn't mine. There's nothing to fear. I'll get used to it."

As Alyssa spoke words she didn't believe, she tilted her head back slightly to keep the tears from falling. She continued, "And if Justin is Sir, it's actually a good thing Jasper is keeping his distance. I don't want him to fall into danger because of me again."

Amber's heart ached as she let out a sigh of helplessness.

All of a sudden, Alyssa realized something, and her chest tightened. "Ambs, from now on, stay put in Belbanks. Don't show yourself in Solana City unless necessary. I'll have Axel ensure your safety.

"If Justin is Sir, it means you identified him. If that's the case, he might recognize you too. He could be waiting for the right moment to strike."

"Sir only saw me before I had my old face restored, and it was a brief encounter. He probably wouldn't recognize me."

Alyssa's eyes blazed with urgency. "Still, be cautious. Better safe than sorry!"

Jasper rushed to the parking lot as fast as he could. Once in the car, a cold sweat broke out over his body, and a splitting headache tore through him.

Trembling, he leaned forward and slammed his forehead against the steering wheel repeatedly, but the pain wouldn't subside.Owned by .

He had fled from Alyssa earlier because he could barely hold himself together. He feared that if he stayed any longer, he'd lose control and turn into a monster before her eyes.

Just then, his phone vibrated in his clammy hand. It was Xavier calling.

Jasper gasped for breath, his vision blurred, unable to see clearly.

Was it because of Alyssa? Or was it because of that kiss?

The pain inside him was excruciating.

Finally, he couldn't bear it any longer. With trembling hands, he reached into his suit pocket and pulled out a bag of blue pills.

These were the pills Sheryl had given him during her visit to his office. He'd thrown them into the trash before Xavier but had secretly kept a bag of them without him noticing.

The overwhelming pain had shattered his willpower. He closed his eyes tightly and swallowed all the pills.

Moments later, his mind cleared, his headache eased, and the chills faded. Mentally, he felt even sharper than before.

With that, he had just made his first deal with the devil.