## Can't Win Me Back Novel Online Free Chapter 311

Chapter 311

After returning from a management meeting, Jasper rested on the leather chair in the Beckett Group president's office, visibly exhausted.

News of his breakup with Liana must have spread within the company. Nonetheless, not one employee in the building dared to gossip about him les t they got into trouble.

As the vice chair of the board of directors, Jasper was de facto yielding the most power in the company. Somehow, that did not bring him any happiness at all.

"I'm surprised that Sophia was able to payoff the Gardners' debts. It looks like she has siphoned quite a lot of money. This is the perfect time to pay it all back."Xavier gloated at Sophia's misfortune.

"Henry was her tool to co llect wealth, buthe's in jail now. The fact that she could afford to pay the tens of millions in debt

goes to show that she has other channels of getting the money." Jasper's halfopened eyes gleamed dangerously.

"Could she have made money ... from thatluxury store, EV Concepts?" Xavier widened his eyes in disbelief."It's just an ordinary store selling luxury bags and clothes. Even if their sales are off the roof, it's impossible to make that much in profits!"

"You're still na ive after all these years offollowing me around." Frowning, Jasper launched a paper plane that landed right on Xavier's chest.

"The EV Concepts store is the front of anextensive web of connections that Sophia built over a few years. She might be selling luxury items on the surface, but she is secretly dealing with the exchange of titles, power, and even darker illegal shit."

Xavier shuddered at the thought."We've underestimated that witch!"

"No,I haven't. I don't take my enemieslightly." Jasper pinched his nose bridge and sneered. "But it's not time to get rid of Sophia yet.

"She is well-connected in the city and isprotected by Javier. We don't have evidence to drag her down, and it's not the right time. Play with fire, and she'll get burned. Time is on our side."

Xavier nodded with resentment."Right! Sooner or later, we'll make that witch a sacrifice!"

"How's things going for Ada Kingsley'swedding?" Jasper shifted the topic suddenly.

"Our team has amended the weddingplanning proposal. We're ready to meet with her team at any time."

Xavier paused and prodded tentatively,"On that matter ... I thought you wanted to make it up to Madam. This would be a great chance to do so.

"Why don't you give up Ada Kingsley'swedding to KS World?I believe Madam will be ..."

"Why should I?" Jasper glared at himcoldly."I'm indebted to Alyssa, not KS. Why would I give the opportunity to Taylor Group?"

Xavier stood dumbfounded. He was bewildered by Jasper's rationale.

"She once said I must give my best in anybusiness competition against her. I would offend her if I threw the game now."

Glancing down, Jasper added, "Let's go with what we planned. I will not break my principles for anyone or anything. I'm not Jameson Schmidt."

Xavier blinked in confusion. Why did Jasper sound a little begrudging there?

Jasper's phone vibrated on the table from Landon's incoming call.

"What's the matter?" Jasper spoke with a

deadpan look.

"Jasper,I got my hands on two VIP ticketsfor Christina Hammond's concert! She's that famous pianist, you know. Let's go together!"Landon was excited. "You, at a concert? Do you even appreciatepiano music?" Jasper did not hold back at all.

"Tsk, of course I do."Landon was nostranger to Jasper's sarcasm and took it well. "Come on, join me! I'll pick you up from the lobby, alright?"

"I'm not going."

"Why? Are you hiding in your room, crying over the breakup? I can't believe you're so heartbroken over Liana Gardner. Why? Does it take time to adjust to life after years of being cuckolded?"Landon made fun of Jasper in retaliation.

Jasper furrowed his brows in disgust."Stop putting me and Liana in the same sentence. It's sickening. I'm hanging up."

"H-Hold on!" Landon had no choice butto confess, "It's Zoe. She's back from studying in Yoarkley. She'll be performing as a guest pianist at Christina's concert tonight.

"I had wanted to surprise you at theconcert, but you didn't want to go. You're no fun at all!"

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Zoe Harper was Landon's younger sibling, and her growth into adulthood was a story that unfolded before Jasper's very eyes.

As the eldest brother, Landon doted on Zoe very much, just like how Jonah and the Taylor siblings treated Alyssa.

After some thought, Jasper relented."Fine, pick me up."

Night had fallen over the land. Landon had secured a box with the best view on the second floor of the Solana City National Theater, all set to enjoy Zoe's performance. He had also arranged for a camera to be set up in the box. He was excitedly adjusting the camera settings, planning to record Zoe's entire performance.

Jasper sat beside him, crossing his slender

legs. He shot a disdainful look at Landon, who was behaving somewhat like a paparazzi.

"The hosting organization will record theperformance and present the CD to the performing guest. Quit embarrassing yourself with your amateur skills."

"What do you know, you nitwit? Myrecording is full of love. It's different from the official video."

Landon narrowed his eyes before cussing in the middle of adjusting the camera angle, "Lyse is here. Am I seeing things? Who's that pale, sickly guy beside her? Is he dying or what?"

Jasper's heart raced, and he jumped up, rushing to the railing. He spotted Alyssa and Jameson conversing and exchanging glances in the box across from them.

Unaware of the envy brewing in the other box, Alyssa felt a chill due to the powerful air conditioning on the relatively empty

second floor. She had goosebumps in her thin, dark green maxi dress.

Jameson noticed her discomfort and swiftly removed his jacket. He knelt on one knee, much to her surprise.

"Jameson, what are you ..."Alyssa began.

He looked into her shocked eyes and smiled."I wanted to put my jacket on your body, but I wouldn't want to hide that lovely dress of yours. You remind me of the mythological Siren in that dress."

She held her breath, her feet squirming uneasily in her heels.

Alyssa thought that the people of Kontina must be very open about expressing their feelings. She concluded that that was probably how Jeremy Shields won her sister, Miley Taylor's heart.

Meanwhile, Jasper seethed with jealousy as he watched Jameson kneel before Alyssa. The suggestive gesture stoked his anger, causing him to grip the railing so

tightly that his knuckles turned white and his veins bulged.

Jasper couldn't shake the thought of whether Alyss a and Jameson were now an item. He pondered whether she had developed feelings for him.

Jasper was in so much pain that he was scared of drawing another breath.

"Who the hell is that guy?" Despite beingrejected by Alyssa, Landon was furious when he saw her with another man.

He continued, "He looks all polished with those glasses, but I bet he's a wolf in sheep's clothing. And why does he have that weird, powdery look on his face? Where's he from?"

Jasper's gaze remained fixed on Alyssa as he explained with an icy tone, "He's Jameson Schmidt, the youngest son of Victor Schmidt from the Schmidt Group."

"The Schmidts?" Landon was takenaback."Why haven't I heard of this guy

before?"

"He lived in Kontina for years beforerecently returning to Solana City."

"Ooh. The Schmidts sound like aformidable bunch. Gosh! Why is it so difficult to fight for Alyssa's affection?"

Landon cast an amused glance at his friend."Bro, you can do it. You have two choices—to surrender or to fight him. Make your pick."

Jasper inhaled sharply and clenched his jaw."You! Shut the hell up!"

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#### **Can't Win Me Back Novel Online Free Chapter 313**

Chapter 313

When the piano concert officially began, Christina Hammond gracefully made her way to the stage, dressed in a velvet y navy gown.

She took her seat at the piano and proceeded to perform her self-composed song, the one that had catapulted her to fame—"Whispers of the Four Seasons."

The audience sat in silence, captivated by the melody.

However, Alyssa couldn't tear her gaze away from Christina's exquisite navy dress.

It was a one-of-a-kind haute couture piece designed by the renowned fashion designer Sharon, who happened to be Alyssa herself.

Sharon's creations were reserved for accomplished and talented celebrities like

Christina.

Jasper, too, found himself distracted from the performance. His fists clenched, and he trembled visibly. Throughout the performance, he directed an intense and fiery glare at Alyssa.

Occasionally, Jameson and Alyssa leaned in to whisper to each other. She nodded and smiled, clearly engrossed in their conversation.

Jasper's lips remained tightly pursed. The veins on his fists were close to popping, and his face looked pale as he continued to stare at Alyssa.

He pondered whether they truly had so much to talk about. He recalled that during their three years of marriage, she rarely spoke, even when they saw each other daily.

"Wow, why did it suddenly get so cold inhere? I guess the air conditioning must be on full blast," Landon remarked,

shivering in confusion.

After performing a few more pieces, Christina welcomed her mentee, Zoe Harper, onto the stage.

The young lady looked youthful and radiant, with her chestnut-colored hair cascading down to her waist. She wore a lavish green chi ffon gown adorned with tiny silk flowers, resembling a forest fairy.

"Zoe!Look over here! It's me!" Thrilled atZoe's appearance, Landon waved at his sister. Annoyed, Jasper had an urge to kick Landon over the railing. Zoe apparently did not notice her brother's supportive gesture on the second floor. A confident smile bloomed on her moonli ke face as she bowed at the audience.

She took her seat before the piano like a graceful swan. A melodious tune flowed from her fingertips, playing daintily across the keys.

It was Mozart's "Turkish March".

Alyssa was drawn in by Zoe's dazzling presence onstage with a hint of envy.

Her left hand's fingers started moving on her knee, instinctively playing the same tune from muscle memory. Even her previously paralyzed pinky finger seemed revitalized.

"I remember how great you were atplaying the piano when we were young,"Jameson whispered, finding her subtle finger movements endearing.

He added, "If you had pursued a career as a professional pianist, you could have easily outshone Zoe Harper."

"That's impossible." Alyssa curled hertrembling fingers into a fist." That will never happen."

Years ago, she suffered a severe injury in her left hand fingers when she dragged a badly injured Jasper back to the camp in

Luminara.

Her pinky finger had become irreparably paralyzed. She dedicated days and nights to rehabilitating the remaining four fingers, eventually restoring them to normal function.

Despite the injury, she never regretted saving Jasper. He might have hurt her, but they once fought for world peace together.

The man she saved was not a jerk but a soldier in the Peacekeeping Forces. She perceived her finger injury not as a trauma but as a badge of honor.

The concert concluded flawlessly. Christina brought Zoe back to the stage, and together, they bowed to the applauding audience.

"Ms. Taylor, would you accompany mebackstage?" Jameson asked Alyssa with a smile.

"What's the matter?" she inquired.

"It's something personal. I'd like to getMadam Christina's autograph on a CD because my mom is a fan."

"Christina is know n for her arrogance. That might be a difficult task."

He smiled, underred."It's alright. I'll move her with my sincerity. As long as I get to meet her and tell her about the request, she will likely agree to it."

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Landon beamed with pride as he led Jasper backstage, holding a large bouque t of flowers. To their surprise, they saw Alyssa and Jameson approaching from the other end of the corridor.

The spacious walkway suddenly felt much narrower.

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## Can't Win Me Back Novel Online Free Chapter 314

Chapter 314

The tension in the air was almost palpable. Caught off guard, Alyssa inadvertently locked eyes with Jasper. She furrowed his brow in annoyance.

Jameson, too, found himself unexpectedly caught up in the situation. He adjusted his gold-rimmed glasses with an unemotional façade that quickly transformed into a sheepish expression.

"I'm sorry, Ms. Taylor. I had no idea he'dbe here when I invited you along. I'll forgo Madam Hammond's autograph. Let's go."

Alyssa, however, remained composed. She flashed a cool smile and stood her ground.

"No need to worry. I'm perfectly fine.There's no reason to avoid my exhusband. I want you to get that autograph to fulfill your mother's wish."

Jameson widened his eyes at her,

seemingly touched by her words. In contrast, her ex-husband's face fell.

Jasper could hear her reply loud and clear as they stood not far away from each other.

Throughout the concert, he had been seething with anger, and he finally lost it when Alyss a mention ed Jameson's mother. He had the urge to confront her about the nature of her relationship with Jameson.

Yet, he knew deep down that it was none of his business. He even imagined how she might verbally humiliate him. After all, they were divorced.

But why did his heart always overpower his mind, leading him to feel a fatal attraction toward her?

Suddenly, the door to the dressing room swung open.

"Jasper!"A shrill female voice cut through the tense atmosphere. Before Jasper could

react, a force pulled him into an embrace by a soft body in a green gown.

Zoe clung to Jasper like a sloth, her face nuzzling again st his shirt with adoration. "Jasper, were you here just to watch myperformance? Was this meant to be a surprise for me?"

Jasper's expression faltered, and his body tensed. He stole glances at Alyssa through the corner of his eye.

Landon did not see anything wrong with Zoe's actions. To him, Zoe was acting in the same manner when she was younger, which was perfectly normal.

However, it didn't occur to him that Zoe was now 22 years old, a full-fledged adult.

Her conduct toward Jasper was inappropriate, especially considering Jasper wasn't her brother. What was more, she was doing it right in front of Alyssa.

"Jasper, I want a cheek kiss!"Zoe boldly

wrapped her arms around Jasper's waist, making an unabashed request without concern for the strangers around them.

If anything, their presence seemed to embolden her, as she was eager to flaunt her close relationship with Jasper.

Jasper remained unmoved and refused to respond to her request. He had never given his attention to anyone else since he spotted Alyssa in the theater.

Zoe quickly realized that Jasper's attention was directed elsewhere. She followed his gaze and saw Alyssa, the ethereal beauty. Jealousy consumed her as her eyes dimmed.

The rival of a beautiful woman was someone even more beautiful.

"Zoe, have you forgotten about me?"Landon was totally oblivious to the situation. He was merely envious of Zoe's treatment of Jasper."How about a cheek kiss for me, too? Come on over!"

"Hmph. Why don't you get your cheekkisses from the women lin ing up for you? "Zoe retorted, a mischievous grin on herface as she continued to run her fingers along Jasper's chiseled jawline.

She added, "You're a bit too smooth for my taste. I prefer someone as cool as Jasper!Totally my ideal type!"

Frowning deeply, Jasper turned his face away to avoid her touch. "Zoe, you-"

It was at that moment he spotted Alyssa walking up to him with calmness in her eyes.

He held his breath as his heart jumped in his chest.

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## Can't Win Me Back Novel Online Free Chapter 315

Chapter 315

Alyssa raised her chin and confidently strode toward Jasper. He could feel his heart racing as he watched her approach, his whole body tensing up with anticipation. He desperately wanted to approach her.

Frowning deeply, Zoe tightened her grip on Jasper possessively. She could tell that Jasper knew the beautiful Alyssa. More than that, he seemed to care about Alyssa a lot!

Just as Jasper believed Alyss a was headed toward him, she breezed pa st him.

"Christina!" Alyssa left behind anastonished Jasper and called out to someone with a wide smile.

"Oh! My sweetheart!" Christina strolledover from the far end of the corridor, waving excitedly at Alyssa as though they were long-lost friends. They evidently

shared a close bond.

The three men stared agape. Even Zoe was dumbfounded at the scene. Christina had always been distant and aloof. Throughout their three-year mentorship, she seldom praised Zoe and often appeared annoyed.

What did Alyssa do to elicit a rare smile from Christina?

"Darling, I did not know you were inSolana City! I would have freed up my time to have lunch with you!" Christina exclaimed, embracing Alyss a with delight.

"You had your rehearsals to attend to. Iwouldn't want to interfere with your commitments," Alyssa spoke Grunslandish fluently in a singson g voice.

Naturally, she was dealing with Christina as Sharon. They were close to each other because Christina had commissioned more than one gown from her.

Alyss a possessed a charm that allowed her to effortlessly form friendships with those

she collaborated with.

Memories flooded Jasper's mind when he saw Alyssa conversing with a renowned pianist. His shoulders trembled, and he almost blacked out.

When Alyssa was newly married to him, she'd smile at him, bright-eyed.

Like any young lady, she'd chatter about anything she deemed interesting. However, he had been too self-absorbed to give her the attention she deserved.

Over time, Alyssa slowly transformed into a taciturn woman, an almost invisible figure who quietly shared her days with him at Seaview Manor.

During the three years, she withdrew from social interactions and did not form any friendships. Instead, she immersed herself in art and music.

Meanwhile, he found her uninteresting and incomparable to Liana in every conceivable way, even regarding her as a

blemish on his life. (1)

It ultimately became clear that he was the one responsible for nearly breaking Alyssa. His emotional abuse made her subdued and compliant.

Her profound love for him ended in tragedy, like the story of Titanic.

"Jameson, come over!" Alyssa's eyesshimmered as she looked beyond Jasper in search of Jameson. She beamed and motioned at Jameson.

"Coming."Jameson hastily adjusted histie and shirt. There was a hint of nervousness in his eyes as he approached Alyss a in great strides.

Jasper clenched his fists as he wallowed in bitterness. At the same time, Landon g round his teeth in jealousy. The two looked like brothers in trouble.

When Jameson rubbed shoulders with Jasper, he suddenly came to a stop. He adjusted his glasses and gave Jasper a

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smug and triumphant smile. His razor-sharp gaze cut through Jasper's heart.

Jasper powerlessly watched as Jameson stood beside Alyssa.

He wondered if that was all he could do, watching on as a bystander. Was there no way to halt Alyssa and Jameson's budding relationship?

"Jameson is a friend of mine. He and hismother are big fans of yours. He'd love to get an autographed CD for his mom,"Alyssa introduced Jameson warmly to Christina.

"OK!I'm more than willing to do so!"Christina was unusually nice to a stranger for Alyssa's sake. Not only did she sign the CD, but she also asked her agent to take a group photo for them.

Everything looked so perfect at the moment. Bitterness coursed through Jasper's veins.

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### Can't Win Me Back Novel Online Free Chapter 316

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As they exited the theater, Zoe clung to Jasper, just like how she did when they were younger. She blabbered about her experiences abroad and professed her longing for him.

The only difference was that she'd hold hands with both Landon and Jasper when she was a kid. Now, she treated Landon like a servant, completely disregarding him. She only had eyes for Jasper.

Landon trailed behind them with a gloomy expression. Even his sister had ditched him after Alyssa rejected him. He started having doubts about his attractiveness.

Upon reaching the parking garage, Jasper abruptly came to a stop. He took a deep breath and firmly withdrew his hand from Zoe's grip.

"Jasper, what's wrong?" She blinked

innocently, her hand left suspended in mid -air.

"Zoe." He turned to her, looking cold anddistant, a stark contrast to how he acted around her when they were kids.

She froze up in panic.

"You're not a child anymore. Some of yourbehavior is inappropriate."

"What's inappropriate about it? You'reJasper!" She frantically pressed on,"What's wrong with holding your hand?"

"You can do that to Landon because he isyour brother. You shouldn't do that with me."He stopped there, not wanting to vocalize the harsh truth.

Zoe wore a pitiful pout that concealed her anger within. Jasper must have changed his attitude because of that beautiful lady just now!

When Zoe learned that Liana Gardner was no longer in the game, she rushed back to

the country to keep Jasper company at his lowest moments, with the plan of winning his heart.

After years of yearning for him, she was determined not to let another woman take him away.

"Jasper, you're hurting her with yourwords."

Landon couldn't stand to see Zoe hurt. He hurried up and gave Zoe a hug. "You two grew up playing games together. There's nothing wrong with holding hands now. "Besides, you're both single. If you weretaken, it would make sense to keep a distance from other females. We're both bachelors. There's no point making a fuss. 11

"Zoe will eventually date someone else,"Jasper reasoned, taking a deep breath and finding himself oddly reminded of Alyssa.

He added, "She'll hold hands with her future boyfriend. And I'll save my hand-

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holding for the woman I love."

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After parting ways with Jameson, Alyssa left in her Rolls-Royce. She sneezed loudly in the car, likely from the chilly air conditioning in the theater.

"Ms. Alyssa, did you catch a cold? I'll getyou some medications when we get home and make you some soup." Sean handed her some tissue. She wiped her sno t away, her nose as red as Rudolph's.

She joked, "I'm fine. Maybe someone's been gossiping about me behind my back."

"I never thought we'd run into thatbastard at a piano concert!" Sean grumbled unhappily and took the snot-covered tissue from Alyss a without flinching.

Alyssa's mood darkened at the thought of Zoe's intimacy with Jasper. She assumed that Jasper was silently enjoying Zoe's touch because he did not ask her to stop.

While Alyss a had long been aware that Zoe was Landon's sister, she had no inkling of the close relationship between Zoe and Jasper. She shook her head coldly, thinking that her marriage was a waste of time when she realized how little she truly knew about Jasper.

"Jasper, Jasper ..." she mockingly imitatedZoe's tone."Hah, it seems Jasper's not content with just having two sisters at home. Now, he's getting cozy with Landon's sister. What a scum!"

"What did you say?" asked Sean, who wasconfused by her soliloquy.

"Nothing. I was chanting a curse to wardoff the bad lu ck Jasper brought with him."She crossed her arms and shut her eyes.

Moments later, her phone rang. It was a call from Jonah.

"Jonah?"

"Lyse, please stay put after work. I'll

swing by the hotel, and then we'll head over to Belbanks."

"Belbanks? Did something happen to Dad?"Alyssa's heart leaped into her throat.

"Don't worry. Dad's perfectly fine," Jonahexplained gently."Uncle Victor is visiting us with his two sons. Dad wants everyone to be there if we can make it. He wants to give his old friend a warm welcome."

Alyssa breathed a sigh of relief. "Okay. Got it."

No data found.

#### **Can't Win Me Back Novel Online Free**

## Chapter 317

Chapter 317

The night was illuminated only by the solitary presence of the moon. Jasper's Maybach pulled up at the gates of Seaview Manor, and he stepped out alone.

He instructed the chauffeur, "Send Xavier home. I'll head in alone."

"But Mr. Jasper, we heard thunder on ourway back. It will rain soon." Xavier's face was full of concern. The distance from the gate to the manor is quite far. I'll send you in."

"I'm fine."Jasper coldly adjusted the knotof his tie. "I feel a little stuffy. A short walk will do me good. You should head back."

"Alright, then," Xavier reluctantly agreedbut kept a watchful eye on Jasper until the Maybach disappeared from view.

With a heavy sigh, Jasper continued on his

path toward the manor. Just a few steps later, the ominous sound of thunder echoed through the night.

The rain was pouring relentlessly outside. By the time Jasper arrived at the manor, he was thoroughly drenched.

The cold fall winds and rain had assailed him mercilessly, further adding to the bitterness in his heart.

"Good heavens! Mr. Jasper, how did youget into this state? Where's the chauffeur and Xavier?" Mrs. Rosie rushed up to greet him.

His face was pale, and his eyes were hidden behind his drenched front bangs. His lips quivered as water dripped from his arms.

He resembled a water deity that had emerged from the ocean.

"Mrs. Rosie," he stammered, his voicechoked with tears, "Do we have any alcohol? I need a drink."

"Are you out of your mind? You can't bethinking about drinking when you're completely soaked! Go take a bath and change, now!" Mrs. Rosie felt sorry for him and wanted to make him hot soup, but he stopped her.

"I just need a drink. Please, let me be."

"Mr. Jasper, what's wrong?" Mrs. Rosiesensed that something was amiss.

Unable to hold back his emotions any longer, he blurted out with tears welling in his eyes, "I ran into Alyssa tonight."

"Oh, you met Madam!" Mrs. Rosie wasglad to hear that, only to f row n at his next remark. He added, "She was with another man."

"Who?"

"She has a boyfriend," he croaked.

Mrs. Rosie's eyes widened as she took a sharp breath."That fast? Well, it's not all that surprising when you think about it.

"Madam is a lovely and kind lady. I'msure she has plenty of admirers even after her divorce. She won't ever have to worry about the prospect of remarriage!"

The mention of remarriage fueled his anger. His heart thumped wildly.

"So, did you drag yourself through therain and beg for drinks all because she's seeing someone else?" She stared him in the face.

"I'm not sure ..." He shook his headblankly.

"If you're feeling upset because someonewho used to be yours now belongs to another man, my advice is to change that mindset and move forward. This is for your own good and in her best interest.

"However, if you really want her back, Ihope you'll listen to your heart and go after her, even if it seems challenging because of the divorce."

She placed her warm hands on his drenched shoulders and stared at him fixedly."Even if you don't succeed, at least you know that you've tried. She is worth all the effort."

Listen to his heart? He shook his head, seemingly rejecting some unfamiliar notion that was swirling in his mind.

Each time he did so, the pain within him seemed to intensify.

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Zoe Harper was chosen to join the royal orchestra upon graduating from the Royal Academy of Music in Yoarkley.

However, she declined the offer and returned to Solana City, a place known for its economic prowess but lacking in cultural richness.

Some might have considered her return unwise. Nevertheless, Zoe had her own hidden agenda, unbeknownst even to

Landon.

She heard from Landon that Jasper had broken up with Liana and could never get back together.

Feeling reenergized upon hearing that, she hurried back to Solana City, determined to set her plan in motion to win Jasper's heart.

One day, overcome with boredom, Zoe invited Betty to her home.

Zoe was born to wealth and grew up sheltered.

She also took pr ide in her good looks. She believed herself to be superior to the other women of her social standing in Solana 1City.

### Can't Win Me Back Novel Online Free Chapter 318

Chapter 318

Betty was one of Zoe's few friends. Zoe had befriended Betty primarily because Betty hailed from the esteemed Beckett family. Zoe deemed Betty worthy of her friendship.

"Gosh, Betty, you look gorgeous today!And you've even brought gifts. You really didn't have to do that,"Zoe smiled brightly and welcomed Betty at the entrance. They held hands like best friends.

"Zoe, I missed you so!You look prettierthan when we last met!" Betty complimented Zoe with a hidden agenda.

Knowing that Landon adored his sister, Betty believed that forming a strong friendship with Zoe would give her a valid reason to visit the Harper Residence.

Her plan involved playing the long game by winning over Penelope Harper's

affection and eventually getting Zoe to speak highly of her to Landon.

It was only a matter of time before she and Landon talked about marriage. She couldn't help but gloat over her clever plan.

"I came back from my Sedona trip a fewdays ago and picked up some souvenirs. I bought some for you and your mother. They're nothing much, though. I hope you don't mind."

Zoe smiled knowingly at the stack of luxury brand boxes."Is the gift for Landon somewhere in there?

"O-Of course ... I'm just worried that hemight not like it and won't accept it."Betty blushed and lowered her head.

"Look at you! How badly are you crushingon him? You turned red at the mention of his name,"teased Zoe, who beckoned to Betty."Give it to me. He will take the gift if I hand it to him."

"Thank you, Zoe! Love you!"Betty quicklypicked out the gift for Landon in excitement.

Zoe opened the exquisite box and found a platinum lapel pin encrusted with blue diamonds. She could tell that it was pricey from a look.

At that moment, Landon descended from the swirling staircase in his haute couture purple YSL suit, which he paired with a rose-patterned black shirt. He looked regal and seductive as usual. 1

Betty stared at her Mr. McDreamy with her mouth wide open, almost unable to contain her admiration.

"Landon!"Zoe called out to him sweetly.Landon's face lit up at the sight of her, but froze when he noticed Betty.

"Ms. Betty, what brings you here?"

"I ...I ..." Betty swallowed hard andcovered in his presence.

"I invited her to our place."Zoe gave Bettya hug and leaned on Betty's shoulders."Betty and I get along well. Don't you know she's my best friend in Solana City?"

"Is that so?I had no idea."He narrowedhis eyes and snickered."Zoe, I am not against you making new friends, but you have to be careful.

"Some friends are good for you andhelpful to your future. The same cannot be said for the calculative ones, who are a bad influence."

Zoe quietly glanced at Betty, who appeared pale and ashamed.

"I know, Landon. I'm 22 now. I can tell thegood people from the bad."

"I know you don't have many friends inSolana City because you were away. If you're interested in meeting new people, I can introduce you to Alyssa Taylor, the lovely lady you met on the night of the concert."

Landon's demeanor softened at the mention of Alyssa."As it happens, she's a close friend of Christina. I believe you two will have plenty to talk about and become friends."

Befriending that beautiful woman? Zoe secretly scoffed at the suggestion. She would never befriend her love rival.

Landon went up to Zoe and gave her a soft pinch on the cheek. Before he left, Zoe snuck Betty's gift into his hand."Betty carefully picked out this gift from Furancia for you. Treasure it, will you?"Zoe whispered.

He accepted the box without a word and left.

"See? I knew it. Landon will take anything give him."Zoe puffed her chest while Betty cast her a grateful look.

. . .

Landon left the room glumly. He did not

have the urge to check out the contents of the exquisite box. He was about to thrust it away when he was reminded of Zoe's words.

He spotted his secretary standing by the side and tossed her the box. She caught it and asked blankly,"What's this?"

"It's a gift for you."

She opened the box and looked stunned."It's a lapel pin, though. I don't have a boyfriend, so I have no use for it."

He glared at her impatiently. Tsk, just give it to your dad or do whatever you like with it!"

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