

Come back to me

Chapter: 211

Kristina And Albert Part Three

Albert turned around and saw a girl standing at the entrance of the alley. Her back was turned to the sunlight, outlining her figure in a soft, silver-white glow. She was like an angel without wings.

"Is that a child you're surrounding? Shame on you! Why don't you pick on someone your own size?" With one hand resting on her waist, she pointed at the brawny men towering over Albert. Her tone was calm but assertive.

One of the men said, "You better mind your own business, or we will beat you together with this kid."

Kristina cackled humorlessly. "Beat me? You guys must be out of your damn minds. It's obvious you don't know who I am. My name is Kristina Ye." She spoke arrogantly and slowly walked toward Albert and the bullies.

At that time, she was a twenty-year-old young woman with wavy hair that fell softly on her shoulders. She was wearing a yellow A-line skirt and a pink top with bubble sleeves. She looked lively and bubbly but elegant at the same time.

She had fair skin and a good figure. Her slender legs stood in a pair of white high-heeled shoes. She approached Albert and his bullies.

At that moment, Albert breathed a sigh of relief.

Seeing Kristina in that dark alley was like a spark of hope in a pitch black abyss.

"Come to me, boy." Kristina waved at Albert with a sweet smile.

Albert was stunned and excited at the same time. He felt as if he was finally entering a warm,

light on her face, Kristina crawled out from under the table, climbed to her feet, and dusted herself off. She straightened her collar, wiped her face with the already wet tissue in her hand. "I'm fine."

Albert turned to look at her once again. It made him angry seeing her like this. He asked coldly, "Did you have a fight with someone?"

Kristina shook her head and answered, "No." She took a deep breath and continued, "My brother asked me to go on a blind date. I didn't want to. I'm only twenty-three years old. I don't understand why he itches so much to marry me off to some guy I don't even know. I'm positive that it's all Julie's idea, though. She wants me to be wed so that she can sink her claws in Noah's properties. I'm the only one standing in her way after all."

Thinking of Julie, Kristina got so angry that she tore up the tissue in her hand. "She really pisses me off! She even insinuates that no one wants to marry me! The nerve of that woman!"

A smile slowly spread across Albert's face. Kristina looked so cute when she was angry.

He turned his head toward Kristina's window and watched the sunset. He thought about that day when she saved him from those thugs in the alley. Albert did not know it then, but Kristina had planted a seed of love in his heart the moment she held his hand in hers.

Sometimes, falling in love at first sight was the deadliest thing.

"I want to marry you."

Chapter: 212

Kristina And Albert Part Four

Kristina could not believe her ears. Did the seventeen-year-old boy in front of her just tell her he wanted to marry her?

She shook her head and tried to remember a time when she could have possibly given him the wrong hint. She could not be with someone six years younger than she was. It was a terrible idea.

After that day, Kristina started avoiding Albert. She could not entertain him and his unrealistic thoughts. After a while, she decided to go abroad to study and did not return until three years later.

For three years, Albert did not interfere with Kristina's life. Instead, he kept working hard, and as a result, he was able to seize control of the Song Group, all while silently waiting for Kristina to come back.

Kristina's life abroad had also been very peaceful, but occasionally, she would think about Noah and Albert. She missed them very much the way a sister missed her brothers.

During the past three years, Kristina had a pen pal named George, a student of L University. The two of them contacted each other through e-mail and had good talks.

Kristina shared some of her life experience abroad to George, and George also shared whatever went on in Lexingport City. She shared a lot of things with him while entirely avoiding anything related to the Song, Shi, and Ye families.

Anyway, George's e-mails to her had been questions about trivial things like the food she was eating and the place she was living in. Once in a while,

e.

"What happened? Why are you crying?" he asked.

Kristina simply raised her head and looked at him with guilt in her eyes. He smiled weakly and said, "Please don't cry. I'm fine."

Kristina shook her head. The mist in her eyes made her unable to see Albert's exhausted face clearly.

She knew what was going on.

She could have made Albert stop, but she did not. Seeing him vomiting in the men's room just now struck a painful cord in her heart.

"Why are you doing this, Albert? Why are you being so kind to me?"

Kristina's tears were like throwing knives landing on Albert's heart. He did not think he had ever experienced anything more painful than seeing the love of his life weep.

"Because I love you," he breathed. It felt so good finally saying it out loud. Those words had been weighing on his chest for a long time. He wanted to put his arms around her and hold her close, but at the same time, he was terrified that she would turn around and walk away just like she did three years ago.

He had never held any woman, and no woman had ever held him.

But this time, Albert decided he would try and hold Kristina.

He walked closer, wrapped his arms around her shoulder, and pressed her against his chest.

He did not hold her too tightly for fear of hurting her.

But at the same time, he was afraid that she would slip away if he did not hold her tightly enough.

He whispered in her ear, "I've always loved you, Kristina."

Chapter: 213

Kristina And Albert Part Five

This was the second time that Albert expressed his love for Kristina.

The first time was when he was seventeen years old. Kristina did not take him seriously, and even got so frightened that she ran away.

As soon as the words left Albert's lips, Kristina's heart started pounding against her ribcage. Her ears started ringing, and her world was in slow motion. Albert wrapped his arms around her shoulders and held her to his chest.

Truth be told, she wanted to stay there. She wanted to say the words back. But the next moment, she found herself breaking free from Albert's embrace and running away with tears streaming down her face. She kept running without looking back.

However, Albert did not feel disappointed. In fact, his lips curled in a satisfied smile. He simply watched as Kristina rounded a corner and disappeared.

"Kristina, if I can hold you once, then I can hold you anytime I wish. We have all the time in the world," he said to himself. Albert had always been very ambitious in business. When he took action, he almost always got what he wanted.

He just needed to be patient with Kristina.

It had been six years since he first met her, and he was not some anxious little boy now.

He understood that it would take some time before Kristina could fully accept the age difference between them.

After all, it was a six-year gap.

It might not be that many for Albert.

But for Kristina, six years coul

love you," he breathed.

Silence followed after that. Then, Albert said in a more serious tone, "I love you, Kristina."

This time, Kristina decided to not run away. She would follow her heart this time. She returned Albert's embrace, and let herself sink into his arms.

When they woke up the next day, Albert took advantage of the surprised look on Kristina's face and said, "You took the initiative last night."

Kristina could do nothing but cover her face with her hands. She was blushing furiously. She wanted to move and roll out of bed, but the arm wrapped around her waist was firm and strong.

Albert closed his eyes and said softly, "You even asked me to be your boyfriend and protect you all my life. And I said yes.

You know I can't ever say no to you."

That morning, Albert and Kristina got together.

They got together secretly.

Kristina was not ready to make their relationship known. She was afraid that others would call her terrible names or worse, that Ye Group's stocks would plummet.

Albert was in love with her, so he agreed to their private arrangement.

Still, Kristina felt guilty because of the age difference between them.

Albert could not bear seeing her suffer because of it, so he visited many couples. These couples were similar to him and Kristina—the women were older than their partners. Albert recorded their love story in a vlog, hoping that it would make Kristina feel better.

Chapter: 214

Danger Is Approaching

There were a total of ninety-nine love stories. Some of them also had to face hardships because of a huge age differences, but they overcame it with true love. They all ended up spending their lives with the one they loved.

It took Albert three months to prepare this birthday gift for Kristina, and when he presented it to her, she burst into tears.

It was not so much about the poignancy of the compiled stories. Rather, her tears were because of the fact that there was someone right here willing to walk thousands of miles just to dispel the apprehensions in her heart.

"Kristina, you are only six years older than me. Still, you may be older, but you still need someone to protect you. I want to be that person. You did the same for me once before, and I now I want to protect you for the rest of your life." Albert hugged Kristina from behind, as though to convey in actions the promise he had just said. He wanted to hold her in his arms and keep her from harm just like this, always.

Kristina twisted in his arms and gave him a bright smile before throwing her own arms around his neck. Then she rose to her toes and kissed him.

"Albert, I also hope you can protect me for the rest of my life, just as you said."

It was at this point that Albert stopped telling the story.

He turned to stare out of the window and into the night, silent. His eyes had dimmed. That liquid from earlier was diethyl ether.

"Hmm..." A pungent smell rushed into her nose and clouded her senses. Eyes wide open, Nina fought back against her attacker, but soon lost her strength under the chemical's influence.

In her desperate struggling, Nina accidentally kicked the cabinet in front of her. The force sent its door flinging open, and a few Pink Panther dolls fell out to the floor.

Nina finally understood.

Albert was George.

She touched her wrist subconsciously and then remembered that John had taken away her watch.

She could feel her face drain of color, and she cursed inwardly. 'Damn it!'

And then she fainted.

"Nina, I have reminded you time and again that too much information will only bring you trouble." Albert's voice was as soft as the wind of March, but the words were as cold as the ice of February.

Diethyl ether had an anesthetic effect. If one inhaled it a little bit, they would fall into a coma. If one inhaled too much, their life would be in danger.

After Nina fell unconscious, Albert quickly disposed of the towel.

He just wanted to knock her out, not kill her.

Kristina liked her, and if he looked from a certain angle, Nina's profile resembled Kristina's.

Albert bent down to pick Nina's limp body from the floor and put her in his car. He then drove to the factory in the northern suburbs.

Chapter: 215

The Underground Laboratory

It had been a year since Albert had bought the abandoned factory located in the northern suburbs. The place had already been covered with rust and weeds.

During night time, the sounds of frogs croaking and bugs chirping echoed throughout the whole area.

The silver gates to the building were open. The faint light from inside tried to creep out into the darkness which lighted up the cement road.

The road was actually clean and it led up to the abandoned factory. It had been out of repair for quite some time. Outside the building, there were a few low-key luxury cars parked outside.

Ford's figure made the faint light stretch long. He walked purposefully to the elevator inside and pressed the button which led him underground.

A different world welcomed him as soon as he stepped out.

The building actually had an underground laboratory. Albert had it built, and he had spent quite a generous amount for it. Through the other side of the glass, a lot of people were bustling. They were scientific research staff.

Ford stood in front of a glass door which scanned his retinas before it finally opened for him.

As soon as he was able to enter, he headed straight.

The bulged figure in the bed was quite different from the person he held every night. As he got closer, the only thing he could smell was the smell of disinfectant. There wasn't even the slightest trace of Nina's scent.

John instantly knew that Nina had run away.

He didn't even bother to lift the quilt. Instead, he turned around and went back to the bodyguards outside. "Where is she?"

The man's cold and frightening voice made the two men tremble. They looked at each other and realized that the person inside was not Nina since John was furious.

"Please punish us." The two of them lowered their heads and apologized.

There was no point in apologizing now. Nina was already gone.

John sighed and tried to calm himself. "Who was the one that had left the room?"

"A nurse. Half an hour ago, a nurse left here."

That was when they realized that the nurse was actually Nina.

John glared at the two men. His cold eyes were already shooting daggers at them as he thought of how they couldn't even prevent his woman from escaping.

Then, he ordered his men to search the whole city and instructed them to pay close attention to Albert's every move.

Chapter: 216

She Doesn't Want To Stay With You

An hour later, Richard handed over a pen and conveyed what the driver said. "According to the driver's description, the person who gave him the pen is Mrs. Lu. She met a man on Lanting Road; I specifically showed Albert's photo to the driver, and he confirmed that he was indeed the man in question."

John hastily pulled his tie loose. His white fingers were pale and cold, and his dark eyes were filled with an even chillier edge.

"So we're certain that she went to see Albert."

Seeing the anger on John's face, Richard tried to comfort him. "Mr. Shi, Mrs. Lu didn't get any useful information. Since she has left..."

"Is that what I care about?" John's head swung to face him, and Richard was caught in the other man's angry glare.

Even if his little girl did send some information to Albert, Albert still wouldn't win against him.

Back when he was becoming successful businessman, Albert was still just a kid who knew nothing.

For a moment Richard thought as though he was standing right in between two realms, one of fire and the other of ice.

John was giving off a cold energy that gave everyone chills, but at the same time, a furious flame blazed in his eyes.

"Mr. Shi, what is it that is concerning you?"

"What the hell are you even asking me for? Go and tell that bastard to give Nin

physical blow, heavy and oppressive.

He looked out of the window silently at the night. The night wind blew his ears, blowing his hair into the air ups and downs just as his heart.

John's deep eyes were always keen and sharp, and he had meandered through life able to see through people. But it appeared that he had been unable to see through Nina's heart.

The man who had always been expressionless and indifferent was now pale and anxious.

He was at an utter loss.

He sat on the balcony until late into the night, mulling things over and getting nowhere. Midnight came, and John was still there, the faint howling of the wind his only companion. Many cigarette butts lay scattered on the floor. He had smoked heaps of them.

The cigarette butt that was not extinguished was still between his fingers.

A single spark could start a prairie fire

The spark ignited John's reason and gradually burned it to ashes.

It was said that solace could calm a person and enable them to gain rational thought and enlightenment. But it could not be said for everyone. Some people, when left alone with their thoughts, lose their minds.

John threw the cigarette he was still smoking to the floor, and watched as its embers slowly died.

'You don't want to stay with me. Is it because you don't like me?'

Chapter: 217

Imprisoned

Nina's eyelids flew open. She was in a cold, strange room. The clock on the wall said it was one past eight. It was light out.

She had been in here all night.

She willed the memories of last night to flood her mind. A sickeningly sweet smell still lingered on the tip of her nose. She instantly recognized what it was. It was diethyl ether.

Albert had rendered her unconscious with diethyl ether.

Before she passed out, she remembered kicking open a cabinet in front of her, which was full of Pink Panther dolls.

It was because of those dolls that she realized that George was Albert.

Nina had always known that Albert had a secret girlfriend who liked Pink Panther dolls. She had seen him smiling at Pink Panther dolls several times, and it was not just a simple, innocent smile from someone who appreciated toys. It was a smile that came from fondness and longing.

Nina knew that the dolls reminded Albert of someone special. The loving glint in his eyes practically screamed.

But even though she was able to finally guess it, she was still a little too late.

She had fallen into Albert's trap.

Nina climbed t

harply at Isabella. It was said that a person who had been away for three days must be looked at with fresh eyes.

Isabella seemed to have changed a lot since she slapped and humiliated her. She was calm and firm with her threats.

She had finally learned how to play the game with complete self-confidence.

This time, Nina was not going to win against her the way she had done before. She had to use another strategy. Vengeance had always been her way of doing things, and the most effective method was manipulation.

Nina glanced at Isabella's tassel earrings and asked curiously, "Why are you wearing different tassel earrings today? Didn't you always wear the pair that Albert said he liked?"

Isabella's heart jolted. She touched the tassel earring, guilt clouding her beautiful face. "I accidentally lost them," she murmured.

She was in a hurry to leave a place

when she dropped it.

"What does it have to do with you?"

Isabella did not dare look into Nina's eyes, fearing that she would notice something.

She had lost the tassel earrings in a dangerous place, and if people found out, she would be doomed.

Chapter: 218

Albert killed Kristina

Isabella did not go back for the earrings after she lost them. Instead, she bought a new pair that looked similar to the one she accidentally dropped.

She did not expect that Nina would be able to notice the difference.

And if Nina noticed, then maybe Albert did, too. Isabella started panicking.

She had waited for a long time for Kristina to leave the picture. After all, she was the only woman around Albert and the one blocking her way into his life.

How could she lose those earrings? Now Albert would never take notice of her again.

Nina smiled as dread descended on Isabella's face. In truth, Albert only commented casually on Isabella's earrings one night when the three of them had dinner together.

Since then, Isabella had worn the earrings every day, thinking that they were her ticket to getting Albert's attention.

In the past, Nina had not known that Isabella desperately liked Albert, and she only thought that Isabella had a special preference for that pair of earrings.

Now she knew the real reason.

Isabella glared at her and asked, "How do you even know this is a new pair? They're of the same brand and style."

"They may be

at the scene. I know nothing."

Nina was on the edge of rage. Her eyes were now red and horribly bloodthirsty.

Whoever killed Kristina deserved to die a thousand painful deaths.

Nina wished she could break Isabella's arm right now and get even with Albert.

With her emotions starting to take over, Nina tightened her grip on Isabella's arm. Isabella cried out in pain.

"Ah! It hurts... Let go of me, Nina!"

Ignoring her screams, Nina hissed through clenched teeth, "If you were not at the scene, then Albert must've told you about it."

Nina grabbed both of Isabella's arms now and gripped them so tightly that her nails had started digging into Isabella's flesh. Nina roared, "It was Albert who killed Kristina! Tell me the truth, Isabella! Albert killed Kristina!"

The two of them were deeply in love. Then, in the blink of an eye, Albert stole Kristina's life away. He even disguised the scene as a suicide to throw the police off his tracks.

It broke Nina's heart. It was not fair. She could not accept that Kristina died in the hands of the man she loved.

The one she loved was the one who killed her.

Nina spat at the horrible irony.

Chapter: 219

Why Did You Kill Her

"I...I..." Isabella was in so much pain that tears started welling up in her eyes. When she saw Albert come in, she held back her tears.

She could not cry in front of the man she loved.

Albert once said that he did not like weak and incompetent people. She would not show him weakness now.

"Let go of me, Nina! Do you hear me? Let go of me!" Isabella summoned up what was left of her courage and struggled against Nina. She was able to break Nina's grip and shove her.

With Nina falling off balance, Isabella took the opportunity to grab her arms. Her long, crimson nails sank into her skin. Nina winced in pain.

When Albert came in, he saw Nina's side face which looked like Kristina's.

"Kristina?" Albert was in a trance and he took Nina for Kristina. He walked quickly to her.

Albert pushed Isabella away from Nina, grabbed Nina's hand, and pulled her behind him. Then, he strode forward and clamped his hand around Isabella's neck.

He pressed her against the wall and choked her

even have a heart under there?"

Her words were heartbreaking.

"That's not what happened." Albert stepped back, looking pale and in pain.

With a bitter look on her face, Nina once again felt sorry for Kristina. "Are you still unwilling to admit it?"

"It was an accident." Albert stopped. Pain and regret weighed on his chest like an anvil. In a snap, he clasped his hand around Nina's neck. She did not even flinch.

She just calmly grabbed Albert's wrist and pulled it away.

She shoved him back.

"An accident," she spat. She did not believe what he said at all.

Albert seemed to snap out of a trance once again. He did not realize that he had tried to choke Nina until she was breaking free from his grip.

Kristina liked Nina. He could not hurt her.

"I'm sorry, Nina. Are you okay?" Albert hurried to check on her, his eyes full of guilt.

But Nina just waved him off and screamed at him.

"Fuck off!" Nina did not want to be touched by the person who murdered Kristina.

Chapter: 220

Trapped

Albert was constantly haunted by what he did to Kristina. Her face flashed through his mind nonstop every time he saw the side of Nina's face.

Upon hearing what Nina said, he felt as if Kristina was rejecting him. He felt an inexplicable jealousy infesting his heart.

His Kristina hated him.

Albert explained through his trembling lips, "Kristina is not dead. She is just injured. Noah sent her abroad for treatment."

Nina didn't say anything. She looked at the self-deceiving man in front of her and refused to have any sympathy.

Albert knew that Nina didn't believe him. He slowed down and said resolutely, "I asked Noah. He told me that Kristina is receiving treatment abroad. Hopefully she'll recover soon and come back home. What had happened wasn't my intention. It was all just an accident..."

Just thinking of their quarrel, Albert subconsciously covered his face. The guilt seemed to be so horrific that he couldn't even bear to be seen.

He hardly ever cried because sadness wasn't a part of his build.

Now however, tears streamed down his face. "I just couldn't control my anger. When
ne what animal was going to be thrown in there.

In a few minutes, the door to the storage room was opened again, revealing only a small crack. Something rushed in and swiftly hid away in the darkness.

Before she could identify the creature, she heard a rustling which sent shivers down her spine.

Nina heard Ford talking right outside the door. "What did you put inside?"

Isabella said maniacally, "A snake."

"Just remember, if anything happens to her, Mr. Song won't let you go." Ford always disliked Isabella.

To be fair, she didn't like him either. She said coldly, "The snake isn't poisonous. I just want it to play with her for a while. She won't die."

Ford rolled his eyes and walked away. Isabella closed the door cutting off the last bit of light in the room.

Nina stood against the wall nervously with her hair standing on edge.

Was there really a snake in there with her?

What kind of vile woman would do this?

Nina had a phobia of snakes since she was a child.

It didn't matter if it was poisonous or not, she always turned into a nervous wreck.

She was petrified.