

# **My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel**

## **CHAPTER 191**

Posted by **AdminJ**, 1453 Views, Released on May 16, 2024

iting to see if you'd show up

or not."

"Of course I—

I'll be there!" Xanthea felt a bit guilty as she glanced at Oliver, lifting the gift box in her hand, "Not just show up, but I also got you the gift you've been thinking about!"

Samuel's gaze shifted to the game console she was holding, and his gloomy expression instantly brightened.

"A brand-new Dreamcast console? I heard it just came out and it's not even in stores yet. Xan, how did you "manage to get it?"

Finally, he let go of her, and Xanthea massaged her ears, "I got someone to help me get it."

"I knew you still care about me, always remembering what I wanted," Samuel happily ruffled her hair and planted a couple of kisses on her face.

"Alright, Samuel, I just came off set and haven't even washed my face yet."

"Even without washing, you're still my favorite darling!"

\*Xan!"

Outside the banquet hall, Matthew approached her quickly upon seeing her, his face radiating joy.

For the past few days, he'd wanted to see her but was turned away because she was busy filming and visitors were not allowed on set.

Today, finally seeing her at Samuel's birthday party, he realized just how much he missed her!

They used to spend every day together, which he took for granted. Now, just a few days apart, he found himself restless, sleepless, and distracted, constantly thinking of her no matter what he was doing. He knew he couldn't live without her anymore.

"Have you been alright lately?"

“I’m fine.”

Before he could continue, Xanthea brushed him off with a brief response, barely even glancing his way.

“Ethan, Samuel, Xan, Oliver, Matthew, don’t just stand there, come on over and eat!”

Christopher and Susanna, seated at the main table in the banquet hall, waved them over.

Everyone moved to their places in order, greeting the distinguished guests and family friends around

them.

After a round of compliments for the three siblings, the guests began to present their gifts. When it was Matthew’s turn, he opened the gift box he was holding.

“Whoa, an 18K gold watch, that’s not cheap, is it?”

**Susanna** exclaimed, while an elder from the Nightshade family chimed in, “Looks like it’s worth close to 100 thousand, at **least** 70 or 80 thousand. Matthew, you’re quite the generous future son-in-law, splurging like this even for Samuel’s birthday!”

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Ethan and Samuel also looked puzzled. Although Matthew was known for his diplomacy and gifting was common, they’d never seen him give something so lavish.

“I’m flattered. Xen and I will soon be part of the same family; this is nothing”

He emphasized the words “part of the same family, causing a ripple of knowing laughter among the guests. Zerthes remained unbothered, knowing just how well he was playing the role of the devoted partner. When their engagement collapsed, it’d be quite the spectacle.

“Hey, isn’t that the CEO of Horizon Ventures Ltd? What’s he doing here?”

“Since when did the Nightshade family start doing business with Horizon Ventures Ltd.?”

Suddenly, a commotion stirred in the banquet, drawing the main table’s attention. Everyone turned to see a man in a dark suit, carrying a rectangular case, approaching.

Christopher immediately recognized him as the new CEO of Horizon Ventures Ltd. and quickly stood up, “Well, Mr. Abbott, what brings you to our gathering today?”

“Mr. Christopher Nightshade Lee approached with a warm smile, “I was instructed by Chairman Lockwood to personally bring a gift and celebrate Mr. Samuel Nightshade’s birthday!”

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#### **Chapter 192**

“Chairman Lockwood?”

“Horizon Ventures Ltd. is a subsidiary of Twin Towers, so it must be Orion, the chairman of the Lockwood Group, who let you personally come to deliver a gift?”

As his words fell, the whole room gasped in surprise. At the **mention** of the name “**Orion**”, people from all around the banquet hall began to gather, buzzing with curiosity.

Since when did the Nightshade family business get so big that even the Lockwood **Group** got involved, making none other than Chairman Lockwood himself to prepare a gift for the Nightshade family’s **second** son’s birthday?

Christopher, seeing the situation, exchanged a surprised look with Susanna.

Although their company was gradually getting involved in the e-commerce industry, they’d never worked with the Lockwood Group, let alone cultivated a close relationship with Mr. Lockwood. So why would he send someone to deliver a gift?

Their eyes turned towards Samuel, who shook his head in confusion, “I don’t even know Mr. Lockwood.”

The people around table was wrapped in confusion, all eyes eventually turning to Xanthea.

“Ahem.”

Xanthea, who was sipping her soup, choked when she heard the name “Orion”, and looked up to see her entire family staring at her, as if expecting some explanation.

“Why are you all looking at me?”

The Nightshade family had only briefly interacted with Mr. Lockwood twice. Once when Mr. Lockwood attended Xan's coming-of-age party, and another time when Xan helped him acquire a rare purple jade at the gem betting event.

Now that Mr. Lockwood had sent a gift, they naturally thought it had something to do with her.

"Xan, do you know why Mr. Lockwood would send a gift?"

Xanthea shook her head; she had no idea. She'd just spoken to Orion on the phone, and he hadn't mentioned anything.

"Could it be because you helped him at the gem betting event?"

Xanthea remained silent; it was possible.

Since Samuel didn't even know him, there was no reason for him to send a gift. Maybe since he'd been wanting to thank her for a while and she'd been refusing, he decided to use Samuel's birthday as an opportunity to express his gratitude?

"Not necessarily

Oliver, with a knowing smile, turned to Lee, "Mr. Abbott, could you open it and let us see what it is?"

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"Yes, let's see what it is!"

The banquet hall was abuzz with excitement, everyone curious about the gift Orion had sent. Lee opened the case he was holding, revealing a golf club.

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"What a beautiful golf club!"

"The material and design look exquisite; it must be quite valuable."

"What does the engraving say?"

"A genuine work from Simon West?"

Samuel, seeing the golf club, stood up immediately, his eyes shining with incredulous joy.

“Mr. Samuel Nightshade has good taste. This one was indeed crafted by Seraphia’s famed golfer Simon West himself, and it even bears his signature. It’s the only one of its kind in the world, and has been part of the Horizon Ventures Ltd. collection. Hearing that you’ve always been fond of golf, Chairman Lockwood instructed me to bring it over.”

As soon as Simon’s name was mentioned, the room erupted in murmurs of amazement.

“In the early 19th century, a golf club made by the sports legend Simon was auctioned in Seraphia, and it was acquired by a mysterious buyer for 300 grand. Who would have thought it would appear here today?”

“The 300 grand back then is not the same as 300 grand now; its price must’ve multiplied a few times over.” “That was like 2 million dollars!”

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“Good Lord, a golf club worth over 2 million? I’ve never even heard of such a thing! Chairman Lockwood really is the wealthiest man in Crestwood!”

“**Chairman** Lockwood giving such a prized possession to Mr. Samuel Nightshade must mean more than just congratulations, right? Could it be that the Lockwood Group **and** the Nightshade Group are planning a

collaboration?”

“Samuel, can I take a picture with this club?”

Christopher looked at Susanna, clearly overwhelmed, “Even if Chairman Lockwood wanted to thank Xan, isn’t this gift a bit too extravagant?”

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Oliver chuckled. Indeed, it was quite lavish just to give it to Samuel, but if it was a move to court Xan, then it was perfectly justified.

“Xan, Samuel really owes you one today!” Samuel clutched the golf club lovingly, “A genuine work from Simon! I never even dared to dream of this.”

Xanthea watched the priceless golf club, remembering the exorbitantly priced jewelry Orion had shown her on the plane. As always, he didn’t hold back when it came to spending.

The chatter and glances of everyone in the banquet hall were fixated on the golf club, including Xanthea. Matthew awkwardly closed the watch box he held, which was unnoticed by anyone, his face souring. Today was Samuel’s birthday, and he had splurged on this watch hoping to show the Nightshade family his sincerity toward Xan, only to have Orion steal the spotlight with a golf club!

He and Samuel weren’t close, and there were no business dealings between the Lockwood Group and the Nightshade family. Clearly, sending such a valuable golf club, he was aimed at Xan!

Orion was making moves. Just in case, Matthew needed to secure his engagement to Xan soon. The Nightshade family was known for their integrity; once a promise was made, it was definitely unbreakable. There was still some time until the engagement, but he hadn’t proposed to Xan yet.

The party continued until 11:30 PM. After seeing off the guests, Xanthea returned to the hall and saw Susanna sitting in a corner, secretly wiping tears.

“Mom, what’s wrong?”

“Xan.” Susanna took her hand, choking up. “It’s nothing, dear. I just felt a bit sad seeing the family together at dinner, all but missing Miranda.”

As Xanthea heard the name “Miranda“, her expression shifted subtly. Her mother could never imagine that the daughter she had lovingly raised for over a decade was living on them while nurturing vile thoughts, greedy and scheming to seize the family fortune and harm her own sister.

She had disguised herself too well. Driving her out was impossible; even if she died, it’d only leave her parents with a lingering pain. The only way was to expose her with those filthy photos and reveal her true colors to everyone.

“I’m here. Am I less important to you than my sister?”

Nonsense Susanna scolded gently. "You're my own flesh and blood; of course you matter the most."

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"That's it. And soon, you won't be sad."

"Why?" Susanna looked puzzled at her daughter's confident demeanor. Xanthea smiled, "Because the hospital called. They said Miranda's recovering well and should be discharged soon."

"That's good."

After comforting her mother, Xanthea ran to the back garden, intending to call Orion about today's gift he sent. But noticing the time was nearly midnight and not wanting to disturb him, she decided against it.

Putting away her phone, she was about to head back inside when she bumped into a stumbling, drunk Matthew reeking of alcohol.

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"Xan."

Matthew reached out to grab her arm, but she dodged, frowning. "Matt, why did you drink so much? I'm

calling Keith to pick you up."

"No need, my car is just outside."

As Matthew saw her instinctively avoid him, a hint of hurt flashed across his eyes.

Sometimes, he wondered if Xanthea really loved him, or if it was just dependence formed from years of being together.

"When people truly loved someone, their body and mind naturally want to be close to their partner. How

could she resist him so much? Not to mention being intimate, she hadn't even let him hold her hand over all these years.

"I've just missed you lately, really, wanted to talk to you alone for a bit."

"Let's talk when you're sober."

"Xan!"

Xanthea tried to walk past him, but he called out loudly, stopping her, "Our 15th anniversary is coming up soon. How about we go on a date? I have a surprise for you."

Xanthea inhaled impatiently and turned back with a forced smile, "Sure, that sounds great. But I've been really busy shooting 'Realm of Illusions'. The schedule is tight, I might not have the time."

"Can't you spare just one day? Xan, you don't have to work this hard, I can support you financially"

"Didn't you say you'd support my choices and career?" Xanthea cut him off, a cold laugh in her eyes, "What, having second thoughts already?"

"No, I just wanna spend more time with you."

"Don't worry; once we're engaged, I'll stop working and be with you every day."

\*Really?"

Matthew looked at her excitedly, and Xanthea nodded with a smile, "Of course."

But that day would never come.

"Xan!"

As soon as Xanthea entered the hall, she was engulfed in a suffocating hug from her brother.

"Ugh, I can barely breathe, Samuel!"

Samuel let her go, his face beaming with joy, "I knew you loved me the most! Can you believe I got Simon's genuine work I've dreamed about for my 22nd birthday?"

Xanthea was puzzled, gazing at him, "The golf club was a gift from Orion; what does that have to do with



me?”

\*If you

hadn't helped him, he wouldn't have reciprocated. Did he ask you what you wanted in return? You musie asked for the golf club for me, right? How else would he know my favorite sport is golf and that

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Simon is my idol?”

Right, how did he know?

“It must **be** a coincidence.”

“Stop pretending, I know you told him. Don't worry; I just asked Ethan, and he said he's not jealous. He just expects an even more expensive gift next time.”

“What?!”

“Haha.” Samuel wrapped his arm around her neck, “Xan, I've been so busy with work lately, I've been neglecting you. But seeing how much you care about me, I've decided to move into your place in the western areas of Crestwood to take care of you for a while.”

Xanthea's eyes widened in alarm at those words; she immediately raised her hand in refusal, “No need, Samuel, you do your thing. I manage just fine on my own.”

‘Wouldn't it be better with me around?’

“No, it wouldn't! Especially since I spend all day on set, and only go back to Sunset Hills Estates to sleep. You'd just disturb my rest.”

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### **CHAPTER 195**

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“Know you're busy with the shoot; I'll keep it down.”

“That still doesn't cut it!”

Samuel felt strange by her repeated refusals, “Xan, why do you seem so tense? It’s like you’re scared of something. Got a secret lover hidden in the house?”

Xanthea

stumbled for a moment, and then laughed off his comment, “Samuel, are you joking? That’s not funny at all. By the way, what sort of fun gifts did you get today?”

She deliberately changed the subject, successfully diverting Samuel’s attention, “Apart from Simon’s golf club, everything else was pretty mundane. Oh, but there was this weird gift, a music box with a little girl dancing ballet inside. It even had a note attached to it, don’t know who sent that. I mean, come on, I’m

not a woman; what do I want with that?”

“A ballet-dancing girl? Maybe it’s from some high-society lady secretly in love with you. You’re totally missing the romantic gesture. Was there no name on the note?”

“Nope.”

Samuel pulled out the note as he spoke, “Here it is, just says ‘Happy Birthday. I was wondering who it could be from.’”

Xanthea took the note and inspected it. Nothing unusual caught her eye, except...

“Samuel, don’t you think the handwriting looks a bit like mine?”

Now that she mentioned it, Samuel could see the resemblance. It wasn’t a natural similarity, but more of a

deliberate imitation.

“Who would go to such lengths?”

Xanthea shook her head, “No idea. If it’s not a coincidence, then someone doesn’t want you to know who

she is.”

The next day, Samuel drove Xanthea to the on the northern outskirts. As soon as they arrived, they were met with a commotion.

“What’s going on?”

She walked in just as Benjamin, dressed for his scene, came out of the dressing room, “Xan, it’s chaotic here; how about come sit in my dressing room for a bit?”

“What happened?”

“Your next scene was supposed to be shot at Equestrian Meadows Stables, and the crew had coordinated with them in advance. But due to some oversight by the stable staff, two crews got double-booked. The other crew got there first, and when the staff came to negotiate, Director Smith wouldn’t back down, and it turned into a big argument. Doesn’t look like it’ll be resolved anytime soon.”

As he finished, they heard Kevin shouting angrily at his assistant, “Kick them out!”

Xanthea said, “Looks like it really blew up.”

Kevin was dussing out furiously, and as he saw Xanthea, he approached her, helpless, “Xan, your scene might not happen today. Equestrian Meadows Stables broke the agreement last minute, **and** Crestwood

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doesn’t have another venue that large. We might need to switch to a different scene, but you probably weren’t prepped for that, were you? It’s my fault; I stressed how important this scene was and told focus solely on these lines.”

you to

“I do know of a private ranch in Crestwood that’s even larger than Equestrian Meadows Stables, but I’m not sure if the owner would lend it to us.”

Samuel interrupted, and upon hearing it, Kevin eagerly inquired, “Really? There’s a private ranch larger than Equestrian Meadows Stables?”

“Gallop Glade Ranch – a high-end racecourse near Horizon Ventures Ltd., it’s Crestwood’s largest private ranch, spanning a hundred thousand square feet, complete with entertainment and racing facilities. The owner is Orion.”

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### **CHAPTER 196**

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## Chapter 196

At that, Kevin, Benjamin, and Samuel all turned to stare at Xanthea,

Xanthea looked utterly baffled by their gazes. Why was everyone looking at her when the name "Orion" came up? Were they that close?

"Xan."

The fire in Kevin's eyes had vanished, replaced by a gleam of hope,

set to pick up some tapes, you two seemed pretty cozy. Any chance St time Chairman Lockwood was on

use his horse ranch for shooting? Don't worry; we'll pay rent!"

you could charm him into letting us

Samuel chimed in, "A place of that caliber, even if it's not open for business, the maintenance alone must be costing hundreds of thousands a day."

Kevin's face fell, "That's not gonna work. Our budget is capped around 50 grand."

Xanthea nodded in agreement. It seemed impossible.

Just the maintenance cost hundreds of thousands; how could they possibly rent it with a budget of mere tens of thousands? And film sets were always chaotic. Besides those ranches specifically for renting, no other ranch would agree to it, let alone such high-end private one.

"So," Kevin looked sheepishly at Xanthea, "Xan, we really need to ask you for this favor."

??

Xanthea frowned unwittingly as she looked at his almost pleading face. How could she negotiate a deal for tens of thousands when the place cost hundreds of thousands just to maintain? Besides, Orion had already repaid any personal **favours** at the gem betting event. Asking for such an outrageous favor now seemed too...

Benjamin, noticing her discomfort, suggested, "Director, why don't we shoot other scenes for today? Let the staff negotiate with people from Equestrian Meadows Stables, and we can film there later. Or I can also try to reach out to some places I've worked with before."

“Benjamin, thanks for the suggestion, but there’s something I haven’t told you guys yet. There’s a crackdown on various unqualified themes in the entertainment industry, lots of upcoming big projects have been pulled from the schedule.

All the major TV and online platforms have gaps in their programming, and they want our ‘Realm of Illusions’ to air first, to hit the summer slot. They’ve even offered lots of free promotional resources. which is why agreed. So, we might have to air the show before we’re done filming, and we need to shoot in sequence.”

What?

“Realm of Illusions going to be aired? Across all major networks and platforms, and the schedule being set during summer?

This could skyrocket her fame! She could finally get those photos from Isabella! It must be fate

“I’ll ask him”

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Xanthea suddenly raised her hand, her attitude completely changed, so vigorously it surprised the three men, “Nothing will stand in the way of filming ‘Realm of Illusions’!”

Kevin was thrilled, “That’s the spirit!” First time he’d ever seen such a sensitive actress; she truly was his Phoenix!

Xanthea stepped aside and called Orion, rehearsing her pitch in her mind. The phone connected instantly.

“Xan?”

“Uh.”

Picking up so fast? What was going on? Was Chairman Lockwood always this available?

At the Twin Towers, in the boardroom where a quarterly meeting was in full swing, the LED screen was flashing data as Orion answered his phone; nearly a hundred executives present were exchanging astonished gazes with each other.

No phone calls during meetings was a rule Chairman Lockwood himself had set. Why would he...Could it be that something happened to the company?

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“Orion, are your fever brought down?”

Orion stood up, his clear eyes sparkling with a hint of mirth, “Xan, did you call just to check on me?”

On the high-definition screen, Orion’s poised figure **and** slightly curled lips were clearly reflected. The executives were taken aback, staring at him in amazement.

That breezy demeanor, that tender, indulgent voice was this the same chairman who was usually so cold and decisive?

“Uh, what’re you doing right now?” Xanthea dodged his question, trying to change the subject.

“Nothing much,” Orion stepped out of the boardroom.

“Nothing much?”

“Who’s Chairman Lockwood talking to? He seems totally different from his usual self!”

“Who’s this Xan, anyway? Managed to pull the Chairman out of such an important meeting?”

As soon as he left, the room buzzed with speculation.

Only Cedric, who knew the truth, raised an eyebrow. Besides Ms. Nightshade, no one else could pull the CEO out of such an important meeting with just a few words.

“Oh, good to hear you’re fine. Actually, there’s another thing. The film crew needs a horse ranch last minute, and our usual spot is booked. The director asked me to ask you if we could possibly use your private ranch in the northern areas of Crestwood?”

Xanthea revealed her true intention, and there was a brief silence on the line.

Xanthea thought to herself, “Oh no, did I upset him after all that fake small talk?”

“Don’t worry we can pay rent. It’s just that the budget is a bit tight.”

“How much?”

\*50 thousand,” after that, Xanthea quickly added, “and if you think that’s not enough, we can negotiate!”

She was prepared to pay out of her own pocket if necessary. After all, this movie wasn’t about making

money.

Orion responded, “It’s not about the money. Gallop Glade Ranch has never been rented out before.”

Hearing the refusal in his calm voice, Xanthea still pushed for her film’s schedule, Then what’s the issue? If you lend the ranch, we **can** meet any condition you set!”

“Any condition?”

Orion’s voice lifted slightly, though his tone remained emotionless.

Xanthea replied, Yes, anything you want!”

“I want **you**”

“What?”

Xanthea was taken aback, not quite catching his words until he repeated slowly, “I want you to spend a

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night with me.”

Her eyes widened in shock, her pupils visibly trembling, “Orion! You jerk, despicable, shameless. pervert! How can you even say something like that?”

Like a cat with its fur standing on end, she started hurling abuse. But halfway through, she heard his voice laced with puzzlement, “Just like those previous nights, what’s the matter?”

Xanthea’s rant stopped abruptly, and she felt mortified.

“W–Why didn’t you just finish your words in one time?”

“Did

you

think I meant something else?” Orion’s eyes twinkled mischievously, “You got so angry; did you think I wanted to have sex?”

“To have sex, my foot!” She cursed secretly, “Try me if you dare continue the sentence!”

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### **CHAPTER 198**

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#### **Chapter 198**

“No, nothing! I wasn’t thinking anything!”

Xanthea quickly cut him off, recalling the foul words she had just hurled and wishing she could just hang

up

the phone and crawl into a hole. But she had embarrassed **herself** enough already, and borrowing the ranch was now more essential than ever.

“Okay, not just for one night, I could do ten, a hundred nights, as long as you let me borrow the ranch!”

“Really?” Orion’s pupils tightened, taking her exclamation seriously.

“Why would I lie? So, will you lend it to me or not?”

**Alright.”**

“What time does your ranch open then? What time does it close? You know, the crew might need to work

overtime.”

Orion responded, “It’s always open

for you,

Xan.”



“Fantastic!” Xanthea jumped up with joy at his words, “Orion, thank you. You’re the best.”

In the hallway, a female employee clutching a stack of documents passed by the railing where Orion was on the phone. The smile spreading across his face was almost enough to drown someone in its warmth, causing her to nearly drop her papers.

My goodness! The CEO actually smiling? And he looked so handsome when he smiled; it was absolutely breathtaking!

He seemed so absorbed; could he be in love?

That was terrifying! She managed to link the icy workaholic with something as dreamy and wonderful as romance!

“Orion agreed!

Xanthea hung up the phone and ran over excitedly. Upon hearing her words, Kevin couldn’t stop grinning, “Really? That’s great. Xan, thank you so much for it! By the way, how much are we talking about for the rent?”

\*50 thousand?”

“That’s amazing; you definitely pulled some strings there! Xan, I owe you one.”

In just a few moments’ talking, she’d secured the location at a price that seemed impossible.

Benjamin looked down. He had thought Xan was just close to Orion, but this was closer than he expected. \*Xan?”

Samuel wrapped an arm around her shoulders and pulled her aside, “I brought up Orion’s private ranch on purpose just to test the waters, and **sure** enough, I uncovered something fishy!”

Back at Eden Heights Estates, he had suspected Orion harbored feelings for Xan. Yesterday’s gift of a golf club deepened his suspicions, and today, after the ranch borrowing incident, it was confirmed!

“What fishy thing?”

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Xanthea looked at him confused. Samuel squinted, “Gallop Glade Ranch has been Orion’s private ranch since he built it **and** never been rented out. How could it possibly be rented to you for just 50 thousand?”

Xanthea glanced behind her and whispered, “Samuel, don’t tell Director Smith, but I secretly added some extra money.”

“What? You added money?” Samuel was stunned. Maybe he was overthinking it?

“Then why did you talk with Orion coquettishly just now?”

“I did not!”

“You did! From afar, you were smiling at the phone so charmingly. Lucky that Orion isn’t here, or you might’ve gone up and kissed him!”

“Ew, Samuel, that’s gross!”

Xanthea chased after him, hitting him playfully as Samuel got into the car, “Haha, let’s get going. I’ll take you to the ranch. I brought my golf club today; thought I’d swing by Horizon Ventures Ltd. for a round.”

Gallop Glade Ranch.

An hour later, the “Realm of Illusions” shooting crew A arrived at the Lockwood Group’s upscale private ranch. Kevin gazed at the expansive green pastures and the staff training a few hundred majestic, purebred horses, smiling excitedly.

The environment, facilities, and the quality of the horses here were beyond comparison with Equestrian Meadows Stables. The scenes they would shoot today were sure to be even more spectacular than in the novel.

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Today’s shoot was titled “Phoenix at the Races“, focusing on the nail-biting rivalry between two teams of jockeys and capturing Phoenix’s masterful strategies from an elevated platform. However, as Kevin admired the stunning scenery, he felt it was a shame not to showcase Phoenix’s grace. He turned to Xanthea with a proposal.

“Xan, I just got an idea. How about we add a scene where you ride out to greet the winning team? It’d highlight both Phoenix’s commanding presence and your leadership style, adding depth to your

character.”

“Uh,” Xanthea hesitated, meeting his expectant gaze, but eventually nodded, “Okay.”

She had learned horseback riding as a child but had fallen off once, nearly breaking a bone, which had since kept her away from horses.

But that was years ago, it should be fine; besides, the horses at the stables seemed gentle enough.

Kevin had a stunning white Orlov Trotter brought over. Xanthea stepped into the stirrups and settled into the saddle, the horse calmly accepting her without a fuss.

“Alright, three, two, one, action!”

Xanthea took the reins, gently urging the horse with her legs. Just as the Orlov Trotter began to move, a balloon tied to a nearby fence burst with a loud bang, startling the horse. It reared up, neighing loudly, and then took off like a shot.

“Ah!!!”

The sudden gallop terrified Xanthea, flashing her back to the time when she was thrown off by a crazy horse as she was young. She gripped the reins tightly, her face drained of color.

Behind her, the film crew was in shock, shouting, “The horse is spooked! Clear the way! Everyone, move!” “Phoenix is still on the horse! What do we do now? How do we handle this?”

As everyone was in panic, unaware of what to do, a tall figure swiftly mounted the Alpha Stallion, held the rein and chased after the frightened Orlov Trotter.

“Ah!!”

In the vast prairie, the Orlov Trotter swooshed by, riderless and erratic, tossing Xanthea about, her clothes in disarray, trees whirling past her vision, the wind whooshing by her ears

Just as she seemed about to be thrown off, strong arms suddenly wrapped around her from behind, pressing her shaky frame against a firm chest. A deep, soothing voice calmed her, “Xan, don’t be afraid.”

However, her panicked grip on the rein caused the Orlov Trotter to rear up dramatically, throwing both riders off.

Xanthea screamed, instinctively clinging to the man, flung from the galloping horse. Instead of the expected pain, she felt as though she had fallen into a forest beneath a snow-capped mountain, the snow tough yet soft, with a faint scent of pine.

Slowly lifting her head, she realized she had fallen on Orion?! She had landed on him, explaining the lack of pain,

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“Orion, Orion, are you okay?!”

Panicked, she frantically checked him over.

Orion opened his eyes to see her blouse undone from the ride, revealing a deep cleavage, the alabaster breasts dazzling his eyes. Her frantic hands unintentionally caused him discomfort.

“I was fine, but if you keep touching like that, there might be an issue.”

## **My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel**

### **CHAPTER 200**

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Chapter 200

Xanthea froze, her gaze dropping down **as she** realized her **hand was** inside his **dark shirt**, boldly caressing the firm muscles beneath, while her other hand had wandered to his lower abdomen, inching toward the

noticeable bulge.

She quickly withdrew her hand, her face flushing with panic and a tinge of embarrassment, “Now you’re still in the mood for jokes? I’m just worried about you, that’s all! It’s not like I was trying to take advantage. of you or anything!”

Worried about him? She cared about him.

Even though he knew it was just concern for a friend, the realization still made his heart skip a beat.

“And what about the other night?”

His sudden mention of the previous night caught Xanthea off guard, and she bit her lip in awkwardness, “T—

The other night, you’d fallen asleep, and I was just trying to pull up your covers. Then, a

accidentally, a chip fell there, and I was just trying to pick it up before you got the wrong idea, but then you woke up just as I touched it!

“Oh?”

Orion’s thin lips curled slightly, his elongated tone clearly skeptical, “And did you eat that potato chip?”

“What?”

It took Xanthea a moment to **catch** the implication of his words. Realizing what he meant, her fists pounded on his chest like raindrops, “Orion, you jerk, how dare you tease me! After it fell there, how could I possibly eat it?”

To have eaten that chip would have been like indirectly kissing his....

Orion coughed lightly, causing Xanthea to stop instantly, her eyes filled with concern, “Are you alright? Are you still sick? Did I hurt you?”

She’d nearly forgotten; he was still unwell, having just rescued her from a fall from a horse and getting used as a human cushion. And now she’d been hitting him; she hoped she hadn’t caused any harm.

Orion looked at her with a hint of tease in **his** eyes, “You didn’t hurt me, but it’s getting quite painful if you keep sitting on me.”

She didn’t realize, in her disheveled clothes and hair tousled by the wind\_how stunningly beautiful she looked perched atop him, her face a mix of embarrassment and annoyance. She was so stunning it made him desire to do something cruel; he wanted to pin her down on the endless prairie.

If this continued, he feared he might lose control.

Sitting on him? It dawned on Xanthea that since falling off the horse, she had been straddling his waist.

“If you don’t get up soon, I might have to ‘get up’ myself.”

That made Xanthea’s face turn scarlet, and she awkwardly tried to stand up. But just as she got up, her calf muscle gave way, and she fell down again, this time landing right on Orion’s lips.

The shock of her soft lips, the pressure from the girl’s plump breasts against his chest, the beauty of her started

face up close – it caused the man’s eyes contract in an instant, a fierce desire unleashed.

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Chapter 200

The moment Xanthea’s lips touched his, her eyes widened, her face turned beet red, and the world around her went silent, so quiet she could only hear her heartbeat racing, so empty she could see only his stunningly handsome face up close.

S–S–She had kissed Orion?!

His lips were so warm, soft, a stark contrast to his cool demeanor and rigid body. Wait, what was she doing now? Tasting him?

Overwhelmed with embarrassment, Xanthea pushed him away and tried to run, only to be firmly gripped

in her waist by the man as he flipped her beneath him.