

My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 351

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Chapter 351

“On the day of the proposal party, I was so overwhelmed with anger. Not at others, but at myself for failing Xan and feeling unworthy as a mother. But today, by the lake, hearing her words and seeing her smile, I felt a bit of solace. At least, when she was betrayed by Miranda and Matthew, you were there to comfort and protect her, sparing her from utter despair”

As Susanna finished, everyone fell silent, including Samuel.

Though he didn't trust Orion, he had to admit his mother was right. If not for Orion, Xan would have had a much harder time getting through it all.

Orion handed a handkerchief, “Please don't be so saddened. They've all received the punishment they deserved”

“Thank you.”

“Miranda's in the ICU **now**. The doctors say even if she pulls through, she'll likely be in a vegetative state. With her malicious intentions, and betraying the kindness of our family and all the teachings we gave her, she deserves this outcome.”

Susanna sobbed

“But Matthew deceived Xan for so many years, relied on our Nightshade family to climb from a small manager to the president of the group, **and** gained a lot of benefits. Now he is just in a hospital for recovery, it feels insufficient.”

“He's no longer the president”

“What?”

Everyone looked at him in confusion.

Orion laid a document on the coffee table.

Christopher, Susanna, and Ethan were stunned.

Samuel was so shocked he stood up from the sofa, incredulously picking up the document

“The Martinez Group’s Equity Transfer Agreement?”

*100% of the shares, with the signatures from 53 shareholders. You’ve acquired the Martinez Group?!”

No wonder there was the sudden disappearance of the Martinez Group’s shareholders yesterday. No wonder Matthew’s scandal didn’t affect at all to the projects and resources they had already signed. It turned out that the mysterious and powerful hand behind all this was his!

He certainly had the means, but how could it happen so quickly? Becoming the sole proprietor of the Martinez Group within a day is unheard of in the business world

Christopher was dumbfounded, looking at him in disbelief, “Mr. Lockwood, why acquire the Martinez Group?”

“As a gift for you.”

“What?”

Everyone was shocked, even the usually composed Ethan showed a look of disbelief.

The Martinez Group might not a famous enterprise, but it had nearly a decade of history and was worth at least a billion. And he just acquired it and wants to give it to them for free?

“No, we can’t accept this; this is too much!”

Christopher **waved** his hands repeatedly, **standing** up in agitation.

This is an entire group, invaluable. It’s not something to joke about!”

“If I were joking, I wouldn’t have brought it here today.”

Samuel paused repeatedly checking the contract. After confirming it was valid, he couldn’t help but feel a surge of emotions.

Orion was seriously investing to win Xan over. Or was that for someone of his wealth, this amount was trivial?

“Orion, how much did you spend?”

“\$200 million”

“What?!”

Samuel almost leaped in shock, “Only \$200 million? You’re picking up junk? The Martinez Group’s market value is at least over 1.5 billion.”

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CHAPTER 352

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Chapter 352

“That’s the now,” Orion’s dark lashes lowered slightly as he added another line, ‘before t he proposal ceremony”

To others, it might seem like the Martinez Group’s stacks had plummeted due to Matthe w’s scandal, allowing **Orion** Lockwood, with his immense power and cunning tactics, to seize it at a very low price.

But Samuel, seasoned in the world of business, knew that the transaction was far more complex. Considering that Orion acquired all the shares in just one day, he speculated Orion had already infiltrated the Martinez Group long ago, but had kept it hidden,

This man, standing before him, was for more enigmatic and unpredictable than he had i magined.

He was no match for him.

Christopher and Susanna exchanged glances, their eyes filled with a complex mix of emotions— awe at Orion’s extraordinary abilities. gratitude for resolving the Nightshade Group’s risk s to win Xan’s favor, and disbelief that he did it all for them.

Matthew had pretended and schemed for years to exploit them for the Martinez Group, while Orion gifted them the Martinez Group as a greeting. The stark contrast between th e two was hard to accept, making the latter seem almost fantastical.

“Mr. Lockwood, we appreciate your sentiment, but this gift is too valuable for us to acce pt.”

“If you’re unwilling to accept it, then let us become the closest of partners henceforth.”

“Orion, is this your clever plan?” Samuel put away the contract. “Waiting for Dad to say t hat? Well, I’ll keep this contract then.”

Lockwood’s eyes lifted slightly. “Alright.”

Christopher. “This is absurd, Samuel, return the contract to Mr. Lockwood!”

Samuel: He was only testing the waters, not expecting him to be serious.

Susanna: "Mr. Lockwood, we understand your good intentions, but Xan has just been betrayed in love. I'm worried about rushing into something new"

Orion understood their concerns and didn't want to push too hard, fearing Susanna's emotions might be stirred again.

"I understand, I will prove myself to you," Orion stood up, "It's getting late, please rest. My apologies for the disturbance tonight"

Christopher and Susanna felt a twinge of guilt seeing him rise to leave.

Had they been too harsh?

Although they had stumbled upon his relationship with Xan by chance, through their conversation, he had shown genuine sincerity. making their attitude seem overly aggressive

Was he just leaving like that?

Samuel frowned, putting down the contract with a serious expression, "Orion, you say you'll prove it. But how?"

"With a few sweet words to Xan, some grand promises? Or like Matthew, falsely claiming that time will prove everything?"

"Til tell you, words and time prove nothing! Matthew professed his love for Xan for years, but what did he end up doing?"

As he spoke, he seemed to recall the scene at the proposal ceremony, becoming more and more agitated.

Ethan: "Samuel, you're overreacting."

Despite Samuel's fervent words, Orion's expression remained calm, betraying no emotion, as he simply said, "See you tomorrow"

"Mr. Lockwood"

Before leaving, Orion cast a deep glance towards the second floor.

Sweet dreams, my baby.

My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 353

Posted by AdminHR, 1188 Views, Released on May 30, 2024

15:32

Chapter 353

Lale al right, flumanna sal in front of her vanity, her brows furrowed "Chris, do you think I was too harsh earlier? It was Mr. Lockwood's first time visiting us, and he faced quite t he interrogation. And Xan, she has just managed to move on from her last relationship, and if ahe gets hurt again because of me

"Don't overthink

Christopher reassured her, patting her shoulder gently. "You did it all for our daughter's sake. I'm sure he'll

What worried him more was the acquisition contract from the Martinez Group. A deal involving assets worth over millions being handed ova just like that was not something to take lightly

If it were anyone else, he would have been suspicious of a trick. But this was Orion, the richest man in Crestwood, not like Matthew What could he possibly want from the Nightshade family ?

Could he really like Xan that much?

Ethan walked into the study and saw Samuel meticulously going through the contract under the lamp "Samuel, you were a bit out of line today"

d his glosses. "It's

I'm sorry, big brother Samuel removed his glasses. "It's just that...

"I know you care about Xan. We all do. But Onion shouldn't have to pay for the mistakes Matthew and Miranda made. And I trust Xan. She's smart and won't fall in the same place twice."

Ethan paused, looking down at the contract in his hands. "He's willing to acquire the Martinez Group for Xan, something even we hadn't thought of, right? That's perhaps what sets him apart from Matthew

One talked a lot but does nothing.

The other said little but did everything

Samuel closed the contract file “I understand.”

“Is anyone there? Can anyone hear me?”

In her bedroom, Xanthea’s frustrations went from fiery to exhausted as she shouted until her throat was dry, on the verge of giving up when she suddenly heard Ethan’s voice.

“Xan, stop shouting and go to sleep. Orion has already left.”

“What?!” She perked up immediately, pressing her ear against the door. “Left? So soon? What did you do to him? Did you bully him?” “Big brother? You’re the best. Open the door and tell me

“Zora, prepare some warm milk for Xan. Help her sleep”

What responded to her was the exchange between Ethan and Zora, followed by their retreating footsteps.

Xanthea flopped onto the bed, hugging her Hello Kitty plush, tears welling in her eyes. She and Orion were truly star-crossed lovers! The next morning, a convoy of cars parked outside the gates of Lakeside Manor, startling Zora into running back and forth with updates.

Christopher and Susanna came out to see a refined figure stepping out from the black Rolls-Royce

“Mr. Lockwood?”

Orion greeted them, “Good morning, I’ve come to visit you today”

Cedric and Jacob followed, their arms full of gift boxes. They exchanged looks, knowing they had to give their best today to help the boss win the girl,

“Please, come in! Christopher, taken aback by the almost matrimonial grandeur, hurriedly invited them inside.

Susanna quickly instructed, “Zora, go wake Xan up.”

“Right away!”

“Knock, knock, knock. Miss, are you awake? Mr. Lockwood is here”

“Huh?”

Xanthea was still immersed in sleep. But hearing the name “Mr. Lockwood,” she sprang out of bed as if on **reflex, dashing** out in her slippers.

My Beloved Has Risen from Death’s Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 354

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Chapter 354

“Onion’s here?”

“Where? Where is he?”

She ran to the railing of the hallway and saw a striking figure standing in the living room.

Today, he was wearing an Elegance Craft Tailored Suit with the crystal cufflinks she had given him. He looked impeccably dressed. elegant, and noble, his grace and elegance making his already handsome features even more captivating.

She called out happily, drawing the attention of three pairs of eyes downstairs.

“Xannie”

Unable to hold back her excitement, Xanthea ran downstairs in her slippers.

But because she was moving so fast, she slipped on the last few steps and fell forward, “Wh

Onion, Ethan, and Samuel, alarmed by her fall, rushed to catch her.

The next moment, Xanthea found herself in a broad chest that smelled faintly of pine, and she contentedly hugged his waist tightly.

“Xannie, are you okay?”

Orion worriedly checked her up and down. Xanthea, nestled in his arms, whined pitifully like a wounded kitten, “It hurts.”

Where does it hurt?”

He frowned and was about to check her ankle, when Xanthea pointed at her chest. "Here, it hurts because I missed you so much!"

Orion paused. Following her hand, his dark eyes softened.

"I missed you too."

"Really?"

Xanthea, wrapping her arms around his neck, **was** about to speak when a suppressed **angry** voice interrupted, "Am I invisible to you two

or what?"

"?!" Xanthea turned her head and looked at the person curiously, "Samuel, when did you get here?"

Samuel gritted his teeth, his face twisted with jealousy.

Xan used to favor him the most, always cuddling and playing with him, but now her attention had been completely stolen by Orion. This schemer! Not only were they being lovey-dovey right in front of him, but she also didn't even see him!

Initially, Samuel had decided to be nicer to Orion after being scolded by his older brother yesterday. But now, seeing this, he felt the rivalry was inevitable!

Xanthea looked at him innocently and curiously, while in her heart, little devil wings flapped gleefully

it was intentional. After all, Samuel had bullied Orion yesterday. Today, with

head!

"Everyone's standing firm now, why are you still holding on?"

Xanthea clutched her head. "Oh dear, I ran too fast and felt a bit dizzy"

around, nobody could touch Orion, not even a hair on his

Samuel saw right through her scheme, "Xan, you've been running around since early morning, with your hair a mess and your face unwashed. Don't you stink?"

Xanthea was shocked and sniffed herself. Above her, a rich, magnetic laugh sounded, "You don't stink; just a milky fragrance."

"Ha, Orion's the best!"

Susanna: “**Xan**, hurry upstairs, wash up and get ready. Mr. Lockwood is a quest; we should be polite”

“Okay!”

“Mr. Lockwood, please, have a seat

Orion’s gaze lingered on the girl’s figure before turning back, “Please don’t be so formal, you can just call me Orion,”

Christopher. “Well.”

Seeing the situation, Cedric quickly put down the gift box he was ding, “Mr. Lockwood came to visit today and brought a little something.”

15:321

“You shouldn’t have brought anything”

While Susanna was speaking, Cedric opened the gift box, revealing a grand and dazzling emerald necklace, stunning her into silence.

Chapter 355

My Beloved Has Risen from Death’s Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 355

Posted by **AdminHR**, ? Views, Released on May 30, 2024

Chapter 355

“Is this the Royal Emerald Necklace of Lady Victoria Harrington that caused a sensation in the jewelry auction world some time ago?”

Cedric “Exactly”

Susanna was shocked. This necklace had caught the eyes of many wealthy collectors when it was announced for public auction. Being an avid collector of gemstones herself, she had been quite tempted, but before she could even secure a spot for the auction, she heard it had been bought

So, the **buyer** was him.

This royal necklace was far more precious than all her collections combined.

“No, I can’t accept this. It’s too precious!”

Cedne: "Madame, please accept it. Mr. Lockwood bought it specifically for you at a high price,"

Specifically? Was he preparing for it even then?

"And here's something for Mr. Nightshade." Jacob opened two elaborately wrapped exquisite gift boxes, "A bottle of Scotch from the rare reserves of Glenlivet and a Château Lafite Rothschild from 1787-

"Scotch from Glenlivet's rare reserves? That's listed as a world heritage, and the wine from 1787, aside from collectors, who else could even afford that?"

Christopher was so shocked he couldn't refuse. A lifetime lover of wine, he was now facing the ultimate temptation, he was completely gripped by it.

Cedric: "Mr. Ethan Nightshade, we heard you're deeply into scientific research and don't have many hobbies, so Nightshade has just successfully purchased a piece of land in the northern areas of Crestwood and built a state-of-the-art research facility on it. All equipment was flown in from Mystonia, the latest and most advanced. If there's any special material you need, feel free to list it."

What?

Ethan looked at him, astonished.

Since his home country, the research institute he worked at had outdated equipment and materials, slowing down his progress. He had been trying to improve the situation, but now Orion was simply given a new lab.

Establishing a research lab not only costs a fortune but also requires multiple levels of approval. Moreover obtaining those high-end pieces of equipment without connections is impossible.

Samuel looked at the gifts laid out in front of them, dumbfounded. As the CEO of the Nightshade Group, this was the first time he felt what it was like to be overshadowed by greater wealth, a true David meeting Goliath moment!

-ME

Samuel Nightshade."

Jacob had just started to speak when Samuel interrupted, waving his hands, "Don't open it!"

Seeing that his parents and elder brother were about to be swayed by material wealth, he felt he needed to hold the fort for Xan!

“What are you all looking at?”

are all stunned.

sirs, they were

A clear and melodious voice rang out. Everyone turned around, and upon seeing the girl descending the stairs, Xanthea had her hair styled in a vintage princess look, secured on both sides with fluttering butterfly clips. Her lush, long seaweed-green hair cascaded down a dress dyed in gradients of rose, sketching out a slender and stunningly beautiful figure.

She looked like a goddess who had stepped out from a classic painting, utterly captivating.

Samuel was dumbstruck.

It was the first time he saw Xanthea trying such a style of dress. She looked incredibly beautiful, truly transforming into an even more stunning young woman.

Ethan turned slightly and noticed Orion’s gaze, which was deep and burning as if fixated on Xanthea. It was completely different from the detached politeness he had shown them and the indifference he displayed towards the valuable gifts. It was as if he wanted to keep her all to himself, she was his ultimate treasure.

Cedric smiled and said, “Ms. Nightshade, the CEO is giving gifts to your parents and your brothers.”

My Beloved Has Risen from Death’s Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 356

Posted by **AdminHR**, ? Views, Released on May 30, 2024

Chapter 356

“Gifts?” Xanthea looked at Orion in delight. “Is there one for me?”

It took a moment for Orion to restrain himself and looked away from her.

He picked up a gift box and pulled out a stuffed red fox plushie.

The moment Xanthea saw the fluffy little fox, her eyes lit up and she happily accepted it. “Aww! It’s so cute and adorable! Wait, why does it kind of look like me?”

It wasn’t just kind of, it was exactly like her!

Those unique features of her eyebrows and eyes, the charm of her smile, and the iris flower mark on its forehead were clearly custom-made to resemble Xanthen.

Holding this every night wouldn't it be just like cuddling a mal Xan?

Thinking this, Samuel quickly snatched the fox plushie from her hands, "Xan, I really like this little fox. How about you take the **gift** on the table? It's definitely more expensive!

"Samuel, dream on!

"Give it back to me!"

Xanthea hadn't even had enough time with it and was instantly enraged. She chased after him, her previous ethereal demeanor completely gone.

Susanna shook her head with a helpless smile, "These two little troublemakers, they are just like when they were kids. Orion, don't mind

them.

"Not at all." Orion's gaze softened, filled with a gentle amusement as he watched the girl, "She's adorable."

He even found her adorable when she was like this?

Then he must genuinely like Xan.

Christopher quickly called over Zora and the housekeepers, "It's almost noon, Prepare the lunch, we have a distinguished guest!"

"Orion, what kind of food do you like?"

Out of breath from her chase, Xanthea ran over puzzled at her parents, "Mom, Dad? Why are you calling him 'Orion' now? Have **you** accepted him?"

"Well"

Cedric and Jacob couldn't help but snicker. The ever-victorious CEO on the business battlefield knew exactly how to win people over

Orion spoke up. "Mr. and Mrs. Nightshade, allow me to prepare lunch."

"What?"

Christopher and Susanna looked at each other in surprise

“How could we let you do that? You’re our guest!”

“It’s alright”

Christopher and Susanna thought he was just being polite, after all, how could a young master from a prestigious family know how to cook?

To their surprise, Xan stood next to him and nodded earnestly, “Mom, Dad, let him show off his skills. His cooking is delicious!”

“How do you know?”

Everyone looked at her curiously. Xanthea was suddenly at a loss for words. If she said **she** often went to his room in the middle of the night just to grab a midnight snack, would they believe her? They’d probably blow their top!

She looked at Orion for help, only to find him smiling back at her, as if waiting for her to **reveal** the truth.

This sly fox! Does he want her to get into trouble?

“Well, when I was filming, he often brought meals to the set.”

“Really?”

“Orion, you can cook?”

“Of course. Why would I lie? Not only can he cook, but his cooking is also exceptionally delicious!”

15:33

Fearing they’d pry further and that Sly Fox might reveal more, Xanthen quickly pushed him towards the kitchen. At the door, she flashed a sly smile and pretended to follow him in. “Or, let me help you!”

But she found herself mercilessly lifted out by him, just like he was carrying a little bunny, “No need

“Why not?!”

“You’d only distract me

My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 357

Posted by AdminHR, ? Views, Released on May 30, 2024

Chapter 357

An hour and a half later, everyone was astonished at the sight of the tabl

e full of aromatic, delicious, and beautifully presented dishes: especially Cluistopher and Susanna, whose opinions of Orlon began to shift dramatically.

From being wary of Onion stealing away their precious daughter, Can, to wondering how their Xan managed to “steal” such a treasure as

Orion71

Dom into a prestigious family, with exceptional looks, outstanding abilities, and a calm demeanor—and he could even cook!

Despite their decades of experience reading people, Christopher and Susanna could usually see **through** someone's character at a glance, but they had yet to find a single flaw in him.

fering their dumbfounded expressions, Xanthea smugly sidled up to Orion. “See, Mom and Dad, I told you Orion can cook, but you didn't believe me”

Half the reason she fell for him was his amazing culinary skills; his cooking was so good she could devour it—and him—every day for the rest of her life!

Zora chimed in happily. “Absolutely, Mr. Lockwood did all of this by himself. We were just his sous-chefs!”

Having worked in elite circles for most of her life, it was the f

irst time Zora had seen such a young nobleman who could cook, and so exceptionally well at that. If the young lady ended up with him, she would surely be happy.

“Really?”

Samuel, eyeing the mouthwatering dishes, skeptically picked up his utensils to try a bite

As the CEO of the Lockwood Group, always busy and swamped with meetings and business dealings, how could Orion possibly have the time to learn to cook? Wasn't this just for show?

“Xan, some things are just like some people— they may look good, but once you taste them.”

He fell silent as soon as the food hit his mouth. Tasting them, they were even better.

“Samuel?” Xanthea leaned in with a smug grin, “How is it? Heavenly, isn’t it?”

“Just, just average.”

Yeah, right!

Having shared nearly every meal with her since childhood, their tastes were identical; if she thought it was amazing, he couldn’t possibly think it was just average!

“Thank you, Orion, for preparing such a wonderful lunch for us!”

“It’s really not proper to have you **cook** on your first visit”

“Mr. and Mrs. Nightshade, please don’t mention it. If you like it. I’d be happy to cook for you anytime.”

“Hahaha, how could we let you do that? Everyone, sit down! Zora, open the wine that Orion brought!”

As everyone took their **seats**, Christopher and Susanna eagerly took their first bites. Their expressions immediately froze, even the usually picky Ethan was impressed.

It was even better than what Zora, a certified master chef, could make!

Christopher was praised, “The creamy **potato soup is velvety smooth, leaving a fragrant** aftertaste, and the golden— brown meatloaf is tender and rich Orion, it’s incredible that someone as young as you possesses such culinary skills!”

Orion humbly responded, “You flatter me, sir. I’ve just been interested in cooking since I was young, and with practice over the years, I’ve gotten better”

“Since you were young?”

As Christopher **Started** chatting with him, Xanthea reached for a piece of the grilled sardines but had the plate taken away by the man beside her.

Orion meticulously removed the bones while continuing the conversation with Christopher.

Susanna was momentarily taken aback, deeply moved by his skilled deboning gesture.

Xan had always had a sensitive throat, and she often got fish bones stuck, so Susanna had always done it for her, and now seeing Orion do it so naturally, as if it was a habitua l part of his life, touched her deeply.

Christopher noticed it too.

Not just that, he observed that there was no cilantro in the cold dips and no green onion s in the soup— both things Xan disliked. Eveni Matthew, who had been by Xan’s side for years, didn’t k now these details, yet Orion remembered and took care of them. It **truly** showed his ge nuine affection through the smallest actions.

My Beloved Has Risen from Death’s Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 358

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Chapter **358**

“Thanks, Orl

Xanthea happily took the deboned sardine and started eating.

“Oh, did I come at just the right time? Just in time for luncht”

A clear and cheerful voice suddenly come from outside, making everyone turn their hea ds.

“Oliver?”

“Uncle”

Xanthea stood up happily and gave him a subtle wink. Oliver signaled back, indicating h e got the message and was on the mission!

Susanna: “Oliver, why didn’t you let us know you were coming?”

“What, am I not welcomed when there are guests?”

“Of course not, Zora, set another place!”

“Mr. Lopez”

Orion was about to stand up, but Oliver gently pushed him back into his seat, “No formal ities. We’re practically family here, after all!”

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Everyone looked at him in confusion. They hadn't explained the relationship between Orion and Xan to him yet, how did he

"Why are you all staring at me? My precious niece told me everything long ago. Or do you really think my visit today was just a coincidence?" Oliver said, taking a sip of the 1787 Château Lafite Rothschild. "What a fine wine! And Zora, your cooking skills have improved leaps and bounds!"

Zora: "Oh, it's not me. All these were cooked by Mr. Lockwood."

"Really?" Oliver, already quite satisfied with Orion, looked even more impressed, "Orion is truly exceptional. Xan will be very happy with him."

Orion: "Thank you, Uncle."

Hearing Orion call him uncle filled Oliver with a deep sense of joy and comfort. From the first day he met this talented young man, he could hardly imagine that one day he would become his niece's fiancé. What a twist of fate!

"Hahaha, fantastic! Sister, I'm the first he's called intimately, right?"

I was the first!"

Samuel blurted out without thinking. Xanthea couldn't help but laugh, "Samuel, does this mean you've accepted him?"

Too many words lead to mistakes!

"It doesn't matter who's first. What matters is that I'm here today to vouch for Orion." Oliver put down his wine glass, looking earnestly at them, "Sister, brother-in-law, I know you're wary of anyone pursuing Xan because of what happened with Matthew."

"But I've known Orion for many years. I know his character and integrity well. He's completely trustworthy, and most importantly, **he** genuinely loves Xan."

"From the time Xan entered the entertainment industry—auditions, business offers, being chased by obsessive fans, struggles with acting—Orion has been there supporting and taking care of her behind the scenes. Hearing she was going to be on Adventure Blitz Two Days, One Night, he even put aside his work to join the show. You've seen that, haven't you?"

Christopher and Susanna nodded. They were indeed surprised to see Orion on the show, thinking back, it was clear he was taking extra care of Xan.

“As for Matthew, he approached Xan to use the Nightshade Group for his own **gain**. But what could Orion possibly want from Xan, other

than her love?”

“Exactly!” Xanthea nodded eagerly, seeing her parents wavering, she quickly **added**, “Mom, Dad, there’s something I’ve never told you. The person **who** saved me at the lake on my coming-of-age day was Orion!”

My Beloved Has Risen from Death’s Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 359

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in astonishment

Chapter **359**

“Xan, are you serious?”

“But Matthew said it was him

“How can you believe that higher? We were all duped at that time, including me I also thought I had been saved by Matthew until teamed the truth later on” Xanthes said. T Matthew had saved me, why were his clothes dry?”

remember now! Zom suddenly recalled, “That day, while everyone was gathered around the unconscious young lady I indeed saw Mr. Lockwood quietly leaving the lakeside alone, and the footprints he left were wet

Christopher and Susanna’s expressions changed drastically upon hearing this. They stood up and toasted to Orion

“Orion, we had no idea you were Xan’s savior”

“We’ve been so rude, please forgive what we said last night. Don’t take it to heart

Orion stood up. Th’s alright. Mr. and Mrs. Nightshade, no worries”

“But we must express our gratitude for such a great **favor!**”

“We really don’t know how to thank you enough this toast is a must!”

Xanthea saw the gratitude in her parents’ eyes and she silently raised glass of Samuel beside them. She knew her plan was nearly succeed

Christopher downed his glass in one gulp, “Onion, I’ve been wondering, what exactly do you like about Xan?”

As Oliver had said he was talented and powerful, wanting nothing but Xan’s love

But with the power of the Lockwood Group, he could have any woman he wanted—from noble ladies to famous actresses. Why go through all this trouble for Xan?

Xanthea had a strange feeling that her father, after a drink, had suddenly accepted Orion as his son, and she had become his daughter-in-law

But she was also curious about what Orion liked about her.

Orion looked down at her with a tender smile, “I don’t know either.”

Xanthea’s eyes widened in shock. With so many virtues she had, how come he couldn’t name a single one?!

“It’s just that thinking of her makes my heart race and seeing her makes my life worth living?”

Christopher and Susanna didn’t fully understand his words, but seeing their daughter’s sweet smile, they felt relieved.

Smooth talker

Xanthea sneakily poked the inside of his thigh under the table, intending to withdraw immediately, but he tightly held her **hand**.

In front of everyone,

what was he trying to do? Why did he move even closer....

“Xan, here’s to you! Oliver raised his glass, rescuing Xanthea without his knowing it, “Here’s to finding such a good boyfriend”

Xanthea quickly picked up her glass, shooting Orion a glare, who looked innocent as if to say. You started it.

A good boyfriend indeed, if only he wasn’t so flirtatious

The lunch was lively and filled with joy, and just as it was ending, **Ethan**, who had been quiet, suddenly looked at Orion.

“Mr. Lockwood, I hope you **don’t** mind me asking you something?”

“Please, go ahead.” Orion replied.

Xanthea, curious at her brother’s rare serious tone, asked, “What do you want to **ask**, big bro?”

“I was wondering about the media reports that Mr. Lockwood, during his childhood, pushed his stepmother down the stairs due to family disputes and inheritance issues, resulting in her death. Is that true?”

My Beloved Has Risen from Death’s Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 360

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Chapter 360

As soon as he finished speaking, Xanthen stood up abruptly, her tone displeased, “Big bro, what are you saying? Those rumors are definitely not true! **You** know how the media nowadays is best at making things up and stirring trouble. You should know that!”

Ethan replied calmly, “Xan, I was just asking”

“You can tell it’s fake just by hearing it. There’s no need to ask!”

The others were also shocked by Ethan’s question, but deep down, they were curious to know the answer

Because Orion was too perfect, flawless in every aspect, which made him seem unmal.

If there was a hidden **dark** side beneath his perfect facade, they would truly throw Xan into a pit of endless fire.

Xanthea had expected others to speak up for her, but to **her** surprise, they all remained silent, looking at Orion as if demanding an explanation, which infuriated her.

The trauma from his childhood had always been a scar in his heart, one she didn’t dare to tread lightly. Yet now, they were openly exposing it!

“Orion, let’s get out of here.”

“Xan.”

Orion held her hand, as if comforting her, or perhaps just wanting to hold on to something.

His thick, dark lashes cast lowered, covering the turmoil within. After a moment, he simply said, "It's not true."

Ethan asked, "Rumors?"

"The family dispute is real, but she slipped and fell on her own. The news was spun by my uncle."

"I see," Oliver, seeing that Xan's face had changed and she seemed ready to argue with the family, quickly stepped in to smooth things over. "That was what I expected. How could a kid do such a thing? Timothy has coveted the position of CEO of the Lockwood Group for years, using all sorts of means to win people over and manipulate the media. Everyone in the business circle knows this. Is that right, Samuel?"

Samuel nodded, and the matter was considered settled. Christopher and Susanna breathed a sigh of relief. The atmosphere at the dining table quickly returned to its former pleasant vibe.

However, Xanthea had lost her appetite. She put down her utensils, "My shoes are a bit uncomfortable, I'll go them."

Orion watched her leave.

"This child, how can her shoes suddenly become uncomfortable while eating?"

"Leave her be, she's just in a mood."

"Orion, don't mind her. Let's continue eating."

Orion went up upstairs and change

After lunch, everyone sat in the living room chatting. Orion kept glancing upstairs, but half an hour passed, and the girl still hadn't appeared.

"Orion, thank you for the gift you brought today. It's really too generous!"

Cedric took out a document from his briefcase, "Mr. and Mrs. Nightshade, the plushie was just a small gift from the CEO to Ms. Nightshade. This is her real present"

"What's it?"

* Dearie laid down the document, and the Nightshade family, along with Oliver, were all shocked when they saw the text on it. They stood up, looking at Orion in astonishment.

"Orion!"

He had included Xan in his will as the sole beneficiary!

Everyone was stunned, but Onon remained calm, as if it was a something long decided.

“Please don’t mention this to Xan, I don’t want to put any pressure on her.”

Chapter