My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel CHAPTER 36

Chapter 36

Xanthea caught the look of surprise and confusion in his eyes as he suddenly awoke, and quickly, with a touch of embarrassment, withdrew her leg. "Ah, don't get the wrong idea, I was just trying to step over you to get out without disturbing your sleep. Oh, and thanks. for your jacket!*

She handed the jacket back to him, and Orion took it but didn't move aside. "About the jewelry, Ms. Nightshade, have you considered my offer?"

Xanthea waved her hand dismissively, "I appreciate the gesture, but I really can't accept it!" The jewelry he showed her was indeed exquisite, each piece a rare treasure. If put on the market, each would fetch at least a couple of million, with the priciest pieces reaching up to several hundred million. How could she possibly accept such lavish gifts! Orion asked, "Not interested?"

Of course, that wasn't it! There wasn't a woman in the world who could resist sparkling jewelry!

Xanthea wanted to deny it but seeing his insistent look, worried he might think she was just being politely evasive, she nodded.

"Then what about Crestwood's real estate, shops, resources, anything catches Ms. Nightshade, just say the word."

"No, no, that's alright!"

your eye,

Xanthea was stunned by his generosity. She had thought his previous life's pursuit of Miranda was already extravagant, but that was nothing compared to what he was offering her now.

"I told you, the rough diamond was to repay you for helping me fend off those thugs that one time. If you really want to thank me, then just owe me a favor, and I'd call you when need something, alright?"

Xanthea's stalling tactic worked effectively, and Orion nodded after a moment of silence.

"Alright, that's settled then! I should get going."

"Where to, Ms. Nightshade? Can I offer you a ride?"

"Xan, what are you doing here?"

Just as he finished speaking, Matthew ran up from behind, his eyes flickering with a hint of wariness upon seeing Orion and Xanthea together.

He had fallen asleep as soon as he boarded the plane, thinking Xanthea had done the same. He hadn't expected Orion to be on the same flight, let alone to wake up and see 1/2

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them together.

Xanthea replied, "Just bumped into Mr. Lockwood and came over to say hi."

"Oh." Matthew forced a polite smile. "Mr. Lockwood, Xan and I are off to Willowdale for a trip. Didn't expect to run into you here."

After he spoke, he extended his hand, but the man in front of him seemed not to notice,

his eyes lowered, hiding the flicker of emotion.

So, they were traveling together.

After a few awkward seconds, Matthew's smile stiffened, and his extended hand hung in the air uncomfortably.

Xanthea looked questioningly at Orion, who coldly stated, "Sorry, I haven't washed my hands."

What? Not washed his hands?

Xanthea was shocked; did that mean his hands still had traces of her saliva? Surely, that

was a lie?

Matthew chuckled awkwardly and turned to Xanthea, "Let's go then."

"Sure! Mr. Lockwood, till we meet again."

Xanthea waved at him, turned, and walked down the plane with Matthew.

As the cabin cleared, only Orion remained, staring blankly at the boarding door as if he could still see a trace of the girl who had just left.

Cedric sighed quietly to himself; he had predicted that any meeting between Xanthea and Orion, regardless of the circumstances, would end with Orion in a somber mood. Once off the plane, Xanthea touched her chin, plotting a way to slip away and leave Matthew with Miranda. That way, the filthy couple would inevitably reveal their true columber surveillance.

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Chapter 37

As she walked, she suddenly doubled over, clutching her stomach in pain.

Seeing this, Matthew quickly dropped his luggage, "Xan, what's wrong?"

"I don't know, my stomach just started hurting all of a sudden."

Miranda chimed in, "Xan just had lunch with Mr. Lockwood on the plane, maybe it was something off with the food."

What?

Matthew paused, Xanthea had lunch with Orion? Didn't she say she was just going to say

hi?

Xanthea looked up at Miranda, realizing that in her past life, she really had been too lenient with Miranda. Now, she saw that every action Miranda took was calculated and cun ning.

Matthew said, "Xan, just hang in there, the car is outside. We'll head straight to the hospital!"

"No need, I just need to use the restroom."

She waved off his concern and quickly headed towards the bathroom.

"Xan."

Matthew watched her leave, then turned to Miranda, "How did you know Xan had lunch with Orion? Why didn't you tell me?"

"Matt, you put on your earplugs the moment we boarded the plane. Didn't want to talk to me, right? Why should I bother trying to chat if I'm just going to get shut down? And remember at the Discovery Pavilion, you said if I wasn't Xanthea's sister, I'd be nothing to you. Why should I have any obligation to tell you anything?"

Miranda looked at him, a smirk crossing her face, "What's that expression, Matt? Are scared? Or are you jealous?"

you

It definitely wasn't jealousy. Everyone but Xanthea could see that Matthew wasn't really interested in her; he was just eyeing the substantial wealth of the Nightshade Group, seeing her as a step up. If not, he wouldn't be flirting with her while dating Xanthea. But ever since Xanthea's coming-of-age ceremony, her demeanor had changed significantly, and upon meeting Orion, Matthew began to fear losing the backing of the Nightshade family, becoming more proactive towards Xanthea.

"Don't worry, Orion would never be interested in Xanthea."

14:58

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No matter how much Xanthea changed, she couldn't shed her naive, love-struck nature. Winning the grand finale of 'The Masked Singer', what a prestigious honor and such fame! Instead of capitalizing on this to break into show business, Xanthea was wasting her time on a romantic getaway with Matthew. What a fool!

A man like Orion, destined to stand at the pinnacle of the Crestwood business world, would never fancy such a trivial woman. His interest in Xanthea was solely because she was the heiress to the Nightshade family!

Matthew couldn't refute her words but still felt an uneasy twinge in his heart. He had never doubted Xanthea's sincerity towards him. Before Orion came into the picture, she only ever had eyes for Matthew, never initiating conversation with other men, let alone having lunch with them.

And the way Orion looked at Xanthea was unfathomable, but Matthew's instinctive male wariness reminded him to keep her away from Orion. It was just too risky.

Especially since her coming-of-age, her striking looks and sharp wit were becoming more apparent.

As time ticked by, Matthew and Miranda grew impatient, frequently checking their watches.

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"Why hasn't Xan come out yet? I hope nothing's wrong. Miranda, could you check on her, please? Wait a minute."

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Chapter 38

Matthew's mobile phone suddenly received a text message, which was from Xanthea. [Matt, my tutor called me temporarily to inform me that there is a problem with my thesis, which may affect my graduation. I must go back to school to revise it

immediately. It's urgent, so I will leave first! I didn't have time to tell you, and I can't travel with you. I'm sorry, I'll make up for it next time! But since you are there, it's hard to get a ticket for those exhibitions, so you and Miranda can take a good look for me. Remember to take more photos of the exhibition for me. Oh, you know like those the most!]

"Xan went back?"

Matthew looked at the text message in shock as if he was watching a prank, and Miranda also received the same text message.

Could there be such a coincidence?

And the time was too late to tell them in person?

What the hell was Xanthea up to? It was as if Miranda couldn't see through her anymore since her coming-of-age.

"It's done!"

Xanthea typed the message quickly, her fingers a blur on the screen. She had planned to catch the earliest flight back to Crestwood, but as she glanced out at the airport's panoramic view of the endless blue ocean and the tropical palm breezes that seemed to brush the pink clouds above, she was captivated once more.

Willowdale had always been a dream destination for her. In her past life, she had insisted on visiting with Matthew, but back then, Matthew's affections were already secretly engaged with Miranda, leaving Xanthea feeling neglected. She had been too fixated on him to truly appreciate the beauty around her. Now that she was here again, she couldn't let this opportunity slip by.

After leaving the airport, she made her way to various famous landmarks and trendy food spots, taking selfies and soaking in the local culture. At a renowned wishing tree, an old monk unexpectedly handed her a fan inscribed with the words-You will encounter the love of your life in Willowdale.

Really? In her previous life, the word 'love' had almost destroyed her. Now, it made her shudder.

As dusk fell, Xanthea found herself in the bustling center of Willowdale, surrounded by tourists all staring up at a giant digital screen, animatedly discussing the ongoing show. She looked up to see herself performing in the grand finale of 'The Masked Singer'-her song "Butterfly" was playing.

1/2

er voice is like

"Oh my gosh, I've been loving her lately! Not only is she gorgeous, but her something out of heaven!"

"To debut with such a song and win the championship, she really is something special. It's mesmerizing!"

"That song has been topping the charts on Jasmine Music for days now. It's a pity Xanthea doesn't have an official social media profile, or I'd definitely follow her. I heard a fan club sprang up and it's already nearing ten million followers in just a few days. She's as popular as a B-list celebrity!".

"She's so beautiful, she has to debut as a star. We just have to wait and see!"
"I agree, it'd be a waste of talent if she didn't pursue a career in entertainment!"
Hearing the lively chatter of the group of girls next to her, Xanthea couldn't help but interject, "She probably won't debut."

The moment the words left her mouth, the chattering girls went silent, turning to her with puzzled looks.

Xanthea, donning a fisherman's hat and now covering her face with the fan, remained unrecognized.

"Who are you? How do you know she won't debut?"

"Yeah, why would you say that?"

"Because she wasn't trained, she might not be able to compete with others in the industry. Plus, singing is just a hobby for her. Maybe after this song, she won't release another, and her popularity will fade quickly."

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Chapter 39

Xanthea had always dreamed of becoming a renowned chemist, but as she glanced at the group of girls before her, their expressions had noticeably hardened.

Each one glared at her with furrowed brows and piercing stares, as if they were ready to skin her alive!

She wasn't part of any fan club and had no idea that her words had unwittingly hit a nerver with these star-chasing girls. Sensing danger, she paused briefly before turning to make a

run for it.

To her dismay, the girls chased after her in fury.

"Stop right there!"

"Don't run, tell me whose fan are you!"

"Xan hasn't even debuted, and you're already cursing her to fail; that's so cruel! Stop, I'm going to expose you as a hater!"

What?

Xanthea was terrified by their relentless pursuit, dashing with all her might until she reached a desolate golden beach, finally losing sight of them.

"Fandoms these days are terrifying, they even chase down their own idols!" Gasping for air, she prepared to head back when she faintly heard a baby-like crying sound.

As night fell, stars sprinkled across the dark sky, casting a glittering glow on the beach. Scanning her surroundings, Xanthea spotted a small, adorable figure on a large rock by the shoreline.

Approaching, she discovered it was a four or five-year-old boy.

The little boy wore trendy Air Jordans and a loose T-shirt paired with tapered cargo pants, topped with a white baseball cap, looking both cool and cute from behind. Out here alone at night, he must have gotten separated from his parents.

"Hey little guy, are you lost?" Xanthea greeted him as he turned his face towards her. Underneath his baseball cap was a stunningly handsome and adorable face that took her breath away.

His delicate, fair face was slightly furrowed, his thin lips were as pink as peach petals,

and his thick eyelashes fluttered like fine feathers over his sparkling blue eyes, making him. look like a pristine doll from a display case-utterly heart-melting!

14:58

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This was the umpteenth time that day Sebastian Thompson had been approached. He had intended to ignore her, but her voice sounded kind of nice, so he turned around.

He hadn't expected her to be so pretty; pretty enough to make him almost gape, but as gorgeous as she was, he disliked nosy people.

He snorted and turned his face away.

Xanthea found his aloof demeanor amusing and sat down beside him.

"You can't sit here!"

"I just did. What are you going to do about it?"

Sebastian glared at her with wide eyes, his usual rebuff having deterred many that day, earning him scoldings for his ungratefulness. But she-she was being even more childish, than a child, utterly juvenile!

"So cute!"

His annoyed expression was too adorable, and Xanthea couldn't help but pat his head, causing Sebastian's face to turn from red to his neck, stuttering, "I'm not cute! I'm fierce, okay?"

As a pretty girl, how could she casually pat a boy's head? super

Watching his blushing quicken and his sharp, refined features, Xanthea felt a moment of familiarity. Why did he seem so familiar?

My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel CHAPTER 40

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Chapter 40

"Alright, alright, you're super fierce! Want some candy?"

She pulled out a handful of colorful starfish-shaped candies from her pocket, which she had bought at a popular tourist spot earlier that day. Not only were they pretty, but they tasted absolutely amazing.

"Don't treat me like a little kid!" Sebastian said indignantly, but his frown turned into a smile when he saw the shiny candies in her hand. "Starfish-shaped, wow!"

Xanthea laughed. If he wasn't a little kid, then what was he?

The starfish candies quickly bonded the two, turning them into tight buddies. With nothing else to do, Xanthea sang nursery rhymes and told jokes, making Sebastian laugh till he bent over.

But when she mentioned it was getting late and she needed to take him home, his face. immediately fell.

"What's wrong?"

"I don't want to go home." Sebastian mumbled, fiddling with the candy wrappers.

"There's no one at home, it's so lonely and-boring, no one to play with."

No one at home?

Looking at his smooth, fair cheeks and his stylish, clean outfit, Xanthea doubted that he was really left alone.

"Where are your mom and dad?"

"Mom and dad went on a trip abroad. They said my uncle would come stay in Willowdale for a while to keep me company, but I waited and waited, and he never showed up. He's a liar, and I don't want to talk to him ever again!"

As he spoke, Sebastian looked like he was about to cry again.

Promising something to a kid and not keeping it, his uncle really was awful! "So you ran away from home?"

"Yeah!" Sebastian sniffled. "If I can't wait for him, I'll make sure he can't find me either!" "That's some serious revenge, but what if he calls the police and they bring you back?" Oh, right!

Sebastian paused, looking at her somewhat panic-stricken. "Then, can I hide at your place. for a while?"

"You're quite brave, aren't you afraid I might kidnap you?" 1/2

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"You're so pretty, if you kidnapped me, I'd just marry you when I grow up!"

"Huh, always thinking big!" Xanthea scooped him up. "Let's get moving. Better to go back on your own than have the cops drag you back!"

"Waaaah, no no," Sebastian kicked his legs and wailed. "What if my uncle still isn't back?"

"Then I guess I'll just have to sacrifice my evening to keep you company!" "Really?"

Sebastian's eyes lit up, wiping away a couple of crocodile tears. "Then let's hurry back!" "Such a drama king!"

At Crystal Lakes Estates, number 27,

Inside the luxurious standalone villa, a crystal chandelier cast a soft glow, yet the living room of the Thompson family was plunged into deep panic and dread.

The ser vants knelt in a flurry, tears streaming down as they faced the man shrouded in a chilling gloom.

"Mr. Lockwood, we're so sorry, we didn't know when Sebastian slipped out."

"He said he wanted to go to the backyard to fly kites, and Nora and I went upstairs to get the kites. By the time we came down, he was gone. We thought he was in the garden, but there was nothing there, the butler knows this too."

"Sebastian usually tells us where he's going, today was really out of the ordinary." At the entrance, some police officers paced back and forth, making calls, but as time ticked by, the search teams still had no news about the whereabouts of the Thompson family's young master. Helplessly, they looked towards the man at the head of the room offering words of comfort.