

My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 381

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Chapter 381

“Thank **you**.”

“Today, I’m here on behalf of all the fans to ask **you** a few questions!

The host flipped through the question cards in her hand.

“First, as we all know, the original novel of Realm of Illusions was relatively unknown. When it started filming, many netizens and industry insiders were not optimistic about it and preferred to follow the more popular IPs. So, how did you discover it and decide to choose it as your debut in the entertainment industry?”

Of course, it was foresight I knew it from my past life!

Xanthea smiled politely, “I stumbled upon Realm of Illusions by chance. I read a few chapters out of curiosity and then couldn’t stop falling in love with it.”

“Especially the character Phoenix. Unlike the typical sweet and pampered female leads, she has more than just love in her heart. Her unwavering determination for revenge, relentless pursuit of her ideals, the repeated choices between love **and** interest, and the brotherhood with her comrades in the Ignite Camp all deeply attracted me. She’s like a hidden pearl in the vast ocean, shining brightly. It is my honor to have the opportunity to play her

“Ha, you’re too modest!” Orange chuckled. “Now everyone says you’re the irreplaceable Phoenix herself. So, what similarities and differences do you find between you and Phoenix in real life?”

guess, would be our determination to stick to what we

we believe in and not give up easily”

“Similarities, I gue

“There are quite a few differences, particularly in terms of family. Phoenix was taken in by enemies and raised in Ignite Camp under harsh training. Her upbringing was tough, while I’ve been blessed with a loving family, parents, and two brothers who’ve cherished me. I’ve hardly faced any significant hardships.

Also, she's not as focused on love as I have a bit of a romantic mindset."

[Ah! Male fans going **crazy**, pretty please, date with me!]

[What does "romantic mindset mean? Does it mean falling in love with someone regardless of status, societal views, and being together against all odds? Does that mean there's hope for our Instructor Lockwood?!]

[Haha, I think Xanthea's fans, including myself, are obsessed. Every day I imagine the cold, abstinent, hormone-overloaded Instructor Lockwood with Miss Nightshade, making her cry, ahhh!]

"Romantic mindset?"

Orange's eyes lit up at that.

Today's interview task is a big deal; Xanthea is currently the hottest star i gossip, there might be a bonus!

-in

in the entertainment industry. If I can dig out

ut some romance

"Our next question is actually about love!

"In the series, Phoenix has two love lines. One is the official CP with Prescott, and the other is with Maximus. Both ships have fans passionately rooting for them, some even investing in their outcomes.

"Prescott's love for Phoenix is like a friend's, supportive, advancing side by side, and always trusting her unconditionally. Maximus's love, on the other hand, is more obsessive and wild, starting as an extreme, humble secret crush. When he sees Phoenix getting close to other men, he can't control his jealousy, leading to a series of actions that hurt Phoenix.

The show has already aired scenes of him setting a trap, kidnapping, and imprisoning Phoenix. We don't know if he will do anything more extreme later. If it were you, how would you choose?"

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“Me?”

Xanthea **raised** an eyebrow

Prescott’s view on love was pretty healthy, but she would choose Maximus.

Mainly because Maximus was played by

Orion.

But she couldn’t just blurt that out on live broadcast. Saying the wrong word could hurt the **fans** who shipped official couple.

She smiled slightly. “My choice is the same as Phoenix’s. If you want to know more, tune in to Tomato TV at 8 PM every night!”

Orange couldn’t help but laugh, though internally crying. That was expected of a Crestwood Hall Academy student—she was so sharp! It seemed tricking her to reveal some information today would be hard.

“All right, after chatting with Phoenix, let’s move on to Xanthea. Xan, what are your hobbies?”

“Well, food hunting, gardening, singing, playing ball games, dancing, shooting.”

“Wow, truly a lady from a prestigious family and skilled in all the arts! We can’t wait to see more **of** you on stage!” Orange flipped through the question cards, her curiosity getting the better of her, “Here’s something everyone’s dying to know. For a stunning and talented actress like yourself, what are your criteria for choosing a partner?”

“Hmm.” Xanthea paused for a **few** seconds, as if thinking of someone, “Tall, handsome, can cook, and has eyes only for me.”

n the

[Oh my god, isn’t that Instructor Lockwood? That’s totally Mr. Lockwood! Over six feet tall, a vision straight from heaven, a wizard in kitchen, and only cared about Xan on the show!]

[Geez, have I gone mad from shipping? It really feels like she’s describing Mr. Lockwood! It’s exactly the same!]

[Sob, Xan and Mr. Lockwood are just perfect for each other If they don't end up together , I'll ship them for life!]

[Please, Xan, don't mind Mr. **Lockwood's** background. Just be with **him!**]

If Instructor Lockwood weren't a newcomer but a star, he **and** Xan would be the ultimate couple, a match made in heaven!]

"Could you say something to your ideal boyfriend in our live stream?"

"Sure."

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Xanthea's eyes sparkled as she **gazed** into the camera, as if **looking** at someone through it, earnest and gentle.

"Darling, hold my hand, and I promise to make you the happiest guy in **the** world."

"Wow, how romantic!" Orange was visibly moved, "I'm **sure** your future boyfriend would be incredibly touched by these words!"

"Alright, that's all for our interview questions today!"

"Next up, we will play a little live interaction game. Xan, you'll count down from three, and I'll take **a** screenshot. You **have** to answer the first question or fulfill the first request from a fan in the screenshot!"

Xanthea nodded, "Okay."

"Everyone in the live broadcast room, get ready. If there's anything you want to ask **or** want Xan to do, type it in the live chat now. Don't miss out, we're starting the screenshot countdown!"

Three, two, one."

As soon as Xanthea finished counting, Orange immediately took the screenshot. She grabbed a crew member's phone to check the first request that popped up on the screen and gasped.

"Oh my lord!"

"What am I seeing?"

"You **guys** are way so bold!"

Xanthea looked puzzled, “?” What is it? She hoped it wasn’t something too outrageous

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“Xan, I’m going to read the fan’s request now, get ready!”

Orange warned with a tone laced with secretive excitement and a mischievous smile that sent an uneasy shiver down Xanthea’s spine

“The request is from a fan named ‘Did Oranthea Tie the Knot Today! This fan wants Xan to call Mr. Lockwood and say a cheesy pickup line without revealing that you’re on a live broadcast!

Here’s the script-

Xan: Mr. Lockwood, I think left something at your place.

Then lead Mr. Lockwood to ask: What is **it**?

Xan: My heart.

And that’s game over!”

Complete the conversation, and the game will be over!”

[OMG, this is so exciting! Whoever came up with this, Come and **let** me worship you!]

fLOL, this request is golden! I skipped my online class for this live stream, and it was so worth it. Call Mr. Lockwood, do it!]

[Xan truly loves her CP fans, pulling our request out of millions!]

[I just wanted to watch a commercial live stream, but this is such an unexpected treat. I’m more nervous than if it were my own relationship!]

[Is this really happening? Can’t **believe** my ears. Are we CP fans saving the **universe** or what?]

[it’s been ages since I heard Mr. Lockwood’s voice. Wonder how he’ll react, he’s gonna be thrilled!]

After the host finished reading, Xanthea's brow twitched noticeably, though she managed to maintain a facade of calm.

She **had** expected a question **related** to Realm of Illusions, but she ended up drawing a request from her CP fans with Orion—out of millions of comments, her luck was really something.

Calling Orion was no big deal, considering the script was quite simple, and their relationship was bound to go public sooner or later

However, this was a promo live stream **for a** TV series, and she didn't want rumors about her love life to overshadow the event. Plus, if Orion accidentally gave anything away and confirmed their relationship, it could unsettle the stock prices and the market presence of both Lockwood and Nightshade Groups

Even though it might be positive attention, Orion and Samuel were not prepared for this. It was crucial to keep their relationship under wraps until an official announcement!

"Um." Xanthea hesitated, "How about we pick another request? I don't have Mr. Lockwood's number"

However, the host was quick to offer **a** solution, "You can get it from Director Elijah. We have a crew member who knows him. Just wait **a** sec, Xan."

“”

Xanthea's eyes widened at Orange's enthusiasm.

Wasn't she a reporter for Starlight Media? Didn't she know that Mr. Lockwood, aka Orion, was the CEO behind Starlight Media?

"**Ah**, no need. I just remembered all the guests exchanged numbers after filming. Let me check"

Orange: "Great!"

Xanthea took out her phone, pretending to scroll through her contacts, eventually tapping on the name at the top—Mr. Fox

Orion, please don't give us away.

"Got it"

"Awesome!" Orange waved **the** script card excitedly. "Let's start, Xan!"

“Okay”

Taking a deep breath, Xanthea dialed the number.

The phone rang for a while with no answer. Just as Xanthea was feeling relieved, Orion picked

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A conversation could be heard from the other side.

Cedric: “Boss, the head of IM has scheduled a meeting with you for Saturday. I’ve set it up at Horizon Ventures Ltd.”

“Mhm.”

[Wait did I just hear that correctly? Boss? Was that Mr. Lockwood’s voice just now?]

[Yes, yes, yes! That deep, magnetic, and oh—so—sexy voice, it’s definitely Mr. Lockwood!!

(Oh my, boss? Could it be Mr. Lockwood is a president? You’ve got to be kidding!]

1OMG, ladies, check out what I’ve just found! Orion, twenty years bld, the youngest billionaire in the history of Crestwood, CEO and chairman of the Lockwood Group, with ventures including Horizon Ventures Ltd. He rarely makes public appearances. Could it really be Mr. Lockwood?)

[No way! For real? Mr. Lockwood is Orion? The top hidden billionaire Crestwood? This has got to be some kind of fantasy drama, right?] [Absolutely! I just Googled a photo of the Lockwood Group’s old chairman. Even though he’s over 70, you can totally see the resemblance in his eyes and eyebrows. He must be Instructor Lockwood’s grandfather!]

[I’m losing it, Mr. Lockwood is actually a super—rich third—generation heir. With a flick of his wrist, he could buy out Adventure Blitz: Two Days, One Night. Going on there must have been specifically to chase Xan, right?]

[Mystery solved! The domineering and cunning big boss **turns into a** warm—hearted instructor, madly pursuing the top—tier heiress. I am so here for this!]

[Help! This dramatic plot twist has totally blown me away. And we were worried a commoner couldn't match up to Xan, but it turns out we were the fools. Mr. Lockwood is so cunning, chasing his love under a disguise!]

[Top-tier business tycoon VS top-stream gorgeous star, I'm so invested. I'm losing my mind **over** this couple!]

"Hello?"

After the brief fall, the sound of the man approached came through the microphone.

To prevent him from immediately calling out "Xannie," Xanthea quickly raised her voice, "Mr. Lockwood, hope I'm not disturbing you?"

As expected, there was a one-second pause, then his tone turned distant and polite, "Ms. Nightshade, hello."

Bingo!

Xanthea mentally gave herself a high-five, credit to the top tycoon for being smart and perceptive, catching on with just a single address!

She cheerfully glanced at the task card Orange was holding up high, and read out, "I think I left something at your place."

Next, he just needed to say What is it? Then she would finish the cheesy **line**, and she'd hang up immediately, not giving gossip columnists or ship fans a chance to catch any rumors!

Huh?

Say it!

Why wasn't he saying anything?

Hearing nothing from the other end, Xanthea thought her phone might **have** malfunctioned. She moved closer and turned **the** volume up

to maximum.

Meanwhile, in the Twin Towers, in the CEO's office bathed in the resplendent sunset glow, the happiest person in the world was watching the live stream, unblinkingly staring at the curious, beautiful girl who moved closer to her phone.

“I know.”

Xanthea: “Huh?”

“Last night’s underwear. I’ve already washed it for you.”

The man’s mild, magnetic, and tender voice broadcasted loudly through the maxed-out loudspeaker.

In an instant, the whole Internet heard it!

“Ahhh-

“Ahhh-

Orange’s eyes widened in disbelief as she covered her

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At the Glary Building, everyone—staff and guests alike—froze in surprise, their heads swiveling in unison towards Xanthea

Xanthea lost her composure, her phone dropping with a “clatter” It took several seconds before she blushed and fled the live scene **as** if escaping

“Xan

“Xan, don’t hat

The media and reporters at the scene finally reacted, picking up their equipment and swiftly chasing after her.

Socialite and beloved female influencer Xanthen’s live broadcast had gone sideways, her romantic affair exposed. Her partner? It was suspected to be Orion Lockwood, the billionaire CEO of Lockwood Group. With millions of CP fans, they are firmly seated on the throne of the entertainment industry!

This was an explosive piece of news. Anyone who could get detailed information would have their annual KPI completed!

Meanwhile, hashtags like #OrantheaReveal, UnmaskingMrLockwood, #Billionaire Boss in Disguise, #Oranthea'sSweetReality, #MrLockwoodWashesHisWifesUnderwear, #Ship FansCrying, etc, climbed to the Twitter trending charts. Their massive surge in traffic was so overwhelming it crashed servers

In the live chat rooms and on various social media platforms, audiences and fans went crazy.

[Underwear? Mr. Lockwood washed Xanthea's underwear? Did I hear that right?!]

[OMG, Mr. Lockwood and Xan are together? For **real**? Somebody pinch **me** and tell me I'm not dreaming. I'm about to cry from excitement!]

is I

[Is this some sort of prank? Early April Fool's? Am I hallucinating from too much fan-girling?]

[I can't believe my ship has sailed! Mom, it's real!]

Party time, ladies! I'm gonna streak through the streets shouting Oranthea is real! Not only real but they're living together and all loved up. I'm dying from the sweetness!]

[These two kept us fans in the dark, we've been shipping the old CP while they've been happily living together. They better share their **daily** lives or it's unforgivable!]

I knew it! I always **said** my ship was the realest, the sweetest. Mr. Lockwood, Xan, you guys owe us **a** million on-camera kisses, or I'm spreading rumors about you cohabiting and having twins already!]

[OMG, the domineering CEO in disguise disguised as a small instructor going on variety shows to pursue her goddess. It's like a romance novel coming to life, even bystanders **are** getting hooked immediately!]

I'll wave the Oranthea flag high. Who dares to oppose them? They're my OTP and my battle standard!]

"Xan, Xan, don't run away!"

"Xan, is it true that Mr. Lockwood is the current CEO of Lockwood Enterprises?"

"Xan, when did you and Mr. Lockwood get together? How long have you been living together? When are you getting married? When are **you** having kids?"

“Hey, isn’t that Xanthea?”

“It is! It’s really her!”

Outside the building, a horde of media and onlookers swarmed towards Xanthea like predators to prey, startling her into covering her face and hastening her steps, her long curly hair disheveled in the wind.

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Orion, that cunning SlyFox! She’s going to kill him!

On the roadside, a sleek black Rolls–Royce slowly parked under dense tall trees. As Xanthea walked by, she was suddenly grabbed and pulled in.

“Ah! Let me go!”

I’m not Xanthes, not Xantheal!”

She thought she’d been kidnapped by some sasaeng fan, screaming in panic and struggling desperately until she heard a clear and pleasant magnetic laughter above her head. She slowly lifted her head.

“Orion!”

“You jerk, you did that on purpose over the phone!”

Her beautiful eyes widened in anger, pummeling his chest with her fists in frustration.

“Uh–huh.”

Orion didn’t even try to refute, accepting the accusation outright.

“Blame it on Xannie for being so beautiful, attracting a whole army of rivals”

“Rivals?” Xanthea frowned, looking at him suspiciously. “You’re not talking about the fans in the livestream, are you? You’re even jealous of the fans?”

Orion’s expression turned serious. “Xannies mine, and no one else should even covet her.”

“You, you’re insane! If you want to announce it officially, you can pick any time. Why did you have to say all that stuff on the phone, it’s embarrassing!”

Xanthea felt embarrassed just thinking about the large-scale social death scene in the live broadcast room a moment ago!

Seeing her bury her head into his chest like an ostrich, Orion’s lips curled up slightly. He whispered into her ear, “Embarrassed? Imagine how much more embarrassed you’d be if you were spotted with a **baby** bump, wouldn’t that be even more embarrassing?”

“What are **you** talking about?!”

Hearing “**baby** bump,

having your kids!”

thea’s face instantly flushed red, her hand viciously twisting his abs, “Who, who’s having a baby bump, who’s

Orion’s gaze softened considerably **as** he looked at her

He truly didn’t want her to **have kids**.

She was his and his alone, from head to toe, inside **and out**, not meant to be shared with anyone, not even his child.

“Well, no kids,” he gently

brushed a loose strand of hair from her forehead. “I want to have fun with Xannie for a lifetime”

“You’re such a jerk, getting more and more outrageous!”

As Xanthea wriggled her hands, preparing to give him a big punishment when her phone suddenly rang

“Samuel?!”

Oh no, how did Samuel **get** news so **quickly** while on a business trip abroad? He was definitely coming to question her!

Not only did she forget his repeated reminders, she also seriously violated the family rules, and with Orion, now even the black room and the little whip wouldn’t be enough to deal with her!

“Give it to me.”

Orion reached out to take the phone, but Xanthea clutched it firmly, shaking her head vehemently, “No, no, Samuel will scold you to death!”

“It’s **okay**”

Orion remained calm and composed, as if he had already prepared himself mentally for the worst.

Xanthea, however, refused to let go. “No, no!”

When Samuel gångr angry, it was truly frightening **he** doesn’t mince his words!

“Are you worried about me?”

“Not at all!”

“If you’re worried.” His dark eyes swept over her suggestively, “just make it up to me

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“How can you still be so unserious at a time like this?”

Xanthea flashed her claws at him threateningly, but Orion, with his longer reach, easily snatched the phone from her hands.

“**No!**”

“Xan, what was that live stream all about? I need an explanation now!”

Samuel’s voice erupted like a firecracker, and Xanthen pounced on him like a wild animal, like a small beast, hanging up the phone, and the world fell silent.

But soon, Orion’s phone rang again. He glanced at the caller to and raised an eyebrow slightly, “Sooner or later, we’ll have to talk about

“But you **heard** how mad Samuel is! Can’t we choose a gentler approach?”

“Uncle?”

“Yeah, you’re so smart!”

She quickly dialed Oliver and, a second ago, raised her eyebrows happily at him, but the next second, tearfully complained, “Uncle, you have to save me.”

Orion looked down with a soft smile.

He pulled her onto his lap, his large hand greedily caressing her slender waist beneath the hoodie. The slender waist that was just a handful, the touch was incredible, and he unconsciously increased his force. His gaze slowly drifted down her perfectly straight, long legs, as if admiring a piece of art, his eyes gradually darkening.

She had chosen a different style today, highlighting her stunning figure, full of allure like a fairy. Just a glance made people feel captivated and restless.

Remembering how she sat in the live stream room just like that, being watched by thousands, a fierce jealousy ignited within him, brewing a strong possessiveness.

“Mmm”

Xanthea was still on the phone when she saw him transform into a wolf again, ferociously wanting to devour her.

“You!” She glared at him, putting her hand over his mouth and catching his lust-filled, hazy gaze.

“Okay, thanks, **Undel**”

As

soon as the call ended, Orion restrained her hands, pressing her firmly into the seat. The rising desire was evident between his handsome brows, “Why are you dressed like this today?”

“What’s wrong? Don’t I look good? I’m cosplaying as Phoenix”

Phoenix?

Orion’s eyes narrowed, and he

*Orion, stop, we’re still in the car’

her earlobe.

“Phee, are you trying to seduce me?”

He’s acting Maximus now?

What kind of weird fetish is this? Was all that acting **with** her originally just a way to vent his desires?!

“You’re overthinking it. She raised her hand, calmly stating, “I dressed up like this to meet Prescott, ah.”

As soon as the name Prescott left her lips, a deadly glint flashed in the man’s eyes, and he bit down hard on her lip. Then let him see how I’m going to deal with you”

2 22 2 28 5

“You perven!”

The phone suddenly rang. Xanthea shivered, thinking it was Samuel again, “Don’t answer it, Uncle just agreed to help me handle Samuel”

Orion glanced at the screen, his expression freezing for a moment. He loosened her slightly, calming his rapid breathing, and answered the phone.

Xanthea was surprised at whose call could have such an effect that it made him stop, then she heard him say in a low **voice**, “Grandpa.. Grandpa?”

1/2

Chapter **387**

Is it Theodore, the chairman of The Lockwood Group for over two decades?

She immediately held her breath.

“Yeah, we’ll be right there.”

Xanthea was puzzled, “2 Right there? Where are they going?”

Shortly after, Orion hung up the call, his fingers on her chin prompting another kiss, “Phee, let’s continue.”

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Xanthea pulled his hand away forcefully. “You just said we would be right here. What does that mean?”

Orion glanced **ahead**, “Serene Retreat House.”

Wasn’t that the famous Lockwood Estate?

She felt a panic in her heart. “You—
you’re not taking me to meet your grandfather, are you?”

“Mm—hmm.”

“What? Why didn’t you tell me earlier? I’m not prepared at all!”

“Don’t worry.”

Orion took over a gift box prepared
on the **side**. Xanthea opened it to find a set of exquisite porcelain tea set, clearly worth
a fortune.

too in

“But this is what you prepared, not me. Isn’t it

insincere?”

“What’s mine is yours, Xannie.”

“That’s not the point. Even if the gift is ready, I’m not ready!”

She had it
all planned out in her head. Meeting his family deserved a carefully chosen gift and a so
ft, elegant dress to leave the best impression. Now, Phoenix’s dressing style was a disa
ster!

Orion chuckled and kissed her forehead. “Even an ugly duckling has to meet the in—
laws.”

“Who’s the ugly one here?”

“Alright, let’s show Grandpa what a beautiful swan I’ve brought him.”

“Smooth talker! You didn’t even give me time to dress up. How can I look pretty in this?
The first impression is going to be terrible.” First impression? Orion raised an eyebrow sl
ightly, as if recalling something. The first impression was good, adorable even.”

“What?”

“Boss, we’ve arrived.”

Xanthea took a deep breath, not prepared for anything, and was forced to rush into it with the porcelain tea set in hand,

In front of the gate of the Serene Retreat House, a group of servants and the housekeeper from the Lockwood Estate greeted them with warm smiles.

“Young master, young mistress, the old master has been eagerly awaiting your arrival”

Hearing the title “young mistress” made Xanthea’s heart skip a beat. How had Orion introduced her to his family? They were already addressing her as the mistress of the house. What

was she supposed to call Chairman Theodore later? Chairman Lockwood, or Grandpa?

The housekeeper led them inside. The villa was quiet, their footsteps echoing as they headed towards the study.

“Master, the young master and young mistress have arrived.”

“Let them in quickly.”

A deep, resonant voice beckoned from within. The housekeeper opened the door, and Xanthea saw an elegant, spirited old man. Although he was already in his twilight years, his short hair was still lustrous, and he wielded the brush with ease. His eyes and demeanor bore a striking resemblance to Orion, like a fine wine that had aged to perfection.

Wow, he was still so dashing at such an old age?

When Orion grows old in the future, will he also be a handsome old man?

She stole a glance at him as Orion took her hand. “Grandpa.”

Theodore looked up. When he saw Xanthea, he stunned for a moment, as if seeing through her to a memory from decades past.

The little girl with a ponytail, holding an ice cream cone and singing in a sweet, childlike voice—she seemed to have grown up right before his eyes.

Xanthea felt a little overwhelmed by his long and thoughtful **gaze**. When she was hesitating whether to call him Chairman Lockwood or Grandpa, she blurted out, “Hi, Grandpa Lockwood!”

Orion’s eyebrows lightly moved, and Theodore set down his pen, grinning warmly. “Xan, you’re here.”

“Ori, leave us. I have some things to talk to Xan

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Upon hearing this, Xanthea immediately tightened her grip on his hand.

She was nervous and didn't know what to do, waiting for Orion to say something to break the awkward silence, and now he was leaving?

No way!

Feeling her hand tightening, Orion caressed her hand and reassured her softly, "Don't worry, I just be outside."

"Okay"

The door to the study closed, and Xanthea immediately picked up the fine porcelain tea set she had brought with her, placing it on the desk, "Grandpa Theodore, this is a gift for you, Orion picked it out."

She still felt a bit guilty, so she added the last sentence.

Theodore chuckled. "Such an honest and adomble child."

"I'm sorry" Xanthea bowed her head, embarrassed, "I **had** planned to choose a gift myself."

"It's not your fault. I asked Orion to bring you over on short notice"

Huh?

So that was it. No wonder Orion had brought her here without informing her. She had misunderstood him.

Theodore continued, "I hurt my leg a while back and need to go abroad for some rehab, thought I'd see you before I leave."

"You hurt your leg?" Xanthea looked at him with concern, "How is the injury?"

"It's fine, just that I can't stand up to entertain you now."

Theodore put away his calligraphy papers and paintings away, reaching for the teapot nearby. Xanthea immediately walked over and took it from him, “No worries at all, I **can** do it myself!”

1. n. I've always appreciated you!

Watching her carefully pour the tea, Theodore's smile widened, “**Xan**, I've

“Born into a prestigious family, doted on by two accomplished brothers, most people would choose to live an easy life as a wealthy

socialite

But not you. You pursued your dreams, worked hard in chemistry for years, earned a spot at the Crestwood Research Institute out of the ordinary, and even caught the eye of the famous Professor Fred. You like singing and acting, and quickly rose to the top of the entertainment industry in just half a year

Whether it's your intelligence, character, or personal charm, you stand out in every aspect, and your personality is bright and lovely too, no wonder Orion is so fond of you.”

“Grandpa Theodore, you flatter me!”

Xanthea handed him a **cup** of tea, which Theodore accepted, “No, you truly are exceptional. There is no need to be modest. And don't worry, I haven't been investigating you, just keeping an eye out.”

Keeping an eye out?

Why would he keep an eye on her?

Xanthea was puzzled, but Theodore changed the subject, “During this time, how have things been going between you and Orion?”

“Pretty good, we're very happy together.”

Happy?

Theodore took a sip of tea, his gaze turning reflective as if lost in distant memories.

He couldn't remember how long it had been since he last saw Orion smile.

“Orion, despite his young age, has always been more mature than his peers, which is related to the complex dynamics **within** our family at that time, and in part, to me.”

“After Juliette’s death, in order to stabilize the Lockwood Group, I arranged for Orion to have a stepmother through marriage. I didn’t expect this decision would leave him with indelible scars and shadows from his childhood. By the time I realized, it was too late. It was

hurry all my

fault!

Juliette? That was Orion’s birth mother.

The indelible scars and childhood shadows? Were they referring to his bum scars and the horrific “matricide” rumors in the news?

08:58

Chapter 389

Xanthea thought

Theodore was going to tell her all about Orion’s hidden childhood traumas, halfway through, he suddenly turned the conversation back to her, “Has Orion told you about these things?”

Xanthea replied, “No.”

Theodore nodded, just as he had guessed.

My Beloved Has Risen from Death’s Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 390

Posted by **AdminHR**, 1291 Views, Released on June 3, 2024

Chapter 390

“He’s been holding back the darker parts of his past, afraid they might scare you off. But I believe it’s important for you to know some basic facts. Orion’s parents both passed away when he was five years old.”

“What?”

Xanthea was stunned, “The news indeed said his mother died in an accident when he was five, but it said that his father...” had been just withdrew from the business world due to excessive grief, and had never been seen in high society again.

Theodore shook his head sadly, "Hamison followed Juliette in death not long after she died. The Lockwood Group never made it public." Hearing this, Xanthea's heart trembled.

So, Orion has been without parents since he was five?

"Hamison was my most beloved son, brilliant and exceptionally talented. He was always a pride from a young age, but unfortunately, he had one **fatal** flaw—he loved too deeply. Ori inherited this from him."

As Theodore spoke, he put down the teacup and looked at her with a deep gaze, shimmering with a hint of almost a plea.

"Xan, **you** must stay by his side and never **leave** him."

Overwhelmed by the intensity in his gaze, Xanthea responded, "Okay, I will,"

"Good."

Theodore nodded in relief and opened **the** drawer in his desk, pulling out an antique mahogany carved flower box from the bottom layer. Opening it inside was a pristine, round jade bracelet.

"My dear, this bracelet was the token of love Harrison gave to Juliette back then. After they passed away. I followed their will and burned everything except for this."

"Now, I want to give it to you."

The token of love from Orion's parents?

Xanthea hastily declined, "No, no, Grandpa Theodore, this is too precious!"

"Nothing is more precious than you. In Ori's eyes, you are his everything. It's you who healed his childhood wounds and brought back his zest for life."

But Theodore swallowed the words that were on **tip** of his tongue.

"By giving you this bracelet, first, I hope **you'll** continue Harrison and Juliette's love, and second, I hope Ori can let go of the past and build a happy and perfect family with you, to make up the emotional void of these years."

"Grandpa Theodore."

*Sull calling me Grandpa **Theodore**?"

Xanthea: "Grand-Grandpa."

Theodore took out the bracelet and put it on her wrist.

The warm delicate jade bracelet gently swayed on the girl's slender wrist, as if it were a destined fate.

Theodore couldn't help but sigh

On, you've finally found her.

"Xan, Orion grew up in an environment severely lacking in love, so sometimes, he might be overly controlling or possessive with those people he treasures. I **hope** you can understand him, and if he ever bullies you, come tell me. I'll discipline him."

"And, the day after tomorrow is his birthday!"

"The **day** after tomorrow?" Xanthea raised her eyebrows, "Isn't it in November?"

"That's the official record, fabricated"

Theodore said, "His real birthday is October 27th, but he never celebrates it, nor does he let anyone mention it because it's also the day his mother passed away."

Hearing "passed away" Xanthea paused.

Her heart felt as if it was being tightly gripped. Orion lost his parents at the age of five, and the most celebratory day in his life was also the saddest day.

How did he get through all these years?

08:59

Chapter 390

"Ori didn't want me to tell you any of this. Forget it once you leave."