

My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 431

Posted by AdminHR, 673 Views, Released on June 7, 2024

Chapter 431

“Young master? Young master? Where are you?”

The Lockwood family's housekeeper stepped out of the car, searching for Orion. When he saw him standing on the steps, he was about to run over but was stopped by Theodore.

“Hold on.”

He looked at the scene not far away—a little girl was holding Orion's hand, putting a band-aid on him.

Orion had his head down, staring at her as if he were entranced. The usual cold and gloomy aura around him seemed to dissipate, as if he were bathed in sunlight.

And the girl was none other than Xanthea Nightshade, the precious daughter of the Nightshade family, the one Orion wanted.

“What a harmonious scene,” the housekeeper couldn't help but smile at the sight. “It's been a long time since I've seen young master like

this.”

Orion hadn't said a word, **but** he was completely different from his usual cold and silent behavior. For a moment, it seemed like he was **back** in the days when Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood were still alive.

“**All done!**”

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Xanthea finished applying the band-aid, instructing him not to get it wet and to change it in a **few** hours.

Orion twitched his fingers. He looked at the beautiful butterfly on the band-aid and nodded.

Most kids their age were noisy and mischievous, always using childish tricks to get her attention, which she found utterly annoying. But he was quiet and exceptionally well-behaved.

She was tempted to pat his head but paused, then she thought: maybe he was like this because he didn't **have** parents, or because of the scars on his face.

She wanted to ask if he was the boy they had rescued from the fire, but she was afraid of reopening his wounds, so she held back.

"If anyone ever bullies you again, just to tell me. I'll stand up for you!"

She declared, fists clenched with determination.

Orion looked up, seemingly surprised that she would say that

He wasn't afraid of being bullied, not at all. In fact, if being bullied meant he could see her, he even looked forward to it.

Xanthea mistook his silence for doubt. After all, she was small, and a level-three wind could blow her over. Her clenched fist was the size of lollipops.

guy around, and everyone is afraid of him!"

"You don't believe **me**? I might not be strong, but my brother is! He's the toughest guy

"As long as he's around, no one will dare to hurt us!"

Orion's thick eyelashes lowered, concealing the resolve in his eyes.

He wanted to grow up quickly to protect her.

"Did you come to the hall today to hear me sing? Is that rose for me? Are you my fan?"

He nodded.

Xanthea's eyes lit up with joy as she accepted her new little admirer.

"Actually, I don't like roses much. I prefer irises!"

Inses?

"There are over twenty thousand types of inses in the world, each unique, each with its own special meaning. And they look like butterflies!"

"I often dream of a mountain full of irises, with every type imaginable. When they bloom, it's like the mountain is covered in butterflies dancing in the wind. It'll be beautiful."

“Young master, it’s getting late. We should go.”

The housekeeper and Theodore walked up the steps, reluctant to interrupt their conversation

When Orion saw them, the light in his dark eyes bright with imagination dimmed at their approach. He was clearly reluctant.

Theodore sensed his unwelcome attitude but knew it was indeed late, and it was raining. If they played any longer, the two little ones might catch a cold.

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Xanthea’s words were abruptly interrupted, and she turned around curiously, “Who are you?”

Theodore looked at her with her two pigtails, her vivacity endearing him. Instantly, Tom his grandfather, here to take him home.”

Upon hearing “grandfather Xanthea’s expression immediately changed. She put her hands on her hips and furrowed her brows in a scolding manner.

“Why **did you** come so late?”

“Don’t you know it’s very unsafe for children to be **out** after dark?”

Tom couldn’t help but chuckle. This was the first time he saw someone dare to scold the CEO, especially it was a little girl

Theodore looked at her serious demeanor both surprised and amused, “I got caught up in a meeting”

“Excuses!”

“Alright, alright, I’ll apologize to him. Grandpa’s sorry for being late. It won’t happen again.”

Xanthea gently **tugged** on Orion’s sleeve, “Given his sincere apology, let’s forgive him, okay?”

Orion pressed his lips together remaining silent.

Xanthea was surprised. Did he not talk to his family either? Was he really mute? She fell into deep thought again.

Theodore realized she was trying to coax Orion into speaking. This Ms. Nightshade was as clever and lively as hearsay suggested.

“Why haven’t you gone home yet?”

“Miss, miss!*

Not far off, a housekeeper was running over with an umbrella. Xanthea ran towards him with a smile, “Here I am!”

Orion watched as she let go of his hand, and his eyes instantly filled with disappointment.

Theodore noticed his sensitive reaction and squatted down, “Or, it’s alright. We’ll see her again tomorrow.”

Mhm.

Orion nodded.

He could see her every day.

“Goodbye!”

Before getting into the car, Xanthea turned to wave, adding, “Grandpa, don’t be late next time!”

“Okay!”

Theodore squinted in acknowledgment, while Tom shook his head with a smile, “That little lady sure is something. She even managed to fool you.

Chairman.”

“Indeed.”

If she can fool me **now**, she’ll be able to fool Orion in the future.

Theodore took Orion’s hand, who was silently waving, and they got into the car.

The fine drizzle was like mist. Orion pressed his face against the car window watching the blurry rain and the silhouette of Xanthea’s car gradually disappear from his sight.

“On, how have things been at school lately? Are you getting along well with your teachers and classmates?”

“Grandpa noticed you were happy today. Was it because you played with Xan?”

Theodore had gotten used to not receiving replies when talking to him, but kept at it, hoping to help him slowly return to normalcy. Today, however, he was surprised to receive a note **from** Orion: Grandpa, I want inses.

He looked at **him**, **pleasantly** surprised.

This was the first time in months that Orion was willing to initiate communication. Inses? It seemed Xan had just mentioned this flower to him. It looked like Xan was indeed the remedy for him to come out of his shadow,

“Alright, I’ll have them delivered tonight

The next evening. Xanthea, bounced out of school with her Ertle backpack and saw Orion at the end of the corridor again.

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She ran over like a gust of wind and patted his shoulder, “Hey! Why are you here again? Was **your** grandpa late again?”

Orion nodded, his eyes darting around nervously, though thankfully hidden behind his sunglasses.

He was deliberately waiting for her

“Hmph!”

“I know it!”

Xanthea stomped her foot in slight annoyance. That old liar he had just promised her yesterday!

“Where do you live? I can have our housekeeper drive you home.”

Before she could finish, Orion pulled out a sapphire German Bearded Iris from his clothes. The petals, adorned with soft butter yellow speckles that bloomed from the inside out, were full of color and gracefully outlined. The flower was stunningly beautiful!

Xanthea's eyes lit up instantly. "Wow, what a gorgeous iris!"

Orion handed it to her, and she looked at him in disbelief, is this for **me**? Thank you, thank you so much!"

"It's so **pretty**!"

She took **it**, admiring it from every angle, and even gave it a little kiss.

The iris, in full bloom under the shining sun, was a sight to behold, but Orion thought it **paled** in comparison to the brightness of her smile at that moment

Xanthea felt she had received the highest praise and scratched her head shyly. His fanboy filter for her seemed pretty strong! Her parents and brothers had often joked she was as hard to catch as a mischievous monkey

"I don't have anything to give you in return. Should I sing you another song?"

But she hadn't written any new songs recently.

"I'll stay here and play some games with you!"

Orion nodded.

Xanthea pulled out her unbeatable grade school trio from her backpack a Sudoku puzzle, a Rubik's cube, and a book of brainteasers!

These were the games she often played with her classmates—they were also tools she used to outsmart them. But she could go easy on him.

"Let's get the rules first. We'll pick a game and see who can finish it first within a set time. The winner gets to make a request or choose a punishment for the **loser**, deal?"

Orion agreed, familiar with her game rules.

Seeing how quickly he agreed, Xanthea smirked mischievously, like a sly little fox watching an adorable, clueless prey jump into its trap. He was so naive, wasn't he? Didn't he know about her notorious reputation at Crestwood Primary School? He was bound to lose!

"You better watch out!"

She laid out the Sudoku cards, two Rubik's cubes, and the book of brainteasers in front of them, "Pick one!"

Orion grabbed a Sudoku card, and Xanthea, trying to be kind, warned him, "Are you sure? I'm top of my class in math! Maybe try a different one?"

He shook his head.

"Alright then!"

"One card for you, **and** one card for me."

After dividing the cards, Xanthea leisurely twirled her pen, not in a hurry to start. Based on past experience, she expected him to struggle like her other classmates, not able to fill in a single square. Yet, she hadn't even started when he handed his completed card to

her.

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Xanthea stared at the completed Sudoku card, which was without a single mistake, her mouth agape wide enough to swallow an egg

whole.

He had gotten them all right—how was he so good?

It seemed she had underestimated him!

"I hadn't said 'start' yet, so it doesn't count!"

To **avoid** punishment, she resorted to playing dumb. She thought he would be upset, but he just put down the card, indicating she could start again.

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Xanthen laughed happily and grabbed a new set of cards.

This time, she picked out the hardest puzzle there was, a five-story Sudoku that not even the sixth graders could **solve**, let alone him!

“Alright, let’s go!”

She couldn’t afford to slack off this time, starting to fill in the answers with focus. But after just filling in two, Orion finished again. He handed her his card, which was just as precise and correct as before!

Xanthea was so shocked that she dropped her pencil, looking at him incredulously, “You’re so smart!”

She had never lost at Sudoku against her classmates, not even to the older students. This was the first time she had been thoroughly bested by someone!

Orion fidgeted with the card in his hand, worried she might not like him winning.

“You won, so you can punish me. But, but let’s count it at the end, okay? Let’s switch to Rubik’s cubes!”

To offset the punishment, Xanthea scrambled two Rubik’s cubes and thrust them into his hands without a second thought.

Rubik’s cubes were her forte, undoubtedly no one could. Yet, in mere seconds, Orion had solved them and placed them back on the ground.

Xanthea looked at it, and the Rubik’s Cube in her hand fell with a “thud.” When she looked up again, her big eyes were filled with admiration, “Wow-”

“You’re amazing!!!”

She clung to his hands as if she had discovered an incredible treasure, her arms as delicate as porcelain.

She had long realized she was much smarter than her peers, playing games with them was just a one-sided crush, with no fun at all. Yet, they kept at it eagerly, only Ethan occasionally won against her, and Samuel could just barely tie with **her**

Unexpectedly, he was even smarter than her brother!

He wasn’t just a little mute, he was a genius!

And she adored geniuses!

Orion, under her admiring gaze, a hint of shyness in his eyes.

Would she keep playing with him then?

“**You’ve** won again, so you can punish me twice”

Xanthea lightly shook his arm, saying she would obediently accept the punishment, but her slightly bitten pink lips and blinking, watery eyes seemed to say: With Xan being this cute, could you really dare to punish me?

Orion shook his head, unable to bear it.

Xanthea's coquettish attack succeeded, **and** she triumphantly made a V sign, picking up the last brainteaser book.

This was her secret weapon!

Orion saw a sly spark in her slightly upturned eyes, looking every bit the cunning little fox she was, utterly adorable.

Xanthea: "Quick question in three seconds: How far can a fox run into the woods?"

Halfway into the forest (Because in the other halfway, it will run out of it).

Orion watched her, his lips pressed together.

The cunning little Xanthea, knowing he couldn't speak, laughed gleefully, feeling like she had avenged herself, and closed the brainteaser book, "You lost!"

"You didn't punish me just now, so I won't punish you either, okay?"

Orion nodded.

Xanthea released his arm and said kindly, "But I didn't say I wouldn't set a condition."

I want to see...

She suddenly leaned closer, making Orion's breath hitch. He instinctively stepped back, fearing she would want to see his face. As if reading his mind, Xanthea shook her head, "Don't worry, I'm not asking to see your face. I just want to see your eyes, okay?"

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Under his sunglasses, Orion's eyes flickered with uncertainty. He lowered his head slightly, looking extremely nervous and conflicted.

Xanthea bent down to pick up her little backpack, and Orion, thinking she was about to leave, quickly grabbed her

Xanthea: "7"

He slowly nodded, and Xanthea was thrilled that she almost jumped up. "Really?!"

He wouldn't show his eyes to anyone, but he was willing to show them to her!

She carefully approached him, slowly sliding his sunglasses off. Orion held his breath, tense and worried that she might be frightened or repulsed by what she saw

A pair of eyes, black and lustrous like obsidian, emerged. They were like stars in the sky, shimmering brightly in the distant, dark night sky, that they could draw anyone in. They were stunning!

Xanthea was mesmerized.

Orion's thick, raven lashes fluttered with uncertainty and confusion.

He attempted to put his sunglasses back on, but Xanthea stopped him. "No! They're beautiful, like little stars in the sky!"

Orion was taken aback. Little stars?

His stepmother used to curse his eyes as empty and terrifying, threatening to gouge them out. Yet, here was Xanthea, finding them beautiful, like stars in the night sky.

"Please, don't put the sunglasses back on. Let me look at them a little longer, okay?"

As Xanthea gazed into his eyes, she leaned in closer without realizing it.

Her cute, rosy face came nearer, and her amber eyes, filled with affection, made Orion shyly lower his head.

Truth be told, she was the prettiest of all.

Seeing him shyly lower his head, Xanthea reluctantly withdrew her gaze and smacked her lips.

Back during the fire at the abandoned building in the suburbs, the thick smoke obscured his face, leaving only his red burned mark visible

Thinking about it now, if his eyes were so beautiful, his face must be even more handsome. Who could h

ave been so cruel to him? Xanthea, feeling a pang of empathy, tiptoed and gently patted his head. "Let me take you to see the stars!"

See the stars?

"Don't worry, I'll call the housekeeper and ask him to come later. As for your grandfather, well, it's his own fault for always being late. Let him worry a bit!"

Meanwhile, Tom, sitting in the driver's seat of the stretched Lincoln, joked with Theodore in the back. "The young master and Ms. Xanthea Nightshade's 'date' is quite long."

In the central garden, amidst a fragrant flower bed in full bloom with begonias, they were a spectacular sight, their vibrant colors competing for attention.

Xanthea pulled Orion to sit on the grass, pointing at the stars above. "Aren't they beautiful?"

As night fell, the dark blue sky spread out like a canvas, dotted with billions of twinkling stars.

It had been a long time since Orion had looked at anything without his sunglasses, and he nodded emphatically.

Xanthea turned to ask him, "Do you know about constellations?"

Constellations?

"Not just the zodiac ones!"

She pointed towards a group of stars in the sky near the ecliptic. "There, those stars form a giant square, that's the Great Square of Pegasus!"

"Next to it, two stars form a line pointing towards the constellation Andromeda. That cross shaped constellation is Cygnus constellation. South of Cygnus is the Vulpecula constellation. Do **you** see those two pointy tips? Don't they look like the fluffy ears of a fox?"

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The little girl was enthusiastically sharing her knowledge, but Orion's gaze gradually shifted to her.

Her curved, smiling eyes shimmered like a crescent moon cradled by stars, bright and brilliant.

The night was serene, a gentle breeze in the air, as begonia petals gracefully fell upon her. He suddenly wanted to kiss his little angel and wished **that** time would stop at this moment, so he could be with her forever.

"Which constellation is your favorite?"

Xanthea's question snapped him out of his reverie, making him turn his face away guiltily, pointing towards the constellation of Vulpecula in the sky.

"Vulpecula? Why's that?"

Xanthea, puzzled, touched her chin. Vulpecula was quite faint

-Because it resembled you.

"My favorite is...."

As Xanthea was about to share her favorite constellation, she noticed the butterfly band-aid still stuck on his finger from yesterday

"Yikes!"

"Why didn't you **listen** and take off the **band-aid**!?"

She grabbed his finger, and Orion slightly retracted it.

"Leaving it on for so long could lead to an infection!"

She gently removed the band-aid from his finger, revealing the skin beneath had turned a bit white, and blew on it.

"How can you **be** so smart yet so silly?"

He just couldn't bear to remove it.

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After blowing on it, Xanthea found herself unwilling to let go of his finger.

Initially, she thought he was just a lonely, pitiable mute, and couldn't help but care for him. But gradually, she realized he wasn't lonely at all. His heart was warm, generous, and intelligent. His eyes, hidden behind sunglasses, **were** also incredibly beautiful. Maybe, he'd even start to speak slowly.

All these realizations were hers alone, and a sense of possessiveness grew in her heart as she held his hand tightly.

"Are we friends now?"

Orion blushed and nodded shyly.

"Friends should exchange names. I'm Xanthea, people around call me Xanthea, my family calls me Xan, you can pick whatever you like!" Orion's lashes fluttered, seemingly hesitant.

He stretched out his hand, slowly writing letters on the ground—Xannie.

He wanted something special, just for him.

"Xannie?" Xanthea looked at him in surprise, "That's cute!"

No one had ever called her Xannie before, just like no one knew how good he was. This was a secret just between the two of them.

"What about you? What's your name?"

Xanthea looked at him expectantly, only to see him write five intricate letters on the ground—Orion,

The name sounded lovely!

"Then I call you Ori, okay?"

She loved **her** elder **brothers** the most, and she liked him too, so he would be her Ori.

"Okay."

“From today on, we’re friends. Let me mark you” Xanthea rummaged through her backpack, pulling out a marker and drew an iris on the front of his white shirt, “This flower means Orion belongs to Xannie.”

Orion looked down, staring at her in a daze, and responded in his heart

Okay, I belong to Xannie.

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CHAPTER 437

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“Does it look good?”

Xanthea finished drawing and lay on his chest, looking down at her work with a satisfied smile.

Orion looked at her adorable, enchanting smile and nodded.

-It looks good.

“If it looks good, you have to keep it there and not wipe it off, okay?”

Okay.

He would always keep the mark there.

A gust of evening breeze swept through, causing the pink and white begonia flowers to fall all and flutter down onto the little girl’s **dark** eyebrows, making her look as beautiful as a flower fairy

Orion was mesmerized and leaned in slightly closer.

Suddenly, Xanthea pointed excitedly towards the night sky, “Orion, **look**, a shooting star!”

He looked up to see the night sky filled with dazzling streaks of light, like fairies waving their magic wands, creating a scene straight out of a fairy tale.

*Make a wish! Quick, make

a wish!”

“My mom says that when a shooting star passes by, any wish can come true!”“

As if afraid of missing the moment, she quickly covered his eyes

Under the vast night sky, two small figures made the same wish upon the shooting star

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I want to be with Ori forever.

I want to be with Xannie forever.

“Ring, ring, ring.”

The smartwatch buzzed, signaling it was time to head back home as called by the housekeeper.

Packing up her little backpack, Xanthea was startled to find a fluffy caterpillar on her dress, which made her freak out, “Ahhh—there’s **a** bug! A bug! A **bug!**”

Orion swiftly moved to catch the bug for her.

However, Xanthea, unable to control her panic, started jumping around in an attempt to shake it off, nearly slipping and almost falling down the small flower hill.

“Xannie, be careful!”

In a split second, Orion pounced on her.

Both of them were safe but stunned.

Huh?

Xanthea blinked her big eyes full of confusion. Did she just hear things? Did On speak?!

He could speak?

Orion himself was in disbelief.

“On, did you just talk?”

It had been so long since he had spoken, Orion felt awkward getting up, pretending as if nothing had happened,

But Xanthea wouldn’t let it go, her eyes bearing with joy as she tugged at his sleeve and spun around, “You spoke! You finally spoke!”

She knew he wasn't mute!

Orion shook his head.

"You're lying: you clearly spoke

"I heard it, Ori. Your voice is so **nice**. Can you call me Xannie again, please? Pretty please?"

"Ori! Ori!"

Xanthes held **his** hand all the way, laughing and acting spoiled, leg the boy defenseless but to comply with her wish.

"Yeah."

08:57

Chapter **437**

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That evening, as they returned home, Theodore noticed a beautiful Iris pattern on his grandson's cheat and that he had taken off his sunglasses. His eyes occasionally curved as if he was thinking of something happy, as if recalling something joyous. Theodore couldn't help but ask.

us fun today?®

"**Ori**, did you give that iris to Xan? Did she like it? Did you guys have fun

He didn't expect an answer and continued asking as usual. But to his surprise, Orion nodded halfway through. "Yes."

The words fell, and Theodore was stunned as if struck by lightning, and then tears of deep emotion welled up in his eyes.

After more than a year, Ori had finally spoke again.

From that day on, Orion and Xanthea became inseparable best friends.

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Chapter 438

At school, Xanthea waved her chubby little fists around, her expression fierce yet adorable, warning everyone, "Orion is my best friend. If any of you dare to bully him, it's like bullying me. When Samuel comes back, you'll be in big trouble!"

After school, Xanthea dragged Orion to see the fireflies behind the hill, to the photo booth for the trendy new photo stickers, **and** to the famous food alley next door for some snacks.

"I can't stand onions and parsley, the chef forgot, and put a ton of them in again!"

Xanthes **pouted**, looking annoyed at the bowl of snacks in front of her. Orion, however, patiently picked out all the parsley and onions, "They're gone now."

"Hehe~" Xanthea squinted her eyes, smiling happily, "Orl, you're the best!"

"I cook for you in the future, no onions or parsley."

"Really? Guys who cook are the coolest!" Xanthe held her cheeks, her eyes twinkling. "But why would you want to cook for me?"

Orion remained silent.

Standing outside an expensive shop window, Xanthea's eyes sparkled with joy at the sight of the beautiful dolls inside.

"Do you want one, Xannie?" Orion noticed the longing in her eyes.

Xanthea nodded, "Yeah, I really **do!**"

"I'll buy it for you."

"No, you can't!" Xanthea stopped him, "Mom said I've already got too many dolls, I need to learn to control my desires. I can only buy another one during Christmas!"

"Orion, let's **go.**"

She pulled him away, her longing gaze etched into Orion's heart.

Little angels don't need to restrain their desires like humans do.

Whatever Xannie likes, he would satisfy her

Before they knew it, it was winter break, and an amusement park that had been under construction for years in the suburbs of the capital city finally opened. Xanthea badgered Oliver into buying two tickets and happily handed them to Orion.

“Orion, let’s go to the amusement park on Saturday. I heard it has the biggest Ferris wheel in the city. People who ride it together will never part ways in this lifetime!”

“Yeah,”

Orion nodded.

He wanted to ride the Ferris wheel with Xannie, to never be apart for life.

“Then it’s a date, 8 AM at the school gate this Saturday! No backing out!”

“Pinky promise-”

Ever since Harrison’s tragic death, and Orion was thrown into a fire, Theodore had resumed his position as the chairman and CEO of the Lockwood Group, using every means to seek revenge on the Miller Group. In less than two years, he managed to bring down the huge Miller Group.

Katherine, entangled in her family’s debts, was restricted from high consumption abroad and was implicated in economic crime conspiracies, soon to be repatriated.

She knew Orion was not dead, the Miller family had been humiliated by Theodore, and she herself might face jail time, which drove

even more insane.

“Harrison, you’ve ruined my life! And now, **your** dad won’t spare

“If that’s the case, your whole family must be buried with me!”

PIE

either!”

She secretly used her connections to escape back to the country. One drunken night, she sneaked into the Serene Retreat House and opened Orion’s room door.

“Creak-

“When the door opened, Orion, who was looking at a photo of Xanthea. When he looked up and saw her, it was as if he had seen a ghost.

Before he could say a word, Katherine rushed over, and viciously strangled his neck, "You little bastard, you really didn't die

Cheater **439**

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"So, a fire that big didn't kill you? You have a tough life. Let's see if I can strangle you!"

"Your grandpa is a stubborn old coot your dad bit the dust **too soon**, and you will also... Ahh!!"

In the midst of his struggle, Orion grabbed a desk lamp from the table and smashed it against her arm, causing photographs to scatter all **over** the floor.

Katherine screamed and let go. Just as she was about to continue finishing him off, she saw the photos scattered on the ground.

The photos were of a pure, innocent, and beautiful little girl. She had seen this girl with Mr. Lopez at a party before, the girl was the darling of the Nightshade family.

Orion coughed violently and crawled over to pick up the photos, but she grabbed them first, laughing maniacally.

"Look what I found!"

*So, you like the young miss of the Nightshade family, huh? You've been secretly taking photos of her and hiding them. Such a young pervert! Did your short-lived dad know about this?"

"Look at your scarred face, you're ugly enough to scare a ghost! Do you deserve her?"

"Aren't you afraid you'll scare her to tears? Hahaha.

"Give them back! Give them to me!"

Orion rushed over to grab the photos, but she kicked him away.

"So, you little bastard can talk, huh?"

"You've been pretending all along! Just like your father, deceiving me until the end!"

“You both deserve to die. I won’t just kill you; I’ll make you watch as everything you love gets destroyed!”

She pulled out a lighter and set the photos on fire.

The eerie flames slowly burned the smiling face of the little girl, illuminating the woman’s crazed, twisted expression.

Orion’s dark pupils tightened into narrow slits, a deep, shocking red of murderous intent flickering within.

He grabbed a Swiss Army knife from nearby, ran over, and slashed the woman’s arm.

Katherine’s triumphant laughter was cut short by a scream of pain. Clutching her wounded arm, **she** stumbled back. Before she could react, **the** boy pushed her down the stairs

.

“Ah-”

The staircase at Serene Retreat House was twisted and turned, spanning several meters

The woman’s screams echoed throughout the villa, waking all the sleeping servants.

Theodore rushed out without even putting on his clothes, seeing Katherine lying in a pool of blood in the hall, lifeless.

And at the top of the stairs stood his grandson, holding a blood-dripping knife.

His eyes were deep and vacant, staring at the woman’s corpse below as if devoid of all humanity.

“Quick, call Fabian over!”

Theodore ran up and covered the boy’s eyes with his hands.

He feared that if a psychologist didn’t intervene immediately, Orion would be ruined.

“Ori, it’s okay now. You’re safe.”

“Grandpa’s here.”

On Saturday, Xanthea, dressed in a canary yellow down jacket and carrying a petite bamboo basket bag, arrived half an hour early at their meeting spot, patiently waiting for Orion.

The winter morning breeze brushed her face with its unique coldness, making her huddle her neck, her small head buried in the fluffy hood, looking like a cute little yellow duck. Passersby couldn't help but turn to look at her, "She's so cute!"

Today, she planned to spend the entire day with Or at the amusement park. And if they still weren't satisfied, she'd take him back to her place. Her parents and brothers hadn't met him yet!

My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace Novel

CHAPTER 440

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Chapter 440

If they met him, they would surely like him just as much as she did!

nowhere to be seen

Half an hour had passed, and Xanthea's legs were numb from squatting, but Orion was now

"It's time. Why isn't he here yet?"

He was late. Once he arrived, she would definitely punish him!

Another half hour ticked by without **any** sign of him.

Xanthea started to look around anxiously.

Why hadn't Orion come yet?

Did he forget about their appointment?

One hour, two hours, three hours.

From morning till dusk, the hopeful glimmer in Xanthea's eyes gradually dimmed. Her stomach was growling loudly, and the irises in her little bamboo basket wilted.

Orion didn't come. He must've forgotten.

She was angry. She wouldn't speak to him ever **again!**

The next day, Xanthea bounced back to their meeting spot again to wait for Orion.

Ori must have gotten the date wrong. He must have thought it was the weekend. Today, he would surely come!

But he still didn't show up.

The third day.

The fourth day

The fifth day.

The sixth day.

Xanthea persistently waited at the meeting place for Orion, each time waiting from morning until dusk, her hope slowly fading to disappointment.

Was Ori really not coming?

They had promised to meet without fail. He had never lied to her. He must have been held up by something else...

But when she asked her uncle to inquire, he said everything at the Lockwood family was normal, except they weren't receiving any visitors.

So, she waited, day after day, until one morning, half a month later, when the sky turned dark with storm clouds and lightning, unleashing a torrential downpour.

Xanthea wanted to find shelter, but worried Orion might arrive and not find her so she stood resolutely in the **rain**.

Eventually, a teacher on duty from Crestwood Primary School noticed her, rushing over with an umbrella to ask, "Little girl, I've seen you standing here for days. What are you waiting for?"

"I'm waiting for my Ori,"

"On?"

"Orion Lockwood!"

"Orion Lockwood? The teacher remembered the name after a moment. "Is he your friend?"

"Don't wait any longer. His family came a few days ago to withdraw him from school. I heard he's gone abroad."

What?

The news struck Xanthea like a bolt from the blue. She refused to believe it and burst into tears **right** there in the pouring rain.

“You’re lying! That can’t be true!!

“On said he’d come!

Or wouldn’t lie to Xannie, wouldn’t leave Xannel”

“We had a promise,

She cried uncontrollably, her sobs wrecking **her** small frame, almost fainting

on her wrist, the teacher contacted her family.

Back home, Xanthea fell into a fierce fever that raged for over two days. Her frail body weakened further, and she slipped in and out of

consciousness, unable to complete a sentence. Her family was terrified, taking turns at her bedside day and night.