

## **My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace - Chapter 6**

Chapter 6 The buzz about MJ Group's upcoming gem betting event was all over the internet.

Xanthea did a quick search and got the gist. She'd been pondering over how to attend the event, and as it turned out, Eden Heights Estates was opening its doors to some of the prominent families of Crestwood that day. All she needed was an invite.

That was a small matter for Samuel to handle.

Samuel was in his study, buried in paperwork, when suddenly, a fluffy figure pounced on him, "Samuel, still buried in work at this late hour? You're working too hard; let me give you a shoulder massage!" "Unsolicited favors usually have strings attached," Samuel let out a fond smile upon seeing her. He put down the contract, "Out with it, my little princess, what do you need from now?" "You know better than I do myself, Samuel! I wanna go to the gem betting event the day after tomorrow!" "The gem betting event? Since when did you become interested in that sort of thing?" "It's all the buzz online! Plus, I heard that a lot of prominent sons and daughters will be there. I've grown up now; can't I go out, see the world, and make new friends?" "Of course, you can." Samuel looked at her, pleasantly surprised, "I was worried you were too caught up with Matthew to care about anything else." He flipped open a document he was holding, "Here, I thought this was what you were for." Xanthea looked at her and her expression changed abruptly, "Is that a bid book from the Martinez Group?" "Yes, the group was initially considering proposals from thirteen companies, but Matthew handed this directly to me, even mentioning you." "Don't sign it!" "What?" "I said, don't sign with the Martinez Group. If this bidding is supposed to be public, then Matthew bringing the bid book directly to you is a violation. And violations should be disqualified." Xanthea spoke with a grave and serious expression, leaving Samuel stunned.

Was this really his little sister? Normally, she would have been crying and pleading on Matthew's behalf by now, but today....

1/2 14:55 Chapley b Realizing she had been perhaps a bit harsh, Xanthea calmed down.

"Samuel, I'm not as enamored with Matthew as you think. You, Ethan, Mom, and Dad are my real family. Your thoughts and feelings matter the most to me. So, please don't let your decision be swayed by me. Besides, if Matthew's just someone who climbs up by clinging onto others, I'll soon grow out of liking him." Before she could finish, Samuel pulled her into a tight embrace.

"My lit little princess, you really have grown up. I'm so happy, so relieved!"

Xanthea had always been the family's ray of sunshine, but ever since Matthew came into the picture, it felt like that sunshine had been hijacked. After a recent coming-of-age celebration, he felt as though his ray of sunshine had returned.

Listening to his laughter, Xanthea felt a twinge in her nose. She wasn't just growing up, she was reliving a lifetime.

In her previous life, she had been deceived by Matthew, blindly favoring and aiding him, which led to the downfall of the Nightshade Group. Samuel died in a car accident while trying to salvage the company. She couldn't bear to endure the loss of a family member again.

2/2 Chapter

## **My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace - Chapter 7**

Chapter 7 Xanthea asked, "So, are you gonna listen too or not?" "Of course! Your word is law to me, Xanthea!" The door suddenly swung open, and Ethan entered with a stern face, looking at the joyful siblings, "Xan, you woke up today and only hugged Samuel. Now here you are whispering secrets with him. Don't you care about anymore?" Xanthea burst into laughter at the obvious jealousy on Ethan's face and quickly ran over to pull him close, "Ethan, we were just planning a surprise for you!" "What surprise?" "We're all going to the gem betting event the day after tomorrow!" "Isn't that supposed to be a surprise just for you?" Late at night, laughter echoed from the second floor of the mansion. Miranda looked towards the brightly lit study, her grip tightening on her cellphone.

From her first day in this family, she was told that Samuel's study was off-limits to everyone. Listening to the sounds from inside now, it seemed it was just off-limits to her alone.

In the Nightshade family, she was always just an adopted daughter, an outsider. Without any real support, she figured it was only a matter of time before she'd be pushed out.

"Miranda, are you still there?" The voice on the phone snapped her back to reality, "Matt, I'm here; sorry, what were you saying?" "I was asking, did you notice anything off

about Xan today?" "Off?" Miranda recalled how earlier that day she tried to help Xanthea, only to be publicly rebuffed, her face soured at the memory.

"Maybe she was just a bit irritable. After all, she's the precious daughter of the family. I wasn't there for her when she fell into the water, so I can't really blame her." Normally, Matthew would have comforted her, sensing the subtext in her words. But now his mind was filled with images of Xanthea ignoring him when she woke up and the indifferent way she left, which seemed not too abnormal but lacked the usual adoring attention and instead carried a mysterious air.

"By the way, did she say anything after I left?" 1/2 Chapter 7 Miranda replied, "Nothing much, she just mentioned Orion briefly." "What?" Matthew frowned at her words, quickly recalling the scene in the garden where Orion was carrying Xanthea. When did Xan ever show interest in anyone besides him, especially someone rumored to be a troublemaker? "Matt, what's wrong?"

"Oh, nothing. The Masked Singer finals are next weekend, right? You'll definitely be there to support me, and to see me win the title of the century's greatest singer!"

"Thanks, Matt." Miranda smiled, her earlier dejection disappearing, "Now, it seems like only you truly care about me. Most of the times, I feel like I'm just a spare part in the Nightshade family."

As she continued to speak, Matthew checked his phone to see if Xanthea had texted him. Normally, she would have bombarded him with him with messages by now. He had been here for quite a while, yet there was still no sign from her. 2/2

## **My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace - Chapter 8**

Chapter 8 In the glittering night, under the shimmering lights, a crowd of elite and influential figures gathered at Eden Heights Estates for the grand gem betting event.

In the center of the banquet hall, hundreds of jadeite rough shipped from Suncrest and Solara were displayed under custom-made glass domes. Each stone varied in size and shape, indistinguishable to the untrained eye from mere ordinary rocks to potentially invaluable gemstones.

Sponsor MJ Group's chairman, Tyson, warmly welcomed the distinguished guests from the stage, while Timothy, seated in the VIP area, flashed a confident smile at a young man. across the room whose aloof demeanor betrayed his noble status.

He had invested a fortune to bring a renowned jadeite expert from Solara, convinced he would cut the finest jade of the evening, securing his position as the unchallenged head of the Lockwood Group.

Cedric, unwittingly concerned, noticed an unfamiliar face among the opposing appraisal team.

The appraisal crews on both sides were professionals selected through formal institute, approved by Lucian. However, right now Timothy had brought someone they didn't know, which could potentially influence the outcome of the competition.

"Boss, look!" Cedric suddenly raised his voice, but the composed man in the VIP seat barely blinked an acknowledgment, "Noticed." "You've noticed?" Cedric was somewhat surprised, "Ms. Nightshade just walked in, and you noticed?" Just then, the previously detached man sharply turned his head.

He was right; the boss couldn't ignore Ms. Nightshade.

At the entrance, three extraordinary figures walked in. The young woman in the center wore a simple white dress with ruffled edges, her slender figure accentuated by a minimalistic belt, and her wavy blonde hair fluttered in the breeze, highlighting her radiant face and elegant collarbones.

Despite her plain attire, she stole the show upon her arrival.

"Wow, is that the Nightshade siblings? Truly a sight to behold!" "The Nightshade family genes are really something else! I've met the brothers before and they were stunning, but the young lady's even more dazzling, even outshining those actresses present." 1/3 Chapter 8 "So beautiful, heard she just turned eighteen this year." Xanthea entered the room, and before she had time to appreciate the splendor of this gem betting event, her attention was immediately drawn to a man sitting in the VIP area.

She couldn't avert her gaze at Orion for he was remarkably extraordinary among the crowd.

The man was seated under the most dazzling lights, legs crossed; he didn't say a word, yet his particularly elegant demeanor and prominent countenance rendered him an aura of someone from an illustrious family.

She waved at him excitedly, only to see him pause and look away instantly as if caught for doing something unspeakable.

"Pretending you don't know me, huh?" She thought.

Ethan and Samuel looked puzzled, following her gaze, "Xan, who are you greeting?" "No one!" Xanthea quickly covered their view with her hand, "Let's just take our seats." Whatever Orion had done for her before or after she died, it was clear he cared more than The let on. She planned to uncover the true reasons bit by bit.

Did pig fly now? was Ms. Nightshade making a greeting to the boss especially with such enthusiasm, unexpected; the boss, on the other hand, looked indifferent. What exactly happened at the Nightshade family gathering? "Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats The gem betting event is about to begin. First, let us welcthe teams from the Lockwood Group, represented by Mr. Timothy Lockwood and Mr. Orion Lockwood." "Boss, Boss?" Tyson finished announcing, but it took a couple of calls before Orion responded, "Yeah." Cedric scratched his head. It wasn't that the boss ignored Ms. Nightshade's greeting; he was simply lost in thought.

As the professional appraisal teams took the stage, the buzz of conversation filled the air "I heard this event is specifically set up for the Lockwood Group. Mr. Lucian Lockwood's choosing between his youngest son and his eldest grandson to lead the Lockwood Group." "Right, many have even bought stocks in anticipation!" "If Timothy wins, it's expected, but if Orion does, he'll be Crestwood's youngest tycoon ever. Such an impressive young man!" 2/3 14:55 Chapter 8

"It's like he's favored by the gods, taking on the group and going m head-to-head with Timothy. Not everyone has that kind of fortune or ability!" Tyson announced, "The rest could raise the paddle and participate in the betting if you're interested." After Tyson finished, no one entered the bet. Despite the presence of many of Crestwood's elites, few were genuinely interested in gem betting; they were just drawn by the battle between Timothy and Orion.

Moreover, in the gof gem betting, the unmeasurable risks and challenges of the trade deterred even the Wealthiest from wagering recklessly. As Ethan and Samuel focused on the two appraisal teams, Xanthea suddenly stood up.

"What's up, Xan?" "I'm joining the bet." "What?!" Both men were shocked, thinking she was joking.

Xanthea grinned mischievously and raised her bidding paddle. "My dear brothers, you didn't really think I brought you here just to watch, did you?"

## **My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace - Chapter 9**

Chapter 9 "Oh? This young lady wants to join the betting game?" Tyson's eyes lit up when he saw a stunning young lady raising her paddle, and he immediately sent someone to invite her over.

The guests inside the venue were shocked to see Xanthea raise her paddle.

"The Nightshade heiress? What's she doing getting involved in a betting game?" "So young, what does she know about gem betting? Maybe she just wants to make an appearance in front of everyone!" "And making an appearance isn't cheap. Tyson's gem starts at 500 grand. Not everyone can afford that." "Exactly. If she gets even a little gem out of it, consider it good luck. Bad luck means just a piece of worthless rock and a waste of hundreds of thousands." "I've heard about the Nightshade family's precious gem, who's treated as a treasure by her family. To see her here, even her reckless actions are indulged, escorted by her two brothers no less." The protective brothers at that moment were massaging their foreheads, inwardly exclaiming that they were dragged into this, but as long as she was having fun, money was a minor detail.

When Xanthea passed by Lockwood rock identification and spotted Orion, it was clear he hadn't expected her to join the betting game. A flicker of light passed through his deep-set eyes.

She smiled at him gently, her grin seemingly provocative or teasing, which dazzled his eyes.

Xanthea's participation was just a brief interlude, and soon the focus returned to the professional gem appraisal teams, with only Orion's intense gaze still lingering on her. Due to the mystery and unpredictability of gem betting, after many years, the inner circle still hadn't found a reliable way to appraise them, relying instead on the color, shape, tiny fissures of the stones, with luck playing a major part.

The assistant thought Xanthea might know a little about gem identification or was just guessing based on luck when choosing the stones. However, upon her entry, she requested the assistant to open a gem's glass cover.

"Ms. Nightshade, sorry, but according to the rules, you can't touch the gem directly." is what Xanthea uttered, "I won't touch it, just want to smell it; against the rules?" To smell? 1/3 Chapter 9 The assistant, having been in the gem business for years, had never heard such an odd request. It was just a stone, what could she possibly smell? But smelling wasn't against the rules, so he opened the glass cover.

Xanthea closed her eyes, leaned forward, and gently sniffed.

Calcium carbonate, sodium silicate, and silicon dioxide mixture, just an ordinary stone.

Since she was young, she had discovered her unique sense of smell, able to detect scents that normal people could not, but hadn't discovered a way to make use of it.

It wasn't until she took a chemistry class in middle school that she realized she was detecting the chemical components of items.

She proudly shared her ability, only to be considered a freak or accused of making it up. She never expected it to be handy at today's gem betting event.

"All right, next one." Just a sniff, and she wanted the next one? The assistant, puzzled, opened the next one.

Xanthea sniffed dozens of stones, all ordinary, with at most one or two containing mediocre quality fragments of jade.

Just as she was doubting whether this was all a scam by Tyson, smallest, most ordinary-looking raw stone at the venue.

Her steps halted at the stone. Was this the pure scent of jadeite? The assistant was about to cover it again when she stopped him.

"Wait!" She sniffed again, unsure, and the pure, rich scent of jade filled her nostrils.

Xanthea couldn't believe her eyes as she stared at the raw stone, which was really intricate to detect.

Who would have thought that such an ordinary-looking stone, one that could be overlooked on the street, contained an extremely rare type of jade, so rare she couldn't even name it.

"This one!" This one? The assistant looked at her as if she were a joke.

Across the venue, which stone didn't look better and more like jade than this one? The professional teams had passed this stone without a second glance.

She was about to spend 500 grand on what looked like a worthless rock, truly a novice mistake! "Ms. Nightshade, are you sure?" 2/3 Chapter 9 "Very." As Xanthea hammered the deal, the Lockwood Group's professional gem appraisal teams announced their chosen betting stones.

Tyson led a team of top-notch experts to the banquet hall's center, commencing the grand gem-cutting ceremony.

The entire venue held its breath as the thrilling moment unfolded.



First was Orion's team. The expert placed the betting stone on a precision cutting machine, and with ope cut a piece of exquisite, high-quality emerald appeared, eliciting a thunderous applause from the audience. "An exceptional emerald! What luck, Mr. Orion Lockwood truly is God's favored one, a real gem among men, undoubtedly the future leader of Twin Towers!" "Such an eye-opener. I used to think gem betting was a scam, but who knew such a priceless jade could actually be cut out!"

"With the emerald appearing, its symbolism and value are clear m there's no need for further competition, right? Lucky I bet on Mr.

Orion Lockwood, can't lose now!"

The room buzzed with discussions, Qm and Tyson also sent his congratulations to Orion, but Timothy seemed utterly unfazed, waving his hand to have his team's stone brought forward. 03/3

## **My Beloved Has Risen from Death's Embrace - Chapter 10**

Chapter 10 Master Johnson, known as the "Sorcerer of the Stone Betting Field," personally selected a gemstone that, when cut, revealed nearly a kilogram of icy emerald jadeite, which caused a round of enthusiastic applause to erupt in the banquet hall.

"Icy emerald jadeite! This is the only stone that can rival the imperial green jadeite!" "What a tic turn of events! I wonder how the judges will decide now!" "Both stones are top-notch, unveiled on the sday, no wonder there's such fierce competition within the Lockwood Group. Orion and Timothy, in terms of skill and luck, are evenly matched!" With the contest revealing both imperial green and icy emerald jadeite, Tyson was thrilled, immediately calling for an expert on-site comparison.

After thirty minutes of meticulous examination, the results were announced.

Both stones were nearly equal in all evaluated aspects, but the victory was decided by a mere 5 grams, with Timothy's team's icy emerald jadeite weighing slightly more than Orion's team's imperial green jadeite.

Timothy's team clinched the victory by this slim margin! The crowd murmured in awe, marveling at the old adage, "In the end, it's experience that trumps youth." Timothy laughed heartily and clapped his hands as he approached Orion.



"My dear nephew, you letwin today!" Cedric clenched his fists, feeling irked by Timothy's boastful demeanor, and he wondered where he had found such a skilled last-minute ally.

Raising an eyebrow, Xanthea found her suspicions confirmed. In her past life, Orion had lost to his uncle at this very gemstone betting event, which led to malicious rumors whe they later had a car accident-it was speculated Orion had engineered it to seize contro the company.

This time, she would not let him lose.

"What a day it will be when you work underAs Timothy extended his hand towards Orion, a clear female voice cut through the noise, halting their conversation.

"Wait!" Everyone turned to see Xanthea, who had her arms crossed, looking composed and confident. "Mr. Lockwood, I'm afraid I must disappoint you. My stone hasn't been cut yet.

1/3 Chapter 10 Choptry Timothy turned, "And you are?" "I'm part of Orion's gemstone appraisal team. According to the rules, the best stone selected by our team is used for the evaluation, and mine hasn't been cut yet. Aren't you jumping to conclusions a bit early?" Laughter broke out in the hall.

"She's cutting the stone for Orion's team? You must be joking!" "That unremarkable small rock she's holding? It's probably full of concrete inside!" "The Nightshade family heiress looks like a goddess but seems to lack common sense; how dare she flaunt herself like this at a critical event which concerned the succession of the Lockwood Group. Is this a joke to her?" "No matter what she cuts, it can't compare to icy emerald jadeite. This is just ridiculous." Cedric was baffled.

Ms. Nightshade was part of the appraisal team? He hadn't heard about it. Did she event know how to appraise gemstones? Xanthea's gaze met Orion's across the room.

His deep, inscrutable eyes mirrored her confident, radiant smile, as if he couldn't quite figure her out, while her eyes conveyed one message-Orion, do you trust me? Timothy, amused by her declaration, turned to Orion, "Nephew, is she really part of your team?" "Yes." Without a second's hesitation, Orion confirmed it firmly.

Laughter filled the air again, Xanthea was briefly stunned; she was prepared for Orion to deny her part, and was reat to cut the stone herself. Unexpectedly, he had agreed without a thought, a move that seemed absurd to outsider "What? Did I hear that right? Mr. Lockwood actually acknowledged her?" "It's weird; why would Mr. Lockwood indulge her? Is it just to save face for the Nightshac family?"

"Nonsense, the Lockwood Group is a top-tier financial empire in Crestwood; Mr. Lockwood doesn't ve nechtoldive anyone need to give anyone face. He's probably just

setting her up for embarrassment because it'll be slap in the face once the stone is cut!" "Xan, what's going on?" Ethan and Samuel crunning over with a foggy head. Xanthea gestured for them to wait and see.

2/3 14:55 Chapter 10 Timothy laughed heartily, extending his hand to Xanthea in a mocking gesture, "Then please, proceed!".

The assistant placed Xanthea's chosen stone under the machine.

m Timothy leaned towards Orion, "Orion, you're young, don't be such a sore loser. Losing to your uncle with imperial green is far better than ending up with gravel." He hadn't finished his sentence when the entire betting hall fell into a deathly silence, followed by a wave of awe.

Orion looked past Timothy to see a faint purple hue swirling under the machine; at this, his eyes narrowed in surprise.

"My God! What's this purple? I've never seen purple jadeite before in all my years in the industry, and such a large piece!" "The beauty of this purple jadeite! Brilliant, moist, and finely textured, and it's glowing!" "So beautiful! It's so captivating! Could this be a divine stone?" The hall was filled with gasps and praises.

In the center of the hall, under the brilliant crystal lights, lay a large jadeite; it was clear and glowing with a gentle purple light, proclaiming its unparalleled regal status.