

Can't Win Me Back Novel Online Free

Chapter 264

Chapter 264

"What's wrong, Sean?" Alyssa asked, feeling worried now. She had never seen Sean so pitiful and upset. His eyes were reddened, his lips as pallid as a stray pup rescued from the gutters.

"Is this about Sophia?" Jonah asked, walking over to them. His gaze was kind as he rubbed his hands clean with a cotton cloth.

Alyssa noticed there was redness on it and sighed internally. She still couldn't stop her brother from taking revenge in the end. She cursed silently, pondering when her moment to shine would finally arrive.

"I'm sorry ... I'm so sorry!" Sean cried, nearly sobbing.

Just as Alyssa was wondering what was going on, her second brother called.

"Silas?"

"Sophia Kirkman just left my custody, Lyse." His tone was more exasperation than anything else. "My team tried all we could to gather information and evidence on Sophia's crimes these past few days, but she seemed to have already prepared her defenses.

"Her cousin is taking responsibility for all crimes. Javier has also found her this lawyer from the Lynch family. I think his name is Simon Lynch. He was good at digging a way out for Sophia, making our evidence amount to nothing, so we had no choice but to release her."

"It's okay, Silas. You did your best. We've gotten what we wanted here too. The Verdane Valley project is now in hand. All else can be discussed after."

Alyssa remained unfazed while everyone else around her was eager to get their hands on Sophia. That woman wasn't a major concern, and Alyssa had always believed that good things come to those

who wait.

Javier was still infatuated with Sophia, so it made sense that he was doing all he could to save her. There was no point trying to hit two birds with one stone right now when both could easily fly away at any moment.

"Well, Lyse ... Sean called me earlier. The kid was nearly crying when he did. Talk to him, will you? Let him know I don't blame him. This has nothing to do with him anyway.

"He cares too much about you. The kid was really worried you'd be upset with him because of his brother," Silas said with a sigh.

"Will do."

After hanging up the call, Alyssa turned to Sean. "You-"

"I'm truly sorry on behalf of my family, Ms. Alyssa. I'm ready to accept any punishment you deem fit," Sean said, his

eyes filled with self-imposed guilt.

After hearing that his brother had taken on Sophia's case, he had gone to Simon's law firm. Sean had argued with Simon then.

"What are you doing? Don't you remember how the Taylor family helped save us from the hands of those hooligans after Dad was in office for several years?"

"They came at us with all their might, trying to get revenge. It was Mr. Taylor who gave him a job at his company so Dad could continue providing for us! How else could Mom and Dad have given us such a nice life? How could you be so successful today?"

"How could you take on Sophia Kirkmanas your client when you know Ms. Alyssa plans to take her down? Have you forgotten where your loyalty lies?"

That was the first time Sean had gotten into such a row with his eldest brother in

twenty years.

"Yes, we owe the Taylor family a debt of gratitude, but that doesn't mean we have to sell our souls to them. We've already repaid what we owed by helping Mr. Taylor all these years.

"Besides, I am a professional solicitor, Sean. To me, everyone is a potential client, nothing more. As long as it's a case where I can contribute and help, I will accept it. What we owe to the Taylor family has nothing to do with this case!

"And as for you, Mom and Dad did all they could to raise you and give you a proper education, yet here you are spending your youth as Alyssa Taylor's lapdog!"

Simon's words had pierced Sean's heart like bullets. He had devoted so much time to Alyssa. Yet, his family's actions were letting them down. How could he face her now?

"What are you saying, Sean?" Alyssa

shook her head, smiling.

She rested her hands on his shoulders and continued, "Don't blame yourself. Also, don't let someone like Sophia Kirkman come between our families or affect you this way.

"There's no reason for someone as insignificant as her to strain our relationship or weigh on your mind so heavily."

"Ms. Alyssa ..." Sean croaked out, starting to tear up.

"I understand Simon's impartiality in taking on Sophia's case." Alyssa nodded. "Professionals do what they do best, and that is serving those who seek their aid while pushing aside any personal ties and emotions.

"It's only right for him to accept this case since he's being asked to and paid. If my family or I need any legal help in the future, I would still seek out your brother,

wouldn't I?"

Sean looked down, feeling ashamed. In the end, he nodded lightly.

After the three got back into the car, Jonah gently cupped his sister's hand and asked, "What's your next step, Lyse?"



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"Find Liana's daughter. I need to set the bait beforehand, though." Alyssa narrowed her eyes slyly. "Curtis said only Liana's mother, Rosaline, knows her whereabouts, so we'll have to let her lead the way for us."

Jonah smiled. What about Liana Gardner? 11

"Those whom God wishes to destroy, he first makes mad." Alyssa sat back, yawning. "Isn't she about to marry Jasper Beckett? We can't make her crash and burn without first letting her sit in the high seat."

Jonah pursed his lips, suddenly recalling what Curtis had said earlier. "Jasper Beckett is a blind, foolish man, Lyse."

"I couldn't care less. I've regained my sight regardless, so he'd better stay out of my way."

Alyssa took out her phone, recalling the pictures she had taken of Jameson from days ago. "By the way, see if you recognize this guy. He saved me from a potentially serious injury when Curtis attacked earlier today."

"Really?" Jonah said, "We'll have to properly thank him then."

"But he has been quite mysterious and secretive about his identity. Yet, he seems to know who I am!" Alyssa recalled the handsome young man with his gold-rimmed spectacles.

Although she was a woman, she possessed a sense of possessiveness usually associated with men. Whatever Alyssa intended to know or acquire, she never allowed them to elude her grasp.

Jonah leaned in closer to look at the picture on her phone. In the next moment, he gasped.

"Do you really not remember him, Lyse?"

"Huh?" Alyssa cocked her head. "Should I?"

"You two hung out all the time when you were kids."

"What?" Alyssa frowned, then squinted at the picture. The man did feel familiar to her, but she couldn't pinpoint where she had seen him or who he was.

"He's Uncle Victor's youngest son, Jameson Schimdt. You used to be really shy, but you still became his friend and played with him when you two were kids. Do you really not remember?"

"He's ... Little Bastard?" Alyssa cried out in shock. "Hot damn! He's so tall now!"

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The air in Jameson's private club was thick with the scent of wine, perfume, and sex. Men and women, and people of all genders, writhed together, their bodies slick with desire.

Only Jameson remained stoic and still in the midst of the room, like a lone and proud statuette among the masses. No women dared to try their luck with him, knowing how strict and cruel he could be.

No one wanted to lose a limb or vanish without a word from the city.

"I can't attend that dinner on the yacht in two days, Mr. Jameson." A heavily drunk young man came over to his side. That young man was the son of an international conglomerate's CEO.

He continued, "My father wants me to go on a blind date... Burp ... Fuck him! When did you last see someone like me marry at such a young age? Maybe only Jasper Beckett, though ..."

Jameson sipped his wine. "Just don't go."

"I can't!" the man whined, tugging his tie loose. "My date's some fucking... daughter of the most powerful family in Belbanks. I think her name is Alice or something ..."

Jameson stiffened slightly as a plan formed in his mind. "I have an idea."

"Do tell!"

Jameson finished his drink, a smile appearing on his lips. "You'll go to the yacht dinner, and I'll sit in for your blind date."



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After nearly a week spent in the Investigative Bureau, Sophia finally walked out, heaving her tired body like a lump of sand. Without her makeup and skincare routine, she seemed to have aged an additional decade. Even her hair had more gray strands than before.

She avoided the crowd of reporters and decided not to go home first. Javier would probably pass out at the sight of her. So Betty accompanied her to a beauty parlor, where she could wash up, pluck away her gray hairs, and put on some makeup before going back.

"We'll go see Liana first." Sophia plucked away the hair around her lips as she spoke. "I have to check up on her. She's my niece, after all. That way, your Dad's image of me will maintain."

She couldn't have her carefully crafted

persona of twenty-five years crash just like that.

"I couldn't believe she pulled such a trick, Mom!" Betty cried. She hated Liana. Yet, she couldn't help but feel upset by the memory of that bloody bathtub. "Whether or not Jasper takes the bait, she still could have killed herself if no one found her in time!"

"Of course someone would have found her in time." Sophia rolled her eyes.

Betty blinked, confused. Then, a look of understanding appeared on her face. "Does that mean ... Did you know?"

Sophia pressed a finger to her lips. She had been the mastermind behind Liana's decision to cut herself so Jasper would marry her. It was this very trick

she had used all those years ago that made Javier finally marry her. Without her schemes, she wouldn't have made it to where she was today.

Plus, Liana did help Jasper when he was depressed. Reliving his nightmare of yonder days would surely remind him of how much Liana had helped him. It was a high-risk investment, for sure!

"Liana might not be the best choice, but I still can't let Jasper have any chance of going back to that whore, Alyssa Taylor!" Sophia couldn't help but snarl at the thought of her after all these days spent suffering in the Bureau. "I swear I will make her life a living hell if it's the last thing I do!"

"Yeah!" Betty yelled. "Solana City is still our territory no matter what! We'll get our revenge for sure!"

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When Sophia arrived at Liana's ward, she took a second to put on a sad, motherly mask before going inside. She immediately burst into tears. "Lia! Oh, my poor girl. Why did you do this to yourself?"

Oh..."

Sophia approached Liana, embracing her and projecting a saintly image in front of both sides of the family. "Why must the women in our family suffer so? I can't live with this!"

"Aunt Sophia, don't ..." Liana played along with her as well.

Rosaline joined the charade too. The whole atmosphere resembled that of a funeral.

Jasper remained unperturbed. Liana saw this from the corner of her eye. She grew worried.

He used to come to her aid the first instant she cried. But that warmth and care was no longer there. All the love and affection meant for her was slowly slipping away. And it was all because of that bitch, Alyssa Taylor!

The three Gardner women clung onto each other, sobbing their eyes out.

Javier's gaze was hard and unmoving as he said, "Sophia, Jasper, come outside with me."

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A few minutes later.

"Oh, Javier!"



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Sophia's face was lined with tears as she gazed sadly and lovingly at Javier. "I thought I'd never see you again. I've suffered so much, Javier. I was so scared... 11

Javier did not feel an ounce of pity for her right now. He had undergone too much these past few days to spend energy making her feel better.

Just then, the news channel came on the television. It was news of KS Group's CEO, Jonah Taylor, signing the Verdane Valley project joint venture with Orlander Hodgson and his company. The two exchanged contracts, then shook hands as the reporters frantically took pictures of this historical moment.

Jasper stared at the screen, hand slowly tightening around his glass. Javier's face was darkening at the same time.

Their milk was spilled, and it was all because of Alyssa Taylor!

Sophia's heart skipped a beat, and then she quickly grabbed Javier's arm. "Ms. Alyssa is too cruel to us! How have we offended her? She not only stole our company's project, but she even tried to send me to jail!

"How can someone be so vindictive? When have we ever mistreated her during her three years in our family? Even I treated her with utmost courtesy!"

Jasper did not like what Sophia was insinuating one bit. "By that, you mean making her cook every meal for you?"

Sophia gritted her teeth. "None of us made her do it. Alyssa did that of her own volition!"

"Sophia," Javier finally spoke up. "There's something I need to tell you."

Sophia turned to her husband as he

continued, "I've instructed everyone on the board. From now on, Jasper is the Vice President of the board of directors."

"What? Javier, what are you saying? Why..." Sophia paled instantly.

But Javier stayed silent.

Jasper narrowed his eyes, knowing his father wouldn't continue, given his affection for her. He felt differently, however.

"You know exactly why, Sophia. Appointing someone in upper management who's under suspicion for offenses like criminal breach of trust, bribery, and abuse of power as the Vice President would only tarnish our reputation in the corporate world."

"I was framed. Alyssa Taylor framed me! She used my cousin's crimes against me!" Sophia cried, standing up from her seat. She was quivering with anger by now.

She continued, "Henry was the one

behind those heinous deeds. He's already taken responsibility for them, so my name is clear now! Why can't I be VP?"

Jasper sneered, ignoring her entirely as he left the lounge.

"Bastard, bastard, you fucking bastard!" Sophia yelled furiously in her mind.

She turned and held Javier's arm. Crying, she said, "I'm innocent, Javier! I was framed! You promised me that position. You promised me ... How could you go back on your word?"

"I may be the president of the company's board, but that doesn't mean I can single-handedly decide everything. The company is listed, and we have shareholders and other members of the board who have a say in this.

"How could you expect me to appoint you as VP?" Javier took a deep breath, then removed his arm from Sophia's grip. "Besides ... Are you really as innocent as

you say?"

"You... You don't believe me? Javier, I'm your wife! We've been married for 25 years. You know me! How could you believe in those vile rumors?" Sophia cried, using a tearful tone to hide the fear that was slowly swallowing her whole.

Javier frowned, staring at her solemnly for several seconds before leaving the room.

Sophia was left gaping in shock, her entire being rigid as if struck by lightning.

That look from Javier meant that it was all over for her. Her golden goose had fled its cage.



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Rosaline sat beside Liana, consoling her. "Your uncle spent a lot of money to hire Mr. Simon to save your aunt from the Bureau. Clearly, he cares deeply for her.

"I'm sure now that your aunt is able to help, you'll definitely be able to marry Jasper! Hasn't he been coming over frequently? I'm confident your relationship has grown even closer!"

She was grinning like a fox who had eaten the canary, feeling that her position as an in-law to the Beckett family was now 100 % secure.

Rosaline added, "You know what Jasper's temper is like. He would never have come if he didn't like you anymore."

"I guess so ... I just... don't feel good about all this," Liana said as she recalled the look Jasper had given her earlier today. "Yes, he's been by my side all these days,

but it feels like he's changed."

"That's enough. Don't go overthinking now."

Just then, the door opened. It was Jasper.

Liana swiftly put up her frail, meek mask. "Jas-Jasper ..."

Jasper went up to her side, his expression flat. Just when she thought he was close enough to touch, he stopped in his tracks. Liana's hand hung awkwardly in the air, her cheeks slowly flushing with embarrassment.

"I need to head back to the office to finish some work. I'll come see you tonight." Although Jasper's tone was gentle, his expression was still unreadable.

"I'm sorry ... Jasper ..." Liana teared up. "It's all my fault..."

"Don't think about that anymore. Rest."

With that said, Jasper turned and left.

Liana pinched and fidgeted with her blanket, words stuck in her throat, unable to come out.

Jasper no longer doted on and pampered her as he used to. He wasn't the boy next door she was obsessed with anymore.

Sometimes, the way he looked at her made her anxious.

So, Liana shot her mother a look, and the latter quickly went out after Jasper.

"Mr. J-Mr. Jasper."

Jasper stopped, then turned around slowly. "Yes?"

"Well... you've seen Liana's condition. She's more herself when you're around, but when you're not ... her depression gets the better of her."

Rosaline sighed before continuing, "Lia's suffered so much overseas, waiting for her return to your side. If you give up on her now ... my daughter, my baby ... She'll be

devastated!"

The woman even dabbed at her eyes with a handkerchief.

"I'll make sure Liana recovers. I owe her my life, after all."

Jasper said nothing else and left straight away.

Rosaline watched as he slowly disappeared from view, feeling a sullen anxiety creeping up in her chest.

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Alyssa spent the next few days arranging board meetings to plan the perfect wedding proposal for Ada Kingsley.

Alyssa was in the midst of discussing ideas with her project team when Winston called her.

"Yes, Winston? I'm busy right now!" Alyssa said, the phone tucked between her shoulder and ear as she flipped through some documents.

The team members gaped at what they were hearing. The mere mention of "Winston" had them wondering if it was truly their elusive boss, Winston Taylor, on the line.

Instantly, they fell into a worried silence, realizing that this was a man they would never meet, not even in their wildest dreams.

"The day has come." Winston's voice was solemn. 1

"Huh?"

"The day has come! Go on that blind date!" Winston roared from the other end of the phone.

Alyssa wrinkled her nose and put the phone away. Unfortunately, this allowed everyone to hear what the old man had just said. Their eyes nearly popped out of their sockets.

Was a woman as beautiful as their boss,
Alyssa Taylor, finding it hard to find suitors?



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Alyssa couldn't understand Winston's persistence. She wondered why she couldn't have a say in the matter.

"I'm in a meeting, Winston. We can chit-chat in private, not here," she grunted lowly.

"Chit-chat? Your marriage is no mere chit-chat!" Winston snorted. "If you want to become KS Group's CEO, then you have to attend this!"

Alyssa cursed silently at Winston. She couldn't help but wonder if Jasper had put him up to this.

"Alright, fine! But not today. I'm in a meeting now!" Alyssa sighed. She was taking things slow now, never taking more than she could chew.

"Hmph. Alright. You can't refuse forever."

Alyssa scowled, thinking to herself, "Try

harder, old man!"

The rest of the meeting went by awkwardly, with the team members fearful of upsetting Alyssa and getting into trouble.

Afterward, Alyssa returned to her office and lay back on her sofa, resembling a robot that had run out of battery—utterly motionless.

Sean came into the room with coffee, asking, "Is something wrong with the project, Ms. Alyssa?"

"That heartless old man," Alyssa complained, gazing up at the ceiling. "I helped him spearhead this hotel to success and even got the company the Verdane Valley project.

"It's fine if he doesn't thank me, but he's still trying to screw me over with blind dating? Maybe I should have become a secret agent like Axel!"

"I know you care about him the most, Ms.

Alyssa. You know Mr. Winston is getting older. He will have to pass the mantle on soon. You'll surely stick around to care for your family, this business, and him, of course." Sean beamed at her, sitting down beside her.

Then, he continued, "Plus, you're still needed in KS Group. We have countless rivals, both hidden and visible.

"And sometimes, there's conflict within the company itself. I've watched Mr. Winston take everything on, and honestly, he can be under immense pressure at times. But I know he's only doing his best in his position as President and to support this family."

"I know," Alyssa sighed. She then kicked her heels off.

Sean swallowed lightly, then placed her feet in his lap before covering them up with a throw. He then started massaging them.

Besides his mother, Alyssa was the only other woman he'd done this for.

"That's why I want to take over and let Jonah step away from this once and for all. I know I have what it takes."

Not only did she have what it takes, but she was also very persistent and adamant about succeeding.

If it weren't for her wasting her time with Jasper, she could have propelled KS Group to even greater success than it currently enjoys.

She silently cursed at Jasper.

"Maybe it will be good to go on this date, Ms. Alyssa. You could make a new friend. It's not like Mr. Winston wants you to marry your date. He's just very concerned about you," Sean said, though he couldn't help but feel envious.

Yet he had long accepted how non-existent his chance with Alyssa was. She was an unreachable blossom above the highest mountain peaks, not meant for someone as minuscule as himself.

"You have a point. It's just a blind date. It can't be worse than war!" Alyssa grinned, wriggling her feet underneath the throw. Sean shivered slightly, keeping out of her way. "I have just the plan."

"What is it, Ms. Alyssa?"

Alyssa stood up straight, walking barefoot to her desk.

Not wanting her feet to get cold, Sean ran over with her heels and quickly knelt by her feet. "Please put these on, Ms. Alyssa."

Alyssa let him help her put the heels on, then leaned against her desk to start writing some of her plans down. A list soon came into existence.

"Here, prepare everything according to this list." She handed it to Sean, who took it with a confused look. When he read through the paper, he laughed.

"You're having too much fun, Ms. Alyssa."



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As a result of Winston's grave concern and meddling, Alyssa's blind dating schedule had been expedited.

She was putting on makeup in the bathroom while listening to Sean reading her schedule on the iPad from the outside.

"Lunch at 11:30 am with Mr. Manning of Hutton Group; tea break at 1:30 pm with the eldest son of Sandhurst Inc.'s Mr. Coppola; attend a privately booked musical at 3:30 pm with the second son of Zoleva Corp's Mr. Cruz..."

She was taken aback upon hearing that because that meant one blind date every two hours. Her schedule was more hectic than the president of a nation!

Soon, she emerged from the bathroom after her makeup session. Sean burst into laughter upon seeing her. "Ms. Alyssa, you went pretty hard."

She wore a huge curly wig and drew some freckles on her face. A patch of black stuff was underneath her nose, like a mustache. She rested an arm against the doorframe and made a gesture of picking her nose.

"Is this 'going hard'? I was thinking of drawing some scars on my face." She grinned to reveal the dark paint on her front teeth. Waving at Sean, she joked, "Sir, come on in! I'm sure you'll have a fun night ..."

As her head secretary, Sean always carried himself in a professional manner. However, he lost it and doubled over with laughter. Alyssa was indeed the most cheeky of them all.

Feeling naughty, she took a selfie and sent it to the group chat with her brothers, which caused quite a huge stir.

Jonah wrote, "Um, who is this?"

Alyssa replied, "Darling, try guessing?"

Axel texted, "ROFL! Lyse, you're awesome! "

Silas cursed, "Fuck! You scared me witless! I was so close to peeing myself!"

Liam chimed in, "You could have picked a better character to cosplay. Why would you be Weird Barbie when you could be a stereotypical Barbie, right?"

Axel suggested, "How about cosplaying Bonnie? I can be your Clyde! XOXO"

Axel followed up with a GIF image of two hugging bears. To that, Silas replied with a kicking GIF image. The two brothers, who didn't have the chance to meet up, were embroiled in a merry online battle.

Alyssa asked, "So, I need the opinion of you straight guys. What's my blind dating success rate in this costume?"

Silas answered, "0.0000000%!"

Jonah was a little more polite. "Beauty is only skin deep. Those who know you will

be attracted to your inner charm."

Liam opined, "I'm not good with faces. I think pretty girls look the same, but an interesting personality is one of a kind. Those bastards will fall for your personality and talent."

Axel wrote, "Lyse, you know I'm more into legs than face."

He sent a shrugging emoji followed by the text, saying, "Silas, I expected better of a civil servant. How could you judge a book by its cover?"

Silas fired back, "Fuck you. That's not for you to say."

Alyssa scrolled through the conversation history and cackled. Silas was an honest man who always ended up being the brunt of the joke. She texted, "Wish me good luck. On my way to meet the first unlucky dude."

Jonah replied, "May the Lord bless you and the man you are meeting."

Silas commented, "Lyse, with that wig on your head, you should consider dating any guy who falls for you. It's 80% true love.

"It shows that he's just like us—judging by inner beauty!"

Alyssa chuckled and wrote, "Haha, whoever falls for me today will receive a free medical card from Taylor Hospital. He needs a checkup for glaucoma or cataracts! 11

At the same time, Sean's phone was buzzing like crazy. He stole a look when Alyssa wasn't noticing and saw texts from her four brothers. The content was more or less the same.

"Keep an eye on Lyse. Call us if anything goes wrong."

He replied, "Don't worry. I will protect Ms. Alyssa from any danger."

They replied, "We are more worried about the guys she's meeting, not her!"

Sean smirked at the texts and thought, "That's siblings for you."

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The miserable blind dating started. Alyssa was an efficient woman who decided to get it over with as soon as possible since there was no way out of it.

To her shock, the scions she met with did not flinch at her horrible appearance. Instead, they spinelessly tolerated her presence and chatted away calmly.

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