

Secret Admiration Finding True Love After Prison

Chapter 411 – 420

Chapter 411 Chandler Is Here

Chandler exuded a cold aura.

He immediately called Dante. “Are they still there? Stop them!”

Even through the phone, Dante could imagine Chandler’s terrifying aura.

He shrugged helplessly. “Sorry, you replied too late. They’ve already left.”

Chandler narrowed his eyes dangerously.

Dante said, “They just left five **minutes** ago. Do you need me to go to the garage and take a look?”

“No need. I’m in the garage right now.”

Chandler looked around. It was meaningless to go to the restaurant now because they had already left.

There were several elevators in the garage, so it was not easy to block them.

Therefore, the only way now was to park the car at the toll booth entrance of the garage.

Meryl had tried every way she could to delay time, but she still didn’t see Chandler.

Chapter **411** Chandler **Is** Here

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She felt a little disappointed. It seemed that the girl didn’t call

Chandler.

During this period, Meryl tried every possible means, making a fuss around.

But Dalton enjoyed it, and the look in his eyes became more and more passionate.

Meryl gave up. Since Chandler would not come to save her, there was no point in her delaying any more time.

But she was unwilling to go back like this.

There were musical instruments on display in the lobby on the first floor of the mall, and it was holding some kind of event.

Meryl suddenly thought of a way.

She walked quickly to the music area and found the cello.

She sat down and played it slowly.

As the music sounded, many passers—
by slowed down their pace, and some even took out their mobile phones to take pictures.

Dalton was stunned and wanted to stop Meryl, but it was too late.

The cello was connected to the radio, and the music was broadcast through the shopping mall's radio.

Chandler, who was guarding the exit, also heard it.

Chapter 411 Chandler Is Here

during the **annual** meeting **in** Griffore.

Chandler **got** out of the car and immediately walked into the mall.

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There were only a few stores selling musical instruments **in the** mall, so it was not difficult to find them.

When the song ended, warm applause broke out in the hall.

Dalton's eyes were shining as he looked at Meryl because this song meant a lot to him.

It was this song played by Meryl that saved him from being unconscious and seriously injured **in** a car accident.

"Meryl suddenly plays this song in public. Is she expressing her love to me?" Dalton thought.

Dalton's heart was filled with emotion. He took steps forward, wanting to hug Meryl in his arms immediately.

Unexpectedly, a man wearing a black hat suddenly appeared beside Dalton.

The man nudged Dalton with his elbow, and when Dalton saw the man's face, he was stunned.

It was Zane.

Zane pressed down the hat and mask on his head and said, "Chandler is on his way here."

Dalton was stunned and surprised in his eyes.

Chapter 411 Chandler Is Here

4/4

Zane added, "He is only three minutes away from here at most. Dalton, **why** don't you take **your** woman away quickly?"

Dalton was **very** anxious.

He winked at the bodyguard beside him, and the bodyguard immediately pulled Meryl away.

Dalton subconsciously prepared to follow them, but Zane blocked his way.

"Dalton, do you still remember that you owe me a favor? It is the time to repay it now."

Dalton looked at Zane and asked, "What do you want?"

Write your comment

tr Gifts

Secret Admiration: Finding True Love After...

Chapter 412 The Challenge

By the time Chandler arrived at the musical instrument area, Meryl had already been taken away from the mall by the bodyguards.

Chandler only saw Dalton waiting there.

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Chandler didn't want to act with Dalton anymore, so he stepped forward and grabbed Dalton by the collar.

"Where did you hide Meryl?"

Dalton pretended to be innocent. "Uncle Chandler, what are you talking about? Why don't I understand?"

Chandler knew that Dalton was acting, so he punched him hard in the face.

The corner of Dalton's lips was broken, and blood oozed out.

"Are you trying to trick me? Do you want to die?" Chandler said angrily.

"Dalton, you can't escape this by pretending to be stupid. Do you know how your father went abroad? Do you also want to be kicked out of the Aniston family? Or do you even want to give up your life?"

Dalton licked the wound and spat out the blood.

With cunning in his eyes, he said, "I am not my father. I will not

Chapter 412 The Challenge

2/4

know if she wants to get rid of you and to be with me?"

Dalton's words proved that Meryl was in his hands.

Chandler sneered, "Do you think you can deceive me by stealing her phone and sending me messages? Do you dare to let her confront me in person?"

"Why not?" Dalton met Chandler's gaze. "Uncle Chandler, tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, Meryl and I will be waiting for you at the villa in the north of the city."

Dalton took steps back and straightened his collar, which had been wrinkled by Chandler.

He smiled at Chandler, then turned and left.

Chandler stared at Dalton's back as if he could see through him.

Dalton was issuing a challenge to him.

With a smile, Chandler took out his cell phone and made a call.

“Find out the exact address of Dalton’s villa in the north of the city, and cancel all my plans tomorrow.”

Meryl never thought that she would be dragged away from the shopping mall by a group of bodyguards.

After a while, she realized that Chandler must come to save her, so Dalton was so nervous.

But several bodyguards surrounded her, leaving her no room to resist.

Chapter **412** The Challenge

3/4

Meryl was forcibly stuffed into the car, and her mouth was even covered on the way.

Seeing Dalton getting into the car she broke free and slapped him in the face angrily.

The bodyguards who had just let go of her immediately controlled her again.

Dalton’s face was cold. “Let her go.”

Regaining her freedom, Meryl raised her hand again and swung it towards Dalton’s face

She kept yelling at and hitting him. “What do you think of me? Dalton, you said I’m not your pet. Don’t you think you are too much?”

Dalton didn’t say anything.

He dodged her slap, and he knew it was hard for Meryl to accept this.

Knowing that she was angry, Dalton wanted to pull her into his arms.

“Meryl, please don’t be angry. I’m too worried about you.”

Meryl couldn’t pretend anymore.

She pushed Dalton **away** and didn’t look at him again along the

way.

Seeing the car driving towards the villa, Meryl thought she had

Love After... 1/

Chapter 413 Don't Push Me

Meryl was about to open the **car** door and jump out.

But Dalton was prepared, and the car door was locked, so Meryl couldn't escape.

After entering the villa, she locked herself in the room.

Meryl didn't leave her room the next day.

Early in the morning, Dalton prepared food for her and left it outside her room, but he didn't hear **any** response from Meryl.

At noon, worried that something might happen to Meryl, Dalton took the key and opened the door.

Sitting on the ground, Meryl was looking at the floor with blank eyes.

She was barefoot, which made Dalton feel distressed.

Dalton immediately walked towards Meryl and tried to hug her

1. up.

'Meryl, what are you doing? Even if you hate me, don't hurt your own body.'

Meryl was very resistant to Dalton's touch.

She kicked and hit **him** with her hands and feet, but it was of no

use.

Chapter **413** Don't Push Me

2/3

Dalton carefully put Meryl on the bed and brought the food **he** had just made over, wanting to feed her.

Meryl knocked over the food, and the plate shattered into pieces all over the floor.

Her eyes were red, and she glared at him fiercely. "Dalton, you make me sick."

Dalton couldn't stand this. Meryl's attitude towards him had improved yesterday, but after he forcibly took her **away** from the mall, she became indifferent to him again.

He grabbed Meryl's hand and pressed it against his chest. "Meryl, it's my fault. After you calm down, let's get along like we did yesterday, okay?"

Meryl sneered, "I did that to deceive you, and you believed it?"

Dalton widened his eyes in surprise. "What did you say?"

"I said I was just acting yesterday. I don't want to start over with you. **I was** just acting to make you happy."

"This is impossible!" Dalton grabbed Meryl's shoulders.

Seeing Dalton like this, Meryl found it funny.

She felt that he was both hateful and pitiful.

Unexpectedly, the next second, Dalton suddenly lowered his head to kiss Meryl.

Meryl was shocked.

Chapter 413 Don't Push Me

3/3

Dalton grabbed Meryl's arms and pushed her down on the bed.

Being stimulated, Dalton was very terrifying.

Meryl struggled to get up, but Dalton controlled her hands and pressed them above her head. Then he was trying to unbutton

her clothes.

Meryl was panicked.

In her mind, although Dalton was domineering, he would never force her to do anything.

Otherwise, on the day when Lydia pushed him into the lake, he would have already slept with Meryl.

Meryl had never seen Dalton like this before.

In this situation, if Dalton forced her, she would have no chance of winning and escaping.

She closed her eyes and stopped resisting, saying with a soft voice, "Dalton, that hurts."

Dalton came to his senses from his fury. Hearing Meryl's weak voice, he couldn't help but loosen his grip a little.

His Adam's apple rolled. "Meryl, don't push me too far, or I don't know what I will do to you.

Write your comment

Gifts

Secret Admiration: Finding True Love After... 1/

Chapter 414 Hurting Him

Dalton's eyes were bloodshot. In his heart, Meryl was supposed to be his woman

It was Chandler who snatched Meryl away from him.

If it weren't for Chandler, Meryl would probably have returned. to Dalton now.

Hearing Meryl cry out in pain, Dalton softened his heart.

When he saw the tears rolling down her eyes, he suddenly felt that his behavior was excessive.

Although Dalton wanted to sleep with Meryl, he didn't want to force her.

He let go of Meryl, trying hard to calm down.

Taking advantage of Dalton's daze, Meryl showed cold eyes.

Weakness was indeed a woman's best weapon. She quickly picked up a piece of broken plate from the ground and held it in her palm.

Then she pressed the piece hard against Dalton's neck.

The situation changed instantly.

Dalton didn't expect Meryl to do such a thing. When he reacted, the cold piece was on his neck.

Chapter 414 Hurting Him

hard.

2/3

"Dalton, as long as you let me go. I won't hurt you," Meryl said in a cold voice with determination. "Prepare a car for me.

Dalton didn't expect Meryl to threaten him in such a violent way.

He showed a bitter smile. "Meryl, I don't believe that you will hurt me."

They had known each other for many years, and Dalton believed that Meryl wouldn't hurt him and that she was just scaring him.

Meryl's eyes were cold.

She didn't speak but moved the piece in her hand closer, and blood flowed out from Dalton's neck.

A streak of blood slid down and dripped onto the sheets beneath them.

"Dalton, being too confident is not a good thing."

Meryl's tone became more serious. "Prepare a car for me!"

Feeling the chill on his neck, Dalton suddenly felt desperate.

He thought, "How could Meryl be so cruel to me?"

To escape from me, she is even willing to hurt me."

With red eyes, Dalton pursed his lips tightly and said with a resolute tone, "Meryl, even if I die today, I will not let you leave

Chapter **414** Hurting Him.

3/3

Meryl never expected that Dalton would not give in, even at this point.

She reached into Dalton's pocket and took out his car keys.

Unexpectedly, Dalton's cell phone fell, and he received a call.

A familiar voice came from the other side of the phone.

The voice was so distinctive that Meryl immediately recognized it was the person who kidnapped her in the abandoned building that day.

He asked, "Dalton, have you led Chandler to your villa in the north of the city?"

Dalton subconsciously glanced at Meryl before saying, "Why did you ask me to lead Chandler over there?"

Zane laughed. "I want to settle the grudge between him and me. This matter has nothing to do with you, so don't ask about it."

Meryl could tell something unusual from these words.

Was Zane trying to harm Chandler?

Chapter 415 Meryl's Choice

Dalton sensed something was off. He said coldly, "Zane, didn't I warn **you**? I won't help you break the law."

"Breaking the law? Bullshit. You're just getting him to show up. Even if he bites the dust, it's not on you. Don't you want his girl all to yourself anyway?"

Zane let out a cocky laugh. He peered through his binoculars at a car approaching in the distance, his face suddenly **turning**

serious.

"Well, I'll be damned. You got him to come. I owe you one. Consider your debt paid in full."

Zane hung up, leaving Meryl looking sick to her stomach.

She'd caught on.

Dalton and Zane had used her as bait to lure Chandler to the villa in the Northon, planning to do him in when the chance

arose.

Meryl was floored. She never thought Dalton would stoop so

low.

"Turning on your flesh and blood, Dalton? You've hit rock bottom."

Without hesitation, Meryl snatched the car keys she'd just wrested from Dalton and made a beeline for the exit.

Chapter 415 Meryl's Choice

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split second, Meryl turned and thrust the porcelain shard at him without mercy.

The shard was so dangerous that Dalton's fingers got sliced several times as he reached out to stop her.

He had no choice but to back off, giving Meryl the opening she needed to sprint towards the door.

She moved lightning-fast, jumping into the car without a second thought. She slammed her foot on the gas, gunning it towards the villa's exit. The estate was supposed to have security guards, and when they heard Dalton yelling at them to stop the car, they prepared to intervene.

Security personnel initially guarded the villa. When they heard Dalton's order to stop the vehicle, they moved to intercept it.

But Meryl completely ignored them.

She floored the gas pedal and, with eyes closed, charged straight into the crowd.

Seeing Meryl recklessly driving towards them with no regard for their safety, the guards instinctively jumped out of the way.

In no time, Meryl had driven the car out of the villa compound.

Dalton, not even bothering to tend to the bleeding wound Meryl had just inflicted, immediately jumped into another car to give chase.

There were only a handful of villas in Northon, so finding Chandler's location wouldn't be too challenging.

Chapter 415 Meryl's Choice

If Zane was indeed planning to harm Chandler, Meryl figured

3/4 the occupancy rate of the villas must be pretty low.

After careful consideration, Meryl zeroed in on a newly built mansion that had just been handed over to its owners.

She followed her GPS, arriving at the location in just over ten minutes.

Dalton was hot on her heels, arriving mere moments after Meryl.

Once parked, Meryl made a beeline for the gated community.

Dalton jumped out of his car and gave chase, calling out to her, but Meryl acted as if she couldn't hear him.

He sprinted to catch up, finally blocking her path.

Grabbing her wrist, Dalton gazed at her with sorrowful eyes.

"Meryl, don't you realize that if you walk away now, we'll never have a chance again?"

If Meryl returned to Chandler's side, Chandler would no longer hold back in his actions.

Knowing Chandler's style, Dalton would never again have the opportunity to be alone with Meryl, and he might even pay the price for this rash move.

Meryl turned to face him, her expression and voice as cold as ice.

Chapter 415 Meryl's Choice Each word Meryl uttered rang like a sledgehammer to the head

In that instant, Dalton could almost hear heart-shattering.

Write your comment

Chapter 415 Meryl's Choice Each word—
Meryl uttered rang **ou like a** sledgehammer to the heart

In that instant, Dalton could alm heart—shattering.

Write your comment

Chapter **415** Meryl's Choice

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Each word—
Meryl uttered rang out clear and firm, hitting Dalton like **a** sledgehammer to the heart.

In that instant, Dalton could almost hear the sound of his
heart—shattering.

Write your comment

Chapter 416 Luckiest Guy

Meryl had made her choice so decisively, leaving Dalton without a glimmer of hope.

For some reason, Dalton's mind drifted back to their student days.

It was their senior year, when they were both eighteen, at the graduation ceremony.

Their school had a tradition of hosting a masquerade ball for each year's commencement.

Back then, Dalton hadn't been in the car accident yet, nor had he mistaken Lydia for Meryl.

On the night of graduation, Dalton showed up at the
masquerade in a sharp tuxedo.

Even with a mask on her face, he spotted Meryl instantly among the sea of girls in cocktail dresses.

Dalton approached Meryl, extending his hand to her like a true gentleman.

When Meryl took his hand, becoming his date for the evening, Dalton felt like the dashing and luckiest **guy** in the room.

He could even picture a future where Meryl walked down the aisle towards him in a wedding dress.

Chapter 416 Luckiest Guy

It all seemed like **it** had happened just yesterday.

2/4

But what he couldn't wrap his head around was how a woman who once loved him so intensely could suddenly fall out of love.

Dalton felt a deep sense of loss. In all those years of their relationship, he still couldn't compete with Chandler, who had only been around for a few months.

It was only now that he fully realized just how much Meryl honestly resisted him.

Even though he had confined her for over half a month, spending most of that time together day and night,

He'd done everything **in** his power to treat her well, even learning to cook for her sake, but it still hadn't been enough to sway her heart.

Meryl spotted Chandler's car parked at the entrance of the villa.

She guessed he must still be around somewhere.

Not wanting to waste any more time with Dalton, Meryl shook him off and headed deeper into the neighborhood.

Watching Meryl's figure grow smaller in the distance, Dalton felt lost, his eyes filled with intense sorrow.

Dalton's instinct was to chase after her, but suddenly, a dark figure darted out from nearby.

Dalton jumped, startled, before recognizing it was Zane.

Chapter 416 Luckiest Guy

Zane's face—looked rough, sporting fresh bruises — clearly Chandler's handiwork.

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Dalton had only heard about Chandler's ten-plus years in the police academy and his agility, but he'd never actually seen him in a real fight.

Clearly, Zane's ambush on Chandler had backfired

spectacularly, leaving him in this sorry state, freshly plucked from Chandler's grasp.

Zane's face was a mess of bruises and cuts, blood trickling from the corner of his mouth

.
He hacked out a cough, spitting a glob of bloody phlegm. "Mr. Aniston, that woman who just bolted past you – that's Chandler's wife, ain't it?"

Dalton's brow furrowed as he coldly demanded, "What are you planning?"

"I'm thinking of using her to get to Chandler," Zane replied, his tongue probing the inside of his battered cheek.

A wicked grin spread across his face. "You probably don't know about the blood feud between your uncle and me. I'm here to settle the score."

It was clear that Zane was no match for Chandler. A

confrontation would be a losing battle, so he had set his sights on Meryl instead.

Dalton's refusal was immediate and resolute. "With me here, you won't lay a finger on her."

Chapter 416 Luckiest **Guy**

Zane let out a sudden snicker. "Well, well, well. Who'd have thought? The golden boy's actually got a soft spot? But hasn't she already tied the knot with Chandler?"

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"I heard every word you two just said, and it's clear as day her heart's not with you. Is she really worth sticking your neck out for?"

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Write your comment

Chapter 417 Calling an Ambulance

Zane had been observing the pair from the shadows since the moment they appeared.

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He was surprised to see how cocky Dalton acted around him, yet how submissive he became in Meryl's presence.

Dalton couldn't care less. "This is my business, not yours. If I'm not mistaken, Uncle Chandler's probably looking for you all over the grounds right now. You'd better scam while you still have the chance to escape."

With that, Dalton stopped **arguing** with Zane and quickly took off after Meryl.

A cryptic smile played on Zane's lips at their retreating figures.

Back then, Dalton had arrested Zane's family with his own hands to complete a mission from higher-ups, leaving Zane an orphan without parents.

There was no way Zane would let that debt go unpaid.

Though the grounds were vast, finding Meryl wouldn't be too difficult.

Zane circled the rock garden by the villa a couple of times, then tucked himself **away** in an inconspicuous hiding spot.

Meryl had searched most of the grounds without finding Chandler, and she was starting to worry something might have.

Chapter 417 Calling an Ambulance

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As she walked **by** a rock formation, someone suddenly jumped out, frightening her.

When she recognized it was Zane Meryl let out an instinctive scream.

This man had kidnapped her once before.

Zane slapped his hand over Meryl's mouth, but she fought back fiercely.

Without a word, Meryl chomped down on Zane's hand and spun around nimbly, aiming a kick at his groin.

But Zane was ready for her.

Her actions enraged him. In a flash, he whipped out a knife from his waistband and lunged at her stomach without hesitation.

Meryl hadn't expected Zane to be armed. She watched in horror as the blade inched closer to her belly.

With Zane bearing down on her, she had no room to dodge.

Just then, out of nowhere, Dalton came sprinting up behind them.

He grabbed Meryl's wrist, yanking her into his arms, then pivoted to shield her with his body.

Zane plunged the knife deep into Dalton's chest, the blade sinking in with a sickening thud.

Blood gushed from the wound as Dalton's face contorted in

Chapter 417 Calling an Ambulance

Before he collapsed, Dalton managed to land a vicious kick square on Zane's sternum.

Caught completely off guard, Zane went flying backward, his head slamming against the artificial rockery behind him. He crumpled to the ground, unconscious.

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Satisfied that Zane could no longer harm Meryl, Dalton finally let out a relieved sigh before crumpling to the ground.

The whole incident had unfolded in the blink of an eye, leaving Meryl frozen in place, struggling to process what had just happened.

She knew in her heart that if Dalton hadn't stepped in to shield her, Zane's knife would have plunged straight into her belly.

With a baby on the way, the consequences would have been unthinkable.

Meryl's blood ran cold at the sight of Dalton on the ground, the knife still protruding from his chest.

Dalton's face was ghostly pale, twisted in excruciating pain.

She immediately crouched down to support him, her voice shaking as she asked, "Dalton, are you okay?"

He curled up in agony, his body contorting on the ground.

Dalton gritted his teeth, struggling to contain himself in front of Meryl. He managed to choke out a few words.

"I'm fine. How about you? Are you hurt? And the baby..."

Chapter 417 Calling an Ambulance Meryl shook her head.

The knife was still buried deep in Dalton's chest. He couldn't possibly be okay!

He'd lost so much blood. It was a terrifying sight.

Meryl kept her calm, reaching into Dalton's pocket for his phone. "Hang in there. I'm calling an ambulance right now."

4/4

Chandler, who'd rushed over after hearing the commotion, took in the whole scene.

His eyes darkened as he watched Meryl cradling Dalton in her arms.

Write your comment

1 Gifts

Secret Admiration: Finding True Love After...

Chapter 418 Will You Shed a Tear for Me

1/4

Meryl was oblivious to Chandler watching her from a distance.

She fished Dalton's phone out of his pocket and dialed 911 with surprisingly steady hands.

After giving the dispatcher their location, she answered a series of questions about Dalton's condition.

"Keep talking to the patient," the dispatcher instructed. "Try to keep him awake. We'll be there shortly."

"Understood," Meryl replied.

For the agonizing fifteen minutes it took for the ambulance to arrive, Meryl held Dalton in her arms, careful not to move him.

The dispatcher had stressed that Dalton shouldn't be moved. With that vast knife sticking out of his chest, the slightest movement could hasten his death.

As she looked down at Dalton, Meryl's mind drifted to Chandler.

Over a decade ago, Chandler's chest had been violently pierced, too. Back then, she'd used acupuncture needles to block specific pressure points, slowing his blood flow and buying crucial time for treatment.

Now, without any needles at hand, Meryl had no **way** to help

Dalton in the same manner.

Chapter 418 Will You Shed a Tear for Me chest, unsure how much longer he could hold on.

Noticing Dalton's eyes starting to lull shut, Meryl gently patted his cheek. "I know you're in a lot of pain, but you need to stay awake," she urged. "The ambulance will be here any minute. Just hang in there a little longer, Dalton."

A pale smile tugged at the corners of Dalton's lips.

2/4

"Meryl, I thought you hated my guts," he rasped. "Figured you'd be thrilled to see me bite the dust"

This gentle, caring side of Meryl was something Dalton had never dared to hope for.

"I do hate that you kept me locked up for so long." Meryl admitted. "But I never wanted you dead."

Meryl's emotions were a tangled mess.

No matter how she felt about him, the fact remained that Dalton had just taken a knife meant for her. If he hadn't jumped in front of Zane's blade, she'd be the one bleeding out right now.

There was no way she could abandon him.

"Try to take some deep breaths!" Meryl coached, noticing Dalton's labored breathing. "Nice and slow. Don't pant like that."

"Meryl," Dalton gasped, "if I die saving your life... will you shed a tear for me?"

Dalton's Adam's apple bobbed as tears slid from the corners of

Chapter 418 Will You Shed a Tear for Me

3/4

"God, it hurts, so bad," he thought. His lips were pale as **snow**. Each word felt like it drained every ounce of strength from his body.

But he was determined to seize this moment, to have a real heart-to-heart with Meryl. There was so much he needed to tell

her.

He was terrified that if he missed this chance today, he'd never get another.

Meryl was caught off guard by his question. She furrowed her brow and said, "What's the point of asking something like that?"

"It matters, Meryl. Please, just answer me. It's important to me."

Meryl fell silent for a moment. "Maybe I would. But even if I cried for you, it would only be because—"

Dalton reached up with one finger, pressing it gently against Meryl's lips to stop the word "guilt" from escaping.

"Just tell me you'd cry for me. That's enough. The reason doesn't matter," Dalton said, a satisfied smile tugging at the corner of his mouth.

Meryl didn't say anything more to Dalton. She could see he was fooling himself, living in a fantasy world of his own making.

Meryl's only focus now was finding Chandler as quickly as possible. She gripped Dalton's phone tightly and dialed a number.

Dalton watched her but made no move to stop her.

Chapter 418 Will You Shed a Tear for Me back.

Within seconds, a phone rang not far behind them. Meryl instinctively turned around, her eyes locking with Chandler's.

4/4

She was stunned to realize Chandler had been right behind her all along.

Write your comment

Chapter 419 She Had Missed Him

Meryl's eyes widened with a mix of surprise and joy.

She instinctively started to move towards Chandler.

Feeling the weight in her arms, she suddenly remembered Dalton was still leaning against her.

It had been over two weeks since she'd **seen** Chandler, and he seemed to have lost weight.

Chandler didn't say a word as he strode towards the pair.

He'd heard their conversation crystal clear.

As their eyes met, Meryl sensed something was off with Chandler.

His gaze was cold and distant, **his** whole body radiating an icy aura that sent chills down her spine.

It didn't take Meryl long to realize he'd gotten the wrong idea.

Chandler, don't jump to conclusions, Meryl rushed to explain. "He's hurt, that's why I'm holding him like this... The ambulance will be here any minute."

Standing in front of Meryl, Chandler looked down at her, his voice frosty. "Is that all you have to say to me?"

Meryl bit her lower lip nervously.

Chapter 419 She Had Missed Him

didn't mean to go **off** the grid for half a month. I... I couldn't reach you."

2/4

Chandler gently hooked a finger under Meryl's chin, tilting her face up to meet his eyes.

His smile didn't reach his eyes as he asked, "So you're telling me Dalton kidnapped you and held you against your will?"

Meryl was about to nod, but one look at Dalton's **half**-dead state made her pause.

She did not doubt that if she confirmed Chandler's suspicions, he'd kick Dalton into next week in a fit of rage.

She'd never seen such a terrifying look in Chandler's eyes before.

But Dalton was in no condition to withstand Chandler's fury.

After a moment's hesitation, Meryl said, "Chandler, please don't hurt Dalton... I'll explain everything later, okay?"

Seeing Meryl's concern for him, a satisfied smile tugged at Dalton's lips.

"Meryl, I knew you cared about me..."

As those words hung in the air, Chandler's demeanor grew even darker.

Meryl, sensing the shift, thought to herself, "Oh crap."

"Dalton, can you please shut up!" Meryl shot a harsh glare at the man in her arms. He really wanted to make this mess even

Chapter 419 She Had Missed Him.

Seeing Meryl glare at him, Dalton pouted with a hurt expression, but deep down, he felt pleased.

3/4

The atmosphere suddenly turned frosty, but thankfully, at that moment, the ambulance arrived, accompanied by a police car.

The paramedics lifted Dalton onto a stretcher while the police took away the unconscious Zane.

Chandler turned away coldly, and Meryl instinctively wanted to follow him.

But her legs had gone numb from crouching for so long, and she let out a startled cry as she nearly fell to the ground.

Chandler, who had already walked about ten feet away, heard the sound and spun around with lightning-fast reflexes, his strong arms wrapping around her like iron bands to hold her steady.

Meryl clutched Chandler's shirt, leaning against his chest.

"Chandler, do you have any idea how much I've missed you these past three weeks?" she asked, looking up at him from within his embrace, her glistening eyes shining brightly like those of a wronged little rabbit.

Her eyes were filled with Chandler as she spoke. "How can you be so cold to me? Don't you miss me at all? Do you have any idea how many times I called you that day? You d

idn't pick up once. I felt so lost. I even bought a ticket for that night, planning to fly to Grif fore to find you. But then Dalton kidnapped me."

Meryl's words revealed three crucial pieces of information.

Chapter 419 She Had Miss First, she answered Chandler's e that her recent disappeara nce wi kidnapped by Dalton.

Second, she felt hurt by Chandler her.

And third, of course, she had mis

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Chapter 419 She Had Missed Him

4/4

First, she answered Chandler's earlier confusion by confirming. that her recent disappea rance was indeed due to being. kidnapped by Dalton.

Second, she felt hurt by Chandler's previous coldness towards

her.

And third, of course, she had missed him.

Chapter 420 A Ploy

Nestled in his arms, the woman leaned against his chest, her coy demeanor striking righ t at his weakness.

Chandler suddenly realized Meryl had him totally whipped.

Meryl's voice continued, "Do you know how many ways I had to think of to escape from Dalton?"

As she spoke, Meryl extended her hand towards Chandler.

Her palm bore a visible cut from a shard of porcelain.

Chandler's eyes darkened at her injury, a flicker of anger clearly rising in their depths.

He grabbed Meryl's hand, gripping it tightly as he asked anxiously, "How did this happen? Did Dalton do this?"

Meryl bit her lip and shook her head. "I did it to escape. I cut him with a piece of porcelain."

It was a case of hurting the enemy at the cost of injuring herself. She had indeed cut Dalton, but not without wounding herself in the process.

She continued, "I overheard Zane calling Dalton, saying they'd lured you here. I was scared something might happen to **you**, so I came up with a plan **to** hurt Dalton and steal his car keys."

Meryl lifted her head, looking into Chandler's eyes.

Chapter 420 A **Ploy**

She knew full well why Chandler was so angry.

It wasn't just about jealousy.

The angrier Chandler got, the more it showed he cared about her. Meryl didn't want this incident to create a rift between them.

2/4

These words successfully dissipated a good portion of the anger in Chandler's heart.

But he still maintained a stern expression.

"How can you be sure Dalton's act just now wasn't a ploy? A deliberate setup to gain your sympathy? You even hugged him and told me not to harm him! You're actually protecting him!"

Meryl was silent for a moment, then said, "If Dalton hadn't taken that knife for me, I'd be the one injured. Considering that, I can't let anything happen to him at your hands."

After all, the situation had been so urgent, and Zane's attack was both vicious and precise, leaving no room for error.

In her mind, Dalton couldn't possibly be in cahoots with Zane.

Meryl

had clearly seen the dagger plunged into Dalton's chest, dangerously close to his heart.

He could quickly lose his life over

this.

She didn't believe Dalton would orchestrate such a scene just to win her sympathy.

Having grown up with Dalton, Meryl understood his character

Chapter 420 A Ploy

Though he might be swayed by others' provocations, blinding him temporarily, his heart wasn't genuinely malicious.

3/4

Meryl was more inclined to believe that Zane had manipulated Dalton.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have quickly retaliated against Zane with a kick, causing Zane to hit his head on the fake mountain and pass out right after Zane had attempted to harm her.

Dalton played a big part in Zane's successful arrest.

Hearing Meryl's unwavering faith in Dalton left a bitter taste in Chandler's mouth.

His face darkened once again.

No man wanted his wife to have such a long-standing childhood sweetheart.

Worse still, this old flame seemed to hold a special place in Meryl's heart, as she trusted him unconditionally when trouble

arose.

Meryl let out a sigh.

Seeing Chandler's grim expression, she knew he'd jumped to the wrong conclusion again.

She looked up at him, her eyes filled with a mix of exasperation. and understanding.

"Chandler, Dalton and I are ancient history. There's nothing between us anymore. This kidnapping was a complete fluke.

Chapter 420 A Ploy

him."

4/4

Meryl meant every word she said from the bottom of her heart.

For her, Dalton was ancient history. He just couldn't let go, Chandler kept getting jealous over it. The whole thing was a vicious cycle.

and

There was nothing she could do about Dalton, so she pinned her hopes on Chandler.

Meryl knew she and Dalton could never be together. She wasn't one to backtrack on her choices.

In her book, once you missed your chance, that was it.

She always looked forward, never dwelling on people or things from the past.

Meryl leaned into Chandler's embrace, wishing he could understand her feelings.

"Once his wounds heal, you can punish him however you want. I won't stop you. I'm not protecting him. It's just that Dalton lost a lot

of blood, and he got hurt because of me. I can't turn a blind eye to that. You get where I'm coming from, right?"

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