

## **Ex Convict 1071**

### Chapter 1071

However, they were stopped by the staff when they arrived. It did not work even after Lina stated her intention and revealed Hadwin Stephenson's identity. They only said that Brian was not at the company and they would not tell them his current location.

Lina looked anxious, and Hadwin Stephenson comforted her by saying, "Don't worry. I'll make a phone call."

"Do you have Brian's contact information?" Lina was stunned.

"No, but it wouldn't be hard to get," said Hadwin Stephenson. as he called someone on the phone. Sure enough, it was not long before they got Brian's contact information.

Lina was impressed.

He was indeed the Stephenson family's patriarch. Others would have a lot of trouble getting the crown prince's. personal contact information, but he could get it so quickly.

Hadwin Stephenson then dialed Brian's phone number. When the call went through, Lina said quickly, "Is... Is this... Brian... Young Moster Hart? I'm Grace's best friend, Lina. I just want to. ask, do you know where Jason has taken Grace?"

Brian's expression changed slightly when he heard the name.

when she was in prison.

Instead of hanging up the phone, Brian answered, "I haven't found out her whereabouts yet, but I'll keep looking."

"I see. Neither have I, so if you have any information, please let me know," said Lina.

"Sure," answered Brian before ending the call.

There were rows and rows of electronic screens in front of

Brian. They were showing the road surveillance that night.

However, all the surveillance footage on the roads that Jason. might have taken that night had been deliberately erased.

"Can't the surveillance footage be restored?" Brian asked coldly.

"The people who did this are experts, so I'm afraid it's going to be difficult," replied the man.

"What about the footage out of town? You can't find that either?"

"I don't think he left town. We've checked the surveillance footage at the nearby cities' borders. Everything's normal.

Brian frowned. "Then keep on checking the roads where the surveillance footage has been erased and check whether there are any of the Reed family's properties there."

It would be too easy to detect their whereabouts if Jason took Grace to a hotel. In that case, Jason would not have done it at all.

"Yes," answered his men.

Just then, Brian's phone rang again. He looked at the caller ID and realized it was his mother calling.

He pressed the answer button and said to the other end of the line, "Mom, what's the matter?"

"Come back in the evening tomorrow and let's have dinner together," said Madam Hart.

"Okay, got it," replied Brian as he stared again at the gray screen.

'No matter where Jason has taken Grace, I'll find her!'

## Chapter 1072

Meanwhile, Grace sat at the dining table and looked at the soup and three other dishes that were still hot. However, they looked so average that they did not look like a chef made them.

"I cooked them. Give them a try," he said as if sensing her confusion.

She was slightly surprised. 'He can... cook?'

"You cooked for me when we were at the rental house, so why can't I cook for you? If you don't like the taste, I'll learn and improve for the next time," he said. His peach blossom eyes were smiling at her as if they had never broken up and there were no painful memories.

They seemed to have gone back to the sweetest time they shared together.

Grace looked away uncomfortably, not wanting to meet his eyes.

His eyes seemed to have some magic power in them, setting off waves in her calm heart.

"Where are the servants? Why don't I see any other servants here?" she asked, looking for a topic.

you won't have much chance to see them. Just take it as there are only you and me here."

She was shocked.

He continued saying, "It's just me and you here, so you can look at me and consider when to fall in love with me again."

"I told you, it's impossible," she said.

He said, "I've told you, you'll fall in love with me again! Why won't you look at me if you think it's impossible?"

She bit her lower lip and turned her head around, her almond-shaped eyes finally looking at him.

Their eyes met in mid-air.

She glared at him while he stared at her, smiling faintly.

Jason's eyelashes quivered slightly after some time, and he said, "Alright. Let's eat first. The food is going to get cold if you don't."

With that, he lowered his eyes and started eating with a pair of chopsticks.

Grace suddenly breathed a sigh of relief. She thought that she was being a little childish when she realized the way she had looked into his eyes earlier was as if she was a primary school student.

She looked into his eyes to deny that she would fall in love with him again.

However, she could feel her heartbeat accelerating when she looked into his eyes. It was as if it was telling her his influence on her.

Grace lowered her head and ate.

His cooking was neither good nor bad, but others would be surprised to learn that she had the chance to eat the food prepared by Emerald City's Master Reed himself!

Grace laughed at herself, never thinking that one day she could eat his cooking under such circumstances.

"What on earth is this place?" she could not help asking.

Chapter 1073

Jason said truthfully, "It's one of the Reed family's old mansions. However, very few people know about this place, and the Reed family has never announced it to the public."

She could not help frowning. 'Is he implying that an outsider would have a hard time finding out that he's keeping me here?'

"Besides, you're not the only one who's locked up in this mansion," he said.

She blinked. 'What does that mean?'

"A woman was once locked up in here too. This mansion was bought to keep that woman here," Jason said as if he was telling her a story.

Grace was stunned. She felt a chill enveloping her body. 'Another woman... was locked up in here too?'

"It was probably around 70 years ago. One of the Reed family's ancestors fell in love with a woman, but she already had a fiancé and the couple was very much in love. Therefore, this ancestor kidnapped the woman and locked her up in this mansion, guarding her day and night just to make her fall in

love with him."

She had found the place vintage and elegant when she was first brought here.

However, she felt differently after hearing him say so.

"What happened... afterward?" She heard herself asking somewhat hoarsely.

"Afterward, that woman fell in love with the Reed family's ancestor and managed to leave this place," he said as he stared at her. "What about you? Do you want to get out of here too?"

She suddenly found her throat dry. "I can't leave if I don't fall in love with you?"

"I'll be here with you until you fall in love with me," he said.

She kept quiet. Just like the woman who was locked up in

here? She still fell in love with the man who kept her here even.

though she already had a fiancé she loved deeply

"Alright, we haven't finished our meal. Hurry up and eat. It's going to get cold." He urged her and added food to her bowl.

Looking at the food in her bowl, she asked dryly, "Why do I

have to fall in love with you again? If you want to be loved, find a woman who's willing to love you."

There should be a lot of such women in Emerald City. After all, he was Jason-Emerald City's Master Reed! Even without that

his appearance alone would have captivated many women!

His voice rang out. "What about you? Why did you bring me back to your place in the first place? If you hadn't taken me to your place and made me call you Sis, I wouldn't have fallen in love with you. I wouldn't be keeping you here."

Grace looked up suddenly, their eyes meeting once more.

He smiled faintly and looked at her gently. "You were the one who brought me into your world for the first time, weren't you? Isn't it too late to ask me why it has to be you?"

Her heart felt as if it had been hit hard. 'Yes, all this wouldn't have happened if I hadn't taken him back to my place back

then!

'I was the one who brought him into my world. Now he won't let me when I want to withdraw!'

“Grace, you taught me what it’s like to love someone. Since you made me fall deeply in love with you, don’t you think you should be responsible for me?” he said as he stared at her.

“It’s not that I... never loved you, but we’ve broken up,” she said dryly. She could not fall in love with anyone anymore.

#### Chapter 1074

He muttered, “Yeah, we’ve broken up. Breaking up with you is the thing I regret the most, so I won’t let myself regret it again.”

He wanted her to love him again and to love him so much that she could not leave him!

Grace sat on the couch in her room at night and looked at the purple floral gown in her hands.

The gown was torn from the neckline to one side of the sleeves. Even after mending, it would never be the same again.

Grace was a little upset seeing what was once a perfect gown. turning out like this. After all, it was something that Bryn gave her.

Even if Brian did not know it was her and even if Brian did not mean to give her the gown, it was like a series of coincidences. that made all the promises they made when they were little come true.

Biting her lip a little, Grace got up and went to a nearby cupboard where she took out a sewing box. an ancient but delicate thimble. Although some of the silk thread inside had faded, they were still sturdy and would not break in one pull.

“Was this sewing box left by someone who lived in the room. before? It’s probably a woman because the thimble is about the same size as my finger.

However, Grace was not used to wearing a thimble, especially. since her knuckles were slightly deformed. It only added to the inconvenience.

Grace took a small ball of purple thread, took another needle, and began to mend the gown.

Although the gown was torn and could no longer be worn, it was still a childhood promise and a gift. She did not want to let the gown stay torn.

Stitch by stitch, Grace carefully fixed it. She would carefully think about every stitch as if she was mending their childhood.

promise.

Just then, the door was pushed open and Jason walked in. His deep eyes instantly narrowed when he saw the gown she was

mending.

“What’s the matter? Didn’t you say you don’t love Brian? Why would you mend the gown he gave you?” he asked with

obvious jealousy in his voice,

She had also mended his clothes under the lights back in the

small rental house.

Now, she was mending the gown Brian gave her. ‘What is she thinking? Is she thinking of Brian?’ He felt a pang in his chest. at the thought of it. It was as if something was stuck.

“It’s just a gown,” replied Grace.

“I won’t even tolerate a gown.” He bent down and stared at her. “Grace, you and Brian are not meant to be. Otherwise, you wouldn’t have forgotten him for so many years and he would not have mistaken your cousin for you.”

Her expression changed slightly.

He smiled lightly and said, “Tell me, Brian keeps saying that he misses you, but he mistook you for someone else. How much

does he really miss you, then? He can give the

gown

today and another gown to Stella another day, no?”

to you

There was something playful and sarcastic in his smile. It was as if he was telling her that the gown in her hand did not mean anything.

Chapter 1075

Grace lowered her eyes gently and looked quietly at the purple gown in her hands. She went on with her mending

without a word.

The faint smile on the corner of his lips gradually disappeared. “Stop,” he said.

However, she seemed not to hear and just went on with what

she was doing!

His eyes darkened, and the jealousy within him grew stronger. It was as if all she could see was the gown... Or rather, all she

could see was Brian!

"I told you to stop!" He snapped, and the next moment, he yanked the purple gown out of her hand.

"Ah!" Grace gave a low cry. The needle in her hand had stabbed into the index finger of her other hand. A flush of red blood instantly gushed out from the spot where she had been stabbed.

She had pricked herself hard, so the blood was flowing fast.

In a few moments, a great deal of blood was gushing from her slender finger, and the red blood dripped down her fingertip

to the dark floor.

bleeding finger into his mouth and sucked the blood from her fingertip.

Grace froze, feeling nothing but warmth and dampness on her fingertip. The waves of heat enveloped her fingers and

made them hotter and hotter.

She stared blankly at the man who was in front of her with some astonishment. He was kneeling before her with his eyes lowered. His eyes were half concealed by the long and thick, fan-like lashes, and there was obvious worry on his face.

He was worried about her!

Moments later, his thin lips slowly parted. He looked at the finger he had just sucked. The blood was no longer gushing out like earlier but was still oozing a little.

"Does it hurt?" he asked as he looked up at her. His long black lashes were lifted as he looked up. Those dark, glittering eyes

looked so beautiful.

She quickly came back to her senses. "I'm fine." With that, she was going to withdraw her hand.

He did not let go of her hand. "Don't move, or the blood will gush out again."

"It's just a prick. It's nothing," she said.

"It may not mean much to you, but to me..." His words disappeared in his mouth and he did not go on.

The sight of her bleeding was like a stab in his heart. He even felt a sense of regret.

He caused her this wound.

Jason lowered his head and looked at her fingertips. "Don't worry about the gown anymore, alright? Since it's torn, let it be. Don't mend it. Don't make me angry, alright?"

He spoke and pressed her fingertips to his lips, gently sucking the blood off her fingertips little by little.

Grace could feel the burn on her fingertip, but her heart seemed to be sinking.

Chapter 1076

"Jason, is it true that I can only do what you want? I can't have my own ideas or concerns, nor make you angry? You keep

saying you love me, but have you ever respected me?" said

Grace.

He paused what he was doing and looked up at her. It seemed, as if all the emotions in his eyes had faded, and all that was left was darkness. After a long pause, he finally said, "Do you want me to respect you?"

A cold voice rang in the room with a sense of cold loneliness.

She laughed at herself. "I'm being stupid. You wouldn't be keeping me here if you respected me."

"I can respect you and satisfy everything you want. I'll do whatever you want as long as you can love me and stop thinking about other men," he murmured.

He had put himself in an inferior position by making such a statement.

However, Grace only said lightly, "You're only respecting me on the premise that I love you, and if I don't, you'll control my will, preference, and longing, won't you?"

His thin lips were pressed into a straight line, and his ever

She met his eyes without fear or retreat... Perhaps, she had retreated enough and did not want to retreat anymore. "Jason, if this is all your respect is, then I don't need it."

"Really? You don't need it..." he muttered, suddenly picking her up and moving toward the bed nearby.

She struggled immediately. "What are you trying to do?"



“Didn’t you just say you don’t need my respect and I don’t have to respect you?” As he spoke, he threw her onto the bed. and tore his collar open with his long fingers.

His expression was calm and even his tone was light, but the way he acted scared her. He almost had his way with her in this very room the night she was brought there!

Now...

Almost instinctively, she struggled to get up to get away from the bed.

However, his arms were wrapped around her waist again as he pressed her hard against the bed before her feet even touched the ground. “Looks like I’ve respected you too much.

that you don’t know what disrespect is!”

He kissed her on the lips as he spoke. It was an almost suffocating kiss that seemed to swallow her whole.

Grace struggled as hard as she could but it was to no avail.

When she tried to bite, he seemed to sense it and his fingers immediately grabbed her jaw as well as the sides of her cheek.

She could not move her jaw and could only accept his kiss passively.

He subdued her struggle and resistance. The sheer power frightened her.

As his kiss went lower and lower, she trembled almost uncontrollably while tears gushed out inadvertently.

Beads of tears fell down her cheeks, and he could taste. something salty on his lips.

He suddenly paused and pulled himself up slowly only to see her face that was full of tears and her slender body that was trembling.

Chapter 1077

‘She’s scared. Did I scare her?’

He wanted to frighten her to teach her a lesson and show her his kindness. He just wanted her to know what would happen. to her if he was indeed disrespecting her. However, when he saw her in this state, he felt a terrible heaving in his chest. It was as if he was punishing himself!

He raised his hand and gently wiped the tears from her face. "Alright, I won't force you. Not now, not ever."

She looked at him blankly as though she could not believe that he would say such a thing.

She did not expect herself to cry so much so suddenly. She had told herself that even if she was 'raped', she did not have to take it to heart. She would just think of it as sleep paralysis!

However... When she was stuck in a situation she could not

resist, her time in prison recurred to her. It was the same back then. It was as if no matter how much she struggled, the point inflicted upon her would not lessen.

It was as if she was not a human in their eyes but a tool to be kicked and punched and used to get benefits.

Her eyes were still full of tears, and she looked at him through them.

His dark eyes met hers. "Don't worry. I'll keep my word!"

It turned out that her tears and fear were heavy to him.

It was as if he could bow, kneel before her, and drop all his pride as long as she was less afraid of him!

In the hall in the Hart family's house, Mr. Hart looked at his son. He had been proud of the child ever since he was born. He hardly had to worry about him.

The only exception was when he was kidnapped. He managed to escape on his own, get to the hospital, and call the police, but... He had been persistent in searching for someone for so many years.

In Mr. Hart's opinion, his son was great, but he was too persistent about people and things sometimes.

For instance, he was too persistent about the little girl who saved him when he was a child. His son had been looking for her all these years that he was almost possessed. Even those girlfriends had traces of the little girl!

Fortunately, Stella, who he later found, was only a vain woman.

Brian did not have any extra feelings for her, so he thought he had let go of his obsession!

What he did not expect was that his son, who he thought he could trust, had a conflict with the Reed family's Jason at the charity gala and even got his wrist broken.

"I heard you've deployed a lot of people to find out Jason's whereabouts. Or should I say, a woman's whereabouts?"

asked Mr. Hart.

Brian said lightly, "Dad, this is my business. Stay out of it."

"Stay out of it?" Mr. Hart frowned. "I could stay out of it back when you insisted on looking for someone. I could also stay out of it when you dated those good-for-nothing girlfriends. However, now... You're looking for this woman. Do you want Jason to break your other hand?"

Chapter 1078

Mr. Hart looked at his son's right hand that was still wrapped in gauze as he spoke.

What a joke to get his wrist broken for a woman!

So what if I broke my wrist? As long as she can be found!"

asked Brian.

"You Mr. Hart felt a surge of anger.

Madam Hart immediately went up to comfort her husband

and said to her son, 'Don't make your father mad. Jason clearly treats that woman differently. Why would you meddle

in this?"

Although the Reed family had a huge influence in Emerald City, the Hart family was not too bad either. Madam Hart was not afraid to go against the Reed family in her opinion, it was only a woman and she was not the same girl with whom her

son had been obsessed since childhood. There were many

people who could take over her place

There was never a shortage of beautiful women in the entertainment industry!

My son can have any woman he wants. Why would he want a

woman Jason won't let go?

"Mom, I have to meddle in this because I've fallen in love with Grace!

"What... What did you say?" Madam Hart looked surprised.

It was the first time she ever heard her son say that he had

fallen in love with a woman, even though he had many girlfriends before this.

"I love Grace so much that she's the only one I want! Therefore, I won't give in even if Jason won't let go!" Brian said firmly.

He had let her go again and again. Now, he knew his heart. better than ever! Therefore, he would not let her go again!

The one person he wanted to spend the rest of his life with. was... Grace and only Grace!

Mr. Hart glared at his son. "What did you say? Come again!"

"I love Grace. I won't let go even if I have to face Jason!" Brian said adamantly.

Mr. Hart snapped. "Are you insane? Are you going to fight against the Reed family for a woman?"

He had no idea what position the woman held in Jason's heart, but from the fact that Jason broke the hand of a member of the Hart family for a woman, he could see that this woman. was probably important to him!

'Of course, Brian's hand wouldn't be broken in vain. Since Jason dared to break it, then the Hart family will have the Reed family pay the price!"

However, that did not mean Mr. Hart would like to see his son compete with Jason for a woman!

In that case, the entire Emerald City would bear witness to a huge joke!

Brian smiled lightly. "If I give up just like that, then I think I'd really be insane."

He would be insane with regret!

He did not want to regret it again!

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Grace had no idea how long Jason planned to keep her here. Besides, Jason had taken her phone away and she did not have a way to communicate with the outside world.

He did say he had helped her ask for leave from the firm.

'However, about Lina and Kyla... The thought of Lina possibly worrying about her and Kyla's case bothered Grace.

It had been three days. She and Jason were still stuck. together.

Chapter 1079

She thought of getting out of here by pretending to love him.

However... How long could she 'pretend'? Unless she could keep this up forever, it would end up badly when Jason found out she lied to him.

More importantly, she did not want to use her feelings to deceive his feelings!

The mansion was large. The buildings and pavilions inside. were just like those seen in rich and powerful families'

residences in movies and dramas. There were many lotus-related items there.

For example, lotus porcelains. The pillars and beams also had carvings of lotus flowers. Some antique furniture also had lotus carvings, not to mention the lotus pond in the yard.

The lotus flowers here were still in full bloom even though it was already past their season, which was really strange.

The owner of the mansion probably liked lotus flowers very much.

'Or maybe... It was the woman imprisoned here back then. who was fond of lotus flowers? Grace thought to herself.

Grace walked around the house, looking for Jason.

Though he kept her in the mansion, he did not restrict her movements in it. At least she was 'free' within the confines of the mansion, so to speak.

Finally, she stopped when she reached a passage and looked into one of the rooms.

She remembered seeing Jason coming out of this room once.

'Would he... be in the room?'

She stepped forward and knocked twice on the door. When she heard no answer, she pushed open the door.

However, to her surprise, it was a dark room.

The room was small and heavy curtains covered the windows.

The furnishings in the room were also simple... It was probably too simple, for the entire room consisted of a single display case with a glass cover. Inside laid a long ancient sword.

Grace thought it was an ancient sword because of the blade's

sheen and the degree of oxidation on the handle. It looked years old, and the blade was patchy with a lot of dark brown

stuff that did not look like rust.

A full-length black curtain hid the wall in front of the shelf.

The room was rather odd, so to speak.

However, she could see that Jason was not here.

Grace was about to leave when suddenly, she heard footsteps. behind her. Then Jason's cold voice rang out. "Why are you.

here?"

Grace immediately turned around and that handsome face.

caught her eye. "I was looking for you. I entered this room to

see if you were here."

"Looking for me?" he asked lightly. He walked to the center of the room and approached the display case with the ancient

sword.

"L... I want to contact Lina and Kyla. Lina will be worried if she

can't find me, and Kyla.... I'm representing her in her custody case. I can't get out of here right now...

And her case is also a

little difficult."

He pursed his thin lips as those dark eyes stared at her,

examining the truth of her words.

Grace said, "I'm just contacting them to tell them something.

I'm not going to say anything more than that Besides, even

if I do say something, they wouldn't be able to take me away

even if they did find this place."

Chapter 1080

"Indeed, they can't take you away even if they found this place," he said as he pulled his phone out and handed it to

her.

It was not her phone but his!

Fortunately, she had a good memory. She remembered both. Lina and Kyla's phone numbers.

Therefore, Grace called Lina first.

When Lina answered her phone, she was so shaken that she almost dropped her phone when she heard Grace's voice. "Grace, where... Where are you? Do you know how worried I was when Jason took you? Did Jason hurt you? How dare that son of a b\*tch take you?! This is kidnapping. Kidnapping!"

Grace immediately felt awkward. The phone call was on speakerphone. In other words, Jason heard everything her best friend said.

Jason glanced at the phone with a half-smile. Grace was afraid that her best friend would say something that might annoy Jason, so she immediately said, "I'm... I'm fine. Lina. I just called to tell you not to worry about me. As for Kyla, I'm supposed to help her with her case, but now I may not be around If I haven't come to you in a week, can you please

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After all, Kvid's criminal record was the most unvorable

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not handle the case now If she could not handle it is ONĭ Hadwin Stephenson would help.

"Grace, are you okay? Did something happen? Kyla Corbyn asked hastily.

afraid I can't video call him these days, but I'll make up for it later," said Grace.

After the call ended, she looked at the phone and looked up at the person in front of her. "Jason, can't you let me leave for a while? Even if it's just during Kyla's case? Besides, it won't do

you much good to keep me here,"

"Really?" he muttered as he pulled the phone out of her hand before saying, "Do you know what this room is?"

"Huh? She was stunned, not understanding why he asked that all of a sudden.

"There's another name for this room. 'Splashes of Blood' he said.

She could not help frowning. Such a name had an ominous ring to it.

"Do you know why it has such a name?" he asked again.

She shook her head. 'How could I know that?

With a low chuckle, he pressed the switch on the display case in front of him and the glass cover over the sword slowly opened, exposing the ancient sword inside.