

## Ex Convict 1181

### Chapter 1181

Grace nodded while Hadwin Stephenson looked at the slightly pale Grace with a thoughtful expression on his face.

In the evening, Hadwin Stephenson said to Lina, "Tell me, is there any possibility that Grace is pregnant?"

Lina almost spat out her drink when she heard this. "No way!" She replied without hesitating.

Her affirmation made Hadwin Stephenson a little confused. "Why are you so sure? It hasn't even been three months since Grace broke up with Jason. You won't be able to tell even if she is pregnant."

Lina bit her lip. How could she put it? After all, it was Grace's privacy. The possibility of Grace getting pregnant was too low. She had gotten injured so badly in prison, and though she had undergone treatment after getting together with Jason, they broke up shortly after that. Grace did not want to go through that kind of treatment anymore.

Facing Hadwin Stephenson's gaze, Lina said, "In short, there's no way Grace can be pregnant now, and Hadwin... I promised Grace that my child will be her child, and she'll be the mother

of our child too. You won't blame me for making this decision

on my own, right?"

Hadwin Stephenson looked at the person in front of him and smiled gently. "I won't." It was because he knew what kind of friend Grace was to her.

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She was probably the kind of friend she could give her life to!

It was a blessing to have found such a friend.

Lina hugged Hadwin Stephenson's waist. "Hadwin, it's great to have you!"

He gently caressed her hair. "I'm going back to the Stephenson family's house to deal with those matters in two days. Wait for me in Emerald City. This time, I'll have bodyguards protect you in the dark. I won't let you encounter that kind of danger again."

'Are we... going to be separated again for a short time? But I don't want to part with him. "Why don't... I take a few days off and go with you?"

"Don't be childish. I can't solve them in a few days. Even if I'm fast, it'll take two months!" Only in two months could he close the net and make sure everything was surefire.

"Oh," she replied dully.

"Wait for me. I'll marry you once I get back," Hadwin Stephenson said and gently kissed Lina on the lips.

She was the person he loved the most, and he wanted to give her a bright future.

When Grace went to the hospital the next day, she met Chase Harper again in front of the inpatient department of the hospital.

Chase Harper said, "What a coincidence. Are you here to visit your friend who's hospitalized?"

Grace said, "Yes, I'm going to visit Nelson in pediatrics after visiting my friend. How about you? Are you here to see Nelson today?"

Chase Harper nodded. "I told him about Transformers

yesterday. I have a few Transformer toys from when I was little but had never thrown them away, so I wanted to bring them to Nelson."

Grace's eyes lit up. 'Transformers?' She remembered she had been interested in Transformers for a while when she was a child. However, such toys were a little too expensive back then. When her grandmother finally bought one for her, she ended up breaking it. Since then, she had never bought another Transformers toy.

Grace said, "I've played with a Transformers toy before, but it broke afterward."

Chapter 1182

"Really? Which one did you play with?" Chase Harper opened his bag and showed Grace the Transformers toys in it as he spoke.

Grace took a look. These were not just a few. There were a ton of them! There were at least a dozen at a glance.

Grace found the same toy she had played with last time- Bumblebee.

"This was what I had," said Grace as she looked at the Bumblebee in her hand. A touch of nostalgia flashed across her almond-shaped eyes.

"You can have it then," said Chase Harper.

"But aren't these for Nelson?" asked Grace.

"There are so many more for Nelson. He won't miss this one. You can keep this one as a souvenir," said Chase Harper.

'Souvenir... Grace looked at the Bumblebee in her hands. She

had begged her grandmother for this toy for so long. She had no concept of money back then, and she had no idea that her

grandmother had used the money she normally saved to buy it for her.

Grace's heart softened as she thought of her grandmother. "Thank you," she said with a chuckle and accepted the Bumblebee.

Chase Harper smiled after seeing that she was willing to take it. Even though he knew they could never get together, he was happy inside.

They smiled at each other, unaware of the eyes that were peering down from the floor of the inpatient ward.

Stella was in Brian's ward when Grace got there.

Grace saw Stella almost every time she came. However, Stella would look at her with some joy as if she was rejoicing in other people's misfortune.

"Grace, you seemed to be having a good time chatting with a guy downstairs today. Who was that man? Your friend? Did he bring you here today?" said Stella.

Grace gave her a faint glance. "Just a former colleague who coincidentally ran into me at the hospital."

"What a coincidence..." Stella deliberately dragged out the words, giving people the impression that there was something ambiguous.

"So what are you trying to say?" asked Grace.

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"No-Nothing. I just thought you and your colleague seemed close," said Stella.

Grace snapped. "Do my former colleagues and I have to act like we dislike each other, ignore each other, or bash each other? I wonder how you greet your classmates from school, your co-stars, and film crew members when you meet them?"

Stella was immediately speechless and could only shyly stop speaking, but a hint of malice still flashed across her eyes.

Grace did not bother to pay attention to Stella either. She turned to Brian and asked, "Are you feeling better?"

Brian said, "Yes. I can get out of bed and walk now. Can you peel me another apple?"

"Okay," said Grace. The nearby Stella also quickly said, "Brian, why don't I peel the apple for you? Let Grace rest."

"Stella, go and check if my test report has come out," said Brian.

'You can just ring the bell for the nurse!' thought Stella. He was making it clear that he wanted to get her out of the room and be alone with Grace.

Chapter 1183

It was the same as last time!

Almost in anger, Stella left the room while Grace sat down by the bed with an apple and a paring knife. She began to peel an apple for Brian.

"Did you run into your former colleague downstairs?" Brian asked casually.

"Yeah, you've seen him before. It's Chase Harper. You met him when I had that incident at the film studio," said Grace. She answered Brian casually without being defensive.

'Chase Harper...' Brian's eyes glimmered. He still remembered that she had gone missing that time. Chase Harper's face had looked so anxious. That kind of care and concern... He could see that Chase Harper was probably interested in her.

"Yes, he was worried about you," Brian said lightly.

"He's a nice man." A faint smile appeared on the corners of Grace's lips. She remembered that Chase Harper came to the hospital today to bring those Transformers toys to Nelson. She did not expect Chase Harper to keep such vintage toys so well.

Although new versions of Transformers toys were released all the

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time, Chase Harper's vintage Transformers were not necessarily available even if you had the money. Nelson must be delighted to see them.

Chase Harper was so considerate!

"Nice man?" Brian raised his eyebrows a little. A sour feeling slowly spread in his heart. 'Is she smiling because of Chase Harper?'

Grace said, "Yeah, he's nice. He's honest, kind, and doesn't judge people. It's nice to be friends with someone like him. People like him are rare these days."

One could say that she admired Chase Harper's qualities. Even though she did not love this man, she still wished him a good life.

Everyone at the Sanitation Service Center judged her when they found out that she had been to prison, but Chase Harper did not mind her sitting down with him.

How many ordinary people were able to do that?

It was only through those setbacks and being treated differently that such kindness became more valuable.

Grace handed the peeled apple to Brian. He took it but did not eat it right away.

"Why aren't you eating?" asked Grace.

"I was thinking about how seldom I hear you say people are nice.

It seems that Chase Harper is pretty good," said Brian.

Grace said, "He's pretty good. It's a pity..."

"What's a pity?" asked Brian.

"Nothing." She shook her head and lowered her eyes gently. 'It's

a pity Chase Harper seems to have misplaced his feelings on me, but... maybe Chase Harper has let it go.'

Grace got up to put the fruit knife back on the table. As she got up, the Bumblebee she was carrying in her pocket fell out and landed on Brian's hospital bed.

She reached for it, but Brian grabbed it first. "This is..."

"The Transformer toy from a long time ago. Chase Harper gave me one as a souvenir when I met him today," she said, taking the Bumblebee from his hand and resting her eyes gently on it.

#### Chapter 1184

Even though this Bumblebee was not the one her grandmother had bought for her, looking at the same model would remind

her of that time and the moments she had spent with her grandmother.

Grandma held a gentle place in her heart!

Looking at Grace's smile, the sour feeling in Brian's heart became stronger. 'She and Chase Harper... No, she probably won't have any feelings for the man. They're only former colleagues.

'But why... can't I help overthinking it? It's as if I'm afraid he'll occupy an important place in her heart!'

Outside the ward, Stella peered furtively at the scene inside, a look of calculation flashing across her eyes.

Grace left Brian's ward and went to Nelson's ward. Chase Harper was also in Nelson's ward, playing with him.

The little one liked these Transformers toys. He kept playing with them.

"By the way, when will Nelson be discharged from the hospital?"

Grace asked Kyla Corbyn who was nearby.

"The day after tomorrow. We'll be out by noon if nothing goes wrong," said Kyla Corbyn.

"I'll also come and pick up Nelson from the hospital at noon the day after tomorrow," said Grace.

"But that day is a working day. It's not very convenient for you," said Kyla Corbyn.

"Our firm has a two-hour lunch break at noon. I'll take the bus. It's convenient! I'll be able to help in case you're short of hands," said Grace.

Chase Harper said, "I'll come and pick up Nelson too. I have a car. It'll be more convenient if you have a lot of things. I can pick up Grace at noon the day after tomorrow and we'll come to the hospital together."

The two people in front of her were so kind that Kyla Corbyn did not refuse them again. She only said gratefully, "Sorry for the trouble."

Grace decided to go home after a while, so Chase Harper said, "I'll give you a ride." Then, fearful of her disapproval, he added, "It's

on my way."

"Then... Thank you," Grace said with a smile.

Chase Harper drove Grace back to the rental house. On the way, Chase Harper suddenly said, "I'm... going on a blind date."

Grace was shocked. "You're going on a blind date?"

"Yes, she was introduced by my relative. She's 28 years old and is in the financial field," said Chase Harper.

Grace sincerely wished, "I hope the blind date will be a success!"

Sadness flashed across Chase Harper's eyes as he heard this. That question was his last test, so to speak. If she had hesitated a little, he would fight for his feelings again.

However, she only wished him good luck without hesitation.

"Yes, let's hope my blind date will be a success," Chase Harper also said with a smile. He told himself that he should try to let go of his feelings for her.

Even if they could not be lovers, he hoped they could be friends!

The car came to Grace's neighborhood gate where Grace got off and walked inside.

Chapter 1185

Looking at her figure, Chase Harper suddenly unbuckled his seat

belt and got out of the car. He quickly caught up with her. "Grace! I... I wish you happiness!"

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He blushed a little as he said this. It was as though he had taken

great courage. "Though... I'm not the one to give you happiness, I still hope the woman I like can be happy."

Grace stared blankly at the person in front of her with a warm feeling in her heart.

"Thank you. You... are a nice man." She had always found his simplicity, warmth, and kindness to others precious.

'A nice man...' Chase Harper sighed in his heart. He was a nice

man, but he was not a man she would love.

"I..." He paused, and his face grew redder as if he was hesitating and struggling.

“What’s the matter? If there’s anything else, you can just say it,”

said Grace.

“Can... I hug you? Just a little while. Think of it as saying goodbye

to my feelings in the past...” He smiled wryly and said, “I was going to say that, but I think it’s too much for me to make such a

request when you’ve never loved me, and I’ve always been hotheaded and caused you trouble...”

Before he finished speaking, Grace took a step forward and took the initiative to embrace Chase Harper.

Chase Harper froze and blushed as if he were a cooked shrimp.

“Chase Harper, you’re a nice man. I think it’s my loss not to have fallen in love with you. You’ll find someone who will reciprocate your feelings! Just like how you hope I can be happy, I hope you can be happy too!”

Chase Harper lowered his head and looked at the woman who was holding him. It was the first time that the woman he loved took the initiative to embrace him just to fulfill his wish and not let him regret it.

Although Grace looked cold and indifferent sometimes, he knew she was a kind person. Otherwise, he would not have fallen for her.

However, neither Chase Harper nor Grace noticed that someone was hiding in a dark corner not far away, taking photos of this scene with their phone.

The next day, Brian returned to his ward after a check-up to find Stella frantically arranging something, but carelessly, the things in

her hands spilled all over the floor.

Stella crouched down to pick them up as if she did not want Brian to see them.

However, Brian had already seen what was on the ground. They were photos. Grace and Chase Harper were embracing each other in them.

“Give me the photos,” Brian said in a deep voice.

“Brian, don’t look... at these photos. I... I’ll get rid of these photos!” Stella said urgently.

“Hand them over!” Brian’s voice grew colder.

Stella could only hand Brian the photos. Brian looked at the photos in his hands. Although they were still photos, they had been taken continuously. It was clear that Grace had taken the initiative to embrace Chase Harper.

‘Grace... didn’t show any reluctance!

‘Is it true that she and Chase Harper are just former colleagues?

I finally felt that we had gotten closer, but are we actually further

away?’

His eyes stared at the photos, and his face showed a rare look of solemnity and... jealousy!

“Brian, someone came into the ward... with these photos and said he wanted you to see them for yourself. I don’t know who he was. I wanted to ask more questions, but he left immediately. I was afraid it was something bad, so I opened it to check. Unexpectedly...” Stella’s voice rang in Brian’s ears.

Chapter 1186

He took a deep breath and turned to look at her. “Someone sent these? Do you really not know who sent them?”

Hearing this, Stella shivered a little. It was as if his phoenix eyes could see through everything.

“Of course, I don’t know who sent them, but if I knew, I would have gone to him and asked him why he sent them!” Stella put on an aggrieved look and said, “Brian... Do you think I set this up? I know you like Grace and only think of me as your childhood savior. In that case, why should I bother? It’s better for you to be with Grace rather than someone I don’t know well. This way, there will always be room for me even if you marry Grace. You don’t even need to sever ties with me or anything!”

Stella said piteously as if she meant it.

Brian stared at Stella with his thin lips pressed together. Moments later, he picked up his phone and dialed a number. “Look someone up for me. His name is Chase Harper! He used to work at the Sanitation Service Center. I’ll send you his photo on my phone later.”

Stella lowered her eyes and unconsciously heaved a sigh of relief when she heard Brian’s words. There was a faint gleam of triumph

in her eyes.

‘Things... are developing like what Evelyn said... Next, I just have to fan the fire and Grace and Brian will have a falling out...

‘I’ll only have a chance if they have a falling out!’

When Lina was chatting with Grace online in the evening, she said, [I’m leaving Emerald City in two days to see Hadwin.]

Grace was stunned. [You’re leaving Emerald City? For how long?]

Lina replied, [Only about ten days. I didn’t use up my annual leave this year, so I thought of clearing it. I don’t know why but it seems that after experiencing that life and death situation, I really want to be with Hadwin. It’s only been a short time since he left, but I miss him so much.]

[Does he know about this?] asked Grace.



Lina replied, [I haven't told him yet. I'm afraid he won't agree with me. But he said he sent bodyguards to protect me in secret before he left Emerald City. I guess those bodyguards will inform him when I go there.]

Grace messaged, [He's probably afraid you'll get in danger. After

all, all sorts of forces are interweaving in the Stephenson family. It was Elizabeth Jackson who did such a thing this time, but who knows who's next? Why don't you stay in Emerald City and wait

for him to come back after dealing with the Stephenson family?]

[I know that even if I go to him, I'm not going to be of much help with what he's going to do. But I just want to be there and face it with him... I know that I might be a burden if I stay with him all the time, so I'm just gonna be there for ten days] answered Lina. Otherwise, she was going to resign.

Grace replied, [Hadwin Stephenson will handle the Stephenson family's matter well, and I'm waiting to be your maid of honor when the time comes!]

[Yeah, I'm sure he can handle it!] Lina saw that it was getting late and typed, [Let's meet again and have a good meal when I come back.]

[Sure] replied Grace as she ended her online chat with her best friend.

'The car accident has made Lina realize how much she loves

Hadwin Stephenson. What about me?' Grace thought of herself.

'What has the accident taught me?'

Her mind flashed to Brian stumbling to her car, his face stained with blood. These scenes seemed to recur to her from time to time

these days.

Chapter 1187

It was... Bryn.

Even though she did not think that she would fall in love with anyone again, could she be indifferent to his feelings?

Just as Grace was lost in her thoughts, her phone rang. Grace looked at the caller ID, and it was Brian's name.

She pressed the answer button, and Brian's clear yet somewhat gorgeous voice sounded through her phone. "Sorry to call you so late."

"It's alright. I'm still up. What's the matter?" asked Grace.

"I just... suddenly wanted to hear your voice," he said.

She was stunned. She did not know how to speak when he put it

like that.

He hesitated and said, "Grace, if... If you like Transformers toys, I can buy you any previous models."

"No thanks. I actually... Uh, I liked them when I was little, but I've grown out of it now," she said immediately.

"Really?" His voice paused. "I don't know how to please a woman." After all, it was always the other women who were trying to please him.

As long as he gave those women some money or film resources, those women would give an ecstatic look and keep fawning over him.

When he turned around one day, he realized it was actually difficult to please someone.

"Will you tell me how to please you? I'll do anything you want." Brian's voice was tinged with anticipation and longing.

Grace was silent for a long moment before saying, "You... don't have to do that."

"I just want to be nice to you and give you everything I can. Grace, is there another man you care about?" said Brian.

Grace was stunned. Somehow, Jason's cold face flashed through her mind.

"If there's no such person in your heart right now, then promise me that you'll consider me when you want to care about a man and fall in love with someone one day." Brian's voice flooded into Grace's ears word by word through the phone, just like stones constantly crashing into her calm heart.

'Can I ever fall in love again?'

Grace stayed up all night thinking about what Brian said. At noon, Chase Harper drove to the firm and took her to the hospital to accompany Nelson to discharge.

Mrs. Corbyn and Kyla Corbyn were also in the ward, waiting for the doctor's discharge summary report.

"By the way, I have to go to the nurse's desk and print out Nelson's check-up reports for these days and keep a copy." Kyla Corbyn was suddenly reminded of it and was about to get up when Chase Harper spoke.

## Chapter 1188

"I'll go. The doctor will be here soon, and it'll be troublesome to go get him again if you've gone away and aren't around." After all, doctors were not always in their offices. Sometimes, they had to make ward rounds or go to the outpatient clinic. They were not always available.

Kyla Corbyn thought about it and agreed, so she said to Chase Harper, "Sorry for the trouble."

"It's nothing. I came over to run errands!" Chase Harper said with a smile. Then he turned and walked out of the ward.

Kyla Corbyn looked at Chase Harper's leaving figure and could not help saying with a sigh, "He's a nice man."

"Yeah, he's a nice man," said Grace.

"But this world is always unfair to kind people. I hope good things happen to him," muttered Kyla Corbyn. When she was young, she

had not thought much of dull and honest men like Chase Harper.

At that time, the men she admired were men like Martin Weiss.

However, after experiencing so many things, she found that it was a blessing to fall for an honest man.

One did not have to worry about betrayal, cheating, or even revenge.

Life would be peaceful. Though they did not have much money and life was hard, their heart would be calm!

Several people stayed in the ward until the doctor came and gave

the summary report to Kyla Corbyn. Chase Harper still had not come back when the doctor left after giving his advice.

He was taking... a little long!

Grace felt a little uneasy for some reason, but then she laughed at herself for overthinking it. Maybe Chase Harper was just unfamiliar with the hospital.

She called Chase Harper, but there was no answer on the other end of the line.

Grace could not help frowning. "What's wrong? Chase Harper isn't answering the phone?"

"Maybe he didn't hear his phone ring. I'll call him again later," said Grace. Just as she was speaking, a nurse rushed into the ward and said to Grace, "The man who came with you today is a friend of yours,

right? The police are coming to take him to the police station for interrogation. He may be detained if things go wrong. You should see if you can make peace with the other party.”

Grace was shocked. She and Kyla Corbyn looked at each other and saw the surprise in each other’s eyes. “Detain? What’s going

on?”

The nurse glanced at the children in the pediatric ward, biting back her words. Grace understood and hurried outside.

The nurse then said, “It’s a charge for sexual harassment and attempted rape. There were witnesses, so the police are taking the man to the police station.”

Grace was shocked. A charge for attempted rape seemed to have nothing to do with Chase Harper. Could a person like him do such a thing? He was at the hospital, helping to get copies of reports.

It just did not make sense!

## Chapter 1189

Therefore, Grace got back to the ward to whisper the matter to Kyla Corbyn after finding out which police station Chase Harper was taken to. She said, “Kyla, I’m sorry. I was supposed to help Nelson discharge, but now, I have to go to the police station to find out what happened to Chase Harper.”

“You should go. My mother and I can handle the discharge procedure,” Kyla Corbyn also said anxiously. Similarly, she did not believe Chase Harper would do such a thing.

Nelson did not know what was going on. He kept asking what ‘detain’ was, and Kyla Corbyn could only muddle through by saying something else.

Chase Harper was still being interrogated when Grace arrived

at the police station. She learned from the police that there

were witnesses and surveillance cameras on the scene. If they

managed to find the surveillance footage and it was as what the victim and witness said, then Chase Harper would be charged

with attempted rape.

“I want to see Chase Harper,” said Grace. She wanted to meet Chase Harper no matter what and find out what happened.

“He’s still being interrogated. If there’s enough evidence, the police will detain him according to the laws and regulations. Visits

are not allowed if they’re not necessary,” the policeman replied.

Grace bit her lip and suddenly said, “I’m Chase Harper’s lawyer. I have the right to see him!” With that, she took out her license and handed it to them.

The policeman examined it for a moment before saying, "You can see him when the interrogation is over, but only for half an hour."

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"Okay!" Grace answered and began to wait outside.

Every minute and every second felt like she was sitting on pins and needles.

Just then, the door of an interrogation room was suddenly opened and out came a figure. She seemed to be crying and kept wiping her face with a tissue.

"Miss Lindsay, you can go back first. We'll contact you later. You can also contact us anytime if you've thought of any details!"

someone said.

"Okay..." replied Stella. She saw Grace as soon as she turned her head and immediately said, "Grace, you're not going to plead for that man, are you? Let me tell you, I'll never forgive him for doing

such a thing. It's a good thing someone walked by. If nobody was

there, then I would've..."

Stella sobbed at the end of her speech.

Grace felt a tingling sensation on her scalp and had a bad presentiment. "So Chase Harper was detained by the police... because of you?"

"He's a rapist! How did you get a former colleague like that? You and him..." said Stella. Out of the corner of her eyes, she caught sight of the figure entering the police station and deliberately raised her voice as she said, "Did you say something to him that made him do such a terrible thing to me? Grace, we're cousins. How could you do this?!"

Grace's face was cold. Her intuition told her that something fishy was going on, and her cousin was throwing mud at her. "I still don't know what Chase Harper has done. Are you suffering from paranoia, thinking I want to harm you?"

"I know you feel uncomfortable because I was Brian's childhood savior. Brian's nice to me, but he loves you. I can't take your place. You don't have to ask Chase Harper to do that." Stella began to

sob.

"I never asked Chase Harper to do anything," Grace said coldly.

"Grace, it doesn't matter if you admit it or not. It's just... I won't forgive Chase Harper no matter what." Stella took it upon herself to conclude the conversation.

Chapter 1190

Grace was tired of watching Stella put on a show. What she said was enough to let her know that Chase Harper had been set up by her cousin.

However... Why was her cousin setting Chase Harper up like this? They had nothing in common!

Just then, one of the policemen said to Grace, "You must be the lawyer representing Chase Harper. You can go in and talk to Chase Harper now, but only for half an hour."

"Okay," Grace answered quickly, but as she was about to walk forward, a hand suddenly grasped her wrist from behind her. "You're Chase Harper's lawyer?"

Grace immediately turned her head and saw Brian's face. Surprise flashed across her face. She did not expect Brian... to have left the hospital and come to the police station.

"Why did you leave the hospital? Did the doctor allow you to come here?" she asked. The gauze had been removed from his head and body yesterday, but he was supposed to stay in the hospital for at least a few more days.

"Are you going to represent Chase Harper?" he asked instead of replying to her question.

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"He's my friend, and I believe he's innocent," said Grace.

Stella, who was nearby, interrupted immediately, "Do you think I've wronged Chase Harper? He's an animal! If the passerby had come a little later, he would've gotten away with it! Grace, even if he's your friend, couldn't he have done such a despicable thing? Why do you trust him so much?"

"Because I know sometimes the evidence doesn't tell the whole truth!" Grace answered unhesitatingly.

However, her affirmation made Brian frown. Just then, the police officer urged Grace. "Hurry up, don't waste our time."

"Okay! Right away!" answered Grace. She pulled her hand out of Brian's and sped into the interrogation room.

Brian stared at Grace until the door of the interrogation room was closed. He looked down at the hand he had just held her with as if thinking of something.

Stella's voice rang in his ears. "I didn't expect that Grace would rather believe in Chase Harper than me. Why would I start a rumor

about a man raping me? Don't I have any shame? How could

Grace do this?"

Stella sobbed repeatedly. She grabbed Brian's arm. "Brian, you'll believe me and get me justice, right?"

Brian turned his head and looked at Stella who was weeping in front of him. His voice deepened, and he said, "I'll help you get justice if you've really been wronged or hurt."

Stella sniffled. "I... I knew it. You're still the Bryn from our childhood, and you'll protect me!"

Brian pursed his thin lips, and his eyes seemed to darken. "I told you not to call me 'Bryn' anymore. It's just a childhood nickname."

His body seemed to be instinctively repulsed to hear the woman in front of him call him 'Bryn'. It was as if it would shatter something he held dear.

A flash of embarrassment came across Stella's face, and she tried hard to suppress it. "Okay... Brian, I'm just going to call you Brian from now on. Thank you, Brian. Thank you for protecting me as you promised when you were a child." She deliberately mentioned 'their childhood' many times to get him to take her side in this matter no matter what!