

Ex Convict 1471

Chapter 1471

“Grace, didn’t you say you would forgive me no matter what mistakes I make? You said you’d forgive me as long as I cried. Then I’ll cry. I’ll cry, okay? I can cry however long you want me to and I’ll shed however many tears you want me to shed. Please forgive me.”

He said. The tears were welled up in his eyes and streaked down his handsome face.

Grace only felt something blocking her heart and it felt uncomfortable.

She never thought she would see him cry under such circumstances.

His tears flowed down his cheeks, dripping on their hands, burning badly.

Her other hand, which was not held by him, could not help moving toward his face. However, as her hand touched his tear-soaked face, a long-lost queasy feeling came over her.

Grace immediately covered her lips and pushed Jason away. She ran to the bathroom, leaned over the sink, and threw up.

She had not thrown up like this for a long time since getting over

2/3

her morning sickness, but now, she was throwing up like she was going to throw up everything in her stomach.

“Grace!” Seeing Grace throwing up like this, Jason instantly

panicked. He subconsciously raised his hand and touched Grace’s back, hoping to soothe her and make her feel comfortable.

However, when his hand touched her back, she threw up even more.

“Don’t... Don’t touch me...” Grace finally caught her breath, raised her hand, and pushed Jason’s hand away.

When he was no longer touching her, she slowly stopped vomiting.

Grace looked up with a pale face and wiped her mouth. She

oked at Jason. Her almond-shaped eyes seemed to sparkle with nint of sarcasm, mocking both him and herself.

Her lips parted slowly, and he suddenly seemed to have guessed something. His face turned horribly grim.

‘Don’t say it... Don’t say it!’

He was screaming frantically in his heart, but he still heard her say with a miserable laugh, “Even if I... can tell you that I forgive you, but... my body can’t seem to do it. Tell me, what should I do...

What should I do...”

Chapter 1472

When the doctor and nurses left, Grace looked at Jason who was still standing in the ward.

He stood not far from the bedside and seemed to be surrounded by loneliness and despair.

Grace pressed her lips together and said, “After the babies are born, I... want to move out of Reed Residence.”

Jason immediately looked up at her with astonishment and panic on his face. “You want to... move out of Reed Residence?”

She said, “Yeah. It’s because I don’t know how to face you. Maybe moving out of Reed Residence will be better for both of us.”

e could have given a lot of excuses to justify his behavior then. For example, she could have said that he did not really know her back then and she was just a nobody to him. How could he have sympathized with a nobody when he had always been indifferent? It would explain how he just looked on without getting involved...

She could come up with more than one excuse but could not convince herself.

She was brought up to believe in justice, which was why she chose to become a lawyer who would fight for righteousness and

justice with the law as her weapon.

2/4

However, the person she loved most had been so indifferent as to let her get wrongfully imprisoned.

That imprisonment almost changed her life. Perhaps only time could soothe... the pain and agony.

“What do you mean by it’s better for us? I’ll never think that it’d be better for us if you move out of Reed Residence!” said Jason as he quickly stepped forward and walked to the bedside. His hands subconsciously wanted to grab her but stopped when they were about to touch her.

His hands were only a few centimeters from her shoulders. If he moved just a little closer, he could have touched her. However, the short distance between them seemed like millions and millions of meters to him.

The image of her throwing up and the way her body had trembled were so vividly imprinted in his mind.

"Then, just assume that it's for my sake... After I discharge, I want to stay elsewhere. Help me look for a small apartment. Preferably somewhere near the hospital, so that it would be convenient for me to go for check-ups," said Grace.

Since she could not face him right now, then they should just both calm down first. What mattered most for her now was the babies in her belly. She must make sure that the babies come into the world safely.

3/4

However, only one possibility occurred to him when she said so.

"Are you planning to divorce me?" The hoarse voice came out of his mouth with a faint quiver.

Grace was stunned. 'Di-Divorce?'

She did not know how to face him but had never thought of a divorce. Did he know that the vulnerable look on his face when he said that made her heart clench?

The truth hurt her, even making her hate him for being so indifferent as to refuse to give the innocent her back then a little sympathy-all for the sake of money. However... he was the man she loved the most and the father of the babies in her belly, after all!

She had once said that she wanted to give her children a warm and wonderful family.

However... she had no idea how long it would take to get there now.

"I... I've never thought about a divorce," Grace said after a long while.

However, her answer did not make him feel better. His eyes fell on her bulging belly. "Is it because of the babies? So you're not going

Chapter 1473

He was willing to do anything to get her forgiveness-anything but her leaving him!

He did not care whether she was trying to escape from Reed Residence or him, but he still wanted to keep her trapped in Reed Residence. It was as though he believed she would not leave that way!

With that, Jason turned around and walked out of the ward.

Moments later, a caregiver walked in. It was the same caregiver who had been taking care of Grace at night these days.

"Mrs. Reed, Mr. Reed said to let you have a good rest. He won't come to the ward anymore. You don't need to worry about anything," the caregiver said.

Grace was silent. She lay down on the bed and closed her eyes slowly, but her hands were caressing her belly. She was trying to keep her emotions from fluctuating too much and calm herself down.

She had to stay calm for the children's sake!

'What should I do? Can I forget the pain and forget about how he had chosen to sit on the sidelines for profits? Can I?'

2/3 Suddenly, she thought of what he had always said to her. If he had known her earlier, he would not have let her suffer so much.

At the time, she only thought he was referring to the time she suffered in prison.

However, there was another meaning behind his words!

If he had known and fallen in love with her sooner, he would not

have sat on the sidelines. He would have protected her with all his might.

'Why did I get to know him so late? Why... didn't we meet before I... went to prison?'

Tears trickled out of Grace's closed eyes, soaking her pillow.

At this moment, she hoped more than ever that they could have known each other earlier. How wonderful it would have been... if they had known each other before everything happened...

When Grace was discharged from the hospital, Jason did not appear before her. The Reed family's butler and bodyguard sent her back to Reed Residence.

The experienced caregiver whom Jason had hired would stay with Grace in her bedroom.

3/3

Grace suddenly found the house a little strange.

'Is it because Jay isn't here?'

'Jay...' The thought of him sent a pang through her heart again.

Over the next few days, Grace stayed in Reed Residence to rest and never went out. However, she noticed more security guards outside and inside the house than before. Even when she walked around the house, she was followed by at least three people.

She had told the butler that it was unnecessary to have three people follow her and one was enough. After all, she was only at home, not outside.

However, the butler said, "Young Master was the one who arranged it. If you want to reduce the number of people, you can call Young Master, Young Madam."

Grace immediately said nothing. 'Alright, three it is, then.'

Chapter 1474

However, great changes had taken place outside these days. The Atkinson family had a capital chain rupture and could not pay their bank loan, so the bank applied to the court to freeze a number of the Atkinson family's properties.

Meanwhile, the media exposed that the police had arrested Lily at a fan meeting.

Although Lily had retired from the film industry, she still had many die-hard fans. Lily had dressed up for the fan meeting, wearing a necklace worth 30 million dollars. She had even invited some journalists over.

Lily's original intention for holding a fan meeting was to show that the Atkinson family was not in a financial crisis and to get her name to the trending online topics. However, the police showed up at her fan meeting.

In other words, she was handcuffed in front of a crowd of fans by police who said they were arresting her as a murder suspect.

Those fans were dumbfounded. 'Murder? What murder? Is our Goddess Atkinson a murder suspect?'

With a situation like this, there was no way to cover it up even if Lily and the Atkinson family wanted to. After all, there were so

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many fans there.

Then, the incident immediately topped the online trending topics, causing a stir in public opinion. Later, some people exposed online that the case Lily was involved in was related to Jennifer's car accident!

In other words, Lily was the culprit behind Jennifer's death!

The public was in an uproar when the news came out!

After all, when Jennifer died, there had been photos and news of how broken-hearted and sad Lily was. Besides, Lily had also expressed that she missed her sister more than once on various variety shows. She had even written short essays online in memory of her sister.

Everyone had thought of her as such an affectionate sister!

Now... she was the suspect in Jennifer's murder?

That meant Lily had played the public for fools!

Although the police had not made an announcement, netizens were already scolding Lily and the Atkinson family!

Someone even flooded Stevens Group's official Twitter account with rebukes.

Sean was scrolling through the contents on his phone with an indescribable expression on his face.

He never thought that Jennifer's death was plotted by Lily! The police had conclusive evidence, and Lily had also admitted to her crimes in her statement!

Unlike ordinary netizens who could only speculate online, Sean immediately went to the police station and met Lily.

When he asked her why she did it and what was the deep grudge she had toward her own sister, the woman he loved smiled sinisterly and said...

"Sis was too lucky. My parents were devoted to training her to be their heir. I'm no less capable than Sis, but they chose her! What's more, Sis also became Jason's fiancée! All the glory went to her. Did anyone ever notice me?"

Chapter 1475

"But even so, you're still the Atkinson family's second heiress. It wasn't like you weren't going to get anything. You'd still have gotten whatever your parents would've given you!"

"What's the point of getting so little?" Lily said with a cold snort, "If my sister were still alive and I were just the Atkinson family's second heiress, your parents probably wouldn't value me as much and would want you to be more cautious when dating me!"

Sean's face immediately turned red. He knew Lily was right. His parents had only chosen her because she would succeed the Atkinson family.

"But Grace was innocent. Why did you treat her like that in prison when you had already framed her?" asked Sean.

Sean shuddered as he thought about how Lily had treated Grace back then and how she was the real murderer. How many more performances had this woman put on before him?

"She was your girlfriend. Only by getting rid of her would I stand a chance to be your girlfriend!" Lily suddenly smiled mockingly. "I just wanted to see how much Grace mattered to you, but... Haha... It turned out she meant nothing."

After a pause, Lily said, "Sean, you could kick Grace aside for the

2/3

Stevens family when she was your girlfriend. What about me? Are you going to kick me aside for the Stevens family too? Or would you do anything to help me because you love me?"

Lily stared at Sean with a look of tension and anticipation in her somewhat beautiful eyes when she said this.

To her disappointment, Sean was silent and said nothing.

However, the silence was enough to make Lily understand something.

"Haha! Sean, you're the same as before!" Lily laughed bitterly, her eyes full of intense hatred. "Why did I fall in love with a bastard like you? You're just cruel and heartless. The Stevens family benefited so much from you dating me! But now, you're going to kick me aside?"

"That's enough!" Sean shouted with a look of embarrassment. "The Stevens family doesn't owe you anything. You deserve it!"

Lily laughed until tears escaped her eyes. Finally, she stared bitterly at Sean and said, "Sean, if I deserve this, then what about you? Are you innocent? With the way you treated Grace before this, do you think the Stevens family will end well? I'm waiting for the Stevens family to go down and for you to turn from a rich heir into a penniless man! I'd like to see who'd fall in love with you then!"

Sean's face instantly turned grim!

Now that the Atkinson family was in such a mess, the Stevens family's fate would probably not be any better!

3/3

Grace needed to go for a maternity check-up today. This time, she was accompanied by a bodyguard and not Jason.

Grace went to the doctor's consulting room from the ultrasound room after her maternity check-up. Her bodyguard accompanied her into the doctor's consulting room, but the doctor she usually consulted with was not there. The seat was empty.

Grace was stunned for a moment. Before she could react, she only heard her bodyguard, Huang Qian, giving a warning. Then, Huang Qian was quickly subdued by two men while Brian appeared from the corner.

Surprise flashed across Grace's face, and she stared at Brian. "How did you..."

Chapter 1476

"Is Jason locking you up?" asked Brian.

Grace was stunned. 'Lock me up? How did he get that idea?'

Seeing her confused face, Brian said, "The number of security guards at Reed Residence has more than tripled these days, and I heard that the security system has been upgraded as well. Besides, I wanted to see you twice, but Jason stopped me both times. I couldn't meet you at all. When I called your phone, the signal was automatically blocked."

Grace was shocked when she heard this. It turned out it was not her illusion that the number of security guards had increased.

Speaking of which, Jay had also sent more people to follow her around. On one occasion, she wanted to walk around the neighborhood but the area was cleared out. She was surrounded by a group of bodyguards.

Since then, she never wandered around and only walked around Reed Residence these days.

However, there seemed to be more surveillance in the residence too.

'Is Jay scared... I'd run away? So he 'locked' me up in such a way?'

Grace wondered while Brian said worriedly, "What's going on between you and him? Did he treat you..."

2/3

He was afraid that after Grace found out the truth, the relationship between Grace and Jason would become tense and there would be a conflict between them. However, Jason suppressed all information about Grace. He could not even get in touch with her. He could only grab this opportunity to find out about her matters.

Grace said, "Jay didn't do anything to me. Maybe... it's because I'm about to go into labor, so he's putting in extra security. You don't have to worry about me."

"Really?" Brian stared at Grace.

"Really," she said, but her heart was doubtful too. 'Jay suddenly strengthened the security and the number of guards was even tripled. Is it just because I'm about to give birth?'

'Or... is there another reason?'

'When I said I wanted to take some time apart, was Jay afraid of

me leaving and this is what he's doing... to spy on me?'

Brian looked down slightly. Whether what she said was true or not, she seemed alright for now. "If Jason is really locking you up and you want to leave in the future, then I..."

However, before he could finish, the door of the consulting room

was suddenly pushed open. Jason walked in. "She can't leave, and you can't take her away either!"

Grace and Brian both froze.

Brian narrowed his eyes and said suddenly, "You knew I was here?"

3/33

Jason said nonchalantly, "Yes, I knew. I just wanted to find out what you're up to."

However, he could not stay outside any longer when he found out that he was trying to talk Grace into leaving.

Was he afraid that Grace's answer would be something he did not want to hear, so he would rather interrupt in this way?

Brian looked at Jason and said, "I hope Grace has the freedom to make her own choice no matter what. If she wants to stay with you, then I'll never interfere. But if you want to lock her up and deny her any freedom, then I'll set her free."

Jason suddenly sneered, "Who are you to set my wife free?"

Chapter 1477

As he spoke, he walked over to Grace and stared at her. "You once said you'll not abandon me as long as I don't leave you,

didn't you? So whatever happens, you're not going to leave me as long as you live, right?"

Grace was stunned. What she said back then was still ringing in her ears.

Her hands touched her belly, which was already as big as a full-term pregnant woman's. She took a deep breath before saying, "Yes, I did say so."

With that, she turned to Brian and said, "Brian, you heard him. I... won't leave Jay."

When she uttered the word 'Jay', Jason's eyes suddenly sparkled

as he stood next to her. An unstoppable flash of excitement flashed across his face.

'She's calling me 'Jay' again. Does that mean she's willing to forgive me and let go of the past?'

Brian's expression changed slightly, but there was not much surprise. Perhaps it was what he was expecting.

He... just wanted to know if she would stay with Jason after

2/3

learning the truth.

“Okay, got it. If... this is what you want,” Brian said and left the consulting room with his men.

Jason also let the others leave the consulting room.

Suddenly, only Grace and Jason were left in the rather spacious consulting room.

Jason looked at Grace with shining eyes, appearing expectant and hopeful. “Grace, are you sure you won’t leave me?”

“I...” She was stunned. At this moment, even she was unsure if she would not leave.

She had kept finding excuses for him these days. She told herself that he did not know her back then, so of course, he did not have any sympathy or pity for her...

However, even so, she still did not know how to face him. The sight of him brought back the memories of what had happened in prison. She would recall how Lily had pulled out her fingernails and how she was beaten until her uterus ruptured.

There were even bouts of throbbing pain in her body. It was as if the pain from that time still lingered in her body.

Her silence dimmed the light in his eyes, and he suddenly smiled with self-mockery. “You only deliberately said that to Brian, didn’t

3/3 you? Were you afraid he’d continue to have feelings for you and waste his time, so you said that to him on purpose?”

Grace nibbled her lip. That was exactly her intention when she said those words.

Jason’s face turned grim little by little. “Do you regret it? Do you regret marrying me? If Brian had paid two million dollars to save Lina, would you have...”

He stopped speaking. His dark peach blossom eyes stared at her. His delicate features and handsome face tugged at Grace’s heart.

“I...”

—

She was about to speak, but he suddenly snapped, “Never mind!”

Before she could react, he hastily opened the consulting room door and ran out.

Grace was instantly alone in the consulting room.

Chapter 1478

Jason almost ran out of the consulting room in a panic. He ordered Grace’s bodyguard, Huang Qian, and the replacement doctor to return to the consulting room. The doctor who was supposed to diagnose Grace had been knocked out by Brian’s

men.

“Master Reed, are you okay?” asked Terrence. After all, Master Reed looked pale at the moment.

“I’m... fine.” Jason gasped almost with difficulty. He did not expect that he was still afraid. He was afraid she would say she regretted it. Even if she had not thought of getting a divorce, he was afraid she would think of it someday. He was afraid that she did not love him enough...

He was afraid of so many things!

“Have you found Secretary Wang?” Jason raised his hand to wipe the thin layer of sweat on his forehead and asked Terrence.

“Not yet,” said Terrence. Since Old Master Reed’s funeral, Secretary Wang, who previously worked for Old Master Reed, had gone missing. Even though they had sent extra people to look for Secretary Wang, they still had not found him.

“Keep looking for him. As long as he hasn’t left Emerald City, find

2/3

him even if we have to dig three feet in the ground!” said Jason, his face covered with a layer of gloom.

Secretary Wang had always been his grandfather’s confidant. His grandfather probably did more than just email Brian about the truth of the incident. There should be something else.

Otherwise, Secretary Wang would not have gone missing.

“Yes!” Terrence quickly replied.

“Enhance Reed Residence’s security system and station more people around Grace,” said Jason.

If his grandfather had given some orders to Secretary Wang before his death, Grace was probably the one Old Master Reed wanted to get rid of the most.

He would protect Grace no matter what!

After coming out of the hospital, Grace did not see Jason again. It was as if Jason had never appeared in front of her at all when she came to the hospital today.

Instead, Terrence came up to her and said with a smile, “Young Madam, Master Reed asked me to send you home.”

“I want to go to the hospital Lina is at to see her first,” said Grace

3/3

as she had not visited Lina for days.

Terrence hesitated.

“What’s the matter? Can’t I go wherever I want? Or do you need to check with your superior?” asked Grace.

‘Is... Jay afraid I’m going to leave, so he’s restricting my movements?’

Terrence immediately smiled awkwardly and said, "Young Madam, of course, there's no problem with you seeing Miss Lina." With that, Terrence turned his head around and gave the orders.

When Grace got into the car, she found that she was followed by several other cars in the front, at the back, as well as on the left and right. People who had no idea would think some big shot was out on a trip.

"I don't need so many people following me, do I?" Grace could not help asking.

Chapter 1479

"Master Reed is just trying to better protect you, Young Madam," said Terrence.

"Is he protecting me or monitoring me?" asked Grace.

Terrence instantly fell silent. After all, Master Reed had given orders not to tell Grace about Secretary Wang lest she got worried, especially now that she was about to give birth.

Grace did not go on either. She just lowered her head, her eyes resting on her bulging belly.

Once she got to the hospital, Grace met Lina.

Lina seemed to be in good spirits in the ward. She could now take care of herself. Once she was discharged and took a little more rest, she could live her life like before.

Lina greeted Grace. "Grace, you came! Come, come. Quickly sit down. You're a pregnant woman, and this is an important period."

After Grace sat down, she asked, "How are you? Did the doctor say when you can be discharged?"

"I can be discharged next week." Lina grinned and touched her bald head. As she had surgery on her head, her hair was all

2/3

shaved off and she would probably have to wear a wig for some time after getting discharged. "Kyla came to see me yesterday and said she has been discharged. I guess one can say that she had a narrow escape from death this time."

"Fortunately, you and Kyla are safe this time," said Grace.

"Yeah, I got really lucky when you think about it." Lina sighed and said, "By the way, it's really surprising that the real perpetrator in your case was Lily. We all thought the real perpetrator was Dexter Rios, but who knew Lily even fooled Jason?"

"She didn't," said Grace.

"Huh?" Lina was a little confused for a moment. "What do you mean she didn't?"

After a moment of silence, Grace said somewhat bitterly, "He knew it was Lily from the start."

Lina gasped with shock in her eyes. 'How... How can this be? If Jason knew who the real perpetrator was from the start, doesn't that...' Lina was a little afraid to think further.

"At the time, he knew who did it and just chose to look on without doing anything," said Grace. She looked at her best friend with a wry smile. "Lina, didn't you want to go to Jason and tell him that I was being wronged back then? But in fact... he already knew about it. So even if you had met him and told him about it, the

outcome would still be the same."

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Lina saw her best friend's expression and felt sad. She knew how deep Grace's feelings for Jason were. She thought her best friend had already gotten her happy ending, but who would have thought this would happen?

"Then... what are you going to do now?" she asked.

"I don't know. I just can't face him for the time being. Maybe some things need time to settle and fade away," said Grace.

Lina said, "Whatever decision you make, I'm on your side! But Grace, it's not easy for two people to be together. It wasn't easy for you and Jason to get married and have children. I can see that Jason really loves you. It's rare for someone like him to love someone like you."

When Lina saw her best friend's silence, she quickly said again, "I'm on your side! I know how much you suffered in prison! I just... I just..."

Lina's voice became a little nasally, and she sobbed as she spoke, "I just think... it's not easy to be with someone you love, so... don't separate so easily. Take Hadwin Stephenson and me as an example. I thought we were very much in love, but we broke up so easily."

Chapter 1480

Grace got up and gently embraced Lina. "I'm sorry for upsetting you!"

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"What are you talking about? I just want you to be okay and not be affected by the pain of the past. After all, you need to keep moving forward, don't you?" said Lina as she sniffled and forced a smile at Grace.

However, Grace's nose turned sore when she saw her best friend's smile.

Lina was still suffering from her heartbreak but chose to bury the pain and face others with an optimistic smile.

"I'll be okay. You don't have to worry about me. You're the one who needs to be okay. Hurry and get well. You'll have to play with my kids when they're born," said Grace.

"We're all going to be okay." Lina hugged her best friend back and once again said to herself, 'I'll get over Hadwin Stephenson. I definitely will.

'I'll just treat my relationship with Hadwin Stephenson as another one of my memories.

'From now on, they're just memories!'

2/4

The weather was getting colder and colder. It was getting closer and closer to Chinese New Year.

Grace stroked her belly. She had not seen Jay for several days. These days, she kept thinking about what Lina had said to her.

'Keep... moving forward.'

She asked herself whether she loved him, and the answer was... yes.

If she did not love him, she would not have been in so much pain when the cruel truth was laid out in front of her.

If she did not love him, she would not have hesitated so much.

She loved him. She loved the man who had indifferently watched her get imprisoned.

She once swore that she would be good to him and not leave him like his mother had left his father, but now...

Grace looked through the photos on her phone. One of them showed Jason with his hand pressed against her belly, his face full of gentleness and love.

It was the picture she took of him when she made him feel the

3/4

babies' movements in his office.

They were so happy back then...

Grace picked up her phone and dialed Jason's number. It was the number he got after she bought him the cheap phone.

On that phone, there was only her number.

On the other end of the line, the phone only rang twice before someone picked it up and the familiar voice sounded. "Grace..." However, there was a note of caution in his voice, as if he was in disbelief.

Grace replied, "It's me. I... It's Chinese New Year in two days. I want to have dinner with you on New Year's Eve, may I?"

"Sure... Sure! Of course, you can!" His voice sounded somewhat hurried yet also joyful. "We'll have New Year's Eve dinner together. I... I'll prepare for it. You can tell me anything you want to eat."

"Okay," Grace said quietly.

When the call was over, she looked down at her bulging belly again. "Babies, can you help me forget all those unpleasant

memories? I don't want to... live with regret for the rest of my life. Is that alright?"

On the other end of the phone, Jason was visibly happy when he ended the call.