

## Ex Convict 1751

### Chapter 1751

Veronica Barlow said somewhat timidly, "Will the kidnappers ask for a lot of money? On TV, kidnappers kidnap children for money. If... If you don't have enough money, I can give you all my money. I... I still have the money my mother gave me. I'll talk to the lawyer.

He'll give it to me in advance and then we can save Mason."

Enduring the pain, Rosalind Bush said, "They... They have money to spend. Your money is nothing to them! Do you know who they are? Mason is so lucky to have them as parents!"

Veronica Barlow ignored Rosalind Bush and just looked at Grace earnestly. She did not know who Jason was, nor what status the Reed family had in Emerald City. All she knew was that they were people who were willing to save Mason!

Grace's nose felt sore. She instantly took Veronica Barlow into her arms. "Uncle Reed and I will prepare the money. Don't worry,

Veronica."

"I'm sorry... I... I didn't take good care of Mason!" sobbed

Veronica Barlow. The girl who had viciously bared her teeth to her stepmother earlier seemed to be revealing her fear and sadness at last. Her little body trembled slightly in Grace's arms.

"No, I should be the one to apologize. I failed to recognize Mason," said Grace. Mason was kidnapped not by chance. They knew that

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from the fact the kidnappers knew Mason was her and Jay's flesh and blood.

Besides, the kidnappers had asked the Weiss family for the ransom and not the He family!

Mason was from the Reed family, so he was worth being kidnapped!!

'Who is it? Who found out before we did that Mason is our flesh and blood?' Grace suddenly thought of Secretary Wang, who was in prison.

'Only Secretary Wang knows where the child is. Did Secretary Wang tell the kidnappers? Are the kidnappers... people Secretary Wang knows?'

Many questions ran through Grace's mind.

Jason made Archer Barlow tell him how he previously adopted Mason. It turned out that Archer Barlow was willing to adopt Mason because someone gave him two million dollars to do so. Then, he went to the orphanage and adopted Mason as per the stranger's instructions.

"That... That man told me to take good care of him and... he said he'd pay me every September. He paid me last year, but he stopped... this year..." Archer Barlow said with a tremble.

Jason asked for Secretary Wang's photo. At the sight of it, Archer

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Barlow immediately identified Secretary Wang to be the stranger who paid him!

"Find out who Secretary Wang has been having contact with over the years!" ordered Jason. He previously had people look up Secretary Wang's whereabouts in recent years but not the people Secretary Wang had been in contact with.

The He family's living room was now being utilized as a space to carry out their search.

Archer Barlow and Rosalind Bush watched in horror.

Worried and remorseful, Veronica Barlow asked, "Will Mason be in danger? If only I had grabbed his hand. I... I want to help too, aunt Cummins. Tell me, what I can do to save Mason?"

Grace hugged Veronica Barlow as she sobbed. "You've done a good job. You're a good sister. Mason is lucky to have a sister like you. Don't worry, Mason will come back safe and sound. I'm sure of it!"

She wanted her son back safe and sound no matter what! She owed that kid so much...

She had never even heard the little one, who was in her womb all those years ago, call her 'Mommy'!

Chapter 1752

Late at night, Secretary Wang was taken to a room in the detention center, where the only source of light was a lamp that shone a bright yellow glow.

Jason was sitting on a chair in front of a table, staring at Secretary Wang with cold eyes.

The prison guard who brought Secretary Wang here left the room and closed the door, leaving only Secretary Wang and Jason inside.

"You seem to know I would come," said Jason.

"I didn't, but you must have something to ask me if you're here to see me, Young Master," Secretary Wang said with a faint smile.

"Mason is my and Grace's child. Who else besides you knows about this?" asked Jason as he stared straight at him.

If an ordinary person was stared at like this by Jason, they would probably feel some pressure. However, Secretary Wang looked relaxed. "I don't understand what you're talking about, Young Master."

"You don't?" Jason got up and approached Secretary Wang. He raised his hand and grabbed Secretary Wang's head before

slamming it against the table. "Who else knows that Mason is my son? What were you up to when you took Mason away? Did you play a part in Mason's kidnapping today?"

A series of questions escaped Jason's mouth. His cold voice had become ruthless.

Secretary Wang looked like a mess right now, but he burst into

laughter. "What's the matter? Was the child kidnapped? But you're wrongly accusing me, Young Master. Everything I've done has been for the Reed family."

"For the Reed family? You're doing this for the Reed family?"

"You can't put all your eggs in the same basket. Young Master, you must know that, don't you? That's why I separated the three children. But don't underestimate the boy I took away, Young Master. I spent a lot of time and effort teaching that boy. He's

cruel, cold-blooded, and has no regard for life. I made him kill a lot of small animals when he was as young as two years old."

"You..." Jason felt a surge of anger when he heard this. He rarely

got angry in recent years, but he was now furious. "And you say everything is for the Reed family? Who told you to do it for the Reed family? Who are you to do that to my child?"

It was only then he understood why Mason, who was only five years old, was so different from other children.

What had Secretary Wang done to the boy?

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"The Reed family needs a strong heir who's ruthless and tough. enough to make the Reed family more powerful. Old Master will probably like the child too if he met him—"

Jason interrupted Secretary Wang, "That's enough! Old Master is dead. I'm in charge of the Reed family now, and it's up to me to decide what kind of heir the Reed family needs! Everything you've done is pointless!"

Secretary Wang said, "Young Master, you wouldn't have said that before you knew Grace! Back then, you were someone who would do anything for profits. Otherwise, how could you have let Grace go to jail knowing that she was innocent?"

Once he finished, Jason pulled Secretary Wang out of the chair and banged him against the wall nearby. "If you say one more word about this, I'll make sure you can't speak another word for the rest of your life!"

This was something that had always bothered him.

Secretary Wang chuckled. "What's the matter? Young Master, are you still uneasy even now? Now that Grace has returned to you, why are you still uneasy?"

Jason's thin lips were pressed into a straight line. "I'm just asking you who else knows that Mason is my son. You've always been cautious. You probably wouldn't have told too many people about this. Is it the doctor who performed the C-section on Grace? Or

someone who has been working for you and is now hiding somewhere? Or... Lily, who conspired with you back then?"

Chapter 1753

When Jason said Lily's name, Secretary Wang stiffened slightly. Although it was only for a brief moment, Jason already saw through him.

'Lily... Lily knows Mason is my and Grace's son. Did Lily do this?'

The police and the Reed family had not found Lily even after so many years. Secretary Wang must have played a major role in this.

Otherwise, how could Lily have remained hidden for so many years after losing her wealth and status?

Jason let go of the man, got up, and looked coldly at Secretary Wang, who was lying awkwardly on the ground. "If anything happens to my son, I'll send you to meet the old master!"

His voice was so cold that it made Secretary Wang shiver. Young Master seemed to have gone back to being the young master from before, who had not known Grace yet.

Cruel, decisive, and ruthless-this was what Old master Reed thought the heir of the Reed family should look like.

However, Young Master was only showing such a ruthless side because of his child. Was it a good thing? Grace was already Young Master's weakness, and now, were their children going to

be his weakness too?

Young Master could show his cruelest side for these weaknesses, but these weaknesses could easily destroy Young Master too!

Jason left, and the prison guard took Secretary Wang back to the prison.

“Old Master, it seems that things have gotten a little tricky. Young Master seems to have more weaknesses now. Maybe it would have been better not to save Grace and these three children. If you were still alive, would you blame me for this?”

Secretary Wang muttered to himself, but no one could answer him!

Jason returned to Reed Residence, and Grace was still awake.

“Did Secretary Wang say who else knows about Mason’s identity?” Grace asked anxiously.

“He didn’t say, but it’s probably Lily,” said Jason.

“Lily?” Grace was stunned. The name seemed to tear a hole in her memory.

Speaking of which, all this had happened because of Lily.

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Lily was involved in her imprisonment, her falling into the sea, and her five-year separation from Jay.

“On my way back, I had someone look up everything related to Lily, including the Atkinson family and the Stevens family!” said Jason.

Grace could not help trembling. “What... What will Lily do to Mason? What if she wants more than money...”

If it were anyone else, Grace would think that the kidnapper just wanted money and would not hurt the child!

Chapter 1754

However, it was possible that Lily was the mastermind. Grace panicked! She was afraid that when she saw her child again, he would already be a cold corpse.

“Don’t worry.” Jason hugged Grace tightly. “Our child isn’t that vulnerable! Besides, Secretary Wang said he had trained and taught Mason a lot of skills. It’s unlikely that the little guy will let Lily have her way.”

Grace was momentarily stunned. Jason then told her what Secretary Wang said about Mason's childhood.

Grace started sobbing, and tears welled up in her eyes as she listened.

'My child suffered all these at such an early age! He's the same age as... Jasper, but while Jasper was sleeping in my arms, Mason was engaged in all kinds of fights. He probably even fought with fierce dogs just to become an heir fit for the Reed family.

'But Mason's just a child! A child who couldn't even speak fluently!

"How... How could Secretary Wang do that? Why... Why did Mason have to suffer like that?" Grace could hardly hear the rest of it. She hated Secretary Wang.

However, it was a fact that Mason had gone through all these experiences. She wanted to finish listening no matter what!

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Her hands were clenched into fists as if she were trying her best to suppress her nerves, or she would have a breakdown.

Jason finally loosened Grace's hands and stopped her from clenching them. "Your hands are still injured. It'll only hurt more if you clench your fists so hard."

"But Mason... has suffered from more injuries," said Grace.

"I'll bring Mason back to the Reed family, but you can't ignore the condition of your hands. You almost hurt your hands to protect

the little girl today," said Jason as he gently stroked her palms

where her nails had pressed into.

"That child has always protected Mason. She has Mason's best interest at heart. How could I not protect her?" said Grace.

"Even if you wanted to protect her, you should've paid more

attention to your own safety. Do you know how much you mean to me?" said Jason.

Jason pulled Grace into his arms again. "Grace, I love you. You mean more to me than anything!"

He could sacrifice anyone and anything but her.

She was his everything!

There had been no further messages or calls from the kidnappers. It was as if they were giving them enough time to prepare the

money.

Although the Reed family did not report it to the police as per the kidnappers' requirement, various relevant experts had secretly entered the residence. They started various preparations.

Grace also told Mick Reed and Jasper to stay home and take a leave of absence from the kindergarten for a few days.

Now that Mason had been kidnapped, she feared that something might happen to her other two children as well.

The two little ones seemed to feel the depressing atmosphere in the residence. They had also learned that their brother had been kidnapped.

## Chapter 1755

Five-year-old children knew what kidnapping meant. Although they were still a little hazy about it, they knew that it was a terrible thing.

Jasper and Mick Reed remembered Mason. After all, they had seen him at the amusement park before, so they had an impression of him.

After finding out that Mason was their brother, Jasper Reed's eyes widened in surprise. She made a ruckus for quite a while.

Mick Reed was only stunned for a moment before accepting the fact.

"Mommy, I'll save Lil Bro." Mick Reed looked at Grace, who had a

sad look on her face. He made a serious promise. He immediately regarded Mason as his younger brother.

'Um... I'm the eldest one, so I'm responsible for protecting my younger siblings!'

"Mick, I know your intentions, but there are already so many uncles here to save Lil Bro. You just need to stay home with your sister for a few days," said Grace as she stroked her eldest son's small head.

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Mick Reed blinked and did not say anything more. Instead, he turned and went back to his room. Jasper followed him. Seeing the two little ones together, Grace heaved a sigh of relief.

However, Mason still occupied her head. She did not have extra energy to look after Mick and Jasper. Fortunately, she had Uncle Kwan and maids in the residence to help look after them. Hence, Grace did not have to worry too much about it.

"Young master Reed, we can't find Sean. The courier company he's working for said he has taken three days off. The people we sent to look into the Stevens family heard that Zoe Stevens told their neighbors that Sean has gone outstation to help collect debts. She said he would get a lot of money once he's done with the job." Terrence received the latest news and reported it to Jason.

"Sean..." Jason uttered the name. "I underestimated him. I never thought he would team up with Lily to do such a thing."

Grace was also stunned. Sean's involvement surprised her a little.

After all, she had seen the way Sean looked at her with guilt when they were in the hospital previously, but... it turned out no amount of guilt could compete with money.

"Keep tracking Sean's whereabouts and look for the surveillance footage of him in tMason Swansonty in the past week. Check if he has gotten in contact with Lily," ordered Jason.

"Yes," replied Terrence.

3/4 Reed group had the best tech talents in Emerald City. They could conduct a search much faster than the police.

However, checking Sean's whereabouts in the past week might take some time-even if many of them worked together to go through the footage.

Jason said to Grace, "Go to bed. I'll take care of this. If Lily and Sean reach out, I'll let you know."

Grace shook her head. "I'm not sleepy." All she wanted now was to get Mason back.

There was a look of determination in her eyes that let him know she would not go to bed no matter how much he persuaded her.

"Also, I'd like to go through Sean's surveillance footage as well. It'll be faster if we have more people go through it. I'll just feel worse if I wait around," said Grace.

Jason then instructed his staff to give Grace a computer and some segments of the surveillance footage.

With the time ticking by, Grace looked at the scenes of Sean on her computer. She had to carefully watch the surveillance footage or she might miss something.

Chapter 1756

She got up from her chair with a start.

"Wha's wrong?" asked Jason as he hurried to Grace's side.

"It's Lily!" said Grace as she pointed at the woman on the screen who was seen approaching Sean. She recognized Lily at a glance even though the video quality was not very clear and Lily had changed a lot in the past five years.

After all, Lily was her biggest nightmare-a horrible nightmare!

Jason narrowed his eyes and watched the surveillance footage with Grace, who paused the scene when Lily beckoned a child



over to Sean.

She remembered... this child. It was the little boy who played the piano really well at the exhibition that day.

'Is the child related to Lily? Could the child be... Lily's?'

Lily had brought the child to meet Sean. In other words, could the child... be Sean's?

This speculation ran through Grace's head. It was not long before someone found surveillance footage of Lily and Sean's second

meeting.

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Jason then had someone find where Lily was staying through the surveillance footage.

Sure enough, it was much easier to track down Lily in this way. However, they discovered that Lily had been staying in a cheap hotel and she checked out right before Mason was kidnapped.

Further checking surprisingly revealed where Lily had been hiding all these years.

She had been in Lu City! She also had a son, William, who was now five years old.

However, William did not attend kindergarten. There happened to be a retired piano teacher in the urban village of Lu City where Lily lived. William had taken piano lessons from the man.

Just then, the kidnappers sent an email to Terrence from abroad. It was obvious they had made preparations for

counter-reconnaissance.

It was not difficult to find the actual source of the email, but it would take a while. Besides, even if they did locate it, it might just lead them to an internet cafe or a shopping mall.

The contents of the email made Jason frown.

The email required them to deposit the 100 million dollars into an overseas account. They also wanted Grace to pick up the child at

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a designated location after that!

Jason said right away, "No way! It's too dangerous for you to pick him up alone!"

"Regardless if it's dangerous or not, we have to try!" said Grace.

Jason pondered and replied by email, saying that the money would only be deposited to their account after they made sure the child was safe. They would transfer the money when they saw Mason at the designated location and retrieved him.

Jason said in the email that he would pick up the child personally and would not bring any of his men.

“Jay, you won’t let me go alone but you want to go alone?” asked

Grace.

“It’s better that I go. Besides, I’m Mason’s father. Isn’t it only natural that I should go?” said Jason as he sent the email. Grace

could not even talk him out of it.

The kidnappers soon emailed back, saying they could make payment when retrieving the child. However, Grace had to be the one who paid them and picked up the child.

Their email sounded as if this would end in mutual destruction if they disagreed.

They also informed them that they would send the email with the

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location right before the deal took place! If Grace did not arrive at the specified location within the timeframe, they would kill the child.

Chapter 1757

Jason was livid when he saw the email. However, they stopped replying after he sent another email.

Grace said, “I’ll go. Lily and Sean seem determined to get me there!”

Jason pressed thin lips together tightly and said nothing. He clearly disagreed with Grace.

“Jay, I’ll take good care of myself, but... Even if you’re against this, I have to save Mason. It’s the only thing I can do for him as his mother!” Grace said firmly.

Jason sighed helplessly. He could never go against her.

“Well, let’s make a bet. If something happens to you, I’ll follow suit!”

The simple sentence represented his determination. Grace’s heart trembled as she understood what Jason meant. His life and death

would depend on her’s!

Grace forced herself to sleep that night. Only with adequate sleep could she have more strength and energy to save Mason.

Jason slowly opened his eyes after Grace fell asleep. His lips

gently fell on her deformed fingers.

“Grace, who matters most to you right now?”

His question was left unanswered.

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The place where the transaction was going to take place was on a hill. It had a dense forest and was sparsely populated. The surroundings were vast undeveloped areas.

Anything could happen in a place like this.

Grace was holding a phone the kidnappers had prepared. They had put it somewhere with no surveillance cameras and emailed

her to pick it up.

The phone could only receive incoming calls. It could not make calls or send messages.

Standing in front of her was a man wearing one of those Monkey King masks one could find at any roadside stall. He handed her a laptop and asked her to transfer the money.

“I want to see Mason first. I won’t transfer the money if I don’t see him,” said Grace.

“Then let her!” the female voice on the phone said.

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The man turned around silently and brought out an unconscious child moments later.

“Mason!” shouted Grace. Mason’s face was somewhat bruised and swollen. He had obviously been beaten up. “What did you do to Mason? Why is he unconscious?”

“I just gave him two pills so he would sleep. Don’t worry, he’s not going to die.” The woman sounded a little angry when she spoke on the other line of the phone.

The brat did not behave like a normal kid at all. He even hurt her!

Sure enough, a child whom the abnormal Secretary Wang taught was abnormal too!

“Transfer the money right now. As soon as we receive it, you can take him and leave. We’re all just taking what we need,” the female voice said.

“What the hell did you feed him?” Grace snapped.

Chapter 1758

“Once you’ve transferred the money and that we’re safely out of here, I’ll tell you what I fed him! I have to take some measures to protect myself too, right?” she said.

“Okay, I hope you keep your word! Otherwise, no one’s going to have it easy!” Grace took a deep breath and began transferring the money on the laptop.

She transferred the money to the designated account as required.

The man handed Mason to her. The moment Grace held him, the man whispered, “I’m sorry.”

Grace froze. “You...”

Just then, the female voice on the phone said, “I’ve got the money. Grace, you owe me this! This is an auspicious place that I found for you! How about you die here with the man you once

loved? Isn’t that great?”

“What did you say?” Sean, who was wearing the Monkey King mask, was surprised. This was not what they had agreed on!

‘What the hell is Lily doing?’

“It’s exactly as I said. The place is going to explode soon. I’ve

2/3 planted so many explosives on this hill that it’ll be too late for you even if you run down as fast as you can!” the female voice said triumphantly.

“Lily!” Grace shouted her name.

“Haha, so you do know who I am.” Lily did not seem surprised. “I knew you’d learn that I’m the one behind this from the beginning, but so what? Jason and his men are all at the foot of the hill. Even if his men are surrounding the entire foot of the hill, there’s nothing they can do about the explosion!”

Lily said maliciously, “Grace, I want you to die in front of Jason!”

“Lily! You said you just wanted the money. Why... Why would you do this?” Sean bellowed.

“Sean, you are so naive!” Lily chuckled and said, “I want money

and Grace’s life. By the way, since you’re dying, I have something to tell you. William wasn’t kidnapped, and he’s not your son, Sean, you’re not worthy enough to have a son like William!”

“What?” Sean yanked the mask off his face and stared at the phone in shock. “What did you say? William isn’t my son?”

Lily snapped, “Sean, you and the Stevens family only thought about saving the Stevens family and got rid of me when the Atkinson family was in trouble. Why should I bear a child for a man like you? I’ll enjoy a good life with this money. You and Grace can die together... Ah, who are you? Don’t... Don’t think about coming

over...”

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Then, there was a commotion on the other end of the line.

In a small, semi-deserted village not far from the hill where they had the transaction, Lily was in disbelief as she looked at the people surrounding her. Jason was leading them!

‘Why is Jason here? Shouldn’t Jason be waiting anxiously for Grace at the foot of the hill?’

She had everything planned out. Jason would nervously rush up the hill to look for Grace after the explosion. The place would be in chaos then and she would be able to take advantage of it to make her escape.

‘But...’ Lily turned to look at the image shown on her phone. On the screen, ‘Jason’ was still at the foot of the hill, while there was

no one at the entrance of the house she was in now.

Chapter 1759

However, Jason had shown up in front of her and the entrance of the house was crowded with people.

“Why... Why are you here? Why is the image on the surveillance different?” Lily asked in surprise.

“There are many things you can fake, like how you got yourself a fake identity and used a fake son to trick Sean. So why is it surprising that I’m here?” Jason looked at Lily coldly. “We’ve also caught your two helpers. Lily, your game is over. I’ll settle the old and new debts with you.”

Lily’s heart sank. Her two helpers were huge fans of her, and one of them was also a wanted criminal online.

They had planned this with her. If those two had been arrested, then she...

“Everything ends here!” Jason said coldly.

Jason’s men immediately subdued Lily with little difficulty. They also handed Jason the remote control for the explosives and the

phone Lily was using to talk to Grace.

Jason spoke into the phone, “Grace, can you hear me? I’m sending someone up the hill to pick you and Mason up. You...”

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However, before he could finish, there was suddenly a loud boom from the other end of the line.

The sound did not only come from the phone. The noise came from the hill, and they could hear it inside the house.

Jason almost dropped the phone to the floor.

"Grace, Grace!" He kept shouting, but there was no answer from the other end of the line. Before long, he heard the busy signal.

"Hahaha... Jason, so what if you caught me? Grace is still going to die. Did you think the explosives could only be detonated with this remote control? No, those explosives were timed too. They'll explode regardless when the time is up!" Lily burst into laughter and said, "Even if I have to go to hell, I'll take Grace and your son with me!"

She was waiting... to see the man suffer from the pain!

She was waiting to see the look on the man's face when his men told him Grace was dead.

The man was expressionless when he learned of her sister's death.

He did not even care about her sister's death back then. It was as if her death meant nothing to him.

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jason said with scared eyes.

Chapter 1760

Terrence froze. He remembered what had happened in the past when Jason pressed the detonating device after leaving his last words, disregarding his own danger.

As soon as Jason said that, his men were naturally afraid to stop him. Jason drove toward the hill, which was still ringing with the sound of explosions.

Terrence and the others rushed over to catch up.

Lily stared blankly through the window and watched Jason's car drive away. 'Is this man planning to risk his life and go up the hill to

save Grace?'

Grace had the affections of this man, which her sister previously longed for.

“Sis, do you see this? It turns out the man you loved has the ability to love another woman with all he has!” Lily laughed sarcastically, wondering what her sister would think if she knew that the man she loved was in love with another woman with all he had.

She would laugh at her sister when she died and saw her!

However, if she did meet her sister after she died, she would be the one her sister hated the most!

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She killed her sister to gain a fortune for the Atkinson family and blamed it all on Grace for Sean. She was the one who planned everything, but it all resulted in nothing in the end.

“Haha... Haha... Jason, even if you rush over, you can’t save Grace. There’s no way you can save her!” Lily cursed with a flash of resentment in her eyes!

The sound of explosions continued to ring beside Grace. She was desperately protecting the unconscious Mason in her arms.

Even if she had to risk her life, she would bring Mason down the hill!

However, the constant explosions had produced a lot of smoke. Rubble, dirt, and twigs continued to be tossed into the air from the ground. It hurt when they hit her body.

‘Go down the hill... We need to go down the hill.’ Just then, she suddenly heard someone say, “Watch out!” Then, a hand grabbed her shoulder and pulled her to the side. With Mason in her arms, Grace fell awkwardly to the side along with the man.

A tree had fallen at the spot where Grace stood earlier.

Grace was instantly terrified. If she had not been pulled aside, the tree would have fallen on Mason and her.

“Are you okay? Can you get up?” The voice rang out again.

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Grace shuddered. ‘This voice...’ She looked up at the person and saw Brian’s delicate face.

However, Brian’s face was covered with dust and dirt at this moment, making him look like a mess.

“What are you doing here?” Grace asked in surprise.

Brian said, “It’s a long story. I’ll tell you about it later. Let’s get out of this place first!”

Grace staggered to her feet as she held Mason in her arms. Brian said, “Let me hold the child. It’ll make running down the hill quicker.”

Grace hesitated a little before saying, “Thank you... then.”

After all, Brian was right. Men had a natural advantage when it came to strength. It was easier for him to carry Mason and they could speed up their descent as well.

The most important thing now was to get down the hill!

Brian took Mason from Grace and ran down the hill. There were occasional explosions on the rugged hill roads.

“Lily probably didn’t plant too many explosives. It should all be over now,” said Brian.