

Ex Convict 1771

Chapter 1771

"Jay, I've forgiven you!" Grace said solemnly, wanting to ease his regret, pain, remorse, and guilt... Was that not why she did not want to tell him the condition of her hands? "I've really forgiven you, so stop blaming yourself."

He looked blankly at her. She had forgiven him so earnestly, but he was still heavy-hearted.

"You didn't know me back then. I was just a nobody to you," she said.

'Would she still... forgive me for the things I did after meeting her? Does she know that Hua Stella would never have been able to impersonate her if I hadn't tampered with things?

'Whatever that happened afterward would never have happened. Brian wouldn't have misunderstood her because of Hua Stella's schemes, and Brian would have immediately helped her when Lina was seriously injured and admitted to the hospital!

'She wouldn't have begged me and married me!

'She wouldn't have fallen into the sea, lost five years of memory, and lived such a hard life!

'My actions not only changed my and Brian's fate but also... her's!

Brian met Lily in the detention center.

Lily was a little surprised. "I didn't think you'd come and see me. I heard you were on the hill too. Were you trying to save Grace as well? But it's pointless even if you risk everything for her. Jason is still the one Grace loves. You're overestimating yourself!"

"I admit that." Brian smiled faintly. "I came to see you just to find out what happened when Grace fell into the sea."

After all, he could not find out the details from the Reed family. The only information he had was from the official announcement the Reed family gave, which was that Grace had fallen into the sea due to an accident.

The cause of the accident was entirely unknown!

The only person who could give him an answer was probably Lily.

Lily sneered. "I knew it. You only want to see me because of Grace! Do you think I'll tell you?"

"Sean is seriously injured and would have died without medical treatment, but Jason asked the hospital to save him. It seems that he's bent on keeping Sean alive at all costs," Brian said out of the blue.

Lily's expression changed.

"You must be familiar with Jason's temper too. If someone is indebted to him, he'll want them to pay it back tenfold. You and Sean are doomed to be in prison, but you have a child, William. Although Sean isn't his father, you're his biological mother. What do you think Jason will do to the child?" said Brian.

Lily was silent as her hands almost unconsciously gripped the hem of her skirt.

A long time passed before she said, "Will you protect William if I tell you the truth, no matter what it is?"

"As long as the child doesn't do anything that threatens Grace and her three children, then I can protect him," said Brian.

Chapter 1772

If he had said yes right away, Lily would have hesitated. However, Brian only agreed on such a condition, hence Lily felt reassured.

"Okay, I'll tell you what happened and why Grace fell into the sea. But... Brian, I'm afraid you'd rather not know anything after hearing it," said Lily.

Brian's face froze after hearing what Lily said.

She said, "Brian, I just hope that you'll keep your word."

She had never felt indebted to anyone in her life. She had never even felt sorry for the sister she killed, the now severely injured

Sean, or her parents.

She would not have killed her sister if her parents had not been so biased toward her, and she would not hate Sean so much if he had been more sincere to her!

However, she kept feeling indebted to William...

William... She did not even know who his biological father was. All she remembered was that she had gotten drunk one night and met a man on the streets who looked like a drug addict.

That place had all kinds of people.

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Even so, the man was pretty good-looking, and he aroused her. Hence, she took that man to the hotel.

After that, she never met the man again. She did not even know who the man was. Perhaps he had died.

Later, she got pregnant with William. She had thought about aborting him, but she somehow relented and gave birth to him.

The boy had given her little concern in the last few years. Even in the first few months of his life, he would only cry out when he was hungry.

When she was out at work, he would quietly play with the cheap toys she had bought for him.

When he was hungry, he would obediently eat what she prepared. He never threw a tantrum. Sometimes, she even thought that the

child was too quiet..

She had always treated the child as dispensable. To her, raising a child was like keeping a mere pet.

However, everything changed when she caught a fever one day and could hardly get out of bed. The four-year-old boy had cooked porridge for her in a rice cooker. He even brought her fever medicine and water.

When she woke up in the middle of the night, she saw that the

boy was still awake. His dark eyes had been looking at her the whole time.

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“Why are you still up?” she asked.

“I’m scared that you’re going to die. Are you going to die?” his young voice asked.

“Even if I die, you don’t have to worry. Welfare will take you in. You’re good-looking, so maybe a good family will adopt you,” she said nonchalantly.

“But you’re my only mommy,” he said.

At that moment, her heart, which had grown colder over the years, seemed to have cracked.

“William... Maybe I’m really leaving you this time,” murmured Lily.

Chapter 1773

Brian went back to the car. He smiled ruefully as he looked out the window to look at the night sky.

‘So that’s what happened. Grace chose to fall into the sea... for Jason!

‘Grace loves Jason so much... that she would sacrifice her own

life and the lives of her three children for Jason. She took the risk

to keep the three triplets in her belly, which shows just how much

she loves them.

‘But... she loves Jason more!’

Mason woke up. Grace and Jason went to the hospital where the little one was admitted and saw Mason.

Veronica Barlow was also in the ward. She was the only member of the He family who Jason allowed to visit Mason.

After the other members of the He family found out that Mason was the Reed family's lost child, they all regretted it. They regretted not treating Mason well when he was with the He family.

Therefore, after hearing the news that Mason had been found,

2/4 they immediately rushed to the hospital. Unfortunately, they were blocked outside the hospital's inpatient building. They could not even enter.

Grace had met the He family when she entered the hospital.

Although the He family was full of smiles and wanted to get close to her, Grace did not bother to pay them any attention.

Veronica Barlow was feeding Mason in the ward. As he had his stomach pumped, the little one could only eat liquid food like soup.

Veronica Barlow was only a seven-year-old girl, but she seemed quite skilled at feeding Mason soup. It was as if she had done it many times.

Mason was like a docile kitten in front of his sister. He obediently opened his mouth and would lift his chin when told.

However, after Grace and Jason walked into the hospital ward, the little one suddenly changed from a docile kitten to a guarded tiger. His tiny body grew tense. If he had a tail, Grace thought that the fur on the little one's tail would be standing on end.

Grace's eyes turned red when she saw that her son was looking at her as though she was an enemy. "Mason, are... you feeling better? I... I'm your mommy. I'm sorry that I haven't been by your side and made you suffer so much."

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Mason looked at Grace coldly. "I don't need a mommy. I just need Sis."

Grace burst into tears.

Jason frowned and stood in front of Mason. "You're five years old and have your own ideas. I don't know what's going on in your head, but if you dare hurt your mommy's heart, I won't treat you kindly even if you are our son."

Grace quickly grabbed Jason and said, "Don't treat him like that. Even if he doesn't acknowledge me, it's because I haven't been by his side. I've done him wrong."

Mason was still guarded as if Jason's threat and Grace's tears meant nothing to him.

The two people in front of him were just enemies he had to face.

It was not until Veronica Barlow spoke up that the look in the little one's eyes changed.

“Mason, didn’t I tell you? aunt Cummins and Uncle Reed are your daddy and mommy. aunt Cummins likes you very much. You shouldn’t treat her like this. Your mommy and daddy desperately tried to save you when you were kidnapped,” said Veronica

Barlow.

Chapter 1774

“But I don’t like them,” said Mason.

“Why not? They’re good people,” Veronica Barlow said in confusion.

“They’ll separate me from you, won’t they? Then I can’t be with you anymore. I don’t like them, and I don’t want them to be my daddy and mommy.” Mason stretched out his hands and hugged Veronica Barlow as he spoke. He buried his little face in her chest, full of attachment.

He seemed to have gone back to being a docile kitten.

When Mason said this, Veronica Barlow looked sad. She looked at Jason and Grace, asking, “Uncle Reed, aunt Cummins, are you going to take Mason away?”

“Mason is our son. He’ll naturally have to acknowledge his biological family and return to the Reed family, but you can meet anytime you want,” said Jason.

“I don’t want to return to the Reed family. I just want to be with Sis,” Mason said sternly as his hands held Veronica Barlow tighter. The eyes he used to stare at Jason and Grace grew more hostile.

To him, his so-called daddy and mommy were just enemies trying to separate him from his sister.

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“Then we’ll think of a way to achieve the best of both worlds. For example, Veronica can come and live with the Reed family. Then you can be together every day,” said Grace.

Mason’s black eyes lit up immediately, while Veronica Barlow looked a little dumbfounded.

‘Am I going to the Reed family to be with Mason every day?’

“Mason, Daddy and I are not your enemies. We’ll be the ones who love you the most. We’ll protect you and let you grow up well,” Grace said to the little one.

Mason was silent, but his eyes fell on Grace’s hands.

He did not remember seeing her hands wrapped in so much gauze the last time he saw her. Now, her hands had the same white gauze and bandages as his body.

‘Did this woman get hurt saving me?’

‘Is this... my mommy?’

When Grace came out of the inpatient department, the He family eagerly came up to her as if they wanted to get some credit.

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Jason said coldly, "You should be glad that the He family still has Voronica Barlow. Otherwise, do you think you can still stand here and say nonsense?"

"Well... We're still Mason's adoptive parents at the very least. Even if we can't claim credit, we still made an effort!" muttered Rosalind Bush. Her wrists were still in casts, but instead of resting in the hospital bed, she waited here to meet Jason and his wife.

"Effort?" Jason sneered. "What effort did you make? You were paid to raise a child. You received enough money to hire a nanny to wait on him 24/7, yet you beat my son up."

"It was... It was for Mason's own good. We were just afraid he would get into trouble," Rosalind Bush said in defense.

Jason ordered his subordinates, "Besides Veronica Barlow, none of the He family are allowed to enter this hospital during Mason's hospitalization!"

"Mr. Reed, you're..." shouted Archer Barlow.

Chapter 1775

"And cough up all the money you received to raise him. Pay one cent less and you'll see what the consequences are." Jason left with Grace as soon as he finished speaking.

Archer Barlow and Rosalind Bush looked dumbfounded.

They had wanted to get credit from them, but now they had to cough up all the money they previously received. How could they

accept this?

When Grace and Jason returned to Reed Residence, they heard Uncle Kwan say, "Little Young Lady refuses to let the child be taken away no matter what. She found a pair of handcuffs and handcuffed the child's hand to hers. She flushed the key down

the toilet!"

"The child?" Grace was stunned. "Who?"

"Lily's son." It was Jason who answered her.

'Lily's son?' Grace immediately realized it was the little boy at the exhibition who played the piano very well, but... "Why is he with Jasper? And in the Reed family house?"

"When you were trying to save Mason, Jasper sneaked out of the house and somehow ran into Lily's son. When the people looking

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after Jasper found her, she insisted on bringing the child back with her." However, even Jason did not expect his daughter to be so persistent in keeping that little boy by her side.

“Where did she get the handcuffs?” Jason frowned and asked Uncle Kwan.

“It’s... the toy handcuffs Little Young Lady uses to play cops and robbers,” said Uncle Kwan.

“Anyone can pick the lock for toy handcuffs,” said Jason.

Uncle Kwan gave a wry smile. “The toy is a global limited edition. The lock and key were custom-made... They’re also limited-editions. Unless the factory sends us the key, regular locksmiths will have a hard time unlocking it.”

Jason’s face darkened immediately. ‘Is my daughter going to be handcuffed to a boy?’

“But I’ve had someone call the factory. They’ll send the key over as soon as possible. It should take two days... for the key to be delivered.”

While he was speaking, Jasper Reed’s young voice suddenly rang out. “Daddy, Mommy!”

Grace looked up and saw her daughter’s tiny figure coming down the stairs, followed by the boy named William, as well as Mick

Reed.

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The three children went down the stairs. Jasper ran to Grace, dragging William with her. However, she was dumbfounded when she saw Grace’s hands that were covered with white gauze. “Mommy, your hands...”

“I... hurt my hands, so I have to stay in the hospital for the next few days. Jasper and Mick, be good, okay?”

Mick Reed stared at Grace’s hands with a solemn expression on his little face. “Mommy, are your hands badly hurt?” he asked.

Grace smiled and said, “It’s only a minor injury. Don’t worry, Mick. I have the best doctors treating me. I’ll be back in a few days, and

then I can hold you both again.”

The solemn look on Mick Reed’s face finally faded a little.

Jasper was greatly relieved. Since her mother had the best doctors treating her, then she would be all right! Doctors could

cure patients!

“Mommy, when can we see Mason? Also, is Mason my older brother or younger brother?” asked Jasper Reed.

Grace had no idea whether he was her older brother or younger brother. She could only let the children solve that themselves.

Chapter 1776

As for when they could see Mason... "Mason will return to the Reed family when he's discharged. You'll get to meet him then."

"Okay, I'll be a good older sister!" said Jasper as she lifted her chin, already assuming the role of an older sister!

Just then, William, who had been silent, suddenly said, "Is my mommy going to jail?"

The air seemed a little depressing when the childlike voice was heard asking such a question.

Grace looked at the child in front of her. She and Lily had a lot of bad blood, but the child was innocent.

"That's for the judge to decide," said Grace. She could not bear to say the harsh truth so directly in front of the children.

"Oh," William replied in a whisper as he lowered his head and said nothing more.

Jason said to Grace, "Alright, it's almost time for you to go back to the hospital. You've been out too long. There's too much missing data on your hands. The calculation is going to be inaccurate."

"Okay," said Grace. She bid goodbye to the two children before her eyes rested on William for a moment.

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After getting into the car, Jason asked, "What's the matter? Are you thinking about that child?"

"I'm not. I just feel sorry for the child. Lily is going to prison, and we don't know who's going to raise him. He has a great talent for music. It would be a pity if it gets buried because of his circumstances," said Grace.

"Generally speaking, the child will be raised by Lily's parents. As for his biological father..."

Grace said, "It isn't Sean. William's biological father isn't Sean. Lily made it clear on the phone when I was on the hill. She deliberately made Sean think that he was William's biological father," said Grace.

"It doesn't matter who the father is. It's just a child. Once the key arrives and the handcuffs are off, I'll hand the child to the police and let them take care of him," said Jason.

"How is the Atkinson family doing now?" asked Grace. She had not heard of the Atkinson family since returning to Emerald City.

"The Atkinson family went bankrupt. Harold Atkinson and his wife are in a lot of debt and have left Emerald City. I don't keep tabs on them anymore, but the police will find them if they want to hand the child to them," said Jason.

Grace sighed, fearing it might not be a good thing for Harold Atkinson and his wife to raise William. However, it was the Atkinson family's family matters, after all. She did not want to bother herself with them.

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Back in the hospital, Grace had dinner and soon fell asleep.

Jason stared at her sleeping face as he looked down slightly. "I'm going home to deal with some things first. I'll come and accompany you later. Don't worry, I won't let our children encounter any more danger."

Jason got up, walked out of the ward, and got into a car parked at the hospital's entrance. "Go back to Reed Residence."

Uncle Kwan was a little surprised to see Jason back in Reed Residence. After all, Young Madam was hospitalized. Judging from how much Young master Reed cared about Young Madam, he should be in the hospital taking care of her.

"Where's Jasper?" asked Jason.

"Little Young Lady and William are in Little Young Lady's bedroom. They're probably going to bed soon," said Uncle Kwan.

Jason walked toward his daughter's bedroom.

Chapter 1777

When he pushed open the door, he saw Jasper and William lying on the bed. William seemed to be asleep, while Jasper looked

like she was reading as she was holding a storybook. A maid was looking after them.

The maid immediately got up when she saw Jason.

"You can go out first," Jason told the maid.

The maid replied softly and left the room.

"Daddy?" Jasper looked at Jason in confusion. 'Uncle Butler said Daddy would be staying with Mommy in the hospital these days. Why is he back again?'

"Were you telling William a story?" Jason asked gently. He had shed his usual indifference and pride. He looked like an ordinary

father in front of his daughter.

"Yup!" Jasper said, but in a lower voice than usual. It was as if she was afraid of waking William. "He couldn't sleep, so I thought I'd tell him a story so he could fall asleep. Whenever I can't sleep, Mommy reads me a story and I'll fall asleep."

Jasper hesitated a little and said to Jason, "Daddy, I know William's mommy is a bad person who wanted to hurt Mommy

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and my brother, but William isn't a bad person. Can you not send him away? Let him stay here!"

Jason raised his eyebrows slightly. "Why? Do you like him very much, Jasper?"

"Yeah, I do." Jasper nodded her little head.

"Why do you like him?" asked Jason.

The little one said, "Because he plays the piano, and it's strange that he didn't play better when he could. Even so, I'd love to hear him play and play with him. It'd be fun!"

When Jasper said this, her apricot eyes that were similar to Grace's seemed to sparkle with light. They were full of

expectations.

Jason's eyes flickered with a hint of gloom. "So you deliberately handcuffed yourself to him and flushed the key down the toilet because you thought he could stay if you did that?"

Jasper did not speak, but her expression seemed to show a tacit agreement.

"But did it occur to you that the new key will be delivered soon, and he'll still have to leave the Reed family once the handcuffs are off?" asked Jason.

Jasper Reed's little face crinkled up immediately. She pouted and

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said, "Then... Then I'll throw away the new key!"

What she implied was that she would keep William in the Reed family no matter what.

Jason looked at his daughter and said lightly, "Do you think he can stay in the Reed family if you do that? Did it ever occur to you that it's actually a piece of cake if I really want to separate you?"

The little one blinked, her eyes full of confusion.

"For example..." Jason glanced at their handcuffed hands. "If William's hand is chopped off, you can still be separated even with the handcuffs on, right?"

Jasper Reed's almond-shaped eyes instantly widened with panic and fear. Suddenly, her small hand immediately pressed on William's handcuffed hand. "Daddy... are... Are you going to chop off William's hand?"

Her daughter's panicked appearance made Jason feel a little guilty. He should not have said what he did and frightened her, but he wanted her to see the reality of things.

Chapter 1778

He raised his hand and gently touched his daughter's head with a smile on his face. "Of course, I won't chop off his hand. I'm not a bad person. I just want you to know that even if you're handcuffed together, it's actually easy to separate you if we want to."

Jasper blinked. "Daddy, are you really not going to chop off William's hand?"

"Yes." Jason looked just like a loving father. His eyes were full of affection when he looked at his daughter, who looked very much like Grace. When he looked at his tiny daughter, it made up for his regrets for not knowing Grace when they were younger. "But Jasper, just tell me if you like William. You don't have to play such tricks."

"Daddy, will you let William stay if I tell you that?"

"I'll agree if it's a reasonable request," Jason said gently. The smile on the corner of his lips softened. "You're my daughter, and I'll only give you the best. You can keep William around if you really like him."

Jason said nonchalantly. Jasper instantly smiled and leaned over to kiss Jason hard on his face. "Daddy, you're so nice."

"I hope I can grant all your wishes." Jason touched his daughter's

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little head fondly before saying, "Alright, it's late. Hurry and go to sleep. I'll accompany you and tell you a story."

"Okay," answered Jasper Reed.

Jason picked up the storybook Jasper was holding earlier and began to tell a story. Soon, Jasper fell asleep.

Jason looked at his daughter's sleeping face with a gentle gaze. However, when he glanced at William, who was sleeping beside his daughter, his eyes became extremely cold. There was no tenderness left in them.

Standing up, Jason turned to leave the room after turning off the lights.

The bedroom was instantly dark, and only the moonlight from the window offered some light.

William, who had his eyes closed, opened them. His little face was pale, and his body was stiff.

He was awake from just now. He even thought what Jasper's father said was not meant for Jasper to hear but him.

He remembered seeing the uncle on TV, and his mother had pointed at him while saying, "William, his name is Jason. He's the most terrible man in Emerald City. He's also the strongest executioner. He'll not spare anyone he wants to lay a hand on. He's just like a demon..."

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His mother's face had contorted when she said this. There was fear, which was a feeling he understood.

He had only seen the devil in TV dramas and movies. The devil would tear people apart with a mouth full of blood!

'Jason... Is Jasper's daddy the devil?

'If Jasper hadn't said she likes me, would he really chop my hand off?'

William had always been a calm child, but... he was only five years old, after all. He could not help feeling scared, and his body would

not stop trembling.

However, when he looked down at his hands, all that crossed his mind was... 'If I lose my hand, does that mean I won't be able to

play the piano anymore?'

He could not say he liked playing the piano. His talent was natural. His teacher said he was a genius, but he lacked emotion and was more like a machine.

He never thought about what it would be like to be unable to play the piano, but he was suddenly a little reluctant.

Chapter 1779

'If I can't play the piano, is Jasper... going to stop liking me?'

He seemed to want to play the piano for her.

The Reed family had suppressed the news, so Lina had no idea that Grace found her child-let alone that the child was kidnapped and her best friend almost died!

Lina only found out about everything after calling Jason on the phone because she could not get through to her best friend.

She hurriedly took the day off and rushed to the hospital Grace was admitted to.

"Grace, your hands..." Lina immediately froze at the sight of her best friend's bandaged hands.

After learning that her best friend would be undergoing an operation for her hands in a few days and the success rate of the operation was very low, Lina gasped sharply.

"What if... the operation fails..."

"That means I can't do anything with them anymore, but... even if I

2/3 can't use my hands, I still have my mouth and feet. Aren't there a lot of devices that use voice functions these days? I can still do a lot of things without my hands. Don't be so worried. It's not as bad as you think," Grace smiled and said nonchalantly.

'Isn't this... an extremely bad situation?'

However, Lina knew that her best friend did not want her to worry

so much! Therefore, she smiled and said, "The operation will be successful! I'm sure of it. After your successful operation, let's go for drinks and karaoke!"

"Okay!" Grace said with a smile.

"Hold on... Not drinking." Lina suddenly thought of how she had slept with Hadwin Stephenson after drinking previously and immediately changed her mind, saying, "We'd better just play the finger guessing game and karaoke. We should stop drinking so

much."

Grace smiled. "What's the matter? Are you scared of getting drunk?"

Lina laughed dryly and quickly changed the subject, saying, "By the way, when I called Jason earlier, he said that the child named Mason is the one you lost. What... What a coincidence!"

"He is." Grace herself lamented the magic of fate, not expecting that the child she helped back then was her own son.

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"But the boy isn't very amiable. Does he accept you as his parents?" asked Lina.

Grace shook her head. "No, but I'm sure he'll accept us one day."

Lina was about to speak when a feeling of nausea suddenly came over her. She quickly got up and rushed to the bathroom in the ward. She leaned over the sink and threw up.

From her hospital bed outside, Grace could hear the sound of vomiting coming from the bathroom.

After a while, Lina came out of the bathroom. She looked a little pale, and her voice had a touch of exhaustion. "Sorry, my stomach hasn't been feeling very well these days. I have no appetite and keep throwing up. I'll buy some medicine later."

Chapter 1780

"Don't take medicine!" Grace said quickly.

Lina looked at her best friend with a puzzled look on her face. "Don't take medicine? Then what should I take?"

Grace pressed her lips together and sized her best friend up a little hesitantly. "Have you... uh... had sex recently?"

Lina was dumbfounded for about ten seconds before she

suddenly realized what her best friend meant. Her somewhat pale face instantly turned red.

Grace quickly said, "I... I don't mean anything else. I'm just afraid it's not a good idea to take medicine if you're... pregnant."

Lina looked at Grace and then at her flat belly... 'Am I pregnant?'

If she was pregnant, then the child... could only be Hadwin Stephenson's!

However... it would be ridiculous if she were really pregnant!

She had once looked forward to conceiving that man's child because she wanted to spend the rest of her life with him. However, if she were pregnant with Hadwin Stephenson's child, they would only be more entangled with each other!

She had finally drawn a line with Hadwin Stephenson. What... did this mean now?

Looking at her best friend's reaction, Grace also figured that Lina... was probably pregnant.

"Is it Hadwin Stephenson's?" she asked.

Lina smiled bitterly and looked up at Grace. "It's funny, isn't it? It never happened when I wanted it to, yet it has happened when I don't want it to."

"You'd better get yourself checked. Maybe it's not what we think," said Grace.

Lina said, "I know. But... if it's true, then... what should I do?"

"Is it really impossible for you to be with Hadwin Stephenson?" asked Grace.

Lina sighed. "If I wanted to be with him, I wouldn't have rejected him."

Grace was also aware of her best friend's concerns. Besides, she was in no position to meddle in other people's relationships.

Grace said, "Lina, I'm on your side no matter what decision you make. If you want the baby, then I'll be their godmother and help you raise the baby. If you... don't want the baby, I'll accompany you to the surgery!"

As the mother of three children, Grace understood what it was like to be a mother. The baby in the womb was something a mother could not bear to abandon.

Besides, Hadwin Stephenson was once the man Lina loved!

However... Even if Lina did intend to abort the baby, she would accompany her as long as Lina had thought it through and was not impulsive when making the decision. No matter what Lina had to face, she would face it together with her.

Lina looked a little blankly at her best friend, her eyes watering a little. "Grace, thank you!"

After coming out of Grace's ward, Lina went straight to the hospital's gynecology department to do a blood test.

The blood test report would not come out until an hour later, and during that hour, Lina felt as if a lifetime had passed.

She felt nervous, uneasy, and at a loss... She did not know what she would do if it turned out to be the last thing she wanted.