

Ex Convict 1941

Chapter 1941

He resisted almost instinctively, not even wanting to hear it!

Hadwin Stephenson ignored Lina, opened the file on his desk, and dealt with work.

Lina sat on the couch and put the snacks on the coffee table. She also poured a glass of warm water for herself at the water dispenser. She looked through some infant care-related web pages on her phone while eating the snacks.

It was as if they were strangely comfortable with each other, and everything was so natural.

Out of the corners of her eyes, Lina secretly glanced at Hadwin Stephenson, who was working. This moment felt like they were back in the old days.

Whenever she came to see him back then, she would be eating and drinking on the couch in his office while he was busy with work.

His office was always full of snacks she liked to eat, so much. so that she later complained, "Look, I've gained weight. You put so many snacks around the office to tempt me. I'm going

to be fat sooner or later."

"What does that matter? I love you even if you're fat," he said with a smile on his lips.

However, five years later, she was not fat and there were no more snacks for her in his office.

Lina was looking through infant care websites on her phone

at first, but her phone camera was now secretly aimed at

Hadwin Stephenson as she could not help but take photo after photo of him.

Even if she could not be with him in the future, these photos could be keepsakes.

When the secretary walked into the president's office after knocking on the door, they saw their boss standing beside the couch with a phone in his hand while Lina was lying on the couch.

Lina's body was covered with a thin blanket.

"President, here's the report you asked for." The secretary respectfully handed the document to Hadwin Stephenson. Out of the corners of their eyes, they caught a glimpse of the phone screen. It was a photo of the president.

"You can go," Hadwin Stephenson said to the secretary. Just as the secretary turned to leave, he said, "Don't make a noise

when you close the door"

However, after saying that, a look of annoyance appeared on Hadwin Stephenson's face as if he should not have said that.

The secretary cautiously walked out of the office and closed the door.

Hadwin Stephenson's gaze fell on the phone in his hand again. It was Lina's phone, but it contained a lot of his photos. Some were even photos she had secretly taken while he was working just now.

Many of the photos were from five years ago when they were madly in love.

Looking at these photos, Hadwin Stephenson fell into a trance.

When Lina woke up, Hadwin Stephenson was looking at the project report his secretary gave him earlier. Lina was freezing when she suddenly felt the thin blanket on her. Then, a happy expression came over her face.

'Hadwin must have put it over me. She had just wanted to lie down on the couch but fell asleep while looking at his photos.

Chapter 1942

'Wait... Lina suddenly realized that her phone was not in her hand.

She suddenly got up and felt relieved when she saw the phone on the coffee table. However, she seemed to think of something and quickly picked up her phone. She opened the photo album to take a look...

Lina immediately found herself blacking out as she almost choked.

'Where... Where are the photos of him in the photo album on my phone? Are they gone?

'I just saw them before I fell asleep!'

Lina took her phone and quickly walked up to Hadwin Stephenson's desk. "Did you delete the photos on my phone?"

"I just deleted my photos. Can't I delete my own photos?" Hadwin Stephenson asked nonchalantly.

"You..." Lina's eyes immediately reddened. "Do you know those photos are..."

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Hadwin Stephenson said, "I only know those photos are photos of me. Also, I don't want anyone to disturb me when I'm working."

Lina froze and finally sat back on the couch silently. She was happy when she woke up because he had covered her with a thin blanket, but all the happiness had turned into sadness

now.

Those photos were so precious to her. They were memories she had with him! What would she be left with if she did not have these memories?

Lina looked at her phone, sniffing from time to time. Her shoulders twitched as if she was suppressing her sadness and trying hard to restrain the tears that were about to pour out of her eyes.

The way she looked made Hadwin Stephenson feel that he had done something wrong. She did not cry, but he felt worse than if he were to see her in tears.

Hadwin Stephenson forced himself to look down at the document in front of him. However, all he could think about was the other person in the room.

At noon, Hadwin Stephenson did not invite Lina for lunch but went to lunch alone. When he returned to the office, Lina and the bag she was carrying today were gone.

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‘Did she... go to lunch? Hadwin Stephenson speculated.

However, when Hadwin Stephenson came back after a meeting of about four, Lina’s figure was still missing from the office.

Hadwin Stephenson’s eyes glimmered a little. ‘Did she leave and will never return because I deleted those photos in the morning? That’s great if that’s true.

‘At least I’ll have some peace.

‘Didn’t I already know that? She has always been impatient. Just like when she promised to wait outside the house that night but by nine o’clock, she was all packed up and ready to leave. This time, she said she wanted a month, but perhaps she’ll back off in less than a day!’

Lina never appeared when it was time to get off work, and Hadwin Stephenson left the company.

The car drove toward the Stephenson family’s mansion. Hadwin Stephenson looked out of the window in boredom but suddenly froze when he saw a figure on the roadside by chance.

It was Lina!

Chapter 1943

She was crying. She was standing on the side of the road with one hand wiping away the tears from her face while the other

was clutching a phone.

Hadwin Stephenson suddenly shouted, “Stop!”

The driver hurriedly pulled over at the roadside. Hadwin Stephenson quickly got out of the car and came up to Lina.

“What are you doing here? Why...”

His voice suddenly stopped because she looked up at him with red eyes. Her teary eyes instantly pricked his heart.

“Boo-hoo!” Lina suddenly raised her hand and beat Hadwin Stephenson’s chest.

Hadwin Stephenson frowned and grabbed her hand. "What's wrong with you? What on earth happened?"

Lina sobbed. "They're gone. The photos... are gone. They're gone... Those phone technicians said the photos have been completely erased! Do you know how important those photos are to me? How could you delete them?"

Hadwin Stephenson frowned deeper as he said coldly, "I told you. Those are photos of me. It's up to me how I want to deal with them."

"But those are my memories! I took those photos. They're... They're memories of me and the man I love the most! Even if you don't love me anymore, couldn't you leave me those memories?"

Lina cried loudly and shouted as if to vent the pain suppressed in her heart.

She visited several phone repair workshops throughout the afternoon, only to be told that the deleted photos could not be recovered. In other words, they were gone forever!

Hadwin Stephenson stiffened. 'Is she crying so much because of those photos? Do those photos of me really mean that much to her?'

Suddenly, Lina's crying paused as she grunted in pain. There was a pained look on her face.

Hadwin Stephenson froze. "What's come over you?"

Lina said with a gasp, "My... My stomach... hurts a little... The baby... Is there something wrong with the baby?"

Her brows furrowed deeper and deeper as her face also grew paler.

Hadwin Stephenson instantly carried Lina in his arms. "I'll send you to the hospital immediately!" With that said, he hurried toward the car parked at the roadside.

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On the way to the hospital, Lina's hands were pressed on her slightly swollen abdomen, her face full of anxiety. "Baby, nothing must happen to you. Stay in my belly until it's time for you to come out, okay? I beg you..."

Her fragile and choked voice put Hadwin Stephenson in a trance. The look on her face and the tone of her voice made it seem like the baby meant a lot to her.

"The baby will be alright," said Hadwin Stephenson. He just blurted it out.

"Really? Will they be alright?" Lina turned her head to look at him. She was just like a drowning man clutching to a floating board.

"I, Hadwin Stephenson, will be able to keep the baby if I want to keep them! I won't let anything happen to the baby!" he said even though he had told himself not to care about the baby.

However, when he saw her anxiousness and thought about the possibility of losing the unborn baby, he felt an impulse to save them at all costs.

Chapter 1944

It was because... that was their baby!

He cared about the baby!

When the car drove to the best women's hospital in J City, Hadwin Stephenson carried Lina out. Fortunately, there were already doctors and nurses at the hospital waiting after they were notified.

Lina was sent to the consultation room for examination, while Hadwin Stephenson stood outside the room, holding the phone Lina had been holding earlier.

He had no idea that she cared so much about those photos. She even spent the entire afternoon visiting phone repair workshops to recover those photos.

'Her memories?'

Hadwin Stephenson had an indescribable feeling.

Suddenly, the phone rang. The caller ID showed the word 'Mom'. He knew it was probably a call from Lina's mother.

After pondering for a moment, Hadwin Stephenson answered the call. "Aunt? I'm Hadwin Stephenson."

Mrs. Sweeney, who was on the other end of the line, was surprised "You... Why did you answer the phone? Where's

Lina?"

"She wasn't feeling well just now, so I brought her to the hospital. The doctor is still examining her," said Hadwin Stephenson.

"What?" Mrs. Sweeney's surprised mutter came from the other end of the line. Then, Mrs. Sweeney hurriedly asked Hadwin Stephenson for the hospital address and ended the conversation.

Hadwin Stephenson put away the phone and leaned against the wall. Looking at the phone in his hand, he murmured, "Lina, what should I do with you?"

'A month? Should I let her stay with me for a month and then we'll go our own ways a month later?

'But can I let her go again after spending a month with her?

'Perhaps it's best if I just be with her. But does she love me?

Or maybe she just came back to me because she feels sorry

for me and wants to give the baby a complete family after

Katherine Jackson told her the truth.

3/4 'If... she doesn't love me all that much, can I be with her for the rest of my life? If she's only doing it for the kid and to make up for the guilt...

Mr. Sweeney and Mrs. Sweeney happened to reach the

hospital when Lina's examination results came out. Mrs. Sweeney rushed up to the doctor and asked, "Doctor, how's my daughter?"

"The patient was agitated, so there were some signs of miscarriage. The patient has shown some signs before, so it's best if she can try to control her emotions from now on. Otherwise, she'll still face the risk of miscarriage later into her pregnancy," the doctor replied.

Mrs. Sweeney repeatedly spoke to the doctor, while Mr. Sweeney went up to Hadwin Stephenson and said, "I know Lina misunderstood you before and broke your heart, but she's pregnant with your child. Even if you don't want to get back together with her, please don't trigger her."

Hadwin Stephenson was silent and did not say anything.

Mr. Sweeney did not go on but went into the ward with Mrs. Sweeney to see their daughter. Hadwin Stephenson took out a phone and ordered his subordinate on the other end of the line, "Take care of Lina's hospital expenses, and find two

attentive caretakers..."

After he was done giving orders, Hadwin Stephenson left the hospital

'Lina... What should I do with her?'

Chapter 1945

When Hadwin Stephenson returned to Stephenson Residence, he saw his long-lost mother in the living room.

Wearing elegant clothes and expensive jewelry, she seemed

to want everyone to know that she was now the owner of the Stephenson family.

She was neither kind nor mean to him. They were rather partners than mother and son.

She gave him life, did not mistreat him in providing for his basic needs, put in a lot of effort to train him, and even tried to protect him when his father's first wife wanted to hurt him.

One could say that his mother had contributed a lot to get him to where he was today.

However, his mother only saw him as a tool to turn her fate

around.

She did not have much affection for his father either. She chose to be a homewrecker to live a luxurious life. Of course, her ambitions did not stop there, so she went to great lengths to conceive him and then raise him.

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When he was a child, his mother often said to him, “You’re a child of the Stephenson family, just like the sons of the first wife. You have the blood of the Stephenson family running in you. If you don’t inherit the Stephenson family, the first wife’s going to kill us. If you don’t want to die, you can only keep climbing until your father lets you inherit the Stephenson family!”

Therefore, he kept climbing as he thought that was the whole point of being alive.

However, he realized there was something else to life after he met Lina.

Perhaps it was what people did sometimes. The more they lacked something, the more they wanted it. He had always lived amidst conspiracies, so Lina’s straightforwardness attracted him. He did not have to guess what schemes she was up to or what ideas she had.

She was so simple yet strangely attractive to him.

When he came back to his senses, he realized that she was the only one he wanted.

If... all those things had not happened, perhaps he and Lina would already be together.

Hadwin Stephenson asked, “Mom, what are you doing here?

You never liked coming here?

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The first wife used to live here, so his mother did not like it. She bought another house somewhere else and rarely came over.

“I heard Lina went to your company today and stayed in your office all morning,” said Emily Flowers.

Hadwin Stephenson’s eyes glimmered. It seemed that the person his mother arranged in the company had diligently reported the news to her.

“It’s true,” he said.

“Why did you let that woman stay in your office? Who knows what kind of gossip will come out of it? Tell the company’s security guards to stop her from entering the company,” said Emily Flowers.

“Mom, this is between her and me. Stay out of it.” Hadwin Stephenson rejected his mother’s proposal.

Emily Flowers seemed displeased. “You’re not thinking of being with this woman, are you? Don’t forget. You told me she didn’t want to be with you when you came back from Emerald City and you won’t have

anything to do with her anymore! Besides, what's so good about a woman like her? Many socialites in J City are interested in you. You--"

"That's enough. Mom, I know what I'm doing. I never said I want to be with her. Hadwin Stephenson interrupted his mother.

"That would be best," said Emily Flowers. She found her son more and more confusing over the years.

Chapter 1946

For example, her son's plot against the Jackson family was all linked to one another. She was terrified after finding out about it later.

She never thought that her son would set up such a plot and bring down the Jackson family in one fell swoop. Her son had gotten more shrewd over the years.

Fortunately, he was her son, and she had nothing to fear. All she had to do was enjoy her life.

"Mom, I'd like to go to bed if there's nothing else," said Hadwin Stephenson as he raised his hand and rubbed his brow.

Emily Flowers looked at her clearly exhausted son and said, "Okay, have a good rest. I'll go home first. It's your birthday in a few days and I'm throwing you a birthday party this year. I've also invited many of tMason Swansonty's influential people. Remember to show up on time.""

Her son had broken up with Katherine Jackson this year, while Stephenson Group had taken over half of the Jackson family's businesses. She used to behave obsequiously with the Jackson family, but she could finally hold her head high now. She was spreading the word and would pick a wife she liked for her

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"Oh, dear, it's just a couple of photos. How serious could it be that you got yourself into the hospital?" said Mr. Sweeney.

"I'm sorry for worrying you. I'll try my best to control my emotions from now on," said Lina.

"Okay, okay. Don't get too triggered in the future. Even if

you have any difficulty, we'll help you figure it out," said Mrs. Sweeney. Then, she discussed with Mr. Sweeney about staying the night to take care of their daughter.

"Just go back to the hotel and rest. You don't need to spend the night here. Didn't the doctor also say I'm doing fine? I just have to stay in the hospital for two days to make sure that the baby's safe before discharging."

"But we're worried about having you stay in the hospital alone," said Mrs. Sweeney. Especially since the ward was a single ward, so no one would know if anything happened to her daughter if she was alone.

Just then, two caretakers knocked on the door and entered the

ward, stating that they were caretakers Hadwin Stephenson

had hired. They would be responsible for taking care of Lina in the hospital.

Lina immediately said to her parents, “Mom and Dad, you don’t have to worry now. There are two people taking care of

me at night. You should just go back to the hotel and rest. You can visit me and take care of me during the day.”

Mr. Sweeney and Mrs. Sweeney finally went back to the hotel after seeing that there were two caretakers around. They were also persuaded by their daughter.

Lina lay down on the hospital bed to sleep after washing up.

After all, she was tired after such a long day and soon fell asleep.

The two caretakers divided their duties. One would stay the night while the other went home to rest. They would switch duties later in the day.

The night was dark and the ward was quiet.

Chapter 1947

When it was the wee hours of the morning, the caretaker froze when she heard the door open. Then, she saw the door being pushed open and a tall figure walked in.

“Excuse me, Sir...”

“Go out first. I want to see her alone,” said Hadwin Stephenson.

“But...” The caretaker seemed hesitant.

“I’m Hadwin Stephenson. Does that put your mind at rest?” he said.

The caretaker froze. Hadwin Stephenson? The person who arranged the job told her to take good care of the pregnant woman and that the person who assigned the job was from Stephenson Group.

She knew that the head of Stephenson Group was called Hadwin Stephenson, but it was the first time she was seeing what Hadwin Stephenson looked like.

The caretaker left the ward quickly without saying anything and closed the door quietly.

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Hadwin Stephenson looked down at the sleeping Lina. The moonlight shone on her face through the glass window, allowing him to see her sleeping face.

His heart, which had been restless the entire night, seemed to finally calm down after seeing her.

“Lina, how much do you love me? How much of what you said is true?” muttered Hadwin Stephenson, but no one gave him

an answer.

Moments later, he pulled her phone out of his pocket, placed it on her bedside table, and left the ward.

When Lina woke up the next day, she instantly froze when she saw her phone on the bedside table. Then, she quickly asked the caretaker, "Did someone come over last night?"

Sure enough, she heard Hadwin Stephenson's name from the caretaker.

'I could have seen him if I hadn't slept so soundly yesterday!' Lina thought regretfully. Then, she turned on her phone and went to her photo album. She wondered if he had deleted anything else.

However, the next moment, she was stunned.

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The number of photos in her photo album had increased

instead of decreased. All the deleted photos were restored. Not one was missing!

'Did he have it restored?' Lina was filled with joy.

'Hadwin restored the photos. Does that mean he still has feelings for me? Did he restore the photos because he doesn't want me to be sad?'

As soon as Mr. Sweeney and Mrs. Sweeney entered the ward in the morning, they saw their daughter holding her phone while giggling.

"Didn't you say yesterday that you left your phone with Hadwin Stephenson?" asked Mr. Sweeney.

"Hadwin sent it over," Lina said happily.

"He was here last night?"

"Yes, but I was asleep. I'll see him when I discharge from the hospital," said Lina, suddenly having a lot of hope for the

future.

"Don't... land yourself in the hospital again when you see him,"

said Mrs. Sweeney.

Lina said, "Got it. Mom and Dad, don't worry. Hadwin and I

have made a deal. It'll be for a month. During this month, he won't reject me from seeing him. But if he still doesn't want to be with me a month later, I'll return to Emerald City with you."

Chapter 1948

"Only for a month?" Mrs. Sweeney could not help but worry. The time was too short. Could Hadwin Stephenson be

convinced to get back together with her daughter in such a short time?

Lina smiled gently. "If he still has feelings for me, one month is enough time. If he has no feelings for me, then even a year is useless."

Mrs. Sweeney sighed, "Okay, we'll stay out of what's going on between you and him. Whether you leave or stay, we'll be with you."

Mr. Sweeney also nodded, agreeing with his wife.

Lina gripped the phone in her hands a little tighter.

Hadwin and her would have something worked out in a month.

In the prison meeting room, Jason looked at Secretary Wang. "You altered my memory when you had someone hypnotize me."

Secretary Wang smiled. "It seems you've found out about it, Young Master"

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"Did you do all these unnecessary things for Old master Reed and the Reed family?" Jason's voice was tinged with a chill.

"Of course," Secretary Wang said with no sense of guilt.

Jason said coldly, "For Old master Reed and the Reed family? It's just your arrogance and the twisted pleasure you get from controlling other people's lives. It all ends here. You'll stay in this prison forever. No matter how good you behave, you'll never get your sentence reduced. Grace and I will lead a good life together. Grace will forever be the only mistress of the Reed family and my wife."

Secretary Wang's expression changed a little before suddenly saying, "Young master Reed, you've always been skeptical. Do you really believe in Grace? Do you believe that it didn't bother her when you did nothing and let her go to prison for three years? Maybe she'll betray you one day anyway. After all, never twice without three times, right?"

Secretary Wang seemed to want to sow seeds of doubt into Jason's mind, and every word would provoke Jason's suspicion

of Grace.

However, he was let down in the end because Jason's

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expression did not change. He just looked at him coldly.

"Is that all you got? If I can't trust the woman who loves me the most in the world, who else can I trust? No matter what happens to her and me, I trust her and will never doubt her love for me," said Jason.

After recovering all his memories, he finally understood how much she loved him.

He had always thought that she loved the children more and that the children were the main reason she stayed with him, but he suddenly recalled that she had once given up on herself and the children for him.

He was the one she sacrificed everything to save.

How could he not believe in such a woman?

"I won't come here to see you anymore." Jason got up. "But you

should still be able to read the news in prison. Then maybe you'll see that having a weakness isn't all bad. Only when you have weaknesses can you be human!"

It was Grace who made him realize what it meant to be alive.

His weakness was Grace, and it would be the same for the rest of his life!

Chapter 1949

Jason walked out of the cold meeting room. The calm and collected expression on Secretary Wang's face finally changed

"Be human... Be human... How can having a weakness not be a bad thing? How is that possible... I did everything for the

Reed family and Old master Reed..."

Secretary Wang shouted hysterically, which Jason could not hear, of course. Even if Jason could, he would not have cared.

Terrence respectfully opened the door of a black car that was waiting for him outside the prison.

"Let's go home," ordered Jason.

As the car drove slowly toward Reed Residence, Terrence said, "Young master Reed, someone has been looking into Lily

recently."

Jason's eyes narrowed slightly. "Who's investigating Lily?" Lily was already dead. Even the Atkinson family wanted nothing to do with Lily. Who would be investigating Lily now?

"It's the Barlow family from Deer City," replied Terrence.

Jason's thin lips slowly spat out a sentence. "The Barlow family? Philip Barlow?"

"If there's no mistake, it should be him. The Barlow family must know about the feud between Lily and the Reed family, so there must be something going on since they dare to secretly look into Lily. Besides, without Philip Barlow's consent, the rest of the Barlow family wouldn't have the guts to do so."

Jason pondered for a moment before asking, "Why does the Barlow family want to look into Lily?"

"We don't know at the moment, but they've been looking up what Lily did in the last five years or so... It seems they're also checking whether Lily has given birth," said Terrence.

"Keep your eyes on them and find out what the Barlow family wants to know," ordered Jason.

Terrence responded.

Once the car reached Reed Residence, Jason got out and learned from Uncle Kwan that Grace and the children were now in the back garden.

Jason then walked to the back garden, only to see Grace playing Chinese jump rope with the three children there. It was a game that could even be said to be ancient.

It was also rare to see anyone playing Chinese jump rope nowadays.

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William and Mick Reed stood on two sides with the rubber band rope attached to their calves, obediently being two pillars. Jasper stood on another side of the rubber band rope while Grace showed the three children how to play the game.

Her long hair was tied into a simple ponytail, and she was wearing light blue sportswear. The most simple rubber band rope kept changing into new patterns at her feet. She was like a dancing butterfly that he could hardly take his eyes off.

The three little ones watched intently. It was obviously their first time seeing this. In particular, Jasper kept clapping her hands and looked eager to try. If Grace was not skipping, the

little one would have rushed over and skipped on her own!

When Grace finished skipping, she realized Jason had walked over at some point. She could not help asking, "When did you get home?"

"Just now." Jason smiled. "I just noticed that you're good at Chinese jump rope."

"I'm not that good. I haven't played this for years and almost forgot how to do it," said Grace. When she was a child in the small town, there was not much to do for entertainment, so

most girls would get together and play Chinese jump rope between classes or after school.

Chapter 1950

Jasper was shouting, "Daddy, Daddy, watch me skip!"

With that said, Jasper skipped with the rubber band rope just like Grace. Out of the corners of his eyes, Jason glanced at William, who was standing nearby as he watched his adorable daughter skip.

'The Barlow family of Deer City is looking into Lily. What do they have to do with the boy in front of me?

'What did Lily have to do with the Barlow family? If Lily had something to do with the Barlow family, given her character, she probably would not have committed suicide in prison but would have used the Barlow family to get even.

'Unless she had no idea she had something to do with the
Barlow family!'

With that in mind, contemplation flashed across Jason's eyes.

Jasper had just learned this new game, so she accidentally tripped over the rubber band rope. Grace quickly helped the little one get up. She saw that Jasper Reed's pants were scuffed, so she carefully rolled up her daughter's pant legs, thinking the child might have skinned her knees.

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William and Mick Reed also surrounded Jasper and saw that her fair calves and knees were scratched and even bleeding a little.

"Does it hurt?" asked Mick Reed.

"Only a little," Jasper said bravely, but the expression on her little face revealed the pain she felt.

When Grace treated her daughter's wounds, the little one screamed like a pig being slaughtered. Her almond-shaped eyes that resembled Grace's were teary.

Jason's heart broke, and he wished he could take his daughter's place.

After Grace applied the medicine for her daughter, Mick Reed and William reached out their hands to her face almost at the same time. However, it was Mick Reed's hand that touched her face and wiped away her tears.

"Put a mat on the floor when you play Chinese jump rope in the future so you won't hurt yourself when you fall," said Mick

Reed.

William silently withdrew his hand with a flash of disappointment in his eyes. If it was possible, he wished he could wipe her tears away and make her stop crying.

3/4

ount Cummins had transferred him to a new kindergarten where no one knew that he was the son of a criminal. They only thought that he was a relative of the Reed family and did not discriminate against him in the kindergarten.

However, he still felt like a misfit in the Reed family.

Many people here would give him strange looks as if reminding him that he was the son of a criminal, and his mother had deeply hurt members of the Reed family!

Suddenly, William's tiny body stiffened when he noticed Jason's eyes staring at him. They were both sharp and alert.

He felt immobilized as he faced that gaze.

'Is it because I'm still a kid? Is that why I feel so helpless?' For a moment, William suddenly wished to grow up.

If he was all grown up, would he not feel so helpless?

At night, Grace asked Jason, "You seemed to be watching William a lot today, so much so that the child's face was a little pale. What's going on?"

Jason raised his eyebrows slightly, not expecting her to have noticed.

"What do you think of William?" asked Jason.