

Ex Convict 1981

Chapter 1981

Hadwin Stephenson frowned. "What, were you hoping to do other things as well?"

'Uh... forget I said anything!

As a result, Hadwin Stephenson spent the rest of the morning discussing with Lina the distance she should maintain with her idols.

In the afternoon, Lina continued to stay in Hadwin

Stephenson's office. She ate snacks and drank bird's nest. She was having the time of her life.

The senior executives and secretaries who often made trips to the president's office had also gotten used to it. They were even respectful to Lina. Anyone could see that she was

probably the future mistress of the Stephenson family.

When people finally stopped going in or out of the office, Lina suddenly stopped. She seemed to stiffen and look down at her belly in disbelief.

"What's the matter?" Hadwin Stephenson immediately noticed her strange behavior.

time and keep an eye on her.

Lina looked up at Hadwin Stephenson while blinking. She saw Hadwin Stephenson putting down the pen in his hand. He got up and hurried toward her.

"I think... the baby just kicked," she murmured.

Hadwin Stephenson suddenly stopped. Then, the two of them just stared at each other. "The baby kicked?" His voice was a little out of tune.

It was not that he did not know what it meant. He knew that

she was pregnant and that it was normal for the baby to kick this far along in the pregnancy, but... he had an indescribable feeling when he related the baby's movement to the woman in front of him.

Hadwin Stephenson went up to Lina, sat beside her, and stared intently at her slightly bulging belly.

"Hey, they're kicking again. Touch my belly!" Lina suddenly shouted and pulled Hadwin Stephenson's hand to her belly.

Instantly, he felt a slight movement in her belly through the thin layer of clothing. It was so slight it was easy to ignore. It was a wonderful feeling that made him realize that her belly was carrying a tiny human life. It was a tiny human life that belonged to both of them!

"Hey, I learned online that the baby's movements would feel like bubbles being blown. I didn't know it was true. Is this baby blowing amniotic fluid bubbles in my belly..." mumbled Lina.

Hadwin Stephenson quietly felt the baby's movement.

Just then, there was suddenly a knock on the office door. The secretary opened it and hurried in.

Hadwin Stephenson frowned slightly, and the secretary momentarily froze after seeing what was going on. Then, they quickly said, "President, there's news... about Miss Sweeney online. Some reporters have gathered downstairs, but the security guards have stopped them."

"News?" Hadwin Stephenson's eyes glimmered.

Lina asked in surprise, "News about me? What news? Where can I read it?"

"Miss Sweeney, just check XX's trending post if you want to read it," the secretary said.

Lina immediately turned on her phone and looked for the trending posts. Then, she almost choked when she saw the trending post about herself.

She immediately tapped on it to take a closer look. Anthony Sherman had posted a post on Weibo claiming that the girlfriend he got to know on a blind date was pregnant with

his baby but

she left him for a rich man. She told the rich man that the baby was his, making him misunderstand.

414

Anthony Sherman wondered if he should tell the rich man that the woman's unborn child was not his.

Onlookers found out Anthony Sherman's so called girlfriend was actually Lina, and some people posted recent photos of Lina and Hadwin Stephenson together. Her baby bump was somewhat obvious now.

Hence, they confirmed Lina and Hadwin Stephenson were the pregnant girlfriend and the rich man mentioned.

Chapter 1982

The number of netizens interested in the topic increased and the post went viral.

Lina gaped at the post. Although the post did not name

anyone, they had uncovered everything about her and Hadwin Stephenson.

Besides, the post was now so viral but Anthony Sherman did not deny anything, seemingly acknowledging what the

netizens had uncovered.

Lina could not help recalling Anthony Sherman's strange

phone call today. 'Was he apologizing... for this?

'But... the baby in my belly has nothing to do with Anthony

Sherman. Why would he say that?'

Grace looked up and saw Hadwin Stephenson also holding a phone while looking at the trending post. His beautiful face seemed gloomy.

Lina's heart suddenly seemed to have skipped a beat.

"Hadwin... The baby in my belly really isn't Anthony Sherman's. I swear nothing's going on between us..." Lina eagerly tried to

explain.

said, "Go out and reject whoever is asking for an interview.

Also, tell the company's employees to know what they should and should not say!"

"Yes," the secretary replied and quickly walked out of the office.

The huge office was suddenly quiet again.

It was so quiet Lina could feel her own breathing and heartbeat.

Hadwin... didn't misunderstand, did he? Would he think something's going on between Anthony Sherman and me and that I'm fooling him?"

She had no idea why Anthony Sherman, who had helped her so much, would do something like that. However, she was scared of Hadwin misunderstanding her!

She did not want them to argue over a misunderstanding and separate again.

Lina's lips quivered. She knew she should explain, but her voice seemed to be stuck in her throat. She could not even utter a word.

Hadwin Stephenson looked up, only to see Lina's pale face. She had large beads of sweat on her forehead. When he raised his hand to wipe them away, she began trembling slightly.

312

"I... I..." Her lips moved, but there was palpable fear in her face

"Did the way I look just now scare you?" His rage subsided when he realized it. He got up and said, "I'll arrange someone to take you home while avoiding those reporters. Wait for me. to..."

However, before he could take more than two steps, she suddenly grasped his hand. "I'm not afraid of what you looked like just now. I'm just afraid you'll misunderstand!"

She went all out and said it. Then, she took two deep breaths. Yes, her greatest fear was them having another misunderstanding!

She gripped his hand with a quiver. It was as if she was afraid that things would go back to the way they were when they had so many misunderstandings if she let go of him.

Hadwin Stephenson's gaze moved from her trembling hand to her pale cheeks. Her round eyes were misty, making his heart

ache.

Chapter 1983

"I won't misunderstand. I know the baby in your belly must be mine, and you won't have that kind of relationship with Anthony Sherman either," said Hadwin Stephenson as he bent over and caressed Lina's face.

"Are you sure... you won't misunderstand?" she muttered.

He said, "Yes, because I'm the only one you love, aren't I?"

When Lina heard that, she suddenly cried and embraced Hadwin Stephenson's neck. She started crying on his shoulder "I... I only love you... Hadwin, you... You're the only one I've ever loved. I... I've never been intimate with anyone. I never... Never.."

She cried like a child.

He soothed her gently. "Okay, okay. I understand. You don't have to worry about this. I'll take care of it, and I won't let yo

suffer this undeserved injustice. Stop crying. Didn't the doct say your greatest task now is to be happy? It'll be good for 1 baby."

Upon hearing the mention of the baby in the belly, Lina hurriedly said, "Okay, okay, I'll stop crying... I'll stop crying.. However, her shoulders still could not help twitching.

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Hadwin Stephenson looked at the sleeping figure, and tender affection flashed across his eyes.

He placed her carefully on the couch and covered her with a thin blanket.

It was not until he finished doing all these that his face darkened. The incident might seem to be only one post from Anthony Sherman, but it was definitely not accidental that it went viral. Someone did it on purpose.

'But who's the mastermind behind Anthony Sherman? Who on earth wants Lina to bear this disgrace?'

Just as he tried to turn around to leave, Lina's hand

unconsciously held his hand, making him stop in his tracks.

"Hadwin... Let's not... misunderstand each other anymore...

What's on the internet... isn't true..." She seemed to be talking in her dream. She was even frowning in her sleep.

Hadwin Stephenson looked down blankly at her uneasy sleeping face and sat down again. "Don't worry. I won't let anyone who harms you off the hook. It has always been this way, and it will always... be this way."

When Lina woke up, she found herself holding Hadwin Stephenson's hand while he sat next to the couch, maintainin the same posture.

3/3

She quickly let go of his hand. "Did I make your hand go numb? If I hold your hand in my sleep, you can just pull it out. There's no need to indulge me."

He smiled faintly. "I'm reluctant to do that."

She froze. "You're reluctant?"

"Yes, you still held my hand even when you had fallen asleep. It made me feel like you couldn't live without me and you needed me," said Hadwin Stephenson.

Lina's face could not help redden slightly, but then she seemed to recall something and shouted, "Oh, yes. My parents..."

"I got someone to pick up your parents and send them to my private mansion. Don't worry. They won't be disturbed!"

Lina was relieved. 'As long as my parents won't be disturbed by the reporters.

She looked out of the window and realized it was already dark. She picked up her phone and checked the time. It was already eight. She had slept for so long.

Chapter 1984

At the same time, her stomach growled as if to remind her that she had missed dinnertime.

"Are you hungry? I'll ask the chef to prepare dinner. We'll

go home right now. WE should be able to eat when we reach," said Hadwin Stephenson as he made a phone call to Stephenson Residence. He relayed what he wanted for dinner, took Lina's hand, and walked out of the office.

However, instead of heading to the main entrance like usual, they went to the side entrance. However, the side entrance was also packed with reporters. Fortunately, Hadwin Stephenson had arranged many security guards here.

Although the reporters tried to squeeze over, they could not get close to Hadwin Stephenson and Lina.

Hadwin Stephenson protected Lina as they walked forward, and the reporters kept asking all sorts of sharp questions.

Suddenly, a female reporter asked a question. "Mr. Hadwin Stephenson, Miss Lina was your girlfriend five years ago. Do you want to make things up to her because of guilt? Is that why you won't say

anything? Even though she's fooling you, are you still going to be kind to her and not expose her in front of others?"

felt like she had nowhere to hide under his gaze.

It was as if he had seen right through her.

"What's the matter? Is it as I said?" The female reporter went on as she bit the bullet.

Lina gripped Hadwin Stephenson's right hand as she pressed her lips together tightly. She hung her head low as if all the commotion around her had nothing to do with her.

Only Hadwin Stephenson knew how nervous and flustered she was. His fingers hurt faintly from her grip. Her body was tense as a layer of cold sweat broke out on her palms.

The way she looked broke his heart. He had failed to protect her back then and could only watch her get hurt. Was he still going to fail at protecting her this time?

All these years, he kept making himself stronger by conspiring and plotting. All he wanted was to be able to protect her, right?

"I can tell you that the baby in Miss Lina's stomach is mine. They're going to be the heir of the Stephenson family whether they're a boy or a girl!"

There was an uproar around them as soon as he said that.

If Hadwin Stephenson had only acknowledged the baby, they could say that he was guilty or trying to make amends.

he was going to hand over the Stephenson family to the baby 3/3

in Lina's stomach... Then there was only one possibility!

The baby in Lina's stomach was indeed Hadwin Stephenson's!

After all, no man would give his family fortune to a child who was not biologically related to him.

Besides, Hadwin Stephenson was still young and at his prime age. If he wanted children, plenty of women would be willing to give him a baby. He had no reason to give his family fortune to a child with unknown blood ties.

Lina also looked up in surprise. She stared blankly at Hadwin Stephenson as if she could not believe what she had just heard.

Hadwin Stephenson said nothing else after that, and he led Lina into the car.

Chapter 1985

The closed car door isolated them from the commotion outside, and the car slowly drove away.

Lina was still looking blankly at Hadwin Stephenson. She was in a daze.

“Why are you looking at me like that?” Hadwin Stephenson’s voice rang in her ears.

Lina then instantly came to her senses. “You didn’t have to say that just to silence the reporters. The heir of the Stephenson family... That’s too...” For a moment, Lina had no idea how to describe it.

Hadwin Stephenson smiled. “If your child isn’t the heir of the Stephenson family, then whose child should be the heir of the Stephenson family?”

Lina froze. She heard Hadwin Stephenson continue saying,

“Lina, you’ll forever be the only mother of my children, and the father of your children will only be me. So your child will be the heir of the Stephenson family. This fact will never change.”

Lina’s eyes could not help watering. Although the man kept refusing to tell her he had ‘forgiven’ her, he kept showing her how much he loved her and that they were bound to be together with his actions.

“Hadwin, falling in love with you is indeed amazing,” said Lina. 2/3

Hadwin Stephenson raised his hand to gently wipe Lina’s wet eyes. “Alright, stay in the mansion for a few days. You have nothing to worry or think about. I’ll take care of everything.”

“Okay.” Her eyes were full of trust for him. Moments later, she added, “But I don’t know why Anthony Sherman did this. He doesn’t really like me that much. He just likes me a little, but... that affection looks more like friendship to me.””

“Don’t think about it if you can’t understand it. We’ll know after we look into it,” Hadwin Stephenson said grimly.

‘What I’m more curious about is who’s behind Anthony Sherman. Is it what I think it is? And...! He stared at her tenderly.

In fact... falling in love with her was what was amazing.

Grace was stunned when she saw the news about her best friend online. Fortunately, based on the latest related news, Hadwin Stephenson seemed to trust Lina fully and even said that the child in Lina’s belly would be the heir of the Stephenson family. That came as a relief to Grace.

However, she still called her best friend. “What happened? Why did Anthony Sherman spread rumors on purpose? He doesn’t strike me as someone like that”

“Got it. I won’t go easy on you,” Lina said with a smile. Suddenly, she seemed to recall something and said, “By the way, Kyla called me to ask about what happened. But Kyla’s voice sounded a little off when we talked about Nelson. Is Nelson okay?”

Grace could not help but think of the little girl threatening Nelson at the primary school and said, “I’ll go visit Kyla and see if they’re in trouble.”

“Okay, great. I hope I’m just overthinking,” said Lina.

Compared to Lina, who was glad that there was no misunderstanding, Emily Flowers was furious.

When she saw footage of the scene playing on the news and how her son said to so many reporters and cameras that the baby in Lina’s stomach would be the Stephenson family’s heir whether they were a boy or girl, she felt like she was slapped

in the face.

Her son ignored her and seemed to be telling everyone to lay their hands off Lina, as well as telling the world Lina’s future identity.

Since Lina’s child would be the Stephenson family’s future heir, then the future mistress of the Stephenson family could only

“Mr. Stephenson, these are the people Anthony Sherman have gotten in touch with recently. He has resigned and booked a flight out of the country after his post went viral. It was as if he knew this was going to happen.” A man placed an investigation report in front of Hadwin Stephenson.

Hadwin Stephenson looked through the report. His eyes narrowed when he saw a name. It seemed that she was indeed the culprit behind Lina’s undeserved misfortune this time.

The report showed that Anthony Sherman was at the airport when he called Lina. There was a trace of shock in Hadwin Stephenson’s eyes when he saw a line of words when he got to the back of the investigation report.

It... surprised him!

Just then, his phone rang and a panicked voice came from the other end. “Mr. Stephenson, Madam called the police. Many police officers came and Madam has now left the mansion. We couldn’t stop her.”

The ‘Madam’ they were talking about was naturally Hadwin Stephenson’s mother-Emily Flowers.

Hadwin Stephenson pondered for a moment. “I see. Return to the mansion and protect the place.”

He thought his mother would prefer to heap the fortys scandals on the down-low, but the unexpectedly onlar the potice to fores her way out it was probably going to be ol Over the news tomorrow

He could almost guess what his mother was up to Had he been too king to his momer?

Hadwin Stephenson looked down, hiding the sadness in his eyes.

I hope I got it wrong. If Mom doesn't go that for, perhaps i con let her off the hook and let her continue living her life in luxury and comfort. If she really.

Chapter 1987

On the same day, Emily Flowers held a press conference and said that she would never acknowledge the baby in Lina's stomach as the Stephenson family's future heir. She also openly doubted that the baby in Lina's stomach was not her son's. At the same time, Emily Flowers stated that Lina was only a vain woman who thought she could get to the top with the baby in her stomach and she hoped her son would not be deceived again.

If her son persisted, she would use her ten percent shares in Stephenson Group to join forces with other shareholders to oppose her son from remaining as Stephenson Group's president.

It was because a man fooled by a woman was no longer fit to be president.

Emily Flowers made an impassioned speech at the press conference, saying that she must protect Stephenson Group, which was left by her late husband. Even though Hadwin Stephenson was her own son, she could not sit idly by and watch her son destroy the company.

In the office, Hadwin Stephenson looked coldly at the video of the press conference on the computer screen and smiled sarcastically.

212

deprive me of everything and find a new obedient pawn.

'Is she trying to take my power and take control of Stephenson Group?

'But she seems to have forgotten that I gave her that ten percent of shares. Since I could give it to her, I've thought of all possible consequences!

Lina, who was resting in Stephenson Residence, saw the press conference too. When Hadwin Stephenson came home, Lina said uneasily, "I'm sorry. You and your mother are in this state because of me."

Although she disliked Emily Flowers, she was his mother, after all.

Hadwin Stephenson said, "You're just a trigger. Even without you, my mother and I would have come to this point sooner or later."

There was a look of confusion in her eyes.

He said sarcastically, "To my mother, I'm just a pawn for her to gain power and wealth. The most important thing for a pawn is to obey. If it stops obeying, she would need to get a new one."

Lina's face was full of shock, not expecting the mother and son's relationship to be... this way. Although he seldom

dating she thought he

3/3

However, she felt a little heartbroken after the shock.

When they met in a foreign country, he looked like a simple young man to her, innocent and sunny. However, she never expected him to carry so many burdens.

"Alright, don't look at me like that. It's as if I'm pathetic." Hadwin Stephenson looked at the woman before him, who seemed like she was about to burst into tears. He said, "I don't mind being a pawn. Even if I'm going to be someone's pawn someday, I'll probably be willing."

After so many years, he was used to having his mother treat him like a pawn. They had never been close anyway.

Even now, how was he not Lina's pawn? Even though she said nothing, he was willing to fight for her. If she was going to use him one day, then... all she needed to do was ask him. He would be willing to do it.

The next moment, those slender arms were wrapped around him with such force that her melodious voice broke a little.

"You're not a pawn. You're you, not anyone's pawn!"

2/3 Flowers had the upper hand. Many old shareholders holding Stephenson Group's shares had expressed support for Emily Flowers.

Chapter 1988

Although Hadwin Stephenson held 35 percent of the shares, much more than Emily Flowers's, if most of the shareholders were taking Emily Flowers's side, Hadwin Stephenson was likely to lose.

Grace had been following the news these days.

After coming back from L City, she did not tell Jason that she had gone there. She had also told the children not to tell him. It was just a secret that belonged to them!

Jason did not ask any questions. It was as if she never took the children away for a few days.

"Do you think Hadwin Stephenson will win?" Grace asked Jason.

"I don't know. You never know who will win until the last minute," Jason said indifferently.

“If Hadwin Stephenson’s mother defeats him, should we give him a hand?” asked Grace. After all, Hadwin Stephenson and her best friend had gotten back together, so she wanted

Hadwin Stephenson to win, of course.

“Did Lina ask you to help?” asked Jason.

3/3

Stephenson asked her not to worry.”

Jason smiled. “Since Hadwin Stephenson said so, he has a backup plan. You have nothing to worry about.”

Grace thought about it and agreed, so she said nothing more and got up to see if the children were asleep.

She had just gotten up when he grabbed her from behind. She could not even take her first step. She instantly fell into his

arms.

“What’s the matter, Jay?” she asked.

“Did you miss me when you were gone?” His voice rang in her ears as his thin lips parted gently and sucked on her earlobe.

Grace instantly blushed as her ears burned. “I... I did miss you.” If it were not for their agreement about not telling him whenever she went to see Mrs. Watts, she probably would have video called him from time to time when she was in L City.

“How much did you miss me?” His lips ran down her ears, neck, and shoulders while his fingers unzipped her dress.

The dress she was wearing today had a zip at the back, which made it easier for him to undo her dress.

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Chapter 1989

“I missed you very much... Don’t. I have to go to the children’s rooms and check on them. You’re...” Grace tried to pull the

zipper back up again, but he stopped her as soon as her hand moved.

His lips seemed to be worshiping and kissing the fair skin on her back reverently and intently. If one looked closely, there were many fine scars that she had gotten from when she fell into the sea.

Although many years had passed, those scars still let him know how close she was to death.

Even though he hated Secretary Wang, he still felt grateful to him for one thing. At least, Secretary Wang had someone save Grace and their children in the end.

Therefore, he kept Secretary Wang alive and let him stay in prison for the rest of his life to atone for his sins.

“Fortunately, you’re alive...” Jason could not help muttering.

Grace trembled, knowing what he was referring to. "Is... Is my back ugly? It's been years. Luckily, I just got some scars on my

back and all three children are with us!"

Now that Mason had been found, she felt like she had no

2/3

"No, you have a beautiful back... It's the most beautiful to me!" he said because it was also proof that she loved him.

She loved him enough to risk her life to save him!

Jason kissed more intently, and Grace's skin seemed to be stained with a touch of pink, making it look extremely gorgeous.

Suddenly, Jason carried her in his arms and walked to the nearby bed.

"Hey, wait, I want to..." Before she could finish, he lay her on the bed, pressed his hands on hers, and interlocked them.

He lowered his head and bent down, his beautiful face inches before her.

"I can't wait any longer." He croaked with his attractive voice. "I want you to tell me how much you missed me!"

It was clear in his eyes that he wanted her!

Grace felt that his gaze had captured her mind.

"Grace, do you want it?" His lips kissed hers repeatedly.

"Yes..." The longing these days turned into desire. She began to take the lead, reaching the tip of her tongue out and deepening the kiss.

He opened his mouth and catered to her...

3/3

She was the only one in the world who could make him cater to someone like that. There would be no one else but her!

In William's bedroom, Jasper ran over to sleep with William again. She was wrapped in her small blanket. She said she was afraid he would have trouble sleeping at night because he was not used to the place.

Therefore, she would come here to tell him bedtime stories to put him to sleep.

However, she was always the first one to fall asleep!

William looked at Jasper Reed, who was already sleeping soundly beside him. His expression changed slightly. 'Actually... There are so many things I want to tell her. I want to tell her that I've learned a new musical piece, which is very difficult. She'll definitely be interested.

'Then I can play it for her and later we can play it together!

Chapter 1990

'I also want to tell her that for some reason, I have a feeling that someone is watching me these days but whenever I turn around to look, I can't see anyone.

'Am I imagining things?

'But if someone's watching me, who is it?'

As he thought of it, Jasper turned over and the blanket around her loosened a little. One of her hands was fumbling around as usual, and when it touched his hand, she quieted down again and stopped moving.

William carefully covered Jasper with the blanket with his free hand before lying down on her side.

Under the blanket, their two little hands clasped together.

He wondered how long he could sleep with her like this every night. He also knew that he was a boy and she was a girl. They should sleep separately.

Besides, his mother had harmed her family!

However, he hoped it would last longer! He liked having her sleep beside him and having her hand instinctively grasp his to fall asleep soundly.

2/3

It was as if... he was needed!

Perhaps no one in the world needed him. Perhaps he was nothing but a mere nuisance, but she needed him!

That was all that mattered!

On the other hand, a man stood in front of the French window of a presidential suite, gazing down condescendingly at the neon lights.

On the coffee table behind him was a DNA report of the two blood samples submitted. They were father and son.

Sure enough... That was his son.

The man whispered, "William?"

Who would have thought that he would get a child from the night he got into trouble in tMason Swansonty? The child's biological mother, Lily-whom he had investigated and perhaps disdained the most-had died in prison.

Regardless, Lily did a good thing by leaving the Barlow family a child with their bloodline.

Had it not been for the hospital examinations, he would have no idea that the people close to him had been drugging him over the years to cut off the Barlow family's bloodline.

3/3 He would never have another child of his own blood. In other words, William would be his only biological child.

Since the child was his flesh and blood, he had to bring him back to the Barlow family!

The man took out his phone and dialed a number. "Make the arrangements. I want to see the kid tomorrow!"

"Yes," the person on the other end of the line answered.

The next day, William met a stranger in one of the kindergarten's rooms while the children were taking their

naps.