

Ex Convict 2721

Chapter 2721

It was no wonder the people who attended the party looked doubtful when Brian took her there the last time.

Their relationship had been fake from the start. She was only a fake girlfriend.

Brian had never lied to her. Therefore, even if he said he loved her in front of outsiders, she knew better than anyone that it was fake!

She knew how different she and Brian was, so she would not fantasize about everything that should not belong to her.

After everything was over, her life would return to its usual peacefulness. She considered everything now a way to make up for his kindness after he sent someone to save her on the film set!

Just then, her phone rang. Valda Theller took the phone from her pocket to look at the caller ID. It was a phone call from Brian.

She quickly pressed the answer button.

"Are you free tomorrow night?" His cold voice came from the phone.

"Yes," she replied.

"Accompany me to a banquet tomorrow night," he said.

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She paused. "A banquet? Is it something formal?"

"I guess so," he said.

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"But... But I don't have a gown for banquets like that," she said awkwardly. She usually had no chance to wear gowns, so she did not have clothes like that in her wardrobe. Wearing her casual clothes to a party like that would only embarrass him.

"I'll prepare it for you, and I'll ask the driver to pick you up tomorrow," said Brian.

"Oh, good." She breathed a sigh of relief.

"That's settled, then. Good night," he said, ending the call.

"Wait a minute," she could not help shouting.

"What's the matter? Can I help you?" he asked.

"Do you think anyone will believe I'm your girlfriend just because you take me to a banquet? After all, I... I'm not like your old girlfriends..." she murmured.

“Why not? You’re the girlfriend I chose. Why wouldn’t anyone believe it? All you have to do is act as if you love me in front of people,” he said.

“R-Really? Okay, I see. Good night, then,” she stammered in a murmur.

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After ending the call, Valda Theller looked at her phone

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and smiled bitterly. ‘Am I... too unconfident? Do I have low self-esteem?’ She thought that she had gotten over the trauma that Raymond Bowman and Barbara Schuman gave her, but she did not realize it still existed.

Especially... when her current boyfriend was Brian-the crown prince of the entertainment industry!

Shaking her head, she told herself that she was going to be a good girlfriend no matter what!

The next day, the Hart family’s driver came to pick up Valda Theller and took her to a styling studio in Emerald City. It had a VIP membership system, and anyone who could come here was no ordinary person.

When Valda Theller walked into the studio, someone came over and asked respectfully, “Are you Miss Valda Theller?”

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“Yes,” replied Valda Theller.

“Mr. Hart has given me his instructions. Please come with me, Miss Theller,” the staff member said.

Valda Theller followed her to the fitting room, which was a large hall. Expensive beautifully-made gowns were on both sides.

However, she led Valda Theller into the innermost past without stopping.

The gowns displayed inside were far classier than the ones outside. They looked exquisite as they used a lot of beautiful pearls and gems.

“Miss Theller, Mr. Hart said you can choose anything you want. He’ll buy it for you,” she said.

Valda Theller froze. “Buy? Aren’t these for rent?”

The staff member smiled. “These gowns aren’t for rent. They’re

usually bought after being selected.”

Valda Theller hesitated and said, “Well... Wait a moment.”

The staff member nodded. Valda Theller walked to one side and dialed Brian’s phone. The line soon connected, and Brian’s voice sounded. “What’s the matter?”

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“Well... I’m here at the shop, but the staff member who’s serving me here said people buy them. Uhh... I’m just attending a banquet today. I can just rent one. It’d be a waste to buy one,” whispered Valda Theller.

“It doesn’t cost much. Just pick whatever you like and I’ll pick you up later. Don’t forget that you’re my girlfriend now.”

She froze slightly before saying, “Alright... I’ll just pick one.”

“Okay,” he said.

Putting away her phone, Valda Theller took a deep breath. ‘Yes, I’m Brian’s girlfriend. This dress is expensive to me, but it’s nothing to him.’

Besides, she would embarrass him if she dressed badly. They would make fun of him if they poked fun at her.

With that in mind, Valda Theller began to choose her gown carefully.

In the end, she chose a dark purple dress with roses made of crushed diamonds and white crystals at the hem.

“I’ll take this one,” Valda Theller said to the staff member beside her.

“Okay, follow me, please,” the staff member said as she led Valda

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Theller into the fitting room, helped her put on the gown, and then began styling her...

On the other side, Brian got prepared and went to the underground car park. His phone rang, and it was a phone call from Patrick.

He answered the phone and heard Patrick’s voice on the other end of the line. “Are you bringing someone to the banquet today?”

“Yeah,” Brian answered indifferently.

“Valda Theller?”

“Who else would it be?” he asked in reply.

"Today's banquet... Uh... As far as I know, Jason and Grace will be there too," Patrick said after hesitating for a moment. Speaking of which, Brian might have found a girlfriend, but he could not figure out how Brian felt about Valda Theller.

Was she just a temporary playmate or... was he serious about her?

"I know that," said Brian. He wanted to attend the banquet with Valda Theller because he knew that.

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*Otherwise, he would not have bothered to attend such a banquet.

"I... I see. Okay, I'll see you tonight, then," Patrick said with slight embarrassment. Then, he ended the call.

Brian walked to the car, opened the door, and got in. He started the car and slowly drove out of the underground car park.

He would see Grace again tonight. If Grace wanted to be relieved, he would give her that.

He could do anything that Grace wanted.

He recalled what had happened on the hill. She held on to his hand and never let go even though it was dangerous.

Then, her little body carried him on her back with all her strength.

At that time, he had vowed to be good to her!

The childhood oath had become a thought he could not erase.

When the car arrived at the destination, Brian got out and entered

the studio. After seeing Brian, the manager hurriedly went forward

and said, "Mr. Hart, Miss Theller has arrived and selected a gown. She's putting on makeup in the makeup room right now. Mr. Hart,

would you like to wait here in the lounge or... the makeup room?"

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"I'll go to the makeup room first," said Brian. Since he was here, he wanted to greet Valda Theller first.

However, he was slightly dumbfounded as soon as he saw Valda

Theller.

Valda Theller's makeup was almost done. As soon as she saw Brian, she got up and greeted him. "You came." She wore a gown and elaborate makeup. Even her hairdo was carefully done by the stylist.

She almost could not recognize herself when she saw herself in the mirror. Her pretty face now looked seductive and classy.

Brian looked blankly at the person in front of him. The purple gown, makeup, and hairdo reminded Brian of the first time he took

Grace to a banquet.

Back then, Grace had worn a purple gown just like this.

'Purple... is Grace's color. Grace once said she loved purple, so I kept collecting purple dresses year after year, hoping I could one day find Grace and give them to her.'

However... he still lost her in the end.

"What's the matter?" Valda Theller could not help asking when she saw Brian's blank gaze.

Rather than surprised, he seemed to be looking through her.

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Brian's eyes gradually turned clear from his previous trance.

He said, "Get another gown. This color doesn't suit you."

"Huh?" Valda Theller froze before looking down at her gown. 'It doesn't suit me? I think it's pretty.'

"Get it changed," said Brian.

"Yes, yes," the manager nearby answered hurriedly before quickly leading Valda Theller back to the dressing room to choose a gown that suited her.

Valda Theller did not know what to pick.

Brian walked over and looked at the makeup Valda Theller was wearing. He picked up a long dark pink dress and said, "Let's go with this."

Valda Theller looked at Brian's choice of gown. There was no denying that Brian had good taste. The gown was luxurious but not old-fashioned. Instead, it was vaguely playful, which was quite suitable for her age and today's makeup.

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"You can choose another gown if you don't like it," said Brian.

"No, I'll take this one," said Valda Theller.

She took the gown and went into the changing room. Brian walked to the couch nearby and sat down.

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It was a purple gown. Anyone could wear purple, but he could not help asking Valda Theller to change out of the purple gown as

soon as he saw her in it.

She looked beautiful in the gown, and it suited her, but he did not want to see her in it. It stung his eyes.

Valda Theller put on the pink gown and walked out of the changing room.

Brian looked up at the person in front of him and said, "Alright, let's go with this one, but the neck seems empty." With that said, he turned to the manager and said, "Bring over some accessories to match her gown."

The manager quickly replied in acknowledgment and asked someone to bring jewelry over to match Valda Theller's gown.

Valda Theller watched the manager handle the jewelry pieces while wearing gloves and instantly realized they were genuine.

Besides, they must be worth a lot if the staff member looked so careful handling them.

When the manager brought out a pearl necklace and earrings, Brian said, "Try this pearl set."

With that said, he took the pearl necklace from the manager's hand and leaned down slightly to put it on her himself.

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The pearls were cold against her neck, and his gentle breath made her feel as though her blood was rushing to her head as it blew on her face.

His action was like something out of one of her comics.

"What do you think?" His voice rang above her.

"Huh?" She shuddered and looked up at the mirror in front of her, and her eyes met those dark phoenix eyes in the mirror. "Very... nice..." Even her voice was stammering.

"We'll take it, then," Brian said as his slender fingers picked up the pearl earrings and put them on for Valda Theller.

Valda Theller stared at the mirror, watching his every movement as he put on the earrings for her.

Her heart was beating so fast that it was as if something was about to burst.

After putting on the pearl necklace and earrings, Valda Theller

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looked at the person in the mirror. She looked like the socialites in magazines-classy, elegant, and a little adorable.

However, she knew it was because of the makeup and jewelry. She was still a regular comic artist.

She watched Brian swipe his card without blinking. The number seemed astronomical to her.

The staff and manager in the studio looked at her with envy as if they had seen another Cinderella story come true.

However, she knew it was all false.

Even the gentleness when he had helped her put on the jewelry was false. It was a show he put on for others.

When everything was ready, Brian looked at the time and said, "It's almost time. Let's go."

"Okay," she replied as she followed him outside and got into the car.

They sat in the back seat. Looking at his handsome profile, she could not help but recall what Raymond Bowman had said earlier.

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'What would a man like him look like when he's madly in love with someone?

'How much... does he love Grace?"

"What's the matter? Why are you staring at me?" His voice suddenly rang in the car.

She suddenly came to her senses. "I'm just wondering... Uh... Do you not like purple?"

He glanced at her with a vague sense of pressure.

She quickly explained, "I bought a dress the last time we went shopping. Between purple and mint green, you picked mint green. And you picked pink this time. I have the feeling that you don't like purple very much."

His thin lips were pressed together for a moment before saying, "I don't dislike purple. I just think... other colors suit you better than

purple."

She blinked. "I see."

"Alright, you don't have to worry about anything at today's banquet. You just have to do what you normally do. But don't forget one thing," he said.

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"What is it?" she asked nervously.

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"You're my girlfriend, and you love me. You must never forget that." He reminded as his dark phoenix eyes stared intently at her.

She could hardly take her eyes off his face for a moment.

His gaze and voice kept reminding her that she was his girlfriend like some hypnosis!

Tonight's banquet was a banquet for Emerald City's socialites. There would be no reporters around, so it was quite private.

Most of the attendees were Emerald City's socialites. Attending such banquets was a form of socializing. Of course, some popular celebrities in the film industry or leaders in other industries attended it too.

As there were no reporters around, Valda Theller was relieved. After all, she did not want to be photographed by the reporters

and have another viral post about her online.

"Remind me if anything I do later is inappropriate," Valda Theller whispered to Brian.

Her wariness made him smile.

He had brought a lot of women to banquets, but it was the first apter 2725

time he had ever met someone who looked so worried and nervous.

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His former girlfriends accompanied him to banquets more out of pride and ambition. They wanted to announce to everyone that they were his girlfriends and get more people to acknowledge that.

She was the opposite. Her eyes did not have that ambition. Even though she looked at him with amazement and absentmindedness, she would quickly sober up each time.

It was as if she knew what she should and should not do. He need not worry at all!

He did not have much to worry about.

Brian leaned down slightly and whispered in Valda Theller's ear, "Don't worry about that. Even if you do something inappropriate, it doesn't matter. You just have to love me until we leave the banquet."

His soft voice was different from the usual indifference.

Valda Theller's eyelashes trembled slightly as she looked up at the face so close in front of her. "Well... How can I show that I love you?" Were they going to hold hands at the banquet?

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"Just look at me like this and raise your hands to help me with my collar," he said, still leaning over slightly.

Valda Theller's face reddened. Like an obedient student, she raised her hands and randomly fixed his suit collar and shirt collar.

"Like this?"

"Yes," he said. His lips curled slightly. It was as if he was watching her with a gentle smile.

However, she knew the gentleness was only an act.

Without looking up, she could feel many eyes on her.

"Umm... A lot of people are looking at us," she whispered.

"I know. Let them watch," he said. That was his purpose today.

Just then, a voice rang out. "Hey, how enviable it is to watch you two's public display of affection."

Valda Theller turned her head and saw Patrick, whom she had seen at the party with Brian's friends. However, Patrick had a new female companion with him today.

"There you are." Brian straightened up and greeted Patrick.

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The two chatted casually, but Patrick had no intention of introducing the female companion beside him to Brian and Valda

Theller.

In his opinion, she was only a woman he was fooling around with. They took what they needed from each other, and there was nothing serious about it.

"Valda is so beautiful today that I almost didn't recognize her." Patrick's eyes fell on Valda Theller. "It seems Brian is quite serious about you."

Patrick called Valda Theller 'Valda' like he was already familiar with her.

Valda Theller smiled sheepishly. Brian wrapped his arm around Valda Theller's waist, pulling her nearer. "I've always been serious

about Valda.”

“Yes, yes!” Patrick repeated.

Brian looked at Valda Theller and said, “Why don’t you take a seat? I’ll get you something to eat.”

“Okay,” she replied.

Patrick also turned to his female companion and said, “Sit with Valda.” With that said, he walked to the other side with Brian.

Valda Theller and Patrick’s female companion looked at each other. Finally, she spoke up first.

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“Hello, what’s your name?”

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Valda Theller smiled and said, “My name is Valda Theller. You can call me Valda. What about you? What’s your name?”

“My name is Wei Jayg. You can call me Jasperg,” she said.

Valda Theller looked at her. She looked to be in her early 20s and younger than her. She could indeed call her Jasperg.

“Valda, by the way, Mr. Hart and you are...” Wei Jayg looked inquisitive.

“We’re a couple,” Valda Theller said naturally.

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Wei Jayg looked envious. “Valda, what business does your family have? How did you meet Mr. Hart?”

Valda Theller said, “I’m only a comic artist. My family doesn’t have any business. I come from a regular family. We met each other when we were eating noodles at a restaurant.”

These were not a secret anyway. There was no need to hide it.

Wei Jayg looked surprised. She thought Valda Theller could become Brian’s girlfriend because of her family background, but now, it sounded like she was only a regular comic artist.

‘Can such a woman also become Brian’s girlfriend? My family runs a small business, but Patrick didn’t even introduce me to the others just now!’

Wei Jayg felt a surge of jealousy as she thought of this.

Just then, someone suddenly went over. Then, a contemptuous voice rang out. “I was wondering who I saw. It turned out to be you. Who are you to attend such a banquet?”

Valda Theller looked up and saw Phoebe Cross in an exquisite, bespoke gown. She remembered Phoebe Cross from the last

party with Brian's friends that she had attended.

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She was a socialite in Emerald City as well as Brian's childhood friend.

Besides that, she could tell that Phoebe Cross liked Brian, but Brian did not reciprocate the feelings.

"I'm here to accompany Brian. If you don't think I deserve to come, tell that to Brian," Valda Theller said calmly.

She knew she was now Brian's girlfriend. Perhaps she could not do much, but at least she could not embarrass him.

"You have a smart mouth." Phoebe Cross sized up the expensive gown and jewelry that Valda Theller wore, and her eyes became more contemptuous. "Brian must have gotten you this outfit. A woman like you is only after Brian's money and trying to get the best you can out of him. I've met so many women like you. Don't spend a penny of Brian's money if you have a backbone!"

Some people around them began to look over, and several socialites close to Phoebe Cross also walked over. After hearing Phoebe Cross's statement, they looked at Valda Theller with disdain.

"So that's her? There are so many scheming women out there who are obsessed with money."

"Yeah, some women say it isn't for money, but they're actually all about money!"

"How could Brian fall for such a woman? She must have pulled some shady stunt, huh?"

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Every word was an attack. All they needed to do was put a label with the words 'greedy scheming girl' on Valda Theller.

Valda Theller could feel the eyes on her. It was not in her nature to argue, but she felt no desire to escape at that moment.

Taking a deep breath, she got up, raised her chin, and said, "What's the matter? Don't you think Brian has any other charms except money? I like Brian because of his personality and sincerity. Miss Song, I thought at least you'd know how charming Brian is. It turns out that you think all Brian has is wealth."

As soon as she said this, Phoebe Cross and the socialites around her were rendered speechless.

"Excuse me," said Valda Theller, turning to find Brian.

Phoebe Cross lost her temper when she saw that. She picked up a drink from the waiter's tray and threw it at Valda Theller.

When Valda Theller saw that out of the corners of her eyes and wanted to avoid it, it was already too late. She could only raise her hand

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There were sounds of gasps all around, and Valda Theller was slightly stunned.

She was currently in Brian's arms as she heard Brian's voice mutter, "Sorry, I was late."

It was just a short sentence, but it somehow made Valda Theller's eyes water instantly.

Even though she looked brave when facing Phoebe Cross and the socialites, only she knew how nervous she was earlier. She even had the feeling as though she was going to war. She was afraid they would destroy her if she were not careful.

When she heard Brian say that short sentence while he held her in his arms, her nervousness finally eased a little.

Brian turned and stared coldly at Phoebe Cross and the rest. "Phoebe Cross, do you have any advice for my girlfriend?" His cold voice sounded faintly furious, making Phoebe Cross panic instantly.

"Brian, it was... It was just a misunderstanding. I... I was just..."

"A misunderstanding?" Brian snapped his fingers coldly and let the waiter with the wine come to him. Then, he picked up a glass of red wine from their tray and shoved it into Phoebe Cross's

hands. "Are you stupid, or am I stupid?"

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Phoebe Cross's expression changed. 'Is Brian... asking me to spill it onto myself?'

However, she would be embarrassed if she did so in public.

Phoebe Cross's eyes shifted expectantly to Patrick who was standing beside Brian. She thought he would plead for her.

Patrick got the hint. After a moment's hesitation, he cleared his throat and said, "Brian, why don't you let Phoebe apologize to Valda? And this matter-"

However, before Patrick finished speaking, Brian interrupted him, "Valda is my girlfriend. Do you think she was spilling the drink on Valda or the Hart family?"

Patrick said nothing as soon as he said that. Since Brian brought up the Hart family, it meant Brian was standing up for Valda Theller rather than just putting on a show.

With that in mind, Patrick's eyes could not help darkening. It seemed that Brian was more serious about Valda Theller than he imagined.

Phoebe Cross clenched her teeth and glared at Valda Theller, whom Brian held in his arms. After a while, she finally said, "Miss Theller, it was my fault just now. I'm sorry!"

With that said, she spilled the glass of red wine on her gown, put it

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down, and turned around to walk away.

She was embarrassed to stay at the banquet in this state and wished she could leave as soon as possible.

She now hated Valda Theller even more. She felt that all the humiliation she suffered today was due to Valda Theller.

After Phoebe Cross left, Valda Theller hurriedly asked Brian, "There's wine all over your suit. Let me help you wipe it."

"Don't bother," Brian said, taking off his suit and casually hanging it on his arm.

He wore a suit vest inside. Pairing it with the white shirt and dark-colored tie, he looked casually elegant.

"Is it okay what you... did to her?" Valda Theller asked.

"You're my girlfriend. Of course, I'm going to get payback after she treated you like that. Alright, I'll introduce you to some people. Maybe it'll help you in your future development," said Brian.

Even if they broke up in the future, he wanted her to have a good life.

It seemed like the first time he had thought about his girlfriend's future.

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Naturally, they looked at her with surprise after finding out she was a comic artist.

It was as if they did not expect the crown prince of the entertainment industry to have a regular comic artist as his girlfriend.

Suddenly, there was some commotion at the banquet hall's entrance.

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Brian turned his head to look and froze. Valda Theller, who was holding his arm, was the first to notice something was wrong with him.

Valda Theller looked up to see two figures walking into the banquet hall. Many people walked toward them.

Those two were... Jason and Grace.

Valda Theller had met Grace in the shopping mall before, while Jason... Valda Theller found his photo online afterward.

'They're here, and Brian...'

She subconsciously looked up to Brian and saw him looking straight at Grace.

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Jason looked over as if sensing something. Then, Grace also looked over.

Instantly, the four people looked at each other from afar under such circumstances.

“Valda, let’s go say hello.” Moments later, Brian’s voice rang in her ears. However, his voice sounded slightly tense.

‘Tense?’

Valda Theller froze. ‘Brian tenses up too?’

However, she could feel that the arm she was holding had stiffened since Grace appeared.

‘He... must be really nervous.’

Biting her lip slightly, Valda Theller’s hand slipped from Brian’s arm to his hand. Then she opened her fingers to grab his hand.

He paused, turned his head slightly, and looked at her as if he was surprised.

Valda Theller said sternly, “Brian, I’m your girlfriend.”

That sentence seemed to make Brian’s nervousness fade.

It was unbelievable. She thought she was the one who would scared or nervous, yet she was the one motivating him now.

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“Yeah, you’re my girlfriend,” he muttered before lifting his feet again and leading her to Grace and Jason.

“What a coincidence running into you here,” said Brian.

“It’s quite a coincidence,” said Jason as he sized up Valda Theller.

“This is my girlfriend, Valda Theller.” Brian introduced before saying to Valda Theller, “This is Jason, the president of Reed group. The one next to him is his wife, Grace.”

“Hello, Mr. Reed,” Valda Theller said naturally before looking at Grace. “Hello, Mrs. Reed. We met once. I didn’t expect to meet you again.”

“Yeah.” Grace nodded. “You can

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Valda Theller replied in acknowledgment.

Brian’s eyes fell on Grace’s bulging belly. “I thought you wouldn’t be able to attend such a banquet in your condition.”

"I'm fine. I'm at home most of the time that I'm getting bored, so I asked Jay to bring me to the banquet," said Grace. Then, she praised Valda Theller's appearance today. "Valda, you look beautiful today."

"Really?" Valda Theller smiled shyly. "Brian helped me with it. It's my first time attending such a banquet, so I don't know much about the right etiquette to have."

Her frankness made Grace like her more. "You'll get used to it later," she said.

'I'll get used to it?' Valda Theller blinked. 'Does that mean I'll have to accompany Brian to more banquets like this in the future?'

"But I can tell Brian is attentive to you," Grace added.

"Yeah, I know. He's nice," Valda Theller said with a smile.

Jason said to Grace, "You shouldn't stand for too long. Why don't you find a place nearby to sit and talk?"

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Before Grace could speak, Brian said, "Let's find a seat."

The four went to a corner of the banquet. Brian said to Valda Theller, "I brought you some food earlier, but... I put it aside earlier. I'll get you some more."

Valda Theller knew Brian was referring to the trouble Phoebe Cross had caused earlier. He must have quickly put aside the food he got and went over to stand up for her.

"Yeah, okay," replied Valda Theller.

Brian got up to go to the dining area. Jason also got up and said,

"I'll go with you."

The two men left, leaving the two women looking at each other.

Valda Theller could not help but size up Grace. The last time they met in the shopping mall, she did not know Grace was the woman

Brian loved. She knew that this time, so she looked at Grace differently.

It turned out... the woman Brian loved deeply was such a person. She was not stunning at first glance, but she was quiet and elegant. The more one looked at her, the more one felt comfortable with her.

"What's the matter? Why are you looking at me like that?" Grace asked.

Valda Theller came to her senses and scratched her head

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sheepishly. "I just think you're good-looking."

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Grace chuckled. "I don't look good at the moment. My face has swollen a lot since I got pregnant."

"No, I think you're really good-looking. The more I look at you, the more beautiful you are. No wonder Brian liked you..." said Valda

Theller.

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Her voice broke off instantly, and her expression turned slightly awkward. She spoke so fast that she slipped her tongue just now.

However, Grace did not shy away from it. Instead, she said, "Do you know about my and Brian's history?" After all, it was no secret. Not only in high society, but one could also find relevant information about it online.

"I only know Brian used to like you," Valda Theller said honestly.