

Ex Convict 2781

Chapter 2781

Finally, someone came back to their senses and said to Brian, "How arrogant! Who do you think you are? Are you Brian, the crown prince of the entertainment industry? How ridiculous!"

Brian looked at them coldly. "I am Brian. Is it funny?"

The cold gaze and indifferent tone gave the speaker earlier a sense of uneasiness.

'Is... this man Brian?'

"How... How is that possible? How can you be Brian?"

Just then, a timid voice said, "He... He seems to be Brian. I've seen Brian's photo online. He looks... just like him."

There was an eerie silence in the air as soon as he said that.

'Is he really Brian?' Barbara Schuman looked at the handsome man protecting Valda Theller in disbelief.

She could tell that the man wore expensive clothes, and he spoke with an air of authority.

'Is... what Camille Strickland said true? Is Valda Theller's boyfriend Brian?' Barbara Schuman's pupils shrank at the thought of this. 'Is

it possible? The Valda Theller I despise has gotten together with a man in Emerald City who's impossible to seduce?'

Just then, Brian picked up his phone and spoke to the other end

of the line, "Send some people in and get the car ready outside."

With that said, Brian put away the phone and carefully picked up

Valda Theller in his arms. "Alright, stop crying. Lean on me and

rest. Just get some sleep," he said gently. However, his voice

turned icy as soon as he looked up. "I'll spare no one who hurt you."

Just then, several men in black were already hurrying toward

them. As soon as they saw Brian, they respectfully said, "Mr.

Hart..."

"Ask everyone here exactly what they did and said. No one is

allowed to leave until we sort it out," Brian said coldly.

"Yes," his men answered immediately.

Someone could not help shouting, "Even... Even if you're Brian, you can't force us to stay here!"

Brian glanced coldly. "Why don't you try and see if I can?"

There was hardly any fluctuation in his calm tone, but no one could retort him. He was the crown prince. With his influence, no one could walk out of here even if they wanted to.

Brian was about to leave with Valda Theller in his arms. A figure suddenly ran out and rushed up to Brian. They repeatedly bowed and said, "Mr. Hart, it's my fault. I didn't recognize you and said something I shouldn't have said. Mr. Hart, please be the bigger person and forgive me."

The crowd looked over and found that it was Rhea Oliver speaking.

Rhea Oliver had been arrogant after getting together with the heir of the Lu family.

They had also invited Rhea Oliver to the class reunion. They thought Rhea Oliver was not coming. Who knew she would appear in this way?

The Rhea Oliver they knew had always appeared in front of them in delicate makeup and expensive clothes to show off her lavish lifestyle. She never had her hair in a messy simple updo, nor was she ever seen with no makeup on her face. Her clothes looked wrinkled as if she had come over in a hurry.

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"Why should I forgive you?" Brian asked back nonchalantly.

"Huh?" Rhea Oliver froze.

"I hate forgiving others the most. There are few people in this world I can forgive for messing with me." With that said, he indifferently instructed his men, "Pull her away."

His men pulled Rhea Oliver aside, and Brian strode to leave with Valda Theller in his arms. He left a group of people behind as they looked at each other.

Rhea Oliver desperately shouted, "Mr. Hart, wait. Forgive me. I'm sorry. I... I can kowtow and apologize to Valda Theller and you.

Please don't go. Mr. Hart... Mr. Hart..."

However, Brian did not stop no matter how Rhea Oliver pleaded.

Rhea Oliver's behavior made the people who used to taunt and beat Valda Theller shudder. They seemed to have seen their future when they looked at Rhea Oliver.

"X-Camille, is Valda Theller really Brian's girlfriend?" someone finally asked, remembering Camille Strickland was here.

Camille Strickland sneered and said, "Could it be fake? I told you

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but you didn't believe me! You'd better think it over if any of you wants to hurt Valda. Also, Brian will help Valda to get payback for everything she suffered in university!"

Camille Strickland said, glancing at Barbara Schuman as if she were hinting at something.

Barbara Schuman's red lips were pressed together tightly. Her expression was utterly ghastly!

'Damn it. No wonder Valda Theller doesn't care about Raymond Bowman. It's because Valda Theller already has Brian!

'Raymond Bowman is nothing compared to Brian.

'Why is Valda Theller doing better than me? Valda Theller should be unfortunate and pathetic!' Barbara Schuman's eyes flickered with jealousy.

Barbara Schuman's eyes had also been this jealous when Valda Theller's comic won the competition!

Brian carried Valda Theller into the car. The face of the person in his arms was red, and her eyes were closed. She looked so pitiful with wet tears on her face.

He had never been a sympathetic man, yet he could not explain why his heart broke at the sight of the way she looked.

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it because she's my girlfriend? Or... Is it because this woman was willing to help me and be my girlfriend when I was most miserable even when she knew nothing about me?

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Besan could not tell what he was feeling at the moment. The only thing he was sure of was that he wanted the woman to be okay.

Whatever happened to them in the future, he wanted her to be fine.

15 minutes later, the car drove to a hospital's entrance. Brian carried Valda Theller to the emergency room.

The doctor looked at the drunk Valda Theller, frowned, and asked, "What's going on? Did she have a lot to drink?" After all, Valda Theller reeked of alcohol right now.

"Yes," said Brian.

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The doctor snapped, "How could you let a girl drink so much?"

Didn't you stop her? Drinking too much alcohol can lead to accidents. If she felt nauseous and wanted to vomit, she might die if the vomit was stuck in her throat!"

The doctor scolded while examining Valda Theller.

Brian listened to the doctor's reprimands like an obedient student and did not refute them. He only looked worriedly at Valda Theller. "How is she? Is she okay?"

"Looks like everything's okay so far. How much did she drink?" the doctor asked.

Brian froze. Speaking of which, he had no idea how much she drank. People were already forcing her to drink when he saw her.

The doctor was instantly flabbergasted. "How about this? Just in case, let's take a blood sample and see what the alcohol level is."

"Okay," answered Brian.

The doctor prescribed the order for a blood test. Just then, Valda Theller, who was lying on the bed, opened her eyes suddenly. Her drunken round eyes stared straight at Brian.

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Brian froze, not expecting Valda Theller to open her eyes. "You're awake?" he asked.

Valda Theller grinned at him. The grin looked silly. Though she was looking at him, her focus was a little off.

He instantly knew she was not sober even though her eyes were open.

"Alright, go get her blood drawn." The doctor handed Brian the order for the blood test.

Brian took it. He was going to help Valda Theller, but her hands had already wrapped themselves around his neck. "I... I don't want my blood drawn. It hurts..."

"It only hurts when the needle goes in. It'll be okay in a minute." Knowing that she was drunk, he explained patiently.

"Ouch... Boo-hoo... I... I don't want to have my blood drawn!" she said and began to cry again. The tears on her face were heartbreaking.

Brian was flustered to see Valda Theller that way. None of the women he dated back then dared make such a scene in front of

him. One look from him and they would keep quiet.

Valda Theller was crying and making a scene. He had no idea what to do. "Stop crying... Stop crying. It'll only take a while. If you don't do it, the doctor can't tell how drunk you are."

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However, she kept on crying, and her little head rubbed against his chest like a weak and pitiful animal.

Brian could only say, "Why don't... Why don't I do anything you want after you get your blood drawn?"

It was just like how his parents had coaxed him when he was a child. They often granted him a request if they wanted him to do something.

She seemed to understand what he said. She sobbed and raised her head. Her tearful round eyes gazed at him. "I want to kiss you,

can I..."

"..." For a moment, Brian had no idea whether he should agree.

"Alright, hurry and get your blood drawn," the doctor urged.

Brian picked up Valda Theller, walked out of the emergency room, and hurried toward the blood collection counter.

When they arrived at the blood collection counter, there was no need to wait in line as it was now nighttime. Brian carefully put Valda Theller on the chair at the blood collection counter. Then, he rolled up Valda Theller's right sleeve.

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The nurse at the blood collection counter tied the tube skillfully. Then, she patted Valda Theller's arm to confirm the location of the blood draw.

"Hold her still while I draw her blood," the nurse warned.

"Okay," replied Brian. He let Valda Theller rest her upper body in his arms while he pressed one hand on her shoulder and the other on her right arm.

As soon as the sharp needle entered her arm, Valda Theller instinctively wanted to withdraw her arm to shake off the pain, but Brian grabbed her firmly.

"Ouch..." she shouted pitifully.

"It'll only take a minute. Bear with it," he said patiently. Come to

think of it, he had never been so patient with a woman except for Grace.

When her blood was drawn, Brian held Valda Theller in his arms and waited for the blood test result, which took 15 minutes.

When he was sure she was no longer bleeding where the needle had pricked her, he got up and threw the cotton ball into the trash can nearby.

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However, when he returned to his chair, he found her looking up with her drunken round eyes fixed on him.

"I... I just had my blood drawn..." Her voice stammered as her head swayed from side to side.

She was still drunk but somewhat sober.

He said, "Yeah. You don't have to have your blood drawn anymore."

"Kiss... Burp... Can I kiss you... now..." she asked as she hiccupped and threw her head back.

He pressed his thin lips together tightly. She might not have asked she had been sober.

He sighed gently, bent over, looked her straight in the eye, and said, "You'll regret it when you sober up..."

"I... I won't regret it... You said... you'll let me do it... after I got my blood drawn..." She put her hands around his neck again and gawked at his face. "Brian... Why... Why don't you let me kiss you? I... really want to be your real girlfriend..."

"You already are," he said solemnly.

She mumbled, "I... already am? Can I... kiss you whenever I want..."

Burp... That way, will you get used to me... Will you... like me

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more?"

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She said, moving her face closer to him.

Their faces were so close now that he could feel her breathing and see himself in her eyes.

She was still drunk, but the longing in her eyes and the wet tears on her face made it impossible for him to say no.

'Will she cry again if I tell her?

'Yeah, she said she wanted me to fall for her when I told her I wanted a real relationship with her.

'If we're more intimate, will I get used to her presence and even... fall for her without knowing it?

'If I do fall for her, everyone will be happy. Grace will be elated too!

'Grace... Grace...'

Even though the name just crossed his mind, it gave his heart a pang.

"If you think you won't regret it, then... okay." Brian slowly opened his thin lips and uttered.

The next moment, the silly smile appeared on Valda Theller's face again, and she pressed her lips hard against his.

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She almost bumped into him, making his teeth ache slightly. However, his senses then focused on the soft touch of her lips.

She kissed him earnestly, giving him a strange feeling.

Speaking of which, he never liked to kiss. Though he had dated

many women, he had never let anyone kiss him... In his opinion, kissing could only be considered a simple touch of skin, and he would not kiss people randomly.

However, he was not repulsed by her kiss.

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After an unknown amount of time, her lips finally moved away

from his lips. However, her head tilted and rested on his shoulder. She fell asleep.

Brian looked at Valda Theller helplessly, not knowing how much she could remember when she woke up tomorrow.

After getting the blood test report, Brian returned to the consultation room with Valda Theller in his arms. After confirming that there was nothing wrong with her, Brian returned to the car with Valda Theller in his arms.

"Head back to the mansion," Brian indifferently ordered the driver in the front.

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"Yes." The driver drove slowly to Brian's private mansion. On the way there, Brian looked at the woman's sleeping face and could not help falling into a trance.

'Can I possibly fall for this woman?

'Or should I ask myself if I can fall for anyone else? If possible, I hope I can fall for Valda Theller.'

Valda Theller only thought she had a very long dream. She dreamed that Brian had appeared and saved her from danger when she was suffering the most... Then, she seemed to be touching him and saying a lot to him...

It felt like a wonderful dream!

However, all she had when she woke up was a headache!

She could not help moaning. Just then, a voice rang out. "Are you awake? I'll have someone bring the hangover soup over."

Valda Theller tried hard to sit up as she half-opened her eyes to see Brian.

"What... What are you doing in my house?" she murmured.

"This isn't your house. It's my mansion. You got drunk yesterday,

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and I was afraid that I wouldn't be able to take care of you if I went to your house, so I brought you here," he said.

'Drunk?'

Her confused mind finally recalled yesterday's events, and her face turned pale instantly.

Yes, he saved her last night.

'But then what? What happened? Why don't I remember anything?' If she tried to think about it, the pain in her head would feel like it was about to explode.

"Ah..." She moaned again as she frowned deeply.

"Is the headache terrible?" he asked.

"Yeah," she muttered. Then, she felt fingers touching her forehead and around her temples. They pressed with moderate force to relieve her headache.

"How about this? Do you feel any better?" Brian asked again.

"I... I seem to feel better," muttered Valda Theller.

Brian continued to massage her temples, and Valda Theller's uncomfortable moans gradually turned into comfortable grunts.

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When the servant walked into the room with the hangover soup, they saw Brian's long fingers massaging Valda Theller's head, and Valda Theller seemed to be enjoying it.

The servant widened their eyes and looked at the scene in front of them in disbelief.

After all, any servant who had been working here for a certain amount of time knew the crown prince was sexually reserved. It was said that the crown prince had a woman in his heart, so he would not have feelings for other women.

The woman in the crown prince's heart was the Reed family's mistress. Therefore, even the servants had said privately that the crown prince would not find any other women.

However, last night, the crown prince brought a woman back to the mansion and was... now massaging her head. This did not

seem like what the crown prince would do!

When Brian caught sight of the servant's dumbstruck expression, he frowned. "Put the hangover soup on the nightstand and get out."

"Yes." The servant came to their senses, put the soup down, and

left the room.

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Brian took over the soup and handed it to Valda Theller. "Drink this and your headache will soon disappear."

Valda Theller took over the bowl. With two hands holding the bowl, she drank it gulp by gulp. She felt comfortable after drinking the warm soup.

"Thank you for saving me... yesterday," said Valda Theller.

"I was late, or you wouldn't have had to suffer." Brian's face darkened as he asked, "Have they... treated you like this before?"

Valda Theller's face was gloomy. "It's all in the past. I didn't expect them to do such a thing after graduating from university for so many years!"

"Yeah, how unruly. Who do they think they are? The judge?"

Displeasure flickered in Brian's eyes.

He had known from his research that she was taunted in university, but it was only described in a few sentences. He witnessed it himself last night.

He was even angrier after witnessing it.

"But you saved my life yesterday. Camille told them about you and said you're my boyfriend. I think they won't dare to do anything to me anymore," said Valda Theller.

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His dark phoenix eyes looked at her. "Do you think that's enough?"

"Huh?" She froze, still in a trance.

"It's not enough. It's not nearly enough," muttered Brian.

Watching Valda Theller, who was in a trance, he toned down the chill in his eyes. "Alright, hurry and finish the soup. It won't taste good if it gets cold."

"Okay." She quickly finished her soup.

He said, "Your change of clothes is by the bed. You can go to the bathroom next door if you want to take a bath. It has everything."

She blushed when she saw the pile of clothes beside the bed, which also included lingerie.

However, she blushed more when she looked down at what she was wearing.

"Umm... My... My clothes..." She was even stammering.

The clothes she wore were not her own but a new nightgown she had never seen. In other words, someone changed her clothes for her last night after she got drunk.

"Yeah. I got someone to change your clothes for you," he said.

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"Someone?"

"It's inappropriate for me to help you change your clothes, so I found a maid to do it," said Brian.

Valda Theller breathed a sigh of relief and secretly laughed at herself for overthinking. 'Of course, Brian would ask the servant to help me change my clothes. After all, that's the most reasonable thing to do.'

"I didn't say or do anything inappropriate after I got drunk yesterday, did I?" she asked after hesitating slightly.

For some reason, he thought of last night's kiss before looking away and saying, "No, you didn't do anything inappropriate."

Since they were a couple, it was natural for them to kiss.

"Alright, I'll go out first. You can come down for breakfast when you're ready," Brian said and walked out of the room.

Valda Theller was the only one left in the huge room.

Valda Theller began looking around the unfamiliar room. This room alone looked as large as her small apartment.

Valda Theller was amazed as she staggered up and picked up the

2/4 clothes Brian had prepared for her. After taking a look at them, she found that these clothes were all luxury brands. She figured the clothes would add up to 200,000 or 300,000 dollars.

She felt like they were worlds apart.

However... even if they were worlds apart, she still wanted to get close to him and make this relationship work. No matter what happened in the end, at least she gave it her best and would not regret it.

Valda Theller changed her clothes after washing up and bathing. Then, she saw a long corridor after opening the door. There were stairs on both sides. She chose the one near her side and walked downstairs. She saw a servant coming up and saying, "Miss Theller, please follow me."

Valda Theller followed the servant to the dining room, where she saw Brian sitting at one end of the table, eating breakfast gracefully.

The servant pulled out the chair on Brian's left-hand side and served breakfast to Valda Theller after she sat down.

Valda Theller ate her breakfast as she glanced at Brian out the corners of her eyes. Eating breakfast with him like this made her feel like they were newlyweds.

'Gosh, what am I thinking? Brian hasn't fallen for me, yet I'm thinking about such things!'

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Valda Theller blushed and hurriedly buried herself in her breakfast.

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"Take your time. Don't choke," said Brian.

"Okay..." she answered in a mumble.

"And what was on your mind when you looked at me? Why did your face turn red suddenly?" he said again.

She almost spat out the porridge in her mouth. It turned out that he had noticed.

"I... I just feel a little... embarrassed after looking at you too long," she said awkwardly as she blushed more. She could not tell him she thought they were like newlyweds, could she?

"You don't have to be embarrassed. Since we're dating, you can look at me as long as you want," said Brian.

His tone was as flat as if he was only saying something common, but it melted her heart. The embarrassment earlier seemed to

slowly fade as well.

Although he looked cold and indifferent, he had always given her a warm feeling.

It must be a happy thing to be loved by someone like him.

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She just had no idea... whether she could be happy.

Valda Theller continued to eat her breakfast with her head down. Just then, her phone rang suddenly. She looked at the caller ID and saw that it was a call from her best friend, Camille Strickland.

She quickly answered the call, and Camille Strickland's anxious voice rang. "Valda, have you seen the news today?"

"The news?" Valda Theller froze slightly. "I just woke up and haven't watched the news. What's the matter? Has something big happened?"

"Hurry and have a look. Brian sent you to the hospital yesterday. The photo of you two kissing is now the top trending post!"

Camille Strickland said.

Valda Theller almost spat out the porridge in her mouth as soon as she heard that. "What... What did you say?"

"I said the photo of you kissing Brian is now trending online. Though your face in the trending photo is censored, the original photo isn't. You'd better be mentally prepared. Many people will

probably learn about your relationship with Brian," said Camille

Strickland.

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Valda Theller was shocked. 'Well, I never expected myself to be in a top trending post one day.'

She did not intend to conceal her relationship with Brian.

However, the thought of her dating the crown prince of the entertainment industry and being secretly filmed by reporters for gossip material made her scared and worried.

"What's the matter?" Brian asked after seeing something wrong with her expression.

"Well... Camille said a photo of you and me kissing in the hospital last night is now the top trending post." Valda Theller looked at him awkwardly and said, "Did I kiss you by force last night?"

After all, she knew Brian did not like her at all. He had feelings for someone else. There was no way he would take the initiative to kiss her.

Brian's eyelashes gently quivered. "You didn't kiss me by force."

"What do you mean?" she asked, blinking.

"You asked me before you kissed me last night. I agreed," he said.

"..." Valda Theller was speechless.

'Gosh, what did I do after getting drunk last night?'

"I... I'm sorry. I was drunk! You can just ignore me or reject me the

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next time I ask you something like that!"

He stared at her. "Are you regretting it?"

She froze as she suddenly recalled how his phoenix eyes had seemingly stared at her in the empty hospital. The words that came out of his thin lips were... "If you think you won't regret it, then... okay."

Her heart could not help clenching. She bit her lip as she blushed and said, "I... I don't regret it. I... I'm just scared it'll trouble you."

He said, "You're my girlfriend. It won't trouble me that you want to kiss me. If you don't regret yesterday, I won't regret it either. But I didn't expect it to be trending online. I'll take care of it. Don't worry. No reporter in Emerald City will come looking for you."

She was relieved. Even if she said nothing, he knew what bothered her.

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A few hours later, the online gossip about her kissing Brian was removed, but her friends, assistants, and some people familiar with her had already found out that her boyfriend was Brian.

Someone from the film set even called her to ask if it was true.

Valda Theller could only chuckle drily and answer vaguely.

Barbara Schuman rushed into Raymond Bowman's office in a rage.

"Mr. Bowman, I'm sorry. This lady insisted on meeting you, and I failed to stop her..." the secretary said apologetically.

"It's okay. Go out first," said Raymond Bowman.

Then, the secretary left the office and closed the door. Barbara Schuman and Raymond Bowman were instantly left alone.

"Did you already know that Valda Theller is dating Brian?" Barbara Schuman barked. Her face that was covered with delicate makeup was full of exasperation. She was not at all calm like usual.

"Yes," Raymond Bowman answered without hesitation.

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Barbara Schuman instantly felt that what she said in front of Raymond Bowman after their reunion was like a joke.

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She thought Valda Theller was only a lamb waiting to be slaughtered as before and she could easily trample over her again.

However, she did not expect the lamb to be attached to a lion.

She was in big trouble now!

"Why didn't you tell me? Do you intend to see me make a fool of myself?" Barbara Schuman yelled.

Compared to her agitation, Raymond Bowman was calm. "No

one wants to see you make a fool of yourself. Nothing would've happened as long as you didn't do anything to Valda."

Barbara Schuman gritted her teeth angrily. "I only did it for you. I

just wanted you to love me and didn't want you to be distracted by her."

Raymond Bowman said sarcastically, "Barbara Schuman, you never loved me. You just want to find a sense of existence and

triumph in me. You want to be admired by others. You'll crush anyone you dislike as well as those who take over your limelight!

Valda Theller never did anything to you. But you treated her viciously just because she outshone you in drawing comics!"

After a pause, he said with a bitter smile, "And I became your accomplice. I was blind to have fallen for someone like you and hurt the person I truly like."

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Barbara Schuman said, "Raymond Bowman, so you know you

were my accomplice. Then you should also know that you can't get away if Valda Theller tries to get revenge on us through Brian! So what we should do now is join hands against Valda Theller and find out the truth about her relationship with Brian. There's no reason for Brian to fall for a woman like Valda Theller."

Raymond Bowman interrupted her, "I won't help you, let alone join hands with you."

"Do you think you can get away with it?" Barbara Schuman asked sarcastically.

"I never thought I could get away with it. Maybe it's time for me and you to pay the price," murmured Raymond Bowman.

Barbara Schuman's expression changed. "Pay the price? What's Valda Theller without Brian? There must be something going on between them. Raymond Bowman, you won't join forces with me? Fine, I'll see what price you'll pay!"

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Barbara Schuman said and left. Raymond Bowman looked down, bitterness all over the corners of his lips.

'Pay the price? I've already paid a painful price!

'What cost me is that Valda Theller's eyes no longer contain love for me. I've missed out on the person I love in this life!'

In the following days, Valda Theller could feel the people around her treating her differently. Even the two assistants in her studio would look at her from time to time at work, joking about whether she was getting married into a rich family soon!

"What are you talking about? Brian and I are only dating right now," said Valda Theller.

"But if it goes on well, won't it lead to marriage?" one of the assistants asked.

"Yeah, I read online that the crown prince hasn't had a girlfriend in years. Sis Valda, you're the crown prince's first girlfriend after so many years!"

Valda Theller could not help laughing. Her two assistants thought

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Brian loved her, but only she knew he did not love her.

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Their relationship was only a bet. She was betting on him falling for her!

Everyone on the film set became respectful to Valda Theller. They finally understood why Queenie Mack and those who went on strike ended up in such a situation.

Valda Theller was with the crown prince. These people had hit a snag!

Of course, other than respect, there were also many jealous and mocking gazes. Some people even secretly discussed when the

crown prince would dump Valda Theller.

After all, Valda Theller looked ordinary in the show business, where there were so many beautiful women.

“Valda Theller, are you really Young Master Hart’s girlfriend?” The female lead of the film set next door deliberately came to the film

set that Valda Theller was in to ask this.

Valda Theller recognized this actress. She had starred in several TV dramas and was quite popular.

“Yes,” she replied. Since she had chosen to date Brian, she should be ready to bear it.

Due to Brian’s identity, she was destined to bear a lot of criticism

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in this particular industry.

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“How did you become Young Master Hart’s girlfriend? You must have pulled some tricks. Why don’t you share them with me? If I

ever have the chance to be Young Master Hart’s girlfriend, I won’t forget about your kindness. I won’t leave out the benefit your deserve, of course,” she said. It was no longer a hint.

It was as if she was certain that Valda Theller would soon break up

with Brian.

“Don’t you think it’s rude of you to say that? You not only insulted me but also yourself!” Valda Theller said bluntly.

She smiled. “I’m just being direct. I mean no harm. Besides, I think you should be well aware of your position, Miss Theller. How long do you think you can be Young Master Hart’s girlfriend based on your looks and family background?”

“If that’s what you think, then you’ll never become his girlfriend,”

said Valda Theller. The more she knew that man, the more she understood that he was not shallow and cynical. On the contrary, he took his relationships more seriously than anyone else.

“You...” She glared at Valda Theller. “Why are you so smug? You’re just...”

Valda Theller immediately interrupted her and said, “I’m Brian’s girlfriend. You’re preparing to steal my boyfriend in front of me. Do you think I should be polite to people like you? What do you think

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will happen to you if I tell Brian what you just said to me?”

“How dare you?” There was a look of panic in her eyes.