

Ex Convict 301

Chapter 301

She did not have any money.

As for what she had learned over the years, they were even more useless to him. The team of lawyers in Reed Group was more experienced than she was.

The only thing she had now was herself.

Her penniless self was all she had.

Grace dropped her eyes and got down on her knees to kneel before Jason. "I beg you. Take me to see Hadwin Stephenson. I want to see Lina with my own eyes."

His black eyes stared at her kneeling figure. His face was full of shock and... anger.

"Do you know what you're doing?" He glared at her, his chest heaving

He knew very well that she had pride of her own in her heart. Even when she was ridiculed, she still wanted to maintain her small, trampled dignity.

Otherwise, she would not have refused him repeatedly.

However, she was now willing to kneel for Lina Sweeney, so... did this mean that Lina Sweeney was more important than her

you'll bring me to Lina and make sure that Lina is safe, then I'll do whatever you want."

This was the only thing she could give.

He stared at her with a look of uneasiness that he did not even notice.

"What if I refuse?" His voice was as cold as ice.

Her body quivered, then she slowly raised her eyes to look at him.

He pressed his thin lips tightly and just stared at her.

Her face grew pale, and she took a deep breath. "All right, I see."

Then, she got up, turned around, went out of the room, and headed toward the exit of the house.

When she could not strike a deal with the only thing she could trade, then the rest was up to her.

She did not ask for more because she knew that when people

were reluctant to agree to some things, to ask again would only be a disgrace.

Just like when she had begged the judge to believe her in court.

and when she begged those people to let her go in prison...

As a result... she became a joke.

Just as Grace reached the door, suddenly a hand grabbed her arm and pulled her out, dragging her all the way to where the car parked.

Grace stared blankly at Jason, unable to react for a moment.

Jason opened the car door and almost threw Grace into the passenger seat before slamming the door shut. Then, he got behind the wheel.

"Fasten your seat belt," he said, his face livid as he started the car.

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Grace quickly fastened her seat belt and watched with some wonder as Jason pulled the car away from Reed Residence. He drove in the direction where Hadwin Stephenson was said to be

1.

Was he taking her there?

However, his face was livid right now. His thin lips were tightly pressed together, and his eyes seemed dark and hazy, signifying his displeasure.

Grace opened her mouth and wanted to say something, but she was afraid that if she said anything now, she would annoy him

even more. That would be bad.

In the end, nothing was said.

Now, the most important thing was to see Lina and find out what was going on.

'Then I shall wait for Jason's anger to subside before... thanking him,' Grace thought to herself.

When their car got to Crescent Bay, security stopped them.

“Tell Hadwin Stephenson that Jason wants to see him. Ask him whether he’s going to meet us,” Jason said, straight to the point.

Besides, even if the security guards did not recognize Jason,

the Bentley he was driving was recognizable to those who knew.

about cars. It was a car that cost nearly ten million dollars. It was beyond the reach of the average person.

Therefore, one of the guards started contacting their captain....

Now, in the mansion at Crescent Bay, Lina Sweeney was staring anxiously at the man in front of her. She had no idea that he would

drag her into the car in broad daylight and confiscate her phone. before turning it off.

It went without saying that Lina Sweeney could imagine how anxious her best friend would be right now, but she could not

even call Grace.

Right now, she had no access to her phone at all.

Plus, her parents might be trying to get a hold of her too. If they called her and found her phone to be switched off, her parents

would probably be worried.

She was now as anxious as a cat on hot bricks while the man seemed to enjoy watching her in a panic.

Lina Sweeney’s heart suddenly ached when she saw his expression. That was not how he looked at her back in the day.

Back then, he clung on to her just like a little cute puppy. He would always give a shy and uneasy smile, scratch his head in embarrassment, and pull at her clothes, acting as cute as an innocent child.

However, now... She had not seen him for more than three years.

He was almost unrecognizable to her now. Though it was the

same face and though his features still looked like it was made by God, his aura had completely changed. It was like a cute puppy dog... that had turned into a little bad wolf.

Uh, no. A big bad wolf!

“Can I have my phone back? I need to call my friend and my parents.” Lina Sweeney once again repeated what she had said many times before.

He, however, gave a half-smile and asked, “Are you in a hurry?”

Chapter 303

Nonsense! Of course, she was anxious, especially now that she did not know exactly when this fellow would let her go.

“I don’t want my friends and parents to worry,” she said.

Her words seemed to trigger him. His eyes turned cold as he sneered. “You’re afraid they’ll worry, but did you ever think that I’ll worry too?”

Lina Sweeney choked. A hint of guilt flashed across her face. “I... I had an emergency...”

“Emergency?” He snorted. “Your emergency is to come back and help your friend with her case? You didn’t even give me a heads. up... Did you only take me as a fling from the very beginning?”

Lina Sweeney knew it was her fault. She was traveling abroad to visit the school she was going to study in the future when she had met him by chance.

At the time, she had no idea what was going to happen between them. They just made a natural connection. It was like getting acquainted with a compatriot in a foreign country.

He would take her to the local scenic spots and eat some local specialties.

She enjoyed herself those few days. She had also thought about

She had always defined him as a friend, but it was not like she was not attracted to him.

After all, his looks were just her type!

His handsome face had a kind of feminine beauty-delicate features, fair skin, and ink-stained brows and eyes. People would be attracted to him even if he just stared at them coldly.

‘A man like this is a weapon of mass destruction for women!’

Lina Sweeney commented to herself. Had she not almost fallen for him back then? Fortunately, she caught hold of herself in time

and did not let that attraction turn into action.

After all, she never considered getting into a long-distance relationship. She knew that he had grown up abroad. She had conservative parents and was an only child, so they would not allow her to marry abroad.

Besides, he was passionate and clingy to her back then. She thought he was naturally hospitable because of the influence of

growing up abroad.

However, looking at him now, he was not what she thought he was!

The most important thing was that he was so handsome that she could not help but to have a crush on him. It was just like when you would appreciate some idols with good looks, but you would never have plans to stay with them for a lifetime or even bear their

children.

After all, you might not be up to their standards. Even if you were, you had to be someone outstanding to keep them around.

Although Lina Sweeney considered herself appearance-obsessed, she usually just looked and would not have any funny ideas.

“You’re... not just a fling.” Lina Sweeney licked her lips and could not help but defend herself. “Besides, I’m the one who was taken advantage of!”

“Is it?” He stood and approached the chair in which she was sitting on. He bent to stare at her with his dark eyes and said, “You slept with me all night, and then the next day you left without saying goodbye. You even told me you want to study at M University. It turns out there’s no one like you at M University. You’ve made a fool out of me with all your lies, and now you’re telling me you’re one who was taken advantage of?”

Chapter 304

The thought of that night filled her with yet another pang of guilt. She had to blame it on her high spirits that day. She did not know how much she could drink and thought it would be all right. to drink more fruit wine. In the end, drinking too much indeed

caused trouble.

She had woken up and started to recall what happened when she was drunk-her pinning him down on the bed, her forcing herself upon him, and all the sweet talk that escaped her lips.

Whilst recalling this, Lina Sweeney felt that they were so similar to those spoken by men to women on TV dramas! A few lines, in particular, were copied from the TV series she used to watch back then.

She could only come to the conclusion that it was not good to

watch too many romantic dramas. When one was drunk, one would just spill sweet talk like it was free.

In the end....she had succeeded! She succeeded at having her way with a handsome man she could only appreciate and not disrespect!

Sometimes when Lina Sweeney recalled this, she wondered if her sweet talking worked.

He might have stayed abroad for too long and did not how to

she happened to receive a phone call from Grace, so she hurriedly checked out of her room and went home.

She only took that time as a romantic encounter. She also thought she might never see him again.

She did not expect that they would meet again under such circumstances.

"I left a note," Lina Sweeney said awkwardly. She had not exactly left without saying goodbye.

The irony in his eyes deepened with her words. "Yes, there was a note. It said, 'I'm sorry. I have to leave.' This was the only note you

left for me, wasn't it?"

Her shoulders could not help but shrink. All right, she knew it was her fault. "Then consider you're the one who was taken advantage of. What do you want?"

He pulled a long face and stared at her. After a long while, he finally said, "Have you sought me out all these years?"

She bit her lip a little and did not reply, but the look on her face gave him the answer. She had not looked for him!

Suddenly, he chuckled, but his chuckle was a little cold. "Great, Lina Sweeney. Just great!"

She had not looked for him over the years, but he traversed almost every part of the road they used to travel together and even turned M

University upside down. He even went through the city's surveillance. He searched wherever he could find her.

Lina Sweeney only felt that the chuckle made her heart feel like it was being pinched. There was a surge of discomfort.

Just then, Hadwin Stephenson's phone rang suddenly.

Hadwin Stephenson answered the phone. After listening for a moment, his face changed slightly. Then, he looked at Lina Sweeney with another touch of inquiry in his eyes.

"Bring them here," Hadwin Stephenson said. He ended the call and put the phone away.

Lina Sweeney had a hunch that the phone call just now had something to do with her. "What is it?"

"Jason is here for you," Hadwin Stephenson said, observing Lina Sweeney. "I didn't expect Jason to come here for you. Why, do you know him well?"

Chapter 305

"... No," Lina Sweeney said, but she could guess why Jason came to her. It was probably because of Grace.

"If not, why did he come looking for you so late at night?" Hadwin Stephenson said coolly. "What woman in Emerald City can make him do that? Or was it because of him that you didn't come looking for me all these years?"

There was a faint hint of jealousy in his voice.

Lina Sweeney was speechless. Come on, if only she was up to Jason's standards! Jason was after Grace, all right?

"It has nothing to do with him. I just never looked for you," Lina Sweeney said. Too many things had happened since she came back. How could she have time to think of anything else?

Besides, she only regarded it as a foreign encounter and their night as an accident. She planned to keep this secret for the rest of her life. She did not even tell her parents and Grace.

He looked angrier than ever. He glared at her fiercely while he pressed his thin lips together, and at last, all he said was, "You have a way of pissing people off."

He was good at controlling his emotions since he was little. As he was born out of wedlock, he had always known to endure his joys

However, she was the only one who seemed to particularly affect his emotions. He seemed to be able to completely release his emotions in front of her and did not need to have any burden.

The few days they spent together were both sweet and painful for him. He would often think of them in his spare time over the three

years.

The happier those days were, the more painful it was when she left without saying goodbye.

There was a knock on the door. Hadwin Stephenson gathered himself. "Come in."

Someone pushed through the door and came in. It was the guard outside, and behind him were Jason and Grace.

Lina Sweeney's eyes lit up when she saw her best friend. "Grace." She did not expect her best friend to come here.

Meanwhile, Grace immediately ran to Lina Sweeney, nervously saying, "How are you feeling? What happened? Are you all right?"

"I'm all right. I'm fine!" Lina Sweeney hurriedly said.

Grace was relieved. "Why did, uh, this man bring you here? Do you know him?" She could not help asking.

Lina Sweeney smiled awkwardly. "That's... a long story." Then, as if she thought of something, she suddenly said, "By the way, did you tell my parents about me being taken away?"

"Not yet, but... I called the police," Grace said.

"I'm screwed. The police will probably call my parents," Lina Sweeney wailed and was in a hurry to leave.

She would probably have to deal with her parents' crying and screaming if she went back.

However, a hand was in her way. "Did I say you can leave?"

Lina Sweeney was shocked while Grace lunged forward, protectively shielding her best friend behind her. "You have no right to detain anyone, and I've called the police. If you don't want any trouble, you'd better let Lina go."

Chapter 306

"You're Grace." What Hadwin Stephenson said was not a question, but an affirmation. After he happened to see Lina Sweeney in the street that day, he began to scout out everything about Lina Sweeney.

Of course, among the materials he found was this Grace.

She was Lina Sweeney's best friend. It was also because Lina Sweeney had to help Grace with her lawsuit that Lina Sweeney suddenly took the earliest flight back home from abroad. She went to great lengths to help Grace find lawyers and all kinds of

evidence.

In other words, it was also because of Grace that Lina Sweeney left him so quickly.

Hadwin Stephenson's heart was strangely uncomfortable when he thought of this.

If Grace was not a woman, Hadwin Stephenson might have treated her as a rival.

"Yes, I am," Grace said, raising her chin.

"You have no right to meddle in the affairs between Lina Sweeney and me. You'd better not overrate yourself in some matters. I show no mercy to women," Hadwin Stephenson said coldly.

However, the more anxious she was, the more Hadwin Stephenson found the scene before him irritating.

Just then, Jason finally lazily said, "I don't care what happens between you and Lina Sweeney, but you can't touch Grace."

Hadwin Stephenson turned to Jason with a slightly surprised look in his eyes. "I didn't expect Young Master Reed to visit me so late at night."

What surprised him was the relationship between Jason and Grace. He had checked Grace and found out about Grace's case. It was Grace who ran over and killed Jason's fiancée, Jennifer Atkinson. However, it was now clear to everyone that Grace and Jason had an unusual relationship.

"I'm taking Lina Sweeney with me tonight," Jason said.

Hadwin Stephenson frowned and sneered. "Didn't you just say that you don't care about what happens between Lina Sweeney and me?"

"I won't mind after tonight, but right now, I'm taking her with me,"

Jason said.

The two men looked at each other, and there seemed to be some tension in the air. It made the people watching breathless.

Grace and Lina Sweeney could not help but stare at each other.

"If I disagree, are you going to take her by force?" Hadwin

"I do have this in mind," Jason replied with an air of confidence as if taking Lina Sweeney away from his turf was nothing difficult.

Hadwin Stephenson's eyes gradually darkened. Although it was only a short time since he took over the Stephenson family, he was well aware of Jason's social status in Emerald City.

He turned around to look at Lina Sweeney and asked, "Do you want to leave?"

Lina Sweeney was stunned. She stared at the man she had not seen for more than three years and hesitated for a moment before saying, "I want to leave."

Hadwin Stephenson pursed his thin lips. "You are as heartless as ever."

She tried to argue, but the look in his eyes made her feel like something was stuck in her throat. The pain in her heart also seemed to come back.

Jason then left Hadwin Stephenson's house with Grace and Lina Sweeney. Hadwin Stephenson told the subordinate who had

brought them in, "Get out."

"Yes," he responded.

Chapter 307

Hadwin Stephenson then took out a crumpled yellow piece of paper from his chest pocket.

Written on it were the words, 'I'm sorry. I have to leave first'.

It was the piece of paper she had left back then. He had been carrying it with him all these years.

Several times, in anger, he crumpled up the paper and threw it into the trash can. However, he would go through the trash can and retrieve it.

This piece of paper was like a thorn in his heart. He could not pull it out and was reluctant to do so.

It was the only thing she had left for him. If he did not have that, then he would not have anything of hers.

However, now... Now, he had found her!

"Lina... Lina Sweeney..." He muttered her name over and over, and his thin lips kissed the paper in his hand. He looked so attached to it.

Lina Sweeney followed Grace into Jason's car and said to them,

Lina Sweeney hastened to tell him her address. Grace, still

somewhat worried, asked, "That Hadwin Stephenson didn't do anything to you, did he?"

"He just made me sit in a chair and stare at him for three hours," Lina Sweeney said. "I wanted to call you, but he took my phone so

I don't..."

Speaking of her phone, she suddenly remembered that her phone was still in Hadwin Stephenson's hand! She had some work

information on her phone.

Lina Sweeney began to stress at the thought of this. Should she approach Hadwin Stephenson to get her phone back or just consider it lost? That seemed to be the question.

"What's the matter?" Grace asked.

"Nothing." Lina Sweeney shook her head and looked at Jason who was driving at the front. She was amazed that she could ride

in Jason's car.

She knew Jason would come to her rescue because of Grace. "Sorry I made you worry." She looked at her friend with a guilty

face.

"What matters is you're all right," Grace said.

As the car pulled up to the gate of Lina Sweeney's neighborhood, Lina Sweeney got off the car. Grace took the initiative to get back into the passenger seat, looking at Jason as she said, "Thank you

He turned to look at her. The moonlight fell on her face through the window, still as calm as water.

She had been so anxious because of Lina Sweeney earlier as

if she would do just about anything for Lina Sweeney, even her remaining dignity could be thrown away.

Just because... Lina Sweeney was her lifeline?

"If I were in danger one day, will you be willing to kneel to save me?" "Jason asked softly.

His slightly hoarse voice surrounded her ear and made her tremble a little.

Her eyes looked into his dark, inky eyes, and for a moment, she subconsciously wanted to say yes.

However, her reason immediately stopped her. What was the matter with her? Would people like Jason get in danger?

Chapter 308

Besides, if a man like him could get in danger, it did not matter whether she kneeled or not.

Even if she were to break her legs kneeling, it would not do him any good.

Her silence darkened his eyes. Without another word, he started the car and drove away.

Just then, Grace felt nothing but silence and repression in the car.

Grace went to Lina Sweeney the next day, and the two found a table at a restaurant near Lina Sweeney's house. Looking at her best friend's obvious dark eye circles, Grace reckoned she did not sleep well last night.

"What happened after you got home yesterday?" Grace asked.

"Don't go there. My parents were preparing a ransom and almost made me kneel on the washboard when I got home," Lina Sweeney said.

Grace's face was full of surprise. "Why? You didn't tell them about Hadwin Stephenson?"

"Uh. I told them that

Sweeney said. She did not have the guts to tell her parents the truth.

If her parents knew that she had 'slept' with a man abroad, they would have done more than just roast her last night. Maybe her old man would have beaten her with a rolling pin.

"What is it with you and Hadwin Stephenson? Why did he take you away like that yesterday?" Grace asked the biggest question in her mind.

Also yesterday, after seeing Hadwin Stephenson, she found

out that this man was the same man she had seen through the window of the restaurant when she was having dinner with Lina.

Therefore, Hadwin Stephenson had been stalking Lina for a while now!

Lina Sweeney blushed a little and looked as if she could not tell her.

"If you can't talk about it..."

"Hey, there's nothing I can't say," Lina Sweeney said and roughly told Grace what had happened back then. "... Then, I got your call and came back. I thought he would be quite open about it, having grown up abroad. I thought he probably wouldn't take it seriously. Who knew... Uh, he seems to think I'm a playgirl."

Lina Sweeney felt a little embarrassed at this point.

Listening to Hadwin Stephenson's 'accusation' yesterday, if the

woman was a jerk. She said sweet words to an innocent, enthusiastic man and ran away after having her way with him. If they swapped genders, she would be the playboy the audiences despised in eight o'clock TV dramas!

Grace was stunned after hearing the story of her best friend and Hadwin Stephenson. According to Jason, Hadwin Stephenson was not a simple guy. He was scheming and manipulative, but her best friend...

Who would believe a thing like that?

"He has been looking for you for years?" Grace asked.

"I guess so..." Lina Sweeney said, embarrassed.

"Although we saved you from him yesterday, I don't think he'll leave it at that," Grace said. "How are you going to handle your relationship with him?"

Lina Sweeney scratched her head in distress. "I don't know. Let's take one step at a time." Speaking of which, her phone was still with Hadwin Stephenson. She had to buy another one later and report the loss of her phone number.

Chapter 309

"If you can't settle it by then, just let me know and I'll..."

Grace was interrupted by Lina Sweeney. "You've helped me a lot yesterday, Grace. If it weren't for you, I don't think Jason would've have saved me. I started all this mess with Hadwin Stephenson. I'll let him let it out on me."

Lina Sweeney put it mildly, but Grace was still worried. Could it be that simple?

"Hey, don't worry. Although I left Hadwin Stephenson without saying goodbye, I didn't kill someone or set fire to him, nor do I have a grudge against him. It was just a... one-night stand. I don't think he'll be too hard on me." Lina Sweeney reassured her best friend.

After all, it was already hard enough for her best friend to deal with Jason. She did not want her best friend to worry about her.

"However, if you have any trouble, do let me know!" Grace continued. "Even if I'm in no position to help, I can ask Jason. Maybe he'll help."

Grace was visibly embarrassed when she mentioned asking

Jason for help.

Lina Sweeney knew that her best friend must have asked Jason to find her yesterday. How could she not understand what it

were all caused by Jason.

However, in the face of her best friend's anxiety, Lina Sweeney smiled and said, "All right, got it." She only said this because she did not want her best friend to worry. As for the thing between her and Hadwin Stephenson, she would take care of it herself.

They continued talking for a while. Grace looked at the time. It was about time for her to go for the interview, so she got up to leave.

"Interviewing for a job as a food delivery rider?" Lina Sweeney asked.

"Yes." Grace nodded. "I sent my resume two days ago and got a call for an interview this morning."

"Good luck, then! I wish you success," Lina Sweeney said.

After Grace left, Lina Sweeney planned to go to the bus station to take the bus to the parking lot yesterday to get her car.

Hadwin Stephenson had taken her away so suddenly yesterday.

Her car was still in the parking lot!

Lina Sweeney felt a pang of pain at the thought of the parking fee after parking for nearly a day!

Money was not easy to earn nowadays. Some time ago, her little design studio said that they would only pay 80% of their salary every month. The remaining 20% would be paid together with their year-end bonus. It was a wage reduction in disguise. It was

Lina Sweeney was about to go to the bus station when a car stopped in front of Lina Sweeney.

Lina Sweeney took a look at the car and it gave her the

heebie-jeebies. Was this not Hadwin Stephenson's car? It was the same car from yesterday!

The car window rolled down and Hadwin Stephenson's delicate face was reflected in Lina Sweeney's eyes.

Lina Sweeney unconsciously took a step back, trying to keep her distance.

Hadwin Stephenson's eyes narrowed for a moment. Her retreat was only an eyesore to him.

"Don't you want your phone?" he said.

She looked at him carefully and licked her somewhat dry lips. "Are you going to give it back?"

Chapter 310

"Get in." His thin lips spat out these two words.

A hint of struggle suddenly appeared on Lina Sweeney's face. Her phone was precious, but the price of her freedom was higher! She did not want to be locked up in his room for hours as she had been yesterday.

If Grace had not come with Jason to take her away yesterday, she did not know when she would be able to leave.

"It's all right. I was just thinking about changing my phone. I don't need that old phone anymore," Lina Sweeney said timidly.

"You don't need all those photos and all those internet accounts on your phone anymore? By the way, I think there's also some of your company's internal information on it," Hadwin Stephenson. said lightly. "If you don't want it, so be it."

This was... a threat!

Lina Sweeney gritted her teeth, but the problem was her phone was password protected. Did... Did he unlock her phone and saw the photos and information on it?

Then, her various social media accounts... Could he have decrypted them?

"How could you?!" she said angrily.

"Do you want to get in or not?" he asked without answering.

She felt like something was stuck in her throat. She could not swallow nor spit it out. She found him to be a sweet cutie when she first met him. How did he turn out like this after years of not seeing each other?

However, Lina Sweeney could only hang her head low as she

opened the door of the passenger seat and sat down beside Hadwin Stephenson.

When she got into the car, she saw Hadwin Stephenson playing with her phone.

“My phone!” she exclaimed, subconsciously trying to get her phone back.

However, before her hand could touch the phone, he grabbed her by the hand. “You seem to have had a good life these years,” he said thoughtfully. With his other hand, he tapped on the photo album on her phone, which showed all kinds of photos of her smiling. Some of them were travel photos, while some of them

were everyday photos. Others were photos of her eating delicious food outside. Looking at the photos as they were, her life seemed pretty well off.

However, the problem was everyone would take photos of their happy times. Who would take photos when they were sad?

“Not too bad I guess...” Lina Sweeney answered timidly.

She twisted her wrist, trying to pull it out from his fingers.

It felt strange to be held in his hand like that. It was as if all his warmth was passing through his fingers to her.

Back then, she had gone crazy for his pretty fingers. She even had the cheek to tell him, “You’ve got pretty fingers, let me feel them.”

What happened after that? He seemed to have given her his hand and let her touch wherever she wanted.

As someone with a ‘hand fetish’, the feeling of his hand... Uh, it was nice!

Wait, what was she thinking?

Lina Sweeney suddenly came to her senses and wanted to slap herself. Look at what she got herself into, yet she was still busy thinking of fingers and whatnots!

As she looked up, she once again looked into Hadwin Stephenson’s beautiful black eyes.

However, his eyes, which were looking at her, seemed to be clouded with feelings she could not understand.

The next moment, he let go of her hand. Lina Sweeney's hand was finally free.

"How are you going to get me to return your phone?" Hadwin Stephenson asked coldly.