

Ex Convict 311

Chapter 311

Lina Sweeney blinked. What the... Was he not giving her phone back?

“Should I give you some money?” Lina Sweeney felt stupid when she said this. With his current status, would he care about money?

Sure enough, he smirked and looked at her as if she was an idiot.

“Then what do you want?” she asked, taking a deep breath. If she did not risk anything, she would risk everything. She guessed. he was using the phone to vent his anger on her from more than three years ago.

She would just let him blow off some steam.

“Have you been in a relationship these three years?” he asked.

She shook her head, wondering why he would ask this.

“Then have you ever liked anyone?” he asked again.

There were many. If she counted those celebrities she liked with her fingers, her ten fingers would not be enough.

However, facing his expressionless face, she shook her head almost instinctively.

She almost choked on her saliva. It was something she said when she was young and foolish! According to Grace, he was now

the President of Stephenson Group. The person in charge of the Stephenson family was not someone she could go after.

“Hehe, you’re too kind. I’ll be happy with an average boyfriend. I’m not that demanding.” She smiled awkwardly, not knowing what she was blabbering on about.

He glanced at her and said nothing. He kept his head down as he continued to play with her phone and check her web browsing history.

Lina Sweeney trembled with fear! She had browsed for some gay

fiction last week. She could not let him see that!

However, her hope was quickly shattered when he scrolled through her browsing history from the week before.

As he clicked on the link to the gay fiction, Lina Sweeney immediately screamed, "Wait!"

"Huh?" He raised his eyebrows and looked at her.

"This phone is my privacy. You can't... mess around like this," she said.

"Privacy?" He glanced at her. "Why don't you tell me how much of my privacy you invaded back then?"

She choked and blushed. All right, she was to blame.

"You didn't, but you seem to have forgotten what you said. That night, you told me that I was the only one you liked and that you

would never like any other man than me. You also said that I was handsome and obedient and that I was the perfect boyfriend for you..."

She blushed a little more with each retelling of the sweet talk she had uttered when she was drunk that night.

Fine, she was really a jerk!

Lina Sweeney no longer defended herself and hung her head low. After all, she did utter those words.

"You also said that you'll love me until the end of time. Have you forgotten that too? The funniest joke in the world probably came out of your mouth that night!" He said as his face came close to hers.

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Lina Sweeney's red face turned pale. Her lips trembled, and all she could say was "I'm sorry."

After all, she was the one who said those words, and she was the one who failed to do as she promised.

"You screwed me up," he said.

There was once again silence in the car. She did not know how long it took until the car finally stopped. Lina Sweeney followed Hadwin Stephenson out of the car only to find that it was the same mansion he had brought her to yesterday.

Lina Sweeney could not help stopping in her tracks at the thought of her being locked up inside last night.

“Why, are you afraid to go in?” Hadwin Stephenson turned his head to look at Lina Sweeney.

She tugged at the corners of her mouth, trying to force out a smile. “We can just talk outside. It’s all the same.”

Hadwin Stephenson gave a half-smile and said, “Lina Sweeney, I have many ways to keep you here if I want to, and I can guarantee that it won’t be easy for Jason to save you this time.”

Lina Sweeney was stunned. She hesitated for a moment before gritting her teeth. Who cared? If he was going to hurt her, with her

Lina Sweeney then stepped a few steps forward with vigorous strides.

Hadwin Stephenson smiled faintly and stepped forward.

As the two entered the mansion, Hadwin Stephenson pointed to a couch and said, “Sit.”

Lina Sweeney sat down obediently as if she was possessed by a primary school student.

Hadwin Stephenson walked over to the bar and began mixing drinks. Soon, a rainbow cocktail appeared in his hands. Then he held the glass and walked up to her. “Here, I remember that your used to enjoy this.”

Speaking of which, she was indeed guilty. The alcohol from back then tasted like fruit wine, so she thought it would not be too strong. Who knew she would be drunk enough to do that.

Otherwise, she would not be so awkward with him.

“No, thank you. I’m not thirsty.” She smiled faintly.

He raised his eyebrows. “I worked hard to make you this. Will you really not drink it?” He took her right hand and pushed the glass into hers, almost forcing her to hold it. “I didn’t bother to learn.

mixology because I wasn’t going to be a bartender, but I learned it over the years. I only know how to make this, though. Isn’t it funny?”

Lina Sweeney listened on, not knowing what to say. The cocktail hand seemed to get heavier.

"You still won't drink it?" he asked as he stared at her.

She pursed her lips. Fine, she would drink it. The worst that could happen was her getting drunk, and... he could just take his revenge, but... "What's going on between us has nothing to do with my parents. You can take out your anger on me any way your want, but don't bother my parents."

He looked at her. She looked like she was going to risk everything and get it over with. Then, his thin lips spat out the words, "All right".

Lina Sweeney threw back her head and drank the cocktail in one gulp.

It was the same drink, but she felt completely different. Why did she think it tasted so good back then but so bitter now?

"Is it good?" he asked, looking at her intently.

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"It's... so good." She was a little tongue-tied, and her mouth was full of the taste of the cocktail.

She should have tasted the drink slowly, but she just swallowed it all in one go. "Hadwin Stephenson, what do you want me to do for you to let go of this? Tell me!"

Perhaps it was the glass of cocktail that made her more daring and her voice louder.

His black eyes darkened. "Whatever you owe me, you pay me with it now."

She tilted her head on one side, her round eyes staring at him as if she were thinking of something. "I just have to pay you with whatever I owe you?"

"Yes," he said.

Lina Sweeney stood up and shook her head. The alcohol probably caught up with her and made her feel a little dizzy.

The cocktail was just as strong as before.

However, because of this, she had also become bolder and could do things that she normally could not do.

Just like how she was unzipping her coat and taking it off now.

Hadwin Stephenson narrowed his eyes and looked at what Lina Sweeney was doing right now. His eyes were glistening.

Lina Sweeney took off her coat and began to take off the sweater inside. Once the sweater was on the floor, she started to take off her cotton tee...

"What, do you think I want you?" Hadwin Stephenson said coldly.

Lina Sweeney blinked her eyes. "You're right. You hate me so much, you probably... don't want me. You can get someone else to do it, then. Since I owe you one, you should... Uh... You should be able to let go of your fury if I return you one." Her tongue seemed a little bit out of control. She began to become tongue-tied as she spoke.

His face took on a ghastly expression. He got closer to her, putting his hand under her chin. "Do you allow just anyone to do that to you?"

"I'll think of it as... being bitten by a dog. How... How else do you expect me to pay you? However... you have to keep your promise... Don't... Don't touch my mom and dad, they're just honest citizens... They've never hurt anyone in their life..." She stammered, but her voice became unusually shrill as she spoke of her parents.

He glared at her. This woman was only trying to protect her parents! Was she afraid that he would go hard on them?

However, he did not want her fear!

She stared at the beautiful face so close to her. It was so beautiful it was like the doll she had played with when she was a child.

"You're so pretty," she suddenly said, grinning. Then, she put her hands on his cheek. Her fingers even moved restlessly across his face.

At the sight of this, he knew she was probably drunk.

She was just as drunk as before. She had said the same thing back then.

She also said a lot of vows of eternal love, which completely enamored him. Had it not been for her departure the next day, that night would have been his fondest memory.

Unlike the ridicule, indifference, and the cold eyes he received since he was little, her eyes were full of warmth when she looked

at him.

Chapter 314

When he told her he was a bastard, she smiled brightly. "So what if you're a bastard? You are what you are. There's only one you in this world. What a person can achieve is not based on whether he is born out of wedlock."

"Don't you think it's disgraceful that I was born?"

She earnestly said, "I think your parents are irresponsible about marriage. Now that they have children, they should get married. If they can't get married, they should have kept their distance or took precautions. Isn't there a saying that getting into a relationship without considering marriage is just sexual

harassment?"

For the first time, someone said that about his parents in front of him.

Did she know that sometimes people get into a relationship without considering marriage because there are so many other considerations?

Marriage was nothing more than choosing the woman who could help them make the most of it.

"You get into a relationship for marriage?" he asked.

"Of course," she answered. "If I want to get married in the future, I'll surely find a man I love very much and someone who loves me

She described to him her idea of love and marriage.

He listened and unexpectedly produced some kind of yearning. He was almost wishing he could have a relationship like that too.

He had always assumed that he was indifferent to his future marriage. If he married, he thought it would be with a woman who could bring him some benefit. Otherwise, he would not marry.

However, his heart leaped at her words.

If she were the one he was going to marry... Then he would do it. willingly, and he looked forward to the day they would grow old together.

"Do you like me?" he asked in a deep voice.

"Yes," she said as she nodded.

"Then date me and fall in love with me. Once you fall in love with me, I'll take it as if you've given me back everything you owe me," he muttered.

Her eyes had a thick layer of confusion. Her drunken state made her head even more incapable of thinking. "Be your girlfriend? Fall in love with you?"

"Yes," he said, loosening the fingers that were clasped over her jaw. He hesitated when he raised his hand to remove his hands

from her face.

She looked like she was reluctant to give up the warmth in her hand.

Lina Sweeney was staring at the face in front of her. Suddenly, she put on a bright smile and shouted, "All right!"

It was like a hammer, pounding hard against his heart, making it tremble.

Did she know the real meaning of the words 'All right'?

As he stared at her, her eyelids began to droop. Then, the hands that had been resting on his face began to slide slowly down and went around his neck. "I'm getting a little sleepy. I haven't... Uh, slept much last night. I'll take a nap now... Wake me up when it's time for dinner."

He did not know whether to laugh or cry. Even now, she still remembered to eat?

After a while, Lina Sweeney fell asleep.

Hadwin Stephenson pursed his thin lips and finally picked up the person in front of him. He went into his bedroom and put her carefully on the bed in the bedroom.

Chapter 315

Looking at the sleeping face before him, he took one of her hands in his.

He found her! She no longer existed only in his memory but had appeared in front of him.

"You agreed today. I won't allow you to go back on it." His voice rang faintly in the quiet room.

He was only answered by each other's breathing.

After the interview, Grace returned to Reed Residence. Today's interview was quite simple for her. The interviewer just looked at her health certificate and asked her some basic questions.

When asked why she, a brilliant law graduate, wanted to be a food delivery rider, she was already ready to answer that, but she

was nervous and could only say in the simplest possible terms

that she had been jailed for a traffic offense, so her lawyer's

license was revoked.

No further questions were asked after that. They just told her to

go home and wait for a reply.

She knew that the interview might have gone wrong.

Emerald City had about a dozen large and small companies that were looking for food delivery riders. Grace had sent her resume to every company. She did not know if there were any that would

hire her, but she felt exhausted.

was as if... it was tiring to stay alive.

Perhaps it was the events after her release from prison that left her physically and mentally exhausted.

When they were having dinner that evening, Jason suddenly said,

“You applied for a job as a food delivery rider today?”

Grace was shocked and could hardly hold her chopsticks.

“Why, are you surprised?” Jason smiled and said, “I got a call

from the boss today. He said you applied for a job at her place, so she wanted to ask me for my opinion.”

Grace was silent. She remembered that the interviewer who

interviewed her did not ask her specifically who the victim of the car crash was. She thought if she did not tell, he might not know.

Who knew that the company’s boss would personally call Jason.

This was a big, merciless slap from reality.

“Now, what should I say to her?” Jason asked.

Grace pursed her lips, but her mind was as clear as a mirror.

Normally,

would the boss call about a rider? They could just reject her application.

They probably called to take credit. They thought she killed Jennifer Atkinson and Jason should hate her, so they revealed her whereabouts to get on the Reed family’s good side and please Jason.

However, that left Grace feeling sick.

“Do you want me to talk to them and make them hire you?” Jason

continued.

“No,” Grace said quickly.

Jason raised his eyebrows slightly. "You don't seem to like that company very much. I don't happen to like it very much either. In that case, I'd better get rid of the company."

Chapter 316

Grace looked shocked. "What did you say?"

"Did you not hear me?" Jason repeated with a patient face. "I said, since you don't like that company, I might as well get rid of that company."

He looked as if he was talking about something very ordinary.

However, get rid of it?!

Grace's pupils constricted suddenly. Could she have understood him wrongly? That company was a rookie in the food delivery industry. Although it was not as good as those well-known

companies, it was performing quite well recently. She had also

read news reports that the company recently raised another \$1.7 billion in capital.

How could a company like that be rid of so easily?

However... If it was Jason, then the impossible would become possible.

"Just because I don't like it?" she asked, looking at Jason in shock.

He smiled. "I also don't like the people who sell others out. A

company leader who wants to gain benefit by selling people out probably can't do much even if I don't get myself involved. In that

throat.

He laughed and talked about the survival of a company in such

a simple way that the boss would probably never have made the call if she had known it would turn out like this.

"Right, why aren't you eating any vegetables? Eat," he said, picking up a bunch of vegetables into her bowl with his chopsticks.

It was as if he was both gentle and caring.

However, she knew it was all an illusion. The others would never guess what this man was thinking. He might be extremely caring to you one second and banish you to hell the next.

Grace kept her head down and ate her food somewhat mechanically. An obviously delicious meal seemed to have no

taste.

"Are you sure you don't want me to find you a job? That way, you can do whatever job you want. You can even go back to your old job," Jason said.

"It's... all right. I can find a job myself," she said.

The next moment, the air seemed to freeze, and she could feel his eyes on her even if she did not look up.

It was some time before Grace heard Jason's voice. "All right. If you insist, then you can do whatever you like."

It was not until she heard the sound of footsteps receding that Grace took a long breath. She looked up at the dining table. There was still half a bowl of rice in front of where he had been sitting.

He did not even finish his dinner.

Did her answer annoy him just now? She could not help thinking about this. Then, she laughed to herself and thought that there was no use thinking about these things. Speaking of annoying him, she must have annoyed him from the very beginning when

she refused to stay with him.

Now, her fingers were almost healed, but... she could not leave this place.

When exactly could she leave?

Somehow it always seemed to her that the longer she stayed there, the deeper the bond between her and him.

When Lina Sweeney woke up, what she saw was the unfamiliar ceiling and the dim crystal lamp hanging from it.

Chapter 317

What was... this place?

She was stunned. Then, her mind began to recall the previous scene, and she sat up immediately.

She drank again and even got drunk!

"Are you awake?" A voice rang in the room. Lina Sweeney stiffened and turned her head to one side.

Sure enough, Hadwin Stephenson was sitting on a sofa not far from the bed. His eyes were on her.

"I'm... I'm awake..." she stuttered and scrambled out of the bed.

She looked at her clothes. They were all intact, so she supposed... nothing had happened.

Lina Sweeney thought so to herself, but just in case, she asked, "Did I do anything when I was drunk?"

"You did a lot of things. Which one do you want me to say?"

Hadwin Stephenson asked lazily.

Lina Sweeney's jaw dropped.

A lot of things... What... What did she do?! Her head was now in a mess after getting drunk this time, unlike the previous time when she remembered almost everything that had happened.

"What... What did I do?" She swallowed the sudden flow of saliva in her throat and asked cautiously.

He blushed for no apparent reason.

Lina Sweeney gawked at the sight of his blushing cheeks. Suddenly, she found that he looked a little like the man she remembered.

"Did I... force myself on you again last night?" she blurted, and the next thing she knew, he was blushing even more. He even turned his head away uncomfortably.

Lina Sweeney had an impulse to beat herself to death. Oh God! No way. Did she make the same mistake twice?

Well... Just because she woke up with her clothes intact did not mean nothing had happened.

"About that... How did I 'force' myself on you?" Lina Sweeney, in the spirit of seeking truth from facts, sought proof with great care. She wanted to know if she had any chance of making it up.

"Enough!" Hadwin Stephenson groaned. He managed to calm down and keep his face from turning as red as before.

Just now when she asked him, he remembered that when he had brought her into the room, she suddenly opened her eyes and put her arms around his neck, kissing all over his face like a puppy who would lick people.

She was kissing and saying things like "You smell so good, so and so delicious..." This woman was the same as before!

Even now he could still feel her breath on his face.

"Anyway, from this day on, we're dating and you have to fall in love with me," he said.

What?!

Lina Sweeney gawked at him, seriously doubting whether she heard him right.

Hadwin Stephenson stopped talking. He turned on the recording app on his phone and played the recording of their conversation earlier. Lina Sweeney almost stumbled and fell to the ground when she heard herself saying yes.

She had to date Hadwin Stephenson and fall in love with him... Could it be that his revenge was to wait until she falls in love with him and get rid of her so that she could experience the feeling of being abandoned?

Lina Sweeney began to think imaginatively. After all, was this not often portrayed in TV dramas.

Chapter 318

"Fine, let's date," Lina Sweeney said with resignation. Since she was going to be avenged on, she should at least be mentally prepared for it. "Then you... Uh, you can give me my phone back now."

She had not forgotten that the main reason she followed him to the mansion was to get her phone back.

He stared at her for a moment, then threw the phone which was lying on the coffee table straight back to her.

"Ah!" she exclaimed, catching her phone just in time. The phone cost her 10,000 dollars. She had bought it through gritted teeth. If it hit the ground and its screen broke, it would cost more than 2,000 dollars to fix.

It hurt to think about it!

If it did break, she dared not ask him to pay!

Lina Sweeney turned on her phone and looked at the time. It was already past nine o'clock, and there were several missed calls on her phone. They were all from her parents, so she immediately called them back.

The call soon got through and there came her father's angry shout. "Won't you just give us a call if you're not coming back for dinner? You're not even answering your phone. What are

Lina Sweeney was sweating wildly. "I... I got tied up. I'll be right back."

With that, she hung up the phone quickly and looked at Hadwin Stephenson who had walked over to her. With her father's loud

voice, he probably heard what he just said to her.

"Well, if there's nothing else, I got to go," Lina Sweeney said rather lamely.

“I’ll take you home,” said Hadwin Stephenson.

Lina Sweeney hastened to say, “It’s all right. I’ll just take a taxi there. Besides... I have to pick up my car from yesterday’s parking lot.”

However, he grabbed her wrist and firmly said, “I’ll take you there. We’re in a relationship now.””

Lina Sweeney was rendered speechless. Fine, he could take her there if he wanted.

Lina Sweeney stopped arguing and obediently followed Hadwin Stephenson out the mansion.

“The keys to your car,” Hadwin Stephenson said to Lina Sweeney.

Lina Sweeney looked confused but obediently took the car keys from her bag and handed them to Hadwin Stephenson.

Hadwin Stephenson gave the car keys to the driver and told him to go to the place where Lina Sweeney parked yesterday to get

“Yes,” the driver replied and left.

Then, Hadwin Stephenson got into the driver’s seat and looked at

Lina Sweeney who stood dumbfounded beside the car. “Get in,”

he said coldly.

“Oh.” Lina Sweeney came back to her senses and hurriedly got

into the car.

Hadwin Stephenson was focused on driving throughout the

journey, ignoring Lina Sweeney.

Lina Sweeney had nothing to do, so she opened her phone, determined to set a new password. She felt as if he had seen a lot

of the contents on her phone.

Just when she was about to set a separate password for the video folder on her phone, she suddenly found that a lot of the videos on her phone seemed to be missing...

Lina Sweeney hurriedly checked the videos in the folder and was shocked to find that the missing videos were all videos of her

idols!

Chapter 319

As someone who was appearance-obsessed and would love

this idol today and love another tomorrow, she was serious about

each one of them!

She was a devoted fan when she was crazy about her idols and even spent money to go to their concerts and autograph sessions.

Sometimes, she would even attend celebrity fan meetings.

Of course, most of this happened before Grace's incident. After Grace's incident, she became less starstruck. Besides going to work, she focused all her energy on helping her best friend to reverse her case.

Therefore, the videos of the concerts, signings, and fan meetings were equivalent to the wonderful memories of her youth.

However, these memories were now... gone?!

"What happened to my idols' event videos?" Lina Sweeney exclaimed, turning her head to stare at Hadwin Stephenson who was driving.

"I've deleted them," Hadwin Stephenson answered quite directly and readily.

"You... deleted them?" Lina Sweeney thought she was going to faint. If he had not returned her phone, she would have to accept were gone.

"Yes, I deleted them. Even if you took your phone to a professional repair shop, you still wouldn't be able to restore them." He continued.

She felt like coughing up blood. "Those are the memories of my youth!"

"Memories?" He sneered suddenly. Then, he turned the steering wheel and pulled the car over to the roadside. He unbuckled his seat belt and leaned his upper body toward her. "You know what I was thinking when I saw those videos?"

"What?" His handsome face closed in on her suddenly and made her heart beat much faster. The closer she looked at him, the more she felt that time had treated him well.

He was two years older than she was, but right now, his face looked like that of a fresh graduate.

Youthful and tender!

Bah! What was she thinking? Lina Sweeney hurriedly shook off the chaotic thoughts in her mind and stared at the man in front of her before saying, "You can't just delete people's videos!"

He breathed on her face. "I was thinking that I wasn't the only one you said those things to. You seem to say a lot to other men too."

"..."

"For a moment, she felt speechless because... Come to think of it, it seemed to be true. She seemed to express her love for

those videos.

Was it not normal for fans to say that they like their idols, love their idols, and were willing to accompany them forever?

Of course, her lifetime with her idols usually lasted for only a few months to a year or so.

He raised his hand and gently played with her fringe. "All right.

From now on, you mustn't say that to any other man. You can only say that to me."

"I..." She tried to argue a little more, but his eyes fixed on her coldly.

"Don't test my patience, Lina. I've already said that from this day on, we're dating. Are you going to tell other men you like or love them? What are you going to do with me as your boyfriend?" He said, his voice so cold compared to his affectionate gestures.

For a moment Lina Sweeney stiffened.

She almost forgot that he was not the cutie he was back then. He was Hadwin Stephenson, the current patriarch of the Stephenson family!

Chapter 320

Lina Sweeney went home, still a little confused. Did she and Hadwin Stephenson just get into a relationship? She had thought of many possible revenge plans that he might execute, but she did not think of this!

She did not have much experience in dating. She would just follow his pace. If that did not work, there were plenty of idol

dramas for reference.

However, the problem was... he wanted her to fall in love with him.

Fall in love with him and then wait for him to dump her? Lina Sweeney scratched her head a little helplessly. If that really did not work, how about if she pretended to fall in love with him after a few months of dating and pretend to be heartbroken when he dumped her? Then maybe she could put an end to all this?

Lina Sweeney sighed heavily at the thought. Who would have thought that her first relationship would be started this way?

However, it was far better than how she had imagined him taking his revenge on her. She thought he would destroy her family or

whatever.

That was why one should not take advantage of men. One should especially not run away after having their way with them. She was getting her comeuppance now!

Lina Sweeney rolled her eyes.

their home? She just sold herself to save their family!

"It's not good having such a poor sense of time. I've made an appointment with the community's Director Wang to get you on a

blind date next week," said Mrs. Sweeney.

Lina Sweeney almost spat out a mouthful of blood. She... She just started dating Hadwin Stephenson and her mom wanted her to go.

on a blind date?

The community's Director Wang... was famous for being a matchmaker in the community, and she had made several successful matches. Therefore, her mother always hung out with Director Wang, hoping that she could find a good match for her.

"Mom... Can I find a boyfriend myself? I promise to find one you'll like," said Lina Sweeney. Of course, even though she said so, she did not intend to tell her parents about her relationship with Hadwin Stephenson.

After all, she knew very well that her affair with Hadwin Stephenson was only for a short time. It would not be long before she 'broke up' with Hadwin Stephenson.

Therefore, there was no need to tell her family about this. She wanted to save her parents from disappointment.

"You've said this many times. Do you realize you're almost 28? If you don't find a boyfriend now, are you going to wait until you're 30 and

become a leftover woman?" Mrs. Sweeney snapped.

Lina Sweeney pursed her lip. There were a lot of people who fell in love and got married in their 30s. Being a leftover woman did not mean she had to make do with just anybody. If she was to marry, she would marry someone she liked and was a feast to her eyes.

However, Hadwin Stephenson's face unexpectedly and involuntarily emerged in her mind at the thought of this.

Bah! What was she thinking? Lina Sweeney quickly shook her head to shake the image of his face out of her mind. Then, she told her parents, "I'm tired!" and hurried into her room.

Once she entered the room, she received a text message on her phone. "This is Hadwin Stephenson. Please save my phone number for easy contact."

Lina Sweeney glanced at the unfamiliar phone number and sighed helplessly as she obediently saved the phone number on her phone.

Now, she could only take one step at a time!

Grace continued looking for a job but was always turned down at the last stage because of her criminal record.