

## **Ex Convict 3781**

### Chapter 3781

"You..." Veronica glared at Daniel.

"You better stay quiet now, Veronica. I don't want to harm you. I just want you to understand how incompatible you are with someone like Mason. We'll be at our destination soon, and when we get off the car, I'll give you back your phone!" Daniel said.

Veronica tightly pursed her lips. At this moment, she was locked in the car and couldn't get out. Her phone was with Daniel, and if she insisted on grabbing it now, it could lead to a car accident.

So arguing and fighting in the car was not a good plan.

The only plan for now was to wait... and see what Daniel's next move was.

Fortunately, Mason should have a general idea of what happened. With Mason's ability, he should be able to find her!

For some reason, just thinking of Mason made her feel a sense of security.

It was as if no matter what happened, he would come to protect her and she would be safe.

Veronica quieted down and just looked out the car window as the scenery passed by, memorizing the route. For now,

it was better for her to avoid exciting Daniel.

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After about 10 more minutes, Daniel's car finally stopped, but to Veronica's surprise, he had parked at the parking lot of a famous mental hospital in Emerald City.

"Why did you bring me here?" she asked, puzzled.

"To show you what kind of sins rich people can commit!" Daniel said as he took Veronica's hand and led her towards the hospital's ward.

When he stood at the door of one of the rooms, he stopped for a moment before pushing it open and taking Veronica inside.

In the room, a frail middle-aged woman was sitting on the bed, knitting, but her knitting was messy and it was impossible to tell what she was making.

As Veronica approached, she noticed that both ends of the woman's knitting needles were thick and rounded. Was this to prevent the woman from injuring herself with the needles?

Veronica wondered to herself.

“Mom, I’m here,” Daniel said. “And today, I brought Veronica with me.”

The woman finally looked up and smiled at Daniel and Veronica. “Come closer, let Mom have a good look at you,” she said.

Daniel led Veronica to the bedside, and the woman’s gaze was fixed on Veronica. “Yes, you’re Veronica. You’re Veronica. Our Daniel has nothing left except for you. You must not abandon

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him. You must be with him. The embezzlement of public funds by his father has nothing to do with him. You can’t blame him...”

The more the woman spoke, the more agitated she became, and her voice gradually became incoherent.

Veronica frowned. Was this person... Daniel’s mother? She had seen a family photo of him, his parents, and him before, and his mother had looked beautiful and gentle, giving her the impression of a graceful and virtuous wife and mother from a TV drama.

But now, in front of her, she was in a hysterical state, and her face, although faintly resembling the one in the photo, had changed too much.

With gray hair and many wrinkles on her face, she looked like someone who had been tormented by life and had suffered too much.

“Mom, Veronica doesn’t want to break up with me. You don’t have to worry about these things. And... Dad regrets what he did. He has been trying to make amends for these years,” Daniel said.

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“Compensate? What can he compensate for?! He... he should go to jail. How could he ruin your happiness? You... you must not listen to that Reed family Mason’s words and break up with the person you love for money! In this world, money isn’t everything. You will regret it for money... for money...” The old Mrs. Cross’s voice became more urgent, and in the end, she even picked up the thick and long knitting needle and hit Daniel hard.

Veronica was shocked and wanted to stop her, but was stopped by Daniel’s voice, “Don’t interfere. Just watch from the side!”

Veronica’s body stiffened, only seeing the old Mrs. Cross hitting Daniel harder and Daniel taking the beating silently.

After a while, the old Mrs. Cross seemed tired from hitting and gasped for breath. She turned to Veronica and said, “Veronica, you must forgive Daniel... he... he is a good boy, unlike his father. He won’t break up with you for money. You... you must believe him and forgive him...”

The old Mrs. Cross kept talking, and Veronica was at a loss. She knew that the old Mrs. Cross was not in her right mind now, and if she couldn't give her a satisfactory answer, she was afraid that the old Mrs. Cross would continue to be agitated.

"Okay, I understand. I will believe him and forgive him," Veronica said.

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"That... that's great," the old Mrs. Cross murmured, holding Daniel and Veronica's hands together and letting them shake hands. "Now I can rest assured..."

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After a while, the old Mrs. Cross fell asleep on the hospital bed, and Daniel carefully covered her with a blanket.

"Is this what you wanted to show me?" Veronica asked.

"Her mental illness was triggered when my father embezzled money after we broke up. Mason promised to give my family a large sum of money, but on the condition that I break up with you. I did it, and that night, Mason's men came to my house with cash," Daniel said.

Every time he thought of the scene back then, he felt extremely humiliated, and his life became a mess because of it.

"But later, although my father made up for the embezzled money, he was still fired. Since then, it has been difficult to find a stable job, and he could only do odd jobs. As for my mother, her mental problems began to appear and became more and more serious, and she had to be hospitalized for a long time. As for me..."

Daniel sighed bitterly, "As for me, you can see what I've become. I've achieved nothing, and everything I wanted to do when I was

in school has not been realized!"

"So you think everything is thanks to Mason?" Veronica asked.

"Shouldn't I think that way? If he hadn't used money back then,

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even if my father really embezzled public funds, he might have been sentenced to prison, but at least my mother wouldn't have had a mental breakdown, and we wouldn't have broken up. Maybe we would still be together, and your father and stepmother might have helped us, and our lives would have gradually improved."

"Why do you think my father and stepmother would help us?" Veronica suddenly felt that Daniel in front of her was becoming more and more unfamiliar.

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"Your family made a lot of money before relying on your relationship with the Reed family. If I were still your boyfriend, they would certainly help us."

"But as you can see, I'm working hard to support myself while studying at university. They haven't helped me."

"That's because you don't want to accept the Reed family's assistance. The Reed family is willing to help you..." Daniel said, but suddenly his voice stopped, and the rest of his words were swallowed back.

Veronica stared at Daniel. "How do you know that the Reed family is willing to help me?"

"I...I'm just guessing. After all, your relationship with the Reed family has always been good. I heard that you moved out of your house after breaking up with Mason and lived alone. You must have had a falling out with your family, and the Reed family couldn't just ignore you."

Although Daniel's explanation was reasonable, Veronica still felt a sense of unease in his voice, and he tried to avoid her gaze when he said these things.

Therefore, Daniel knowing these things was probably not just because of his simple guesswork. There must be something else.

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"Even if you didn't break up with me for that money back then, we would still have broken up in the future." Veronica looked directly at him and said, "I did like you back then, but looking back now, that liking also had a sense of escape, because I wanted to avoid the person I liked more, so I chose to date you, who I had feelings for."

"The person you liked more? Is it Mason? Did you date me just to use me?" Daniel's expression changed.

"I never thought of using you. I dated you back then because I genuinely liked you, but I also genuinely wanted to avoid my feelings for Mason, because I was afraid of breaking the peace of my past life and afraid that my relationship with him would change in some way. So subconsciously, I might have chosen you because I felt safer with you." Veronica explained.

This was also her recent understanding of her past feelings.

"Ha ha, just because I'm safer, you've turned my life into a mess like this?" Daniel's voice was sharp.

"Do you want to wake up your mother?" Veronica glanced at the old Mrs. Cross who was still sleeping, then said, "Let's go outside and talk, don't disturb your mother."

Daniel didn't argue and the two of them walked out of the ward. After leaving the hospital, Veronica stopped and turned to Daniel. "If you think that my decision to date you was the beginning of all your troubles, then I apologize. If your mother's medical expenses are not enough, I can help you figure out a solution. But I hope you can stop dwelling on the past and move

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1. That way, your life will have more possibilities.”

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Daniel sneered, “More possibilities? What are you kidding? My life has already been ruined by Mason. What other possibilities are there?”

“But it was a fact that your father embezzled public funds. Mason used this to break us up, but it was you who made the choice to take the money, wasn’t it? Why blame others for a choice you made?” Veronica stared at Daniel.

She felt sorry for the old Mrs. Cross after seeing her condition earlier.

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But Daniel kept blaming others for everything and never thought he had any problems, which made her angry.

“What did you say? How can you say that about me? If it weren’t for Mason...”

“Even if Mason didn’t give you the money and make you make that choice, according to your previous thoughts, didn’t you hope to continue dating me and then have the Barlow family or the Reed family help you get through your difficult life? You never thought about changing your situation through your own efforts, but relied on others to help you.” Veronica said, “Everyone has their own difficulties. In this world, there are always people who are more difficult than you.”

Daniel became angry, “What’s wrong with my way of thinking? You haven’t experienced the hardships I have, so what right do you have to criticize me?”

“Everyone has their own difficulties,” Veronica said calmly, “I’ve seen what you wanted to show me today. I don’t think we need to continue talking. I’m going back.”

Veronica finished speaking and turned to leave.

“Don’t go, I haven’t finished yet!” Daniel tried to grab Veronica.

But as he reached out, he was suddenly kicked by a force and he

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cried out in pain, falling to the ground in a sorry state.

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Veronica turned abruptly at the sound, only to find that Mason had come over without her noticing. He had his foot on Daniel’s back, and his handsome face was icy and intimidating.

“Daniel, I underestimated you. Did you want to die by bringing Veronica to a place like this?” His voice was cold, but filled with anger.

Daniel coughed and struggled to stand up, but Mason pressed down harder on his back with his foot.

“Mason!” Veronica shouted, “Don’t do this! If you hurt Daniel, you’ll be responsible too!”

“Why shouldn’t I do this?” Mason glared at Veronica. “He brought you here without permission. What’s wrong with me teaching him a lesson?”

“Even if you want to teach him a lesson, you don’t have to do it like this. Besides, we’re in a hospital.” Although there weren’t many people around, someone might come by and see them.

“So what? He should have thought about the consequences before doing what he did today!” Mason grabbed Daniel’s hair and slammed his face into the wall.

Veronica was stunned. This violent side of Mason made her feel unfamiliar.

In just a moment, Daniel’s face was covered in bruises and cuts,

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and blood was flowing from his forehead.

“Mason, let him go! You have to stop the bleeding now!” Veronica finally found her voice.

“Are you worried about him?” Mason asked.

“I’m worried about you! Let him go and we need to stop the bleeding immediately!” Veronica urged.

“If I tell you that you don’t need to worry about me, even if I beat him to a pulp, would you just stand there and watch?” Mason said.

Veronica was stunned. “What do you mean?”

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“Haha... Veronica, now you see. This is the mindset of the wealthy. Do you really think he’s so innocent? People like him only know how to use money to solve everything. You and him are completely different types of people. You’ll never be together...” Daniel struggled to speak.

But after saying this, what awaited him was even more intense attacks from Mason.

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Veronica saw the situation getting worse and immediately rushed forward, risking danger to hug Mason’s waist. His fist grazed her cheek, causing her great pain!

She could almost sense that her face was now swollen and red.

“Stop it, Mason, just stop it!” She shouted with all her might. “Do you really think money can solve everything?” Even if he could get away with it, the blood on his hands from potentially crippling Daniel would never wash away.

“So, you choose to protect this guy?” His actions finally stopped, and his eyes stared straight at her like sharp swords, causing her pain.

"I...today, Daniel just brought me to see his hospitalized mother. He...didn't do anything extreme to me. You don't need to do this." Of course, if you ignore the fact that she was forcibly brought here, Daniel really didn't do anything to her.

But her words were like adding fuel to the fire, making his face terrifyingly dark.

"You think what I did wasn't necessary...fine, I understand." Mason finally let go of Daniel and turned to leave.

"Wait!" Veronica stepped forward and grabbed his hand. "Don't go, wait for me. I'll call the medical staff to bandage and stop the

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bleeding for Daniel. You, wait for me!"

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He looked at her. "Since you put Daniel first, why should I wait for you?"

He said this and suddenly pulled his hand away from hers, then left without looking back.

Veronica wanted to chase after Mason, but at this moment, Daniel was lying limp on the ground, eyes closed as if he had passed out.

She didn't know how serious Daniel's injuries were!

Veronica gritted her teeth and ran in the opposite direction of the elevator to find medical staff. After all, Daniel's injuries were more important right now. If something really happened to Daniel, Mason would be in trouble.

As for the misunderstanding between Mason and her, as long as she explains it to him properly afterwards, everything should be fine!

This is what Veronica was thinking at the moment.

In the end, Daniel had 5 stitches on his head, a slight concussion, and many bruises, but fortunately, there were no fractures.

Although he still had to stay in the hospital for a few more days

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of observation, according to the doctor, there shouldn't be any major problems.

Lying on the hospital bed, Daniel said to Veronica, "You saw it too, Mason is a lunatic who doesn't value human life. And now, he has injured me like this. He probably just wants to throw some money at me and call it even."

"If you hadn't brought me here without my consent in the first place, why would he have attacked you? Daniel, you were the one who made the mistake in the beginning!" Veronica said.

Daniel was full of anger, "At this point, you still want to speak up for him?"

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"I'm just being objective. Besides," Veronica's voice paused, "Mason is my boyfriend. It's only natural for me to speak up for him."

"If he hadn't done such despicable things back then, you would still be my girlfriend!" Daniel said.

"Daniel, even though we were together briefly, it wouldn't have lasted. We have too many differences in how we view things and problems. Take care of yourself and the medical expenses and compensation, I believe the Reed family will pay you. I hope this matter can be resolved!"

"Resolved?" Daniel sneered, "I will appeal and let the public see what kind of person Mason really is!" He wanted to ruin Mason's reputation!

"If you really want to appeal, then I will appeal too. You forcibly brought me to the hospital, and my phone was recording our conversation at the time. I think Mason should have a backup recording." Veronica said.

Daniel's face suddenly changed. If there really was a backup recording, then their conversation at the time would become evidence against him, and he would no longer have a valid argument.

"So, I hope this matter ends here," Veronica said, turning

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around and leaving.

Daniel tightly clutched the blanket covering him, his face contorted in terror. Why did he always have such bad luck? Why wouldn't even Veronica stand by his side?

He was the victim here!

All the misery he was going through was because of Mason and Veronica, and he would make them pay!

After leaving the hospital, Veronica took a taxi to the Reed family mansion.

The servants in the mansion knew her, so she was able to enter without any trouble. However, she was surprised to find that Mason had not returned to the Reed family.

"Call Mason's phone and ask where he is," Jasper said.

"His phone is turned off," Veronica said. She had already tried calling him on the way there.

"Maybe Mason's phone ran out of battery. Sister Veronica, why don't you wait here for a while? He might come back soon," Jasper suggested.



But Veronica felt uneasy. Mason had left the hospital hours before her, and if he was going back to the Reed House, he should have arrived by now.

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"Is there anywhere else he could have gone?" Veronica asked.

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"After Mason went back to his country, he only went to school, home, or to see you, Sister Veronica. There aren't any other places he frequents," Jasper replied.

After all, Mason was a relatively quiet person and wasn't interested in going out and having fun.

Veronica thought for a moment and said, "I'll go back first. If Mason comes back, please call me immediately."

"Did something happen to Mason?" Jasper guessed.

"There was a bit of a misunderstanding between us, so I want to explain things to him as soon as possible," Veronica explained.

"Okay, if Mason comes back, I'll contact you, Sister Veronica," Jasper replied.

Veronica left the Reed family, but suddenly didn't know where to find Mason. Should she go to school? Stanford University is so big, and she's not even a student there, so it's hard to find

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As for her home...when she returned to her small apartment, it was dark and cold, and he wasn't there.

So where could he be?

She kept thinking and suddenly remembered when they were walking around at the Stanford University festival, they talked about their childhood.

She mentioned how when she was in elementary school and he wasn't old enough to attend yet, he would wait for her at the school gate every day after class and they would walk home together holding hands.

At that time, he was just a child staying with her family and was often beaten by his father and stepmother, so he always had injuries. It was a difficult time for them, but they relied on each other and it was also a warm memory.

She also said that if they had the chance, they would go back to the school area to take a look.

Could it be...that Mason went there?

But other than there, she couldn't think of any other place he might go.

With this in mind, Veronica quickly ran out of her apartment,

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hailed a taxi, and gave the driver the address of her old elementary school.

Will he come? Where will he come?

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When she couldn't find him despite wanting to see him, she felt so anxious!

As the taxi stopped in front of the elementary school, Veronica paid and hurriedly got off.

At this moment, the sky had completely darkened, and the moon in the sky was like a veil, making it difficult to see clearly. In the dark night covered by thick clouds, only a few scattered stars twinkled.

The elementary school was still similar to what she

remembered, except that some of the buildings seemed to have changed when she looked through the iron gate.

However, there was no one standing at the school gate, it was empty!

In other words, Mason didn't come here?!

Veronica's heart sank, and a sense of emptiness swept over her.

She stood dumbly at the entrance of the campus, looking at the iron gate in front of her. There were many memories of her and Mason here. Whenever she walked to the school gate after school, her eyes would unconsciously search for that familiar figure.

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It was as if seeing that figure would make her feel at ease,

And now, where was that figure?

When she and Mason got back together, she had made

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up her mind in her heart that there should be no more misunderstandings between them, and they should not separate because of misunderstandings like before.

But now, would it be the same as before?

Suddenly, she heard footsteps behind her.

In such a quiet moment, the footsteps behind her became even more pronounced.

Veronica shuddered and stiffened up.

Someone was approaching?

Although it was night and the place was a bit secluded, it wasn't too late yet, so there shouldn't be... any danger, right?

She suddenly turned around and saw a familiar figure, causing

her to freeze.

It was Mason!

However, he was different from usual. At this moment, he exuded a coldness, as if he was wrapped in ice, giving off a feeling of keeping people at a distance.

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It was just like... when he first came to the Barlow family and she first saw him, she felt the same way.

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"Why are you here?" His cold voice rang out as he looked at her with indifferent eyes in the darkness.

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"Your phone was off, and I couldn't find you, so I came here to try my luck and see if you were here." Veronica's voice trembled slightly as she spoke.

Although she had mentally prepared herself for his anger and perhaps even fury, when she actually saw him, the look in his eyes that kept people at a distance still made her heart feel like it was being stabbed.

"What do you want from me?" Mason's voice sounded again.

"I... I don't want there to be any misunderstandings between us, so I wanted to find you and explain what happened at the hospital today." She steadied herself and spoke.

"What's there to explain about the hospital?" He said nonchalantly.

"There's plenty!" She said urgently, "I really don't care about Daniel, I don't have any feelings for him anymore. I just don't want you to get into unnecessary trouble because of beating him up. The person I'm worried about is you!"

"If you're really worried about me, then you could have left with me when I did. Why did you stay in the hospital with Daniel?" he asked.

"Well...there was no one else around at the time, and I needed to

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find doctors and nurses to treat his injuries," she quickly replied.

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"And after that? After the doctors and nurses came, you still stayed with him? You waited until his injuries were treated and talked to him for a while before leaving the hospital?" Mason continued.

Veronica's heart skipped a beat.

How did Mason know that she only left the hospital after Daniel's injuries were treated and she talked to him? Did he see everything?

"You..." she opened her mouth, but didn't know how to answer.

"Are you wondering how I knew? Do you know how long I waited for you at the hospital entrance?" he said coldly.

He waited for her at the hospital entrance, hoping she would come out and tell him that he was the most important person to her.

But time passed by and she didn't show up.

He told himself that she would come out when he counted to

100.

But even after counting to 10,000, she still didn't come out.

So he closed his phone, drove his car aimlessly on the streets of Emerald City, not knowing where to go.

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His emotions were once again in turmoil.

It was like the feeling he had when they first separated.

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He thought he would never experience that feeling again, but he did.

He thought that by hypnotizing his memories, he could avoid feeling the pain of that emotion again.

But reality made him feel it again.

Is this punishment for him? Punishing him for not learning his lesson, even though he had been hurt by Veronica before, he still rushed to her to get hurt again!

"Yes, I'm sorry..." She stammered, "I waited in the hospital until it was confirmed that Daniel's injury was not serious before leaving. I was afraid that he would really have a serious problem and you would get into trouble. I didn't mean to..."

But before she could finish her words, he suddenly interrupted her, "You don't need to explain anything to me."

"I'm telling you this because I don't want you to misunderstand. Daniel and I really don't have anything..."

"Even if you really have something with him, it has nothing to do with me." He said coldly.

A sense of unease surged in Veronica's heart, "What do you

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Her heart suddenly sank... Break up?!

Once, Daniel had talked about breaking up with her, and at that time, she thought she was in a lot of pain! But now, compared to the present, that pain was nothing.

It turned out that the two words "break up", spoken from Mason's mouth, made her feel unbearable pain.

"Why... why do we have to break up?" Her lips trembled, as if she was asking with all her strength.

"Because I'm tired." He said, not wanting to have emotional ups and downs or suffer from pain and discomfort because of her, nor did he want to experience hypnosis for the second time because of her in the future.

It might be best to cut off his feelings for her before he gets worse.,

"We're breaking up. You can say whatever reason if someone asks. We won't see each other again, and I won't contact you. either, so you don't need to find me." He said.

She stared at him blankly, all her reactions seemed to have become extremely slow.

What is he saying? Break up?! They haven't been together for

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long, everything was fine before, wasn't it?

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They ate together, shopped together, watched TV together in her apartment, and even lay in bed together, cuddling each other. Everything was so beautiful.

Just because she asked him to stop hitting Daniel today and waited aside while the medical staff treated Daniel, he wanted to break up with her?

As Mason turned to leave, Veronica panicked and instinctively caught up with him, grabbing his sleeve. "Don't... don't go, I..... I don't want to break up!"

He paused and turned to look at her. "I don't want to continue anymore."

"Why? I... I've explained to you, I have no feelings for Daniel, I care about you. Everything I did in the hospital was for you, not for Daniel. I was worried that Daniel would accuse you! Do you want me to explain again? Do we have to break up just because of this?"

"I said you don't need to explain anymore." When she repeatedly mentioned the hospital incident, he felt an indescribable sense of unease. He couldn't even explain what this unease was!

This terrible feeling was like drowning him.

Even in the few hours since they separated, the hypnotized memories of their relationship kept flashing through his mind

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like a slide show.

Even if he no longer had the same feelings as before, the memory of him at that time was so miserable, so painful, and so desperate.

And now, if he continued with her, what about the future? If something like this happened again and she defended someone else, what would he do?

He was afraid, afraid of experiencing it again!

Perhaps this is the source of that unease!

“So, do you believe my explanation now? Do you believe that I only love you?” Veronica looked at Mason with pleading eyes.

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Believe her? Should he believe her again? Mason looked at Veronica with a heavy gaze.

If he believed her again, would he fall into this pain and unease again if something similar happened next time?

He used to choose to hypnotize his feelings, wasn't it because he didn't want to endure this pain anymore?

Then why go through it again and again?

“I'm tired, so I don't want to believe anymore.” After saying this, Mason raised his hand and pulled his sleeve away from Veronica's fingers.

As Mason's figure disappeared completely from Veronica's sight, she lowered her head and stared blankly at the emptiness between her fingers.

It's like trying to grab onto something desperately, but in the end, nothing can be held onto.

His one sentence of being tired decided the breakup, but what about her?

She once thought that she could have another chance at happiness, that she could walk with him in warmth, but now, everything has been turned upside down in just a few hours!

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It hurts! It really hurts!

What is hurting?!

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Is it heartache? Or is it a headache? Or is every breath painful?

But the most painful thing... is that even if she wants to cry now, she can't. She can only let out a hoarse scream from deep in her throat, which is a painful sound that she can't suppress no matter how hard she tries!

When Mason returned to the Reed House, Jasper immediately greeted him, "Mason, you're back. Sister Veronica came to our house looking for you earlier. Your phone was off, and she was quite worried. Why don't you give her a call?"

"No need, I've already seen her," Mason said in a cold voice, with a hint of fatigue on his usually handsome face.

Jasper looked at Mason's expression and felt that something was off. "Did something happen? Sister Veronica seemed very anxious when she came to find you earlier."

"It's nothing major, we just broke up," Mason said.

Jasper was shocked. "What did you say? You and Sister Veronica broke up?"

"Yes," Mason said.

"But... why? Weren't you two getting along well?" Jasper found

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it hard to believe. Just a few days ago, Mason and Sister Veronica were strolling around the campus festival together and even had a meal together!

At that time, she couldn't see anything unusual between Mason and Sister Veronica. In fact, they seemed to have a good relationship, and it was as if they had never been separated for those few years.

"Because I'm tired," Mason gave the answer and walked towards the stairs.

Jasper stood there in disbelief. Mason and Sister Veronica broke up just because he was tired? Was he joking?!

That night, Jasper couldn't sleep and kept thinking about

Mason's situation.

The next morning, she naturally had dark circles under her eyes

when she went to school.

"What's wrong? Did you not sleep well last night?" William looked at Jasper and said, "You don't look too good. Why don't you go back to the dorm and catch up on some sleep?"

"I can't sleep even if I go back to my room," Jasper said weakly.

