

Ex-Convict 4371

Chapter 4371 The Sold Photograph

"What's going on, did something come to mind?" Karen asked.

"Hmm, I've figured out some things. Do you have the contact information of the person who wants to

sell the scandalous photos?" Harley asked.

"You're not thinking of buying those scandalous photos, are you?" Karen said.

Harley nodded, indeed, she was planning on it.

"Let me check." Karen made a call to inquire. After ending the call, she said to Harley, "My brother said

he'll look into it and call back later. But if you haven't been involved with Calvert and haven't done anything out of line, you probably shouldn't worry about those scandalous photos. Some people just love to make up news. Anyway, once the photos are out, they'll probably be forgotten soon."

"But if we do that, it would throw Calvert into a whirlwind of rumors, wouldn't it? His career is on the rise

right now, and getting tangled up in this kind of scandal would only make people overlook his hard work," Harley said.

Karen curiously asked, "You're so considerate of him, are you sure you're not dating him?"

"Do I have to be in a relationship with him to care about him? Can't I do that as a friend?" Harley laughed.

"Do you really think there can be pure friendship between men and women?" Karen asked.

"What do you mean there's none? Calvert and I are."

"You consider him a friend, but does he really see you the same way? Sometimes when he looks at you, he blushes. I think, maybe he likes you," Karen said.

"He just blushes easily, a bit shy," Harley thought of her several encounters with Calvert. He often lowered his head and spoke in a humble tone, and sometimes, if she stared at him for too long, he seemed quite uncomfortable.

Karen rolled her eyes speechlessly. Easy to blush? Timid?

It seemed like only Harley felt this way. Calvert was then a somewhat famous up-and-coming model,

and many people online described him as steady. Some even found him quite aloof.

This person seemed quite different from the one Harley described.

Just then, Karen's phone suddenly rang. She picked it up and heard her brother's voice on the other end, "Karen, I heard those photos have been bought by someone."

"It's already been bought?" Karen was taken aback, "Do you know who bought it?"

"I heard it's Lornell, but who knows if it's true or not," the other person said.

Upon hearing the name Lornell, Harley suddenly stiffened.

Lornell... why on earth did he want to buy her scandalous photos?

Karen ended the call and said to Harley, "Why don't you reach out to Lornell and ask if it's true?"

But

why would Lornell want to buy your scandalous photos? Could it be that he doesn't want the world to

know that after breaking off your engagement, you quickly got a new boyfriend?"

Harley was instantly exasperated, "Calvert and I are just friends!"

"I may have misspoke, but if you truly see Calvert as just a friend, then don't let him misunderstand.

After all, when people's expectations are shattered, they can become frightening," Karen cautioned.

Scary? An image of Calvert flashed through Harley's mind. For some reason, every time she saw him,

he gave her the feeling of a little rabbit.

The thought of how terrifying such a man could be was honestly a bit hard for her to imagine!

Chapter 4372 Not Falling For Anyone

After Harley and Karen parted ways, Harley dialed Lornell's number.

After a few rings, Lornell's voice came through the phone, "What's up?"

"So here's the thing, I heard someone snapped a photo of me and my friend and is trying to sell it around. I was wondering if you've bought it," Harley asked.

"Yeah, I bought it," Lornell's voice sounded nonchalant.

Harley was taken aback. Did he really buy it?

"How much did you spend? I'll pay you back!"

Suddenly, a scoffing voice of Lornell came from the phone, "Harley, are you going to give me money?"

She suddenly felt a bit awkward. Lornell was already wealthy and didn't care about the small amount of

money spent on buying photos.

"Why did you buy those photos?" she asked.

"It's nothing, I just want to know, what exactly is your scandal?" Lornell said calmly, "Harley, you broke

off our engagement, can you really fall for someone else in such a short time?"

She pursed her lips, "I'm not in love with anyone else right now!"

Chapter 4373 Changes in Mood

The reporter swallowed, then cautiously said, "I saw Miss Hart talking to this man, then she voluntarily

placed her hand on his face, and then..."

The atmosphere felt like a low-pressure system was rolling in. As the reporter kept talking, Lornell's complexion got worse and worse.

When the reporter finally finished recounting everything he had seen that day, the room fell into complete silence.

The reporter looked at Lornell with fear in his eyes, and after a while, he pleaded in a low voice, "Mr.

Quentin, please let me go. I've told you everything! I don't want the money anymore, I'll give it back to

you later!"

Lornell pursed his thin lips, mechanically flipping through the photos in his hand.

After a long pause, he finally said, "You don't need to pay me back. I'll keep these photos, but you're

not allowed to have any copies. If I ever find these photos somewhere else in the future, you'll regret it

for the rest of your life."

The reporter was so scared that he was shaking, repeatedly agreeing.

"Also, about our conversation today, I don't want anyone else to know. If anyone asks you about it..."

"I won't say a word, I swear. These injuries on me? I just had the misfortune of running into some drunk

thugs on the street and they beat me up for no reason!" the reporter immediately assured.

Once the reporter had left, Lornell turned to his subordinates and said, "You guys can leave too."

A moment later, Lornell was the only one left in the room.

He lowered his gaze to the photo in his hand, looking at Harley in the picture, his hand gently resting on

the face of the man named Calvert.

In the past, he never imagined that one day, seeing Harley being intimate with another man would stir

up a surge of nameless anger in him.

It felt as if something had been stolen away.

Harley was just his childhood fiancée, a commitment he had made out of curiosity. In his eyes, it had

always been nothing more than a childhood game.

Just because the Hart family and the Quentin family's backgrounds matched up in Beijing, he didn't rule

out the possibility of spending his life with Harley in the future. After all, she had a good personality and

she liked him.

Being liked by others was always better than liking someone else. Besides, he wasn't interested in liking anyone else.

When she proposed to break off their engagement, he didn't feel bad about it at all. After all, he was never the type to force others. As long as it didn't disgrace the Quentin family, it was fine by him.

Even though she once said she wouldn't like him anymore, that she would take back her feelings for him.

He didn't pay much attention to what she said. After all, in his view, whether she liked him or not was a

trivial matter. He didn't care if she liked him in the past, and it would be the same in the future.

But why was he bothered about whether she liked someone else?

It seemed like something was changing.

It was as if one day, he would regret some of the things he had done!

But no matter what, he wanted to figure it out.

Over the weekend, Lornell arranged to meet Harley at a coffee shop.

Chapter 4374 In a Hurry to Leave?

Lornell looked at Harley as he pushed the door open and walked in: "Ah, you're here."

Harley stepped forward, "Sorry for the trouble I've caused you. I'll just grab the photo and leave."

"Are you in a hurry?" he asked.

"What?" She didn't catch on immediately.

"Are you in such a rush?" he asked. "Don't you even have time to sit down and have a cup of coffee with me?"

"No, it's not like that," she denied. It was just that he hadn't seemed to like her clinging to him in the

past, so she had thought it would be best to just take the photo and leave.

"Since that's not the case, why don't you stay and have a cup of coffee with me? The coffee here is pretty good," he suggested.

Harley hesitated for a moment, then sat down across from Lornell and ordered a latte.

Soon, the waiter brought over the coffee. The aroma of the coffee made Harley feel more relaxed.

She thought for a moment, realizing it had been quite a while since she last had coffee with Lornell like this.

Back when she was still his fiancée, she always dreamed of sitting down with him for a cup of coffee,

knowing how much he loved it. But who would have thought, it was only after they broke off their engagement that he took the initiative to invite her for coffee for the first time.

"By the way, how did you end up going to the amusement park with that guy named Calvert?" Lornell

asked, pretending to be casual.

"That day happened to be Calvert's birthday, so I went with him to the amusement park," Harley said.

"Really? Did he ask you to go with him?" Lornell asked again.

Harley raised an eyebrow curiously, "Why are you suddenly interested in him?" After all, Lornell wasn't

someone who typically showed curiosity about others.

In Harley's view, the only thing that would pique Lornell's curiosity was anything related to medicine. As

for other people and things, Lornell had always been quite indifferent.

But then, he actually asked in detail about Calvert's situation.

"You say you're just friends with him, but is that really what he thinks? And, those photos of you two,

was it really just a coincidence? Or did he anticipate that you might be photographed, so he deliberately asked you to accompany him to the amusement park, hoping to create a scandalous rumor

that would benefit him?" Lornell said.

Harley frowned, "He's not that kind of person!"

"Do you really trust him that much?" Lornell said, clearly displeased.

"He's my friend, of course I believe him!" she said.

Lornell scoffed, "You believe him? Do you think a low-level nobody, desperate to climb up, wouldn't

resort to any kind of scheming or tactics? I thought after all these years, you'd have developed some caution."

"Thanks for your concern, but I know what I need to do," Harley said.

Lornell's thin lips were pressed into a straight line.

"Can I have the photo now?" Harley asked.

"Alright," Lornell said, pulling out a photo and handing it to Harley.

Harley took the photos and flipped through them. They were pretty well taken, and indeed, they looked

somewhat ambiguous, as if she and Calvert were truly a young couple.

If these photos were to be released, they could indeed cause misunderstandings.

"Thank you." She said, preparing to get up and leave.

"Wait a minute, you just got here. You haven't even had a sip of your coffee. Are you really in such a

hurry to leave?" Lornell said.

Harley lifted his coffee cup and took a sip, "The coffee here is indeed very good. I have some things to

take care of, so I'll be leaving now. Next time when there's a chance, we'll..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Lornell suddenly said, "It seems like they're shooting an advertisement across the street today. Speaking of which, you should be quite familiar with the model

they're using!"

Chapter 4375 Assumption

Harley paused, looking up and out the window, his gaze sweeping across the road opposite.

Sure enough, she saw a crowd of people gathered over there, and in the cleared space within the circle, a few individuals were being filmed in front of a camera.

Among them, she instantly recognized one figure - it was none other than Calvert.

She didn't expect Calvert to be shooting here today. Was it a coincidence that Lornell chose to meet here? Or did he know in advance that Calvert would be shooting here, and that's why he deliberately

chose this place?

However, no sooner had this thought crossed her mind than she dismissed it.

Probably not. After all, Lornell never went out of his way for anyone, let alone someone like Calvert

who had nothing to do with him.

From the vantage point of the coffee shop, she could clearly see the scene being filmed.

The scene that was captured was of a man and a woman walking towards each other from opposite sides. The moment they crossed paths, the man wrapped his arm around the woman's waist, pulled her against the wall, and forcefully kissed her.

He must be about to kiss her passionately! Harley guessed to himself. But every time Calvert leaned his head towards the actress, he would pause, and then the director would yell, "Cut!"

Was it because Calvert was filming a kissing scene that he couldn't shoot it well?

Harley was aware that some people struggle with their first on-screen kiss, especially someone like Calvert who wasn't professionally trained as an actor and was just starting out as a model.

However, if this advertisement had worked out well, he might have gradually made his way into the entertainment industry. If that had happened, his future path could have been much broader!

"Today he's filming a kissing scene, seems like he didn't tell you about it, huh?" Lornell said.

Harley chuckled, "Why would he tell me? I mean, you wouldn't tell your friends the specifics of your job,

would you? Especially not to friends who aren't involved in your line of work."

Lornell pursed his thin lips slightly, "So, seeing him kiss someone else, you feel nothing?"

Harley sighed, "It's his job, why should I feel anything about it? Also, you seem to always think that something is going on between him and me. So, if you see him in a kissing scene, do you think I'd get

angry? Jealous, perhaps?"

Lornell just looked at her, not saying a word.

Harley continued, "That's his job, and I respect it. Moreover, if one day he really becomes my boyfriend

and needs to do kissing or intimate scenes, I will respect and accept it. My family is in the entertainment industry. If I can't even accept this, then there's no need for me to take over the family business in the future."

A flicker of surprise flashed in Lornell's eyes.

The person before him was far more resolute and decisive than he had ever imagined.

Once, his impression of Harley seemed to gradually blur. Or perhaps, even though they had been

engaged for so many years, he had never truly seen her.

And it was only then that he began to see her clearly, to understand her bit by bit.

"It seems like you're not opposed to the idea of becoming his girlfriend, hence the hypothetical scenario," Lornell said. "But people who claw their way up from the bottom tend to seize every opportunity and become increasingly greedy. One day, you'll realize that we live in different worlds from them."

Harley's expression suddenly turned sour, "Have you forgotten? My mother was just an ordinary person, to begin with. But my father never looked down on her. My mother never became more greedy.

We shouldn't be classifying people into ranks!"

Chapter 4376 The Choice

Lornell was taken aback. He had indeed forgotten about Harley's mother's past.

For him, everyone around him belonged to prestigious and wealthy families. He had grown up in such

an environment, and all his friends were from similar backgrounds. So much so, that he sometimes forgot that there were always exceptions in this world.

"If what I said earlier upset you, I apologize," Lornell said.

Harley was somewhat surprised. After all, the Lornell she knew wasn't someone who would apologize easily.

"But I still hope you won't give people like Calvert a chance. I don't want to see you get hurt," he said.

Upon hearing this, Harley couldn't help but inwardly mock herself, considering that the person who had

hurt her the most was Lornell himself!

However, to avoid any awkwardness, Harley said, "I'll be careful, but Calvert is my friend!"

Just then, there was a sudden commotion at the spot below where they were originally filming. A few

people, who seemed to be onlookers, tried to rush towards the model, but they were stopped by the staff on site, turning the scene into a bit of a chaotic mess.

Harley frowned, what on earth was going on?!

She immediately wanted to rush out of the private room.

"Don't go!" Lornell abruptly pulled Harley back. "If you go now and someone recognizes you, you'll

probably end up in the news again, and become the subject of all sorts of rumors and gossip!"

Harley pursed her lips, "Even so, I want to go and make sure. As for what happens next, I'll handle it

myself!"

With that, she quickly left the private room.

Lornell stared at his empty palm, the sudden loss of warmth made him feel as if something was missing.

But she didn't take the photo!

Was the look of obvious worry and anxiety on her face just now because she was concerned about Calvert?

She was so worried that she even forgot why she came to see him today!

A strange emotion was slowly spreading in Lornell's chest. But he couldn't tell what this feeling was.

Lornell picked up the photo, his face darkening as he looked at the intimate couple depicted in it.

It seemed he had to wait for another opportunity to give the photo to Harley!

Harley rushed to the scene as fast as she could. The place was already in chaos, with a large number of fans gathered around. Some fans were stirring up trouble, and despite the efforts of the staff to maintain order, they were simply unable to control the situation.

Harley caught sight of a staff member and approached, saying, "Take me to Calvert and the director."

"Huh?" The staff member was taken aback.

"I'm Harley," she declared.

In that circle, everyone knew Harley!

The director, two models, and some other crew members were all in the room.

Everyone was quite surprised when they saw Harley.

"Miss Hart, what brings you here?" the director asked eagerly.

Chapter 4377 Worried About Him

"What's going on here?" Harley stepped forward, lifting Calvert's chin with her hand, and asked with a

furrowed brow.

Her action took everyone by surprise.

Instantly, as people looked at the two, there was something more in their gaze.

Calvert stared blankly at the person in front of him, his breath involuntarily hitching.

During his time as a model, due to the demands of the job, he had needed to engage in intimate gestures with shooting partners. Although he had felt uncomfortable at times, he had gradually grown

accustomed to it.

At least, such physical contact was common during shoots.

But at this moment, as she held his chin like this, Calvert's heartbeat suddenly accelerated. Even though he kept telling himself to calm down, she was just checking the injuries on his face.

Yet, a blush crept onto his face, and he couldn't bring himself to meet her eyes, afraid she might discern the emotions he was trying to conceal.

"It's nothing, just got hit by those troublemakers during the conflict," Calvert said softly, "It's no big deal."

For him, it really wasn't a big deal. After all, he was used to being beaten up. Not only by his alcoholic

father but also by those who didn't like him at school.

So when Calvert said this, he used a declarative tone.

But the next moment, Harley's voice rose again, "How can you say this isn't a big deal? You're a model,

you still have shoots to do. Do you know what it means to have an injury on your face? It could potentially delay the entire shooting schedule!"

"I'm sorry..." He suddenly felt remorseful. How could he not have thought of it? He was a model now,

she had given him this opportunity, and he had worked so hard to get to this point, only to get hurt so

easily.

Was she very disappointed in him?!

"No, you're not the one who should be apologizing!" Harley said, "And besides, think about the people

who care about you. How do you think they feel seeing you hurt like this? So no matter what, don't treat

your injuries lightly. You need to do your best to take care of yourself!"

Calvert was taken aback. Who could possibly be worried about him? His fans? Or the people he works

with? But his fans were merely infatuated with the image he portrayed in front of the camera, and the

people he worked with were only involved because of their vested interests.

Was there anyone else besides this?

Not for any other reason, just simply worried about him?

"Is today's shoot over?" Harley asked the crew member next to him.

"Then I'll take Calvert to the hospital to get the wound on his cheek treated," Harley said.

"Even if you're just getting a bruise ointment, let the doctor check you out first before getting it. If you

don't want me to worry more, then listen to me!" she said.

His body stiffened: "You're worried about me?"

"Why would I come here if I wasn't worried about you!" She felt at a loss for words, "Aren't we friends?"

Chapter 4378 His Embarrassment

Harley took Calvert and left the scene, leaving the film crew and a bunch of people on-site in a daze.

Rumors were circulating in this circle before, suggesting that Calvert got into the modeling industry thanks to Harley. Some even claimed that Harley was the power behind Calvert.

Many people are somewhat skeptical about this kind of statement.

After all, Calvert himself was quite outstanding even in the modeling world, and he was rapidly growing.

Recently, the praise he had received in this industry showed his ever-increasing strength.

On the other hand, Harley was a princess in the entertainment industry! Moreover, she was currently

the only child in the Hart family. Unless something unexpected happened, the entire entertainment empire of the Hart family would be controlled by Harley in the future.

Such a person had seen too many handsome guys since she was a child. Although Calvert was handsome, he was not the most handsome man in the entertainment industry. In addition, Calvert's

family background was not very good.

Could someone like this really have caught Harley's eye?!

But that scene just then really dispelled many people's doubts. Calvert truly was someone who could

catch Harley's eye!

Especially the princess of the Hart family, who just recently broke off her engagement!

With this in mind, a certain thought couldn't help but surface in everyone's hearts: The princess of the

Hart family has broken off her engagement, could it be because of Calvert?

Calvert was taken to the hospital by Harley to have his facial injuries checked out. Luckily, the injuries

weren't severe. It was estimated that it would take about three days for the bruises to completely fade.

"Thank goodness there's no problem." Harley breathed a sigh of relief. After the hospital had given him

his prescription, the two of them left the hospital.

"Thank you..." Calvert said softly, "It's such a coincidence to see you today."

For him, he didn't want her to always see his embarrassing side. If possible, he hoped she could see

his better side!

"It's quite a coincidence," Harley said. Of course, this could also be a result of Lornell's deliberate arrangement. "I was in the coffee shop right across from your filming location. When you guys were

shooting, I was at the window on the second floor of the coffee shop, with a perfect view of your set."

After hearing this, Calvert was taken aback. If she had been watching the shoot from the second floor

of the cafe earlier, did she also see him kissing other models on set?!

With that thought, his face suddenly turned pale.

"What's wrong, are you feeling unwell?" Harley asked, looking at Calvert's suddenly pale face with some concern. "Maybe we should go back to the hospital for a check-up!"

She said this as she took his hand, intending to go back to the hospital.

"No need," Calvert quickly said, "I'm just a bit embarrassed."

"So what exactly are you feeling embarrassed about?" she asked.

He gently bit his lip, his head bowed, not saying a word.

"What's the matter, can't you talk to me?" Harley suddenly leaned in, staring at him.

Harley suddenly felt like teasing him!

Chapter 4379 His Loss

As she leaned in closer, his face instantly turned even redder.

Her fair skin, highlighted by a vibrant blush, looked soft and tender, just like the cheeks of a baby.

Suddenly, Harley felt an urge. She really wanted to reach out and touch those rosy cheeks, to see if they were truly as soft as they looked.

"Harley..." It wasn't until Calvert's stuttering voice rose that Harley suddenly snapped back to reality.

Then she realized, it seemed that she wasn't just thinking about it, but her fingers were actually touching his cheek, gently pinching that blush spot.

It was quite soft and felt even better than she had imagined when she touched it.

Right now, Calvert looked utterly lost. His white teeth gently bit his lower lip, and his beautiful black

eyes seemed to be glistening with a hint of moisture as he looked at her.

That look... The word "captivating" flashed through Harley's mind!

At this moment, she could finally understand why, in movies and TV shows, men were so fascinated

when women displayed such delicate and flustered expressions. She had initially thought it was a bit

exaggerated.

She had realized that TV and film productions were still rooted in reality, regardless of whether the characters were male or female.

"Do you hate it when I touch you like this?" Harley asked.

"I don't dislike it." His cheeks turned even redder, you could even say he really liked it.

So, if he didn't hate it, did that mean she could continue? Although her rational mind told her that such

actions might not have been quite appropriate.

But her hand, just couldn't leave Calvert's face.

"Right, what exactly are you sorry for?" She remembered her previous question.

"Because there's a kissing scene, so..." Calvert said awkwardly.

"Oh, I see, what's the big deal!" Harley said generously, finally withdrawing his hand reluctantly. "If you

do well in the future and venture into the film and television industry, you won't be able to avoid kissing

scenes. In fact, you might have more and more of them."

"Keep it up," Harley said, chuckling as she patted Calvert on the shoulder. "I noticed you had a few interruptions during your kissing scene today. You might want to practice more in private and get the

feel of it. If you ever need it, I can introduce you to some acting coaches. You could learn a lot from them."

She only intended to ease his embarrassment and make him feel relaxed. However, she never expected that upon hearing Harley's words, Calvert's heart would continue to sink.

Turns out, he was the only one she ever cared about.

How ridiculous it was. The fact that he could become friends with her was already a huge blessing for

him.

The words she spoke today were undoubtedly shattering his delusions, warning him not to continue down this path of greed.

Even though it was a beautiful smile, for some reason, it made her feel somewhat distant.

It was as if he had put on a mask at that very moment.

Chapter 4380 The Desire to Climb Higher

After parting ways with Harley, Calvert returned to his residence.

Then, his living situation had changed from the past. It was no longer a dark and dirty environment, but

rather a decent single-person apartment.

In his original expectations, he thought it would take several years after graduation before he could live

in a house like this.

But then, it happened several years ahead of schedule.

Calvert walked up to a large floor-to-ceiling mirror in the room, looking at his reflection... For him, his

only weapon was his face.

This was also a face that could easily win a woman's heart.

But for someone like Harley, who had seen so many attractive people from a young age, his face was

nothing special to her.

And he, he didn't even know what to do to win her affection.

Should he continue to let his greed spread unchecked, or should it be stopped immediately?

A few days later, Calvert's ad shoot was finished, and rumors started circulating in the circle that the big

princess of the Hart family was the power behind Calvert.

As a result, the way people around Calvert looked at him changed. Even some well-known figures in

the circle started to strike up conversations with him.

He was well aware that it wasn't really because of his own abilities, but more likely due to his connection with Harley.

But then, he didn't want to let any opportunity slip by.

Only by ceaselessly seizing opportunities and constantly climbing upwards, could he get closer to Harley and perhaps, have more chances.

Even if she never fell in love with him in the end, he still wanted to give it a shot.

Instead of doing nothing and letting his heart die like this.

At the same time, in the Hart family's living room, Brian looked at his daughter and said, "Recently, I

heard an interesting rumor. It's about you and that model named Calvert. Apparently, you two have an

unusual relationship. You even went to his photoshoot, and when he got hurt, you were really worried?"

Harley was taken aback, thinking, "This is way too exaggerated..."

"I've told you, he and I are just friends," Harley said.

"So, you really have been to his shooting location and saw him get injured, and you were quite anxious?" Brian's focus was clearly on this point.

Harley blinked, "I wouldn't say I was particularly nervous. At most, seeing him hurt just made me feel a

bit uneasy."

"Are you sure you just see him as a friend?" Brian retorted.

"Otherwise, what? Do you think I actually like him?" Harley said.

Harley pursed her lips.

Of course, she knew, but at that moment, she didn't think about all that. She just wanted to quickly

assess his injuries.

"If you really like that kid, I can arrange for someone to groom him properly."