

Ex Convict 521

Chapter 521

"They criticized me a little and trampled over my dress," said

Grace, not wanting to vent her frustrations there. "Sorry, you brought me here today. I'm afraid I..."

"What's there to apologize for? It was I who neglected you and caused this to happen to you today," Jason interrupted her.

As he spoke, he crouched down and gently tied her ripped hem into a knot to keep it from dragging on the ground in case she ended up stepped on it herself.

When Jason crouched down, everyone around them gasped. They had not expected Emerald City's famous Young Master Reed to kneel in front of a woman like that.

After helping Grace with the hem of her dress, Jason once again tilted his chin back slightly, looked up at Grace, and asked. "Did you get hurt anywhere?"

Now, Jason was crouching, and his head was thrown back. On the other hand, Grace was standing with her head lowered. The two were looking at each other, and for a moment, Grace felt as if Jason was subdued at her feet.

Oh my God. What was she thinking? Grace quickly said to

herself before shaking her head and saying, "No."

However, she was not the only one who felt that way because everyone else who had seen the scene also felt the same.

The god-like man that was high up in their minds was now crouching on his knees before a woman who seemed insignificant to them. It was as if he had placed himself in a lowly position.

Was this Jason?!

particular, Tasha Farmer, who had regained her footing after much difficulty, looked incredulous. How could Jason be so humble to a woman who had been to prison? How was it possible?

Oh right, that woman must have hidden her imprisonment from him. Thus, he had no idea about the woman's past. That had to be it!

Tasha Farmer shouted abruptly, "Don't be fooled by that woman, Young Master Reed. She has been to prison, and it was she who killed your fiancée, Jennifer Atkinson, in the car accident!"

As soon as Tasha Farmer said this, the air around her seemed to freeze. Jason looked up at Tasha Farmer coldly, and the

latter was instantly made uneasy.

What was going on? She was exposing Grace to be a liar. However, why was it that she was the one feeling uneasy now?

Furthermore, Grace showed no signs of fear. Instead... she looked calm.

Jason merely gave Tasha Farmer a cold look before withdrawing his gaze. Then, he stood up and picked Grace up under everyone's gaze.

Grace let out a low cry and subconsciously put her arms around Jason's neck.

"I... I didn't hurt my foot," Grace said as she bit her lip slightly.

"I know," Jason replied. He showed no intention of letting her down. Instead, he turned to Patrick and said, "I have to go, Patrick."

"Oh, sure," Patrick answered. Moments later, Jason walked out of the banquet hall with Grace in his arms. His mind was still in a state of extreme shock.

Chapter 522

Grace turned out to be the driver responsible for Jennifer Atkinson's accident, and Jason was now dating her. Two of the most unlikely people had become a couple. Who would have thought?

Bang!

The sound of something heavy hitting the ground was heard. from behind Patrick. Patrick turned around and saw that Tasha Farmer's legs were so weak that she had once again. fallen to the ground.

Patrick gave Tasha Farmer a sympathetic look that spelled bad luck for the Farmer family; Tasha Farmer was likely to be expelled from their social circle soon.

After all, Jason had never been a generous person.

At this moment, Elsie Jordan and Felicia Kemp felt a wave of fear in their hearts. This was especially true for the former. No matter how unwilling they were, hints of fear could be seen in their eyes.

Jason's attitude earlier meant that he had already been aware of Grace's imprisonment. Thus, what Tasha Farmer had just done was a death wish.

Not to mention... Jason even knelt in front of Grace like that-Which woman had ever been treated that way? Not even Jennifer Atkinson had been treated like that before!

Elsie Jordan could not hide her jealousy toward the scene. she had witnessed. Nevertheless, at the same time, she was relieved that it was at least Tasha Farmer who had done it

and not her!

All of a sudden, Tasha Farmer seemed to have come to her senses as she looked at Elsie Jordan and Felicia Kemp eagerly. "You must help me, Elsie and Felicia. I... I did that to Grace for you..."

"Stop spouting nonsense. We didn't ask you to do any of that,"

Felicia Kemp quickly denied her involvement in the matter.

Tasha Farmer's face turned red out of anxiousness. "How can you say that? I am only aware of Grace's imprisonment because you told me about it!"

"I merely remembered it and told you about it. I never asked you to mention it in front of so many people," Felicia Kemp said

hurriedly.

Tasha Farmer was fuming with anger. She turned to look at Elsie Jordan. "Elsie..."

Among the three of them, Elsie Jordan was the most interested. in Jason. If she had not wanted to please Elsie Jordan in hopes. that the Lu family would help the Farmer family, she would not have been so aggressive toward Grace.

Elsie Jordan looked embarrassed as she said, "You were too impulsive this time, Tasha. Here, why don't you find a chance. to apologize to Young Master Reed and Miss Cummins? Maybe there's still room to turn things around."

Apologize?!

Now, Tasha Farmer had the urge to pop her veins. What Elsie Jordan was saying was equivalent to nothing; she was completely denying her involvement in the matter.

The three of them caused the current mess together, but she had to bear the consequences of it alone?

Tasha Farmer immediately jumped up to her feet and said, "It was you who didn't like the woman and dragged me over to play the bad cop. However, you're reluctant to admit it now."

"What are you talking about?" Elsie Jordan immediately retorted.

"I'm speaking the truth. All right then. You and Felicia are using me as cannon fodder right now, aren't you?" Tasha

Farmer said angrily.

In the banquet, a dog-eat-dog competition began amongst the three women. Consequently, they made themselves the biggest joke of the event.

Lily sneered coldly. Apologize?! Hmph. If Jason accepted apologies that easily, her family's shopping mall would not have ended up being demolished.

The three women had involved Sean just to embarrass Grace. They had never considered the fact that Sean was currently her fiancé, and they would only embarrass her by doing that.

That was why she had not warned them that Jason was already aware of Grace's past. Sure enough, Tasha Farmer, the fool, could not wait to get into trouble in front of Jason. While she became an onlooker.

Chapter 523

"It's a little stuffy in here, Sean. Accompany me to the back.

garden for some air," said Lily.

"Sure." A complicated expression was Sean Stevens's face as he looked at his fiancée. "You stopped me from speaking, because you wanted to do that?" He asked in a soft voice so

only she could hear him.

"Yes. There's no point in warning someone who has a death wish" Smiling, Lily said, "Besides, other than us, there are people who would offend Jason and do much more."

Sean Stevens looked at the smile on the corner of his fiancée's

lips and suddenly felt an indescribable sense of loss. It was as if he had lost something that he could never get back.

Now, all he could do was firmly attach himself to the woman in front of him for the sake of their families!

Not far away, someone looked on coldly as the drama unfolded.

Brian watched with cold eyes as the three women continued to accuse each other. He threw his head back and finished the wine in his glass.

Moments ago, he had tried to step forward and stop the three women when he saw Grace being laughed at in public. However, before he could step forward, Jason had already stepped forward to help Grace.

Only then did Brian realize that he seemed to be acting unnecessarily once more. Grace had Jason to protect her, so he did not have to worry about her at all.

Naturally, Jason would deal with those who laughed at Grace.

After all, he had already decided to not fight over her with Jason. Brian lowered his eyes, and the corner of his mouth. displayed a hint of self-mockery.

Evelyn who was standing beside him could not help but call out, "Brian..." It seemed as if he was beginning to stray further

and further away from her.

Or to be frank, he had never been close to her.

"Let's go home. It's boring here," Brian said lightly and headed straight for the banquet's exit.

"Ah!" Evelyn was taken aback. Nevertheless, she hurried after him.

Jason walked out of the banquet hall with Grace in his arms. "Put me down. I can walk on my own," said Grace.

"Do you really want me to put you down?" Jason asked; his head was lowered, and he was looking at her.

"Yes," Grace answered after biting her lip a little. After all, him holding her like that was attracting too much attention.

"All right." Jason put Grace down as she wished. Then, he called the driver who was waiting at the parking lot to pick them up.

It was quiet outside the banquet hall and not as lively as before.

"I shouldn't have left just now. You had to go through all that," muttered Jason.

"It's nothing." Grace smiled. "After all, some things have happened and there's nothing you can do to change them. It's a fact that I've been to prison. Even if they hadn't mentioned it today, someone will surely mention it someday."

After all, as long as Grace stayed by Jason's side, such things. would be revealed.

She only had to face those few people that day. Many more people of the same kind would appear in the future.

Chapter 524

Jason felt as if he had once again been pricked in his heart.

"What a shame for the gown though. I only wore it once and it's now ripped," Grace said with regret. Even if the gown could be repaired, it would take a lot of work to mend it because it was of high quality and now had such a big tear in it.

"I'll buy you a new one as long as you're all right," said Jason.

Grace shook her head and said with a smile, "I'm fine. I'm not as fragile as you think."

However, Grace's smile made Jason feel even more uncomfortable. Yes. Although she looked thin and frail, she

had always been tenacious.

Having been with her for so many days, Jason understood her adamancy more than anyone. However, because of that, he felt even more guilty.

It was his momentary slip that had caused her to arm her delicate body when she need not be so strong.

"Sorry..." Jason said out of the blue.

Grace was confused. "What are you sorry for?"

"I should have hastened to help you find out the truth about your case and clear your name," said Jason.

"It's not your fault. What are you apologizing for? I'm glad enough that you're helping me," Grace said sincerely, her eyes

full of trust in him.

"Is that so?" Jason muttered. He could not help but lower his head to kiss her lips.

Only with this kiss could he confess all his guilt, silently telling her how much he regretted it. He would stand up for her for the incident and make sure that no one dared gossip in front

of her in the future.

Jason kissed Grace deeply and passionately.

While Grace passively accepted Jason's kiss that made her almost lose her breath, she struggled to remind him that they were outside the banquet hall and that someone would pass by at any moment!

Nevertheless, each time she tried to speak, his lips would cover hers and swallow her voice.

It was so much so that... Grace could hardly say a complete sentence. Not to mention, she almost lost herself in his kiss,

nearly becoming spellbound.

Jason slowly opened his eyes and looked to one side.

Consequently, he saw Brian and Evelyn exiting the banquet hall from the corner of his eyes.

Naturally, the pair caught sight of Jason and Grace kissing and stopped short!

Brian's pupils constricted and his body stiffened immediately. His hands, which had fallen to his sides, tightened into fists.

He himself could not understand why even though he had kept on telling himself not to care about Grace, he still did when he saw Grace kissing Jason.

Evelyn watched on with jealousy and envy. Despite being Brian's girlfriend, the two had yet to kiss.

Now, Grace and Jason were kissing each other as if there was no one else there. It made Evelyn gnash her teeth with hatred. She did not know what Jason found so attractive about Grace, a woman who had been to prison.

When their kiss finally ended, Grace gasped for air while Jason pressed her face against his chest.

Chapter 525

"All right, let me hold you for a while. The driver will be here

soon," Jason whispered softly. He took a look at the person in his arms and then turned his head to glance at Brian who was watching them from nearby.

The two men's eyes met once again.

Moments later, a black car pulled over in front of Jason, and he withdrew his gaze. Shortly after, Jason got into the car

with Grace. Grace had her back toward Brian and Evelyn the whole time and thus did not see them even though the two had been standing nearby.

Evelyn pressed against her red lips until the black car disappeared. She looked up. "Li..."

She had only opened her mouth and the rest of her voice became lost in her throat. The handsome face of the man

before her which usually had a cold and distant expression now looked subdued and oppressive. It was as if he was trying desperately to restrain himself. It was so much so that his handsome face even looked a little distorted...

He was like a man... desperately trying to suppress his jealousy!

When Grace returned to the Reed Residence, Jason took another look at her to make sure she was not hurt.

"You should go to bed early. You have to work tomorrow," said

Jason.

"Yes." Grace nodded. The small restaurant would reopen the next day, and she had to get up early in the morning. "What about you?"

"I have a few things to take care of. I'll go to bed after I'm done with them," Jason said.

Thus, Grace washed up and went to bed. On the other hand, Jason went to his study and called Terrence, his secretary.

"Look into the Farmer family of San Wang Convenience Store for me," said Jason.

"The Farmer family?" replied Terrence immediately after being taken aback for a moment. He was clueless as to how the Former family had gotten into trouble with the boss.

As soon as Tasha Farmer got home, she told her family about the incident. Sure enough, her parents were shocked to find out about it. Her brother even scolded her for being so stupid

to have offended Jason out of all people.

Furthermore, they became extremely mad when they found out that she had taken the lead for Elsie Jordan, and the latter ended up denying her involvement in the matter completely.

The Farmer family was in deep trouble because of their tax affairs. They had been afraid to attend the banquet as they would be questioned by reporters there. Thus, they made Tasha Farmer, who usually had no business to do with their

company, attend the banquet to cotton up to the Lu and ZAtkinson family. Who would have thought that it would turn out this way?

"I did it for our family. Worst comes to the worst, I'll just apologize to Grace," Tasha Farmer said reluctantly.

Nonetheless, in her heart, she felt that if she did

go

apologize to Grace, the matter would be resolved.

and

Upon hearing this, Mr. and Mrs. Wang sighed. "It's the only way. Get something expensive later."

However, they were later on refused entry at the Reed

Residence. They could not get in. Additionally, the Reed

family's butler merely told them with a poker face, "The young master said he has no time to see you."

"We just want to apologize. After all, Miss Cummins suffered injustice because of my daughter's recklessness," said Mr.

Wang. He was usually a big boss in the eyes of others and had never been so humble to a butler.

Nevertheless, this housekeeper was the Reed family's butler.

"The young master said that you should start worrying about your own affairs instead of waiting here," the butler said as he turned around and entered the house, shutting the iron gate behind him.

Chapter 526

Mr. Wang's face grew solemn. Meanwhile, Tasha Farmer indignantly said, "Grace must be doing this on purpose because she wants to put on airs. That woman is only doing this because Jason is currently interested in her..."

Mr. Wang's anxiety rose sharply. Perhaps the matter was not as simple as he thought.

"Since they said they have no time, let's go home, Dad," said Tasha Farmer as she pursed her lips.

Right after Tasha Farmer finished speaking, Mr. Wang's phone rang. The next instant, after answering the call, Mr. Wang's face turned pale. Additionally, he begun sweating profusely.

Tasha Farmer looked puzzled. Having seen her father end the call in a daze, she could not help but ask, "What's wrong,

Dad?"

Mr. Wang immediately raised his hand in response and slapped Tasha Farmer. "Great, you've caused our family great

trouble this time!"

Their tax scandal could no longer be hidden. The phone call earlier was from someone Mr. Wang had managed to get in

touch with. That person broke the news to him that his family would be thoroughly investigated this time and no one could help him.

Furthermore, it was not just a matter of paying taxes

and fines. Once they had paid off the taxes according to the penalty, their company's cash flow would be cut off. Consequently, if their cash flow stopped, their whole company would be in hot water.

A bank loan would give the company some time to recompose itself. However, the problem was... would any of the banks lend them any money? Mr. Wang thought of what the Reed family's butler had just said.

Did Jason... know that the Farmer family would fall into such a crisis? Or perhaps... Jason was the cause of it.

After all, the person Mr. Wang had connections with had told him that he could buy him half a month's worth of time. Then, as long as Mr. Wang managed to find someone to help him in half a month's time, his family had room to turn things around.

However, there was now no room for maneuver.

At the moment, Mr. Wang only wished to strangle his daughter. The brainless daughter of his had dragged the entire Farmer family to hell!

At the moment, in the Reed Residence, Grace was unaware

of what was going on outside. She was sitting on the couch in the living and watching the latest TV series.

It has to be said that even the TV set in the Reed Residence

was made to look like a small cinema screen. Watching a TV series was like watching a movie in the movie theater.

Grace felt a lot better being able to go to work in the restaurant for the past few days. Evidently, her mood was also because Nelson was doing very well after the surgery; he was making rapid progress. Grace could even observe Nelson's progress each day with her own eyes.

"In a good mood?" Jason walked over to the couch in the living. room and took a seat beside Grace. The servants had not disturbed Grace about the Farmer family's visit.

After all, in Jason's opinion, it was only a small matter. He did not want it to spoil Grace's good mood.

"Yep." Grace smiled and shared her joy with Jason. "You know what? Nelson can now understand what I'm saying by listening to me without looking at my mouth. It's like he's a genius."

"Genius?" Jason snorted softly at this. "He's a bit like his father. then."

His father? Grace was stunned for a moment. Then, her eyes widened in astonishment. "You know who Nelson's father is?"

"Yes." Jason was quick to admit.

Grace was stunned. She had wondered who Nelson's father was and why he was never at Kyla's side. Some of her colleagues at the restaurant had mentioned to her in private that Kyla probably had a child out of wedlock.

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Grace wondered what kind of person would have made Kyla pregnant out of wedlock for her to have the baby.

If a woman was willing to have a child out of wedlock, the

woman most probably loved the man. Otherwise, she would. have just aborted the child.

"How... How do you know?" asked Grace in surprise.

Jason smiled, raised his hand, and gently pushed a strand of hair that was on her cheek behind her ear. "You don't expect me to be indifferent to your workplace, do you? Since you chose to work there, naturally, I had it checked out."

Grace could not help but gulp down the saliva stuck in her throat and stare at Jason. She had no idea that he would go to such lengths.

Her silence made Jason frown a little. Gradually, his eyes became stained with gloominess. "You don't like it? Do you feel like you're being watched?"

Grace shook her head. "No, I know you're afraid that something might happen to me."

He looked at her in amazement. She knew! The gloom in his eyes faded away and only joy was left in his bright, amorous.

eyes.

"By the way, What kind of person is... uh, Nelson's father?"

asked Grace.

"It's Martin Weiss," answered Jason.

Grace was taken aback once again. Grace had heard of a Martin Weiss but... Was the Martin Weiss Jason was talking.

about the Martin Weiss she had in mind?

"It looks like you know Martin Weiss," said Jason.

"Is it Martin Weiss from the Weiss Group?" asked Grace.

"Yep, it's him," answered Jason.

Grace was silent. She knew Martin Weiss from when she was

still a lawyer. She had heard a senior in the law firm mention a case in which Martin Weiss, though not the plaintiff, was one of the key witnesses. His testimony eventually led to the defendant being imprisoned.

The defendant... Grace felt a sudden chill shoot down her back. The defendant's name vaguely flashed across her mind. She recalled hearing the surname "Corbyn".

Kyla... Could it be that coincidental?

Could Martin Weiss have testified against Kyla? The very thought of the possibility left Grace feeling anxious.

Biting her lip, Grace looked at Jason and asked, "Then... do you

know if Martin Weiss ever testified...”

Before she could finish, Jason interjected and said, “Kyla Corbyn was sentenced to three years and six months in prison. due to Martin Weiss’s testimony.”

Grace felt a sudden pang in her heart. Kyla had been sentenced to prison because of Martin Weiss, but she still gave birth to Martin Weiss’s child. Come to think of it, it was kind of ironic.

“Then, you must know of the case that caused Kyla Corbyn to be sentenced to prison,” said Jason. It was a little surprising that Grace knew Martin Weiss had testified against Kyla Corbyn. Nevertheless, Jason found it understandable as she was once a lawyer. Not to mention, the case that took place between Martin Weiss and Kyla Corbyn was quite sensational back then; it had also taken place before her accident.

Chapter 528

Grace nodded and fell silent. She had thought that behind a woman with a child were only a few problems. She had never thought that the matter was so complicated.

A woman who had been thrown into prison by the father of her own child. How many people could withstand such a blow?

It had not been easy for Kyla Corbyn to open a small restaurant and, at the same time, raise Nelson.

“What’s wrong? Are you feeling sorry for Kyla Corbyn?” asked Jason.

“Yep, I think life has been very hard on Kyla,” muttered Grace.

Jason stared at Grace’s worried expression. Was she worried. about Kyla Corbyn?

She used to worry about her grandmother and Lina Sweeney. However, it now seemed as if she had more people to worry about. A bitter and sour feeling once again spread throughout

Jason’s body.

He knew that her worries were unrelated to romantic love.

However, Jason could not help but be jealous.

He probably cared too much about her feelings and did not want to share them with too many people. Jason covetously wanted her to invest more and more of her feelings in him.

“Will you get upset for me in the future, Sis?” Jason asked out of the blue.

Grace could not help but laugh. “Why do you ask that all of a sudden?”

Jason’s eyes glistened. “I just want to know. Will you? Or won’t you?” He was insistent on receiving an answer from her.

“Of course I’d be sad if something happened to you. Do you even have to ask? Therefore, I hope nothing ever happens to you and that you’re always safe and sound,” said Grace. Before Grace knew it, she was already afraid to imagine what would happen if something happened to Jason.

It seemed like the more you loved someone, the more you worried about their safety and the timider you became.

With that, a smile appeared on the corners of Jason’s mouth. On top of that, he took her hand, lowered his head, and scattered kisses on her palm. “Then, as you wish, I’ll be all right.”

Jason’s beautiful, black eyes stared at Grace in a fixated way that made the latter’s heart beat violently. Furthermore, her mind seemed to wallow in his eyes.

“Do you love me? Grace...” Jason muttered. His soft words were like the deepest temptation.

He had called her Grace instead of Sis.

Grace’s eyes carefully looked at the face close at hand. Jason had picturesque eyes and brows, all of them were so delicate.

Such men seemed to be born to be looked up to as if never to be touched.

However, at this moment, such a man was so close to her.

“I love you,” said Grace. Yes. At the very beginning of their relationship, Grace had not been able to articulate her love. However, she could now feel that she loved him and that feeling was slowly getting deeper and deeper.

She had thought that after Sean Stevens’s betrayal, she would no longer be able to love anyone that deeply. However, it turned out she was wrong, and she could still love someone

seriously.

Chapter 529

“Call my name, Grace. Call my name...” said Jason, his slightly hoarse voice sounded coquettish.

“Jay...” She called him by his name. The next moment, Jason’s

lips pressed hard against hers, and he kissed her in the most infatuating way.

The voice that had whispered his name was the most beautiful sound in the world, and he wanted to treasure it for the rest of his life.

Throughout the next few days, the Farmer family's tax evasion scandal was fully covered by the news media. If they had been trying to cover it up before, then now, the fig leaf was completely gone.

At the same time, the tax bureau had mustered enough evidence of the Farmer family's tax evasion and was now preparing to press further charges against the Farmer family.

Consequently, the Farmer family was forced to pay the taxes. and fines. Hence, their cash flow became restrained, and no bank was willing to lend them any money.

The Farmer family which once owned a huge convenience.

store chain empire was now teetering on the brink of a possible asset restructure and takeover.

The series of events left many ordinary people dazzled, and some wondered how the Farmer family had been brought

down so fast.

On the other hand, people in their social circle, especially those that had attended the banquet that day, knew why.

It was probably the result of Tasha Farmer offending Jason that day. Tasha Farmer's actions had brought the entire Farmer family down with her.

Elsie Jordan and Felicia Kemp, who had been with Tasha Farmer that day, were also scolded by their families. Fortunately, their family businesses only suffered a little and did not experience as bad of a crisis as the Farmer family.

Elsie Jordan and Felicia Kemp were also scared. Fortunately, Tasha Farmer had acted on her own by taking the initiative to target Grace. Although the two had fanned the flames, they had not picked on Grace directly.

It was already misfortunate enough for the Farmer family. However, Tasha Farmer's eldest brother added fuel to the fire as shouted in Tasha Farmer's face that she had dissipated all

the fortune that would have been his.

Mr. and Mrs. Wang had asked their circle of friends for help, but no one dared to help them.

Tasha Farmer had not expected to end up dragging the entire Former family down just by taunting Grace.

"There... There must be a mistake. How could Jason do this for a woman?" Tasha Farmer whispered to herself.

Nevertheless, the truth was now right in front of her. Her social circle of female friends had also begun avoiding her.

As for Elsie Jordan and Felicia Kemp, they eagerly wished to be unrelated to her. Additionally, her friends that often called themselves her sisters were now unwilling to give her a hand.

She even had a friend say to her face, "You're way too impulsive, Tasha. Tell me. If a man like Jason had intentions of bringing a woman to a party himself, would he not find out about her background beforehand? Imprisonment? Hmph. It might be an unpleasant taint for ordinary people, but Jason is no ordinary person! Does he care if a woman has been to prison? He could even make a beggar a princess if he wanted

to."

Tasha Farmer froze when she heard this. Yes, she had forgotten that Jason was no ordinary person. How could Jason not know something that even she knew?

"Besides, the Atkinson family has not uttered a single word. What's the hurry?" the girlfriend added, "Wasn't Lily there? Did you see her get upset and say something?"

Chapter 530

Tasha Farmer seemed to have been struck by lightning as she realized she had acted like a clown that night. She had thought that she was making fun of Grace, but in actual truth, all she had done was make fun out of herself and let everyone see her as a joke!

Evelyn was rejected entry at Brian's private mansion as the servant said to her, "Please leave, Miss Cummins. Sir told me that he doesn't want to see anyone."

"Did you tell him it was me?" Evelyn asked hurriedly. She had not seen much of Brian ever since the banquet. Additionally, he had turned her down every time she tried to reach him.

Now, she had come straight to his house but was refused entry.

"Mr. Hart said he won't see 'anyone'. I suppose 'anyone' includes you, Miss Cummins. Or you could call Mr. Hart and ask if he wishes to see you. If he does, I'll let you in," The servant said respectfully. Nevertheless, a hint of disdain could be seen in his eyes that were slightly lowered.

Evelyn was one of the many women he had seen in his life. None of the crown prince's girlfriends had not been eager to get a hold of his heart. However, who could get a hold of it?

Miss Cummins was ambitious. However, just like her predecessors, she was unable to enter the crown prince's heart. It probably would not take long for her to retire as the crown prince's girlfriend.

Evelyn could only stare and gnash her teeth in hatred. Could she call Brian and get him to see her? Would she beg a servant?

Inside the mansion, Brian was in his studio, holding a pencil and drawing a portrait-a portrait of what he imagined the little girl from his memories would look like after growing up.

Only after he had finished the portrait did he realize that what he had drawn was a Grace lookalike.

Brian stared at the portrait he had drawn and put down his pencil.

He had to be mad! He had thought of the little girl from his childhood while drawing but ended up drawing Grace.

His delusion had to be caused by the many similarities Grace. and that little girl shared.

His delusion led him to take Grace too seriously.

For the past few days, as soon as he closed his eyes, a flashback of the scene he had witnessed that day would flash.

across his mind. It was the scene of Jason kissing Grace.

Was she... finally with Jason?

She did not struggle nor resist. She was so willing.

Brian felt as if something precious of his had been lost, broken... He felt the feeling spread across his body. Perhaps. he had lost something forever and could no longer get back

what he wanted...

Brian's fingers gently touched the portrait in front of him. When had the portrait's face become etched in his mind?

When he thought about Jason kissing her, the uncomfortable feeling he felt was probably called... jealousy.

Brian's eyes gradually became misty. Then, he could not help but lean over, letting his lips... kiss the lips in the portrait.

Was he crazy, spellbound... or... yearning for something that he desperately wanted until he was now almost beyond control?

The answer seemed unsolvable to him.