

Ex Convict 561

Chapter 561

In a place like the entertainment industry, any straw in the wind would be extremely exaggerated by outsiders.

Brian and her had not made any public appearances during this time, and there were a lot of speculations on set as to whether she was dumped.

Therefore, she urgently needed to appear in public with Brian to dispel those rumors.

However... She could not even meet Brian.

"Can't you help me out again, Secretary Zhang? I want to see him," Evelyn said humbly.

"I really can't. Mr. Hart has already said that he won't see you, so he won't," the secretary said that as if there was no room.

for change.

Evelyn could even see a faint flicker of mockery in his eyes and some sort of pity as if he was better than her.

Did Secretary Zhang assume that Brian would dump her and that she would become her former self again? Evelyn thought

to herself darkly, but for the moment, it would be a disgrace to stay here any longer.

Evelyn could only leave first. Then, she found a parking space near the building's car park. She parked her car there and planned to wait for Brian.

She asked for a day off from the set just to meet Brian today.

What she did not expect was that just a moment later, Brian's car appeared. Evelyn had to hurry to keep up.

However, to Evelyn's surprise, Brian drove for more than 20 minutes with no intention of stopping. He was headed toward

the freeway.

Where... Was he going?

Puzzled, Evelyn drove for more than an hour until they finally stopped near a hill.

Evelyn had to park as far away as possible for fear of being noticed by Brian.

She realized that the town they were in was Grace's grandmother's town. As a child, she had come here twice with

her father.

Was Brian here to... Evelyn suddenly had a bad feeling.

Now, she could only see Brian standing still in front of the
from a distance.

Was there anything special... With this hill? Evelyn crept a little nearer but suddenly stopped dead in her tracks, for she had already recognized the hill as the one she saw in the painting
in Brian's studio.

It was the painting of the little girl carrying the little boy on her back while trudging down the hill. The two children appeared to be dependent and relied on each other...

Now, standing in front of the hill, was Brian thinking about... Grace? Evelyn's hands were tightly clenched into fists, her manicured nails prickling her palms! Her face, that had exquisite makeup on, began to twist.

Grace helped to clean up the small restaurant. Recently, as Mrs. Corbyn was hospitalized, Kyla Corbyn had to take care of Nelson by herself, so Grace offered to clean up when they
closed for the day.

As a result, she had to leave work a little later than usual.

When she got out of the restaurant, she suddenly stopped after a few steps and looked at the figure in front of her in
shock.

Chapter 562

It was... Brian!

He wore a white shirt against beige trousers, making him.

look a little casual and relaxed. His black hair was a little disheveled. The cold moonlight fell on him and half-dimmed.

his delicate features.

Only now, she felt he was a little different from usual. He was looking at her, his black eyes without the indifferent gaze he normally gave. Instead, it was misty.

The way he looked at her made Grace feel uncomfortable. It was as if he was looking at something through her.

As Brian walked up to her step by step, Grace felt a rush of
alcohol in her face.

"Have you been drinking?" she asked subconsciously.

“Yes, a little,” he said with a chuckle, his eyes focusing on her more.

Grace pressed her lips slightly. “It’s getting late. I’ve got to go home. Goodbye.” As she spoke, she lifted her feet, intending to

leave.

It was only when she had taken a step that his hand suddenly seized her arm and pulled her into his arms.

Suddenly, she fell into a wide embrace. The pungent smell of alcohol was far worse than what she had smelled when she stood apart from him.

He certainly had drunk more than a little! Just how much did he drink?

“Let me go!” shouted Grace.

However, his hands still clung to her. “Tell me, how can I find you? I’ve been looking for you for a long time, but I can’t find you! I can’t find...”

Grace shuddered. Was... Brian mistaking her for someone else? She did not think he meant to say these words to her.

“Let me go first, Mr. Hart, You’re drunk,” said Grace. He held her tightly with his arms, rendering her struggles useless.

It was at such times that the difference in strength between a man and a woman was revealed.

“Drunk? If only I were drunk. Do you know how much I want to be drunk?” muttered Brian. There was broken hoarseness in

his cold voice.

“I don’t care who you think I am, you’d better let me go, or...”

“Or what?” He lowered his head, his face close to hers. The tips of their noses were almost touching.

His scent completely enveloped her, and the pungent smell of alcohol raised a sense of danger in Grace’s heart.

If it was the normal Brian, she might still be able to communicate with him. However, how could she communicate with a drunk person?

Grace frowned. “Please behave yourself, Mr. Hart.”

Her words caused a slight change in his expression. "Behave myself? I've been... Behaving myself too much..." That was why he had given up without even trying. "Why... Why aren't you her?"

If she was that girl, then he could fight tooth and nail for her. He could fight tooth and nail against Jason and even do a lot

more for her...

Not her? Grace did not know who Brian was referring to, but the moment Brian put his hand against her face, her hair stood up. She was having goosebumps.

A sense of danger pervaded her.

"If only I hadn't let go of your hand. You carried me down the hill on your back today that year... You said you'll protect me... And asked me not to be afraid..."

A cold, choking voice rang in the night wind. His eyes watered, and tears rolled down his cheeks.

Grace was dumbfounded, not expecting Brian to cry in front of her like that. This man who always gave people a sense of alienation and was aloof and noble felt strangely familiar to Grace right now.

Chapter 563

The tears were...

Suddenly, as if there was a needle pricking in her mind, she

felt a sudden pain...

"You know what? I miss you so much... I miss you..." he muttered as his face drew closer and closer, his lips almost touching hers.

Pow!

A clear slap rang in the darkness.

Grace panted slightly, the palm of her right hand had a burning pain-a sign of how hard she slapped him just now.

Brian's face was slapped to one side. The air around him.

seemed to freeze.

There was silence.

After a long time, he slowly turned his head with his eyes fixed on her. Only now, his eyes were no longer blurry like just now.

They had become a lot clearer.

His fingers slowly loosened their hold on her, and without saying a word, he turned and staggered into a nearby car.

It was only then that Grace put her hand up against her head which was still throbbing.

Why did she have a headache when she saw Brian's tears just now? It was as if she was triggered by something. A terrible feeling even welled up in her heart at that moment.

Why... Was she so upset? It was as if her body did not want to see him cry.

Even Grace could not explain why she felt this way.

Now, in another dark corner not far away, Evelyn gritted her teeth as she looked at Grace's back with a fierce, malevolent. look.

Today, she had followed Brian to the town and watched him. stand like a fool in front of the hill for hours.

She almost stood with him until her legs ached to the point of collapse.

Later, Brian went to a restaurant in the town and had a drink. She had never seen him drink like this-one drink after another as if he intended on getting himself drunk.

She was secretly pleased, thinking that if he got drunk tonight, it might be an opportunity for her.

She could find an opportunity to approach him, and maybe something would happen.

However, unexpectedly, he came here to meet Grace next.

Just now... They almost kissed!

Why... Did he do this to Grace when he clearly did not know. that Grace was the little girl in his painting?

Grace already had Jason, but she was still trying to mess with.

her Brian!

If she really could not keep Brian one day, she would surely make Grace pay for it!

Evelyn swore in her heart with a twisted expression.

At night, Grace had her chin in her hands as she looked at

Jason who was working in the room.

He insisted on having her by his side when he was working. He euphemistically said that her presence made him feel less.

tired.

Chapter 564

The reason immediately made her flustered. She did not know

whether to cry or laugh.

However, it was also a feast for her eyes to look at him quietly. She had never thought that one day, the two of them would

be able to get along in this way.

He was exceptionally focused when he was working, leafing through the documents while the pen in his hand was constantly moving while making notes.

She could see that he read quickly, and at the same time, he was occasionally giving follow-up orders to the top management at the other end of the computer.

Looking at Jason, Grace suddenly felt rueful. She used to hear people say that men were actually the most attractive when they were at work. It seemed to be true.

Everyone knew Jason as the king of the business world because he came from a wealthy and century-old family, but no one was born a king. Even if he had the Reed family as support, he could still be dethroned at any time if he did not

work hard.

The Reed family's current development and consolidation of his own position were all his hard work.

Grace's gaze fell on Jason's profile. From her point of view, she could see his straight nose bridge, clear facial outlines, sexy thin lips, and firm chin.

His eyelids were now half-drooped. He was looking at the papers before him while his long lashes formed a pretty shadow on his lower eyelids.

His eyes were extremely beautiful. When this pair of eyes stared at her, they glistened like it was full of charm and flirtation. She could not help but want to see them again and

again.

'I like your eyes. The words flashed through her mind

suddenly!

Grace was immediately stunned, and there seemed to be a dull ache in her head again. Had she said this to anyone?

Suddenly, Brian's tearful eyes flashed through her mind.

God. Why did she think of Brian? Grace shook her head vigorously, trying to shake off the image of Brian in her head.

"What's the matter? Why do you keep shaking your head?"

Out of the blue, a voice rang.

As soon as Grace looked up, she saw that Jason had walked up to her from the desk at some point.

“Nothing,” she answered as she bit her lower lip slightly, not wanting to talk about the incident with Brian. After all, Brian was clearly drunk tonight and probably did not know what he was doing.

Besides, she had a feeling that Brian mistook her for someone else.

Moreover, the Hart family and the Reed family had always shared a good relationship. Brian and Jason seemed to have been playmates since childhood. She did not want to cause trouble between them.

‘Let’s pretend tonight never happened.

Grace thought so.

However, Jason was not satisfied with her answer. He raised his eyebrow slightly while his finger raised her chin. “Really?”

His dark eyes seemed to be able to see through her.

“I was just thinking, you... Probably don’t cry much.” She tried hard to give a reason.

However, the more absurd the reason was, the easier it was to convince him. He could not help laughing. “Why? Do you really want to see me cry?”

“...” How was she supposed to answer that? If he cried one day, then she would... Grace’s heart suddenly tingled.

She did not want to see him cry, but a strong man like him had his moments of vulnerability too. Just like every time he talked about his parents, he would make her feel like he was a fragile glass that would shatter into pieces with the slightest force.

Chapter 565

“If you want to see me cry, I’ll cry. His voice once again rang in the air.

Her eyes widened in shock, and her face was in disbelief. Did he say... He would cry?

“What’s the matter?” he asked with a smile.

“You said, you...”

“If you want to see it, I’ll do it, I’ll try my best to do whatever you want,” he said as he bent down slowly, his handsome face suddenly enlarged in front of her eyes.

Grace stared blankly at his face that was so close to hers. Her face was reflected in his dark pupils. He smiled and talked with a serious expression as if all she had to do was say ‘yes’ and he would cry and shed tears.

“Do you?” His voice rang again in her ear. His whispers were like the most touching sweet nothings.

Grace shook her head and replied, “No.”

Her answer put a flash of doubt in his eyes. "Why?"

"Because I'll be distressed. If you cry, it means you're very upset, and I don't want to see you upset," she said.

His eyes gleamed. Her words were like a warm current, flowing into his ears little by little and seeping into his heart.

and lungs.

The world was full of people who wished him bad luck. Most of his friends respected and feared him, and his father had loved

his mother so much that his father gave him little love. As for his mother, he was just a pawn for her. A pawn that would grant her access into a rich and powerful family.

Finally, when he could not play any role as a pawn, his mother turned away and no longer cared for him.

In his grandfather's eyes, he was only the only choice for the heir of the Reed family because he had half of his father's genes. The other half of his genes that belonged to his mother was rejected by his grandfather.

Therefore, his grandfather often looked at him with disgust.

All the while, he told himself he had to be strong because if he was not strong enough, he would be devoured by the world and have no place to stand.

Now, the woman in front of him said she would be distressed for him.

This was... The woman he fell in love with. She was probably the only person in the world who would be distressed for him.

He kissed her lips tenderly, turning and sucking as if he was going to finish all his love in this lifetime.

"Only you, Grace... I only have you..." He had always been alone in the world, and now, there was her.

With her around, he would not be so lonely...

The next day, when Grace returned to the small restaurant after delivering food, she found Brian sitting at the table in the small restaurant.

Kyla Corbyn walked over to Grace's side and whispered, "Brian has been here for a while. He's here for you."

Taking a deep breath, Grace walked to Brian's table and met his eyes. "How can I help you, Mr. Hart?"

"I forgot my manners last night," said Brian. Yesterday was the day the little girl carried him down the hill and also the day he was separated from her.

Chapter 566

Even after so many years of looking for her, he never found her again.

The more he missed that girl, the more he regretted it.

He had drunk too much yesterday, and the regret that was suppressed in his heart was like a flood that burst its banks.

and drowned him.

He did not even know how he got to the entrance of this restaurant. All he could think about was that he wanted to see.

her. He must see her..

It was as if seeing her would make him feel better.

However, later, when he saw her, the girl in his memory kept on interlacing with her, who was in the real world. He ended

up forgetting his manners.

It was a pity that even though he was drunk yesterday, he still remembered what he had done to her.

He would not care if it were any other woman.

However, with Grace, she was different.

Not because she was Jason's girlfriend, but just because she looked so much like the girl he imagined she would grow up to be.

Even though she was not the little girl, he did not want to be disliked by her.

"It's no big deal. We're even," replied Grace lightly. She had also slapped him last night.

Even... For some reason, Brian thought the words sounded a little harsh. "Don't you want to ask me what happened last night?"

"No," she answered. It was his business, and she did not want

to be too curious. "I only hope that you'll not get drunk and do the same thing to me again, Mr. Hart. You and I can pretend that it never happened last night."

Brian smirked in self-mockery. She was not even remotely interested in him.

From the cashier's desk came the voice of the machine. "You have new orders."

Grace was about to walk away when she knew that she had more delivery orders, but Brian grabbed her wrist.

Grace frowned and turned to look at him. "Please let go, Mr. Hart!"

"If you didn't know Jason, would you date me?" Suddenly, he wanted to know if it was possible.

Grace frowned even more. What kind of question was that?

"I just want to know the answer. Why? Is such a hypothetical question so hard to answer? Or are you too embarrassed to say it's possible?" said Brian.

Grace pressed her lips together and said sternly, "No way!

Even if I didn't know Jason, I wouldn't date you."

Her answer gave him a sudden stab in the heart. "Why?"

"Because you have too many ex-girlfriends, I don't want to be one of them. Besides, you have someone in your heart. I don't

want to be a substitute for anyone," answered Grace. She just wanted to be herself.

Brian immediately laughed at himself and let her go. "That's really... Something I can't argue with." His ex-girlfriends were

all substitutes, after all.

Grace walked over to the cash register. A moment later, she hurried out of the small restaurant again with the orders to be delivered.

Brian sat in his seat, turning the cup of tea in his hand without making a sound for a long time.

Chapter 567

On Saturday afternoon, during Grace's break, she was dragged to a roadshow by her best friend Lina Sweeney.

"Do you know how hard it was for me to get these two tickets? Howell Webb is coming to the roadshow today, and he should know you. You must talk to him for me, at least have him take

a picture with me," chattered Lina Sweeney. It was as if she would be willing to brave through thick and thin just to catch a sight of Howell Webb.

"Why didn't you come with Hadwin Stephenson?" Grace asked in confusion. It would work better if Hadwin Stephenson had

come.

Lina Sweeney twitched her mouth. She was hiding this matter from Hadwin Stephenson.

If that fellow Hadwin Stephenson knew she came to Howell

Webb's movie roadshow, he would probably pull a long face

for quite a long time.

Last time, that fellow Hadwin Stephenson made her drink just

for Howell Webb's poster. In the end, she got drunk and her parents nearly pulled her by the ear to kneel on the washing. board punishment.

Of course, Hadwin Stephenson only made her drink the first. glass. The second glass was because the wine tasted so good that she drank much more.

"Forget about it. If he came with me, would I still be able to see Howell Webb?" said Lina Sweeney as she shook her head.

Grace could not help but laugh. "Is he against you fangirling?"

"Yes, every time I fangirl, he looks like I owe him a lot of money," said Lina Sweeney as she curled her lip.

"Maybe he's jealous?" said Grace. Just like Jason who got very jealous because she was also a fan of Howell Webb.

However, Lina Sweeney acted as if she had heard a big joke. "How can he be jealous? The last thing he wants is for me to have another man in my heart before he gets his payback."

'Only narrow-minded men would take revenge on women because they lost their virginity,' Lina Sweeney thought to herself.

Grace was not going to say anything as she needed to experience love for herself.

Grace and Lina Sweeney entered the venue. The seats Lina Sweeney got were in the third row, which was pretty near the

Before the movie was released, the movie's creators would interact with the audience who came. Of course, most of the people who bought tickets for roadshows were fans of the leading actors.

There were even many fans holding up posters and name signboards of their idols to honor their own idols.

To Grace's surprise, Lina Sweeney also held up a sign that said Jaygshan is the best."

"What do you think? I paid someone to do it," said Lina Sweeney. She spent a lot of money on the roadshow today.

"Not bad," said Grace. It did draw a lot of attention.

When it was time, the creators took the stage, and Howell Webb was one of them.

There were all kinds of applause, screaming, and shouting. The fans were desperately trying to get their idols' attention.

Lina Sweeney was of course one of those shouting and waving a signboard in her hand.

Grace was actually a little envious seeing her best friend like this. She was introverted, especially because her three years.

in prison had turned her into someone as boring as a pool of stagnant water..

If it were not for Jason, perhaps she would still not have any hope for life now.

However, Lina was different from her. She was very straightforward, her face was expressive, and she was willing to express her preferences.

Sometimes, Grace envied her best friend for that.

Just then, her best friend, who was shouting at the top of her lungs, stopped suddenly. Grace heard the host saying, "Let's have our roadshow's special guest, Miss Cummins Evelyn, on stage!"

Chapter 568

Grace was stunned. She did not expect today's guest to be

Evelyn.

Roadshows sometimes invited guests to the event as a surprise for the audience.

However, they usually invited big names, and Evelyn was only a D-list actress in the entertainment industry before she became Brian's girlfriend.

Her popularity was all due to Brian. During this time, Evelyn had gotten a lot of good resources because of Brian.

However, aside from a few published commercials, other TV dramas and singles were still in production and had yet to be released.

Therefore, Evelyn had not starred in any real films. To put it bluntly, the reason she could be the guest was because of Brian.

Lina Sweeney turned to her best friend with a look of embarrassment and apology on her face. "Sorry, Grace. I didn't know that Evelyn would be the guest today."

If she had known, she would not have bought tickets for this roadshow.

Grace smiled. "What's there to be sorry for? It's none of your business. Besides, we came to see Howell Webb today, not Evelyn."

However, Lina Sweeney still could not get over it, so much so that she did not pay much attention to the film when it started. playing. She was still thinking about Evelyn being the guest.

By the end of the movie, Lina Sweeney did not urge Grace to help her find Howell Webb for a photo. Instead, she said, "Let's go."

"You don't want a photo with him?" asked Grace in surprise.

"I'll tell you later." Lina Sweeney shrugged.

"Come on, let's try it out." Grace knew how much her best friend had been looking forward to getting a photo and autograph today. She did not want to let her down because of Evelyn.

As she spoke, she called Jason on the phone, "Can you get Howell Webb's contact information for me, Jay? Or his manager's contact information? I'm now with Lina, and I want to find Howell Webb for a photo again. It won't keep him too long... Um, all right, I see."

After Grace ended the call, she looked up and saw her best friend's eager eyes. She smiled and said, "All right, Jason said he'll get in touch with them and ask them to contact me, so I just have to wait for their call."

"Wow, that's great!" Lina Sweeney was shocked. At first, she just wanted to take a chance. She also thought that maybe she and Grace could not get near Howell Webb at all. After all, there were so many fans here.

She did not expect a shortcut like that.

After a while, Grace's phone rang, and it was Howell Webb himself who called. After asking for her exact location, he said he would send someone to take them to the lounge.

"God, I'm going to faint!" After Grace ended the call, Lina Sweeney said with a dramatic expression, "Howell Webb called you! Do you have Howell Webb's personal contact information now? Do you know how many people want Howell Webb's phone number?"

Grace was a bit confused. "Maybe later when you see Howell Webb, you can ask if he'll give you his phone number too?"

"I'd love to, but..." Hadwin Stephenson's warning earlier flashed in Lina Sweeney's mind. Then, she trembled and said, "I'd better not."

Chapter 569

Who would have expected Hadwin Stephenson to tell her, "You're my girlfriend now. If I find out that you and Howell Webb are more intimate than ordinary fans and idols, I'll blacklist him in the entertainment industry. You might not see him on screen again."

If someone else had said that, she would have thought that they were joking, but it was Hadwin Stephenson.... Lina Sweeney guessed that with his narrow-mindedness, he might actually do such a thing.

Therefore, she should just forget about the phone number. She would be content with just a photo together, an autograph, and better still, a few posters.

Before long, a young woman came up to Grace and Lina

Sweeney. She said, "Hello, Miss Cummins."

Grace recognized her as Howell Webb's assistant whom she had met with Howell Webb last time.

"Hello," responded Grace.

"Please follow me, ladies." She led the way along a separate staff passage. Grace and Lina Sweeney followed.

Grace did not expect to take only a few steps before bumping into Evelyn on the staff passage.

Evelyn was now with her manager. They seemed to be talking to each other about something.

Grace wanted to pretend they did not know each other, but

after seeing Grace, Evelyn took the initiative to say with a smile on her face, "Gee, what a coincidence, Sis! What are you doing here?"

Grace squinted suspiciously. Evelyn had always disliked the idea of revealing their relationship as sisters in public. She felt disgraced by her imprisonment.

However, she was not being herself now.

The assistant leading the way alongside Grace showed a look of surprise, apparently not expecting Grace to be sisters with

Evelyn.

"This is the staff passage. Are you... Here for Howell Webb?" Evelyn recognized the assistant beside Grace to be the assistant Howell Webb brought with him today.

"Miss Cummins and her friend want to take a photo with Mr. Webb and get an autograph." The assistant offered to explain.

After all, Evelyn's words were ambiguous, and this was the staff passage near the entrance. There were many fans gathered here watching them. If it caused any misunderstanding, it would affect Howell Webb's image.

"I see." Evelyn smiled. "If Sis and Sis Lina want to see Mr. Webb, just say so and I'll take you there. Why bother Mr. Webb's assistant?"

As she spoke, Evelyn approached Grace affectionately. She grabbed Grace in a display of affection as if she were going to take Grace to Howell Webb's lounge herself.

Grace said coolly, "Let go. I don't care what you're up to, but I don't want to play along."

"Is that so?" Evelyn smiled and said in a voice that only the two of them could hear, "You told me to let go. Don't regret it."

With that, Evelyn let go of her grip with a great jerk and staggered backward as if she was pushed hard by someone.

Chapter 570

She fell back in three steps, and in a blink of an eye, she was lying flat on the ground. Then, a cry of pain escaped Evelyn's mouth.

“I was just being kind, Sis. Why did you push me away like this...” Evelyn looked like she was in pain. Her eyes watered, making her look piteous.

The sudden turn of events drew the attention of fans at the entrance, many of whom began pulling out their phones to take pictures and record.

Grace looked coldly at Evelyn. “You know perfectly well whether I’ve pushed you or not.”

“Why do you say that, Sis? I know... You’ve only been out of jail for a while, so you probably feel wrongfully treated. I... I won’t mind it or anything.”

Evelyn continued to play the role of a bitter little sister in front of the crowd while making it clear in front of everyone that Grace had been to prison.

For those nosy fans, it was hot gossip.

Lina Sweeney panicked. “You’re so mean, Evelyn!”

Evelyn only said with an aggrieved look, “You can scold me whatever you want. You’re Sis’s friend. I only hope you can persuade Sis not to go on banging her head against a brick wall. I won’t blame her this time for pushing me, but it won’t be all right if she pushes someone else next time.”

Evelyn gave every appearance of a good sister.

Lina Sweeney nearly fainted with rage. She had seen shameless people before but never someone as shameless as

her.

Evelyn’s manager hurried to help her up and asked with a worried look on her face, “Are you all right? Does it hurt?”

Evelyn bit her lip and frowned as she said, “I think I’ve sprained my ankle... It hurts so much...”

The manager immediately snapped at Grace. “You’re her older sister, How can you do this to your little sister? Is it

because she’s a star and Master Hart’s girlfriend, so you’re jealous? How can you be so jealous...”

The manager was just saying this when her voice suddenly stopped and her eyes went over Grace. She was looking at

somewhere behind her.

Grace turned around and looked over at the entrance. She could see Brian standing there, and Hadwin Stephenson was

beside him.

'What combination is this?' Grace was stunned.

Just like Grace, Lina Sweeney froze when she turned around and saw the two. Then, she felt a little guilty and dared not look at Hadwin Stephenson.

After all, she told him she had to work overtime today and that was why she did not have time to meet him.

Hadwin Stephenson raised his eyebrows when he saw Lina Sweeney. He had a half-smile on his face.

A little liar indeed! She lied to him about working overtime and ended up here.

Compared to Hadwin Stephenson's expression right now, Brian's face was horribly gloomy.

Inexplicably, Evelyn's manager thought Brian was looking at her with a deathly icy stare.