

Ex Convict 811

Chapter 811

Seeing that his eyes were about to glance in her direction, Grace made a conscious attempt to avoid him.

She had ducked to one side, but she accidentally bumped into another man instead.

"Sorry!" She hastened to apologize.

"Are you f*cking blind? How dare you bump into me? Do you know who I am?" the man Grace hit said drunkenly.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to." All she could do now. was apologize.

At the same time, she could feel eyes on her. It was probably... his eyes.

'He must have seen the mess I'm in right now.'

A bitter and sour feeling spread in her heart.

It was as if the last bit of her dignity and pride were getting in the way. Even if they had broken up and even if he had seen her in an embarrassing state

countless times... She still did not want him to see her embarrassment and confusion.

Her head seemed to have gotten dizzier.

She wanted to get out of here as soon as she could.

However, the man she bumped into was not going to let her go that easily.

"If you really want to apologize, how about having a drink with me? I swear you've never tried such fine wine!" As he spoke, he tried to put his arm around

Grace.

Grace ducked sideways to avoid his hands. She knew he was a scoundrel, and it was no use apologizing.

Her priority now was to get out of here.

However, her dodging irritated him, so the man lifted his foot and kicked Grace.

Grace stumbled onto the ground and felt a pain in her left waist.

“F*ck you! I want you to drink with me because I respect you. How dare you dodge me? Why? Do you despise me? I’m going to teach you a lesson today and make you understand!”

As he spoke, the man raised his hand and was about to hit Grace.

Grace was already slow because she was drunk and was even kicked earlier. She could not avoid him if she wanted to.

His palm was about to fall on her body,

but in the next moment, the man let out a blood-curdling shriek.

Grace stared blankly as the man’s

hand was stopped by another. It was a

beautiful, clean hand that she knew very

well.

‘That’s... Jason’s hand!

‘Did he... save me?’

“Let go. Do you know who I...” Before

the drunk man could finish, there was a

clattering noise that came from bones dislocating.

Then came the man’s more violent cries.

Some of the customers around the club

were now looking in their direction.

With a flick of his hands, Jason threw

the drunk man to Terrence who was

following behind him. He then walked up to Grace and asked, “Are you alright?”

She stared blankly at him. It was not a

hallucination caused by her drunken state. He was really in front of her and

was so close too.

Only his eyes, which had always looked at her gently, were now endlessly dark.

"I'm... alright. Thank you," she said dryly, struggling to get up.

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However, once she moved her body, there was a pain in the left side of her waist where the man had kicked her, making her brows furrow.

"Is it painful?" The cold voice once again rang in her ears. Then, the beautiful hand rested on her waist where it hurt.

Grace's body stiffened immediately. She felt as though all the blood in her body was rushing to that one spot.

His face got closer to hers. It was so close that she could see his long black lashes.

Sure enough... They're beauti

They seemed to touch people's hearts time they quivered gently. every

That was probably how her once stagnant heart was touched, but now it had become stagnant again.

"I'm fine." Grace steadied herself and calmed down. "Thank you for your help, Mr. Reed. I... I'm alright."

As she spoke, she raised her hand to pull the large hand on her waist away, little by little. Then... she let go and wobbled

in the direction of the private room.

However, Jason's hand remained in the air in the same position as when Grace pulled it away just now. It was as if time had frozen.

His hand seemed to retain her warmth.

The moment he saw her, he almost could

not help walking up to her.

When he saw that she was kicked by the man, his mind almost went blank. He was left with only a desire to kill!

He had told himself over and over again not to care about her. 'But when I saw her, I still find myself caring about her. 'Haven't we already broken up?'

"Master Reed," said Terrence. After all, there were a lot of customers around, and the club's manager as well as security guards had all come over after hearing the commotion.

When they saw that it was Jason, the manager and the security guards did not dare to say anything. They just stood beside him quietly.

"She called me Mr. Reed just now," Jason said this suddenly.

Only Terrence understood the meaning of his words, but even someone as smart as he did not know how to answer him.

After all, although Master Reed and Miss However, the club manager and security guards did not bother about him. What did it matter if he was the young master of Feng Lai Group? Could he compare to Master Reed?

Then, Jason's unconcerned words instantly made everyone look at the young master with sympathy.

What Jason said was... "Cripple whichever leg he used to kick just now."

Chapter 813

It was as if this was only a trivial matter.

"Yes," replied Terrence.

At the same time, many people could not help guessing in their hearts. 'Who is that woman who just left?'

'Master Reed would even cripple one

of Feng Lai Group's young master's legs for that woman! That would be like declaring war with Feng Lai Group!'

'Feng Lai Group is only a second-class family business in Emerald City, but... is it worth it to just stand up for a mere woman?'

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On the other hand, Grace had stumbled

back into the private room. Perhaps the conflict just now had made her feel as if the alcohol was taking effect more quickly, causing her head to get even

dizzier.

"Grace, what's the matter? You don't look so well," said a colleague.

"No... Nothing." Grace forced out a smile.

"Alright, alright. Our welcome party today is almost over, so let's end it here. Let's pay the bill and leave. We should let

Grace go back and have a good rest,"

said Andrea Schwartz. Then, she called the waiter for the bill.

Their bill came to a total of 73,000 dollars, a bit more than Grace had expected.

However, Grace originally thought that everyone would go dutch, but Andrea Schwartz only smiled at her and said, "Grace, everyone came to celebrate you joining our company today. Why don't you pay the bill? You're Jason's girlfriend, so you should be able to afford this."

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Grace did not understand Andrea

Schwartz's intentions until now. She was deliberately forcing her to pay the bill so that she could go broke. At the same

time, she could find out whether she and Jason were still together.

Grace only found it nauseating as she looked at the smile on Andrea Schwartz's face.

"I don't have that much money," said Grace. Her bank account only had a total of 7,800 dollars, which was all she had left.

"Grace, are you kidding? Don't be so stingy. Even if you have no money, you can ask Jason to pay for you. He's so rich. He would be willing to foot the bill for you," Andrea Schwartz continued saying with a smile.

"I don't have that much money," repeated Grace as her drunken almond-shaped eyes stared at Andrea Schwartz.

Andrea Schwartz's heart suddenly shuddered. Somehow, she felt fear.

'What am I afraid of?' Andrea Schwartz muttered in her heart. If this could not even force Grace to pay the bill, Grace and Jason were probably not together anymore!

When Grace said she did not have that much money, several other colleagues immediately became a little unhappy.

"What? Andrea Schwartz, didn't you say Grace would buy us this meal?"

"That's right. Didn't you say her boyfriend is Jason? How can she not even afford a meal?"

Someone said to Grace, "Hey, Grace. Don't keep up the appearance if you don't have it. Now, great. You're telling us you don't have the money when it's time to pay the bill."

"I told you. How could Grace be Jason's girlfriend? Her clothes don't look the part. They're years old and she took the bus to work this morning. No expensive cars were picking her up!"

"That's right. Hey, there must be limits to telling lies!"

They criticized with everyone chiming in.

It was as if it was Grace who told them that Jason was her boyfriend.

Chapter 814

Andrea Schwartz smiled like a winner while Grace was taunted by colleagues who had been enthusiastically welcoming her to the company not that long ago.

That was what she wanted to see. The more Grace was embarrassed, the more relieved she was!

If it had not been for Grace, how could she have gotten herself fired from her previous firm and even struggled to find a job since then?

A male colleague could not take it anymore and said, "What's wrong with all of you? Grace never said that she would pay for the meal. Since everyone ate the food, let's go dutch."

The others were embarrassed to say anything when he put it like this.

After all, it was true that Grace had never said it. Besides, everyone in the room was working in the same firm. No one dared to say that they would not pay.

The male colleague calculated how much everyone had to pay and asked the waiter for the bill, but they were told, "Someone has already paid for it, so there's no need to pay any more."

"What?" Everyone in the private room was taken aback.

'Someone has already paid for the bill? It was more than 70,000 dollars!'

"Could there have been some mistake on your part? No one here has paid for it," asked Andrea Schwartz.

"There is no mistake." The waiter smiled

and backed out of the private room.

Everyone in the room looked at each other.

'Paid? Who paid for it?'

Then, everyone's eyes unconsciously focused on Grace. Grace only took her bag shakily and said, "Alright... It's already been paid, so can I go now..."

With that, she staggered out of the private room.

Her head was feeling dizzy, so dizzy that she could not see the road ahead.

'Was it... Jason who paid the bill? Only he would quietly foot a bill of more than 70,000 dollars.

'We've broken up, but unexpectedly, I still owe him.'

Grace smiled wryly. 'We've already broken up. I've told myself that I can only rely on myself from now on, but... Today, I repeatedly let Jason save me.'

She walked step by step. In the end, she did not even know how she got out of Drunken Days.

"Um..." She suddenly stooped down and threw up on the side of the road.

She had not eaten much that evening, so there was nothing left to vomit after a while.

'It hurts so much...! She felt dizzy and her stomach was churning. What she could see were the deep night and neon lights.

'Am I drunk?

'I guess so!'

She felt as if she was floating, and her mother and grandmother's faces seemed to appear in front of her.

They were smiling gently at her as if they were telling her to stay strong. Even if she was alone, she needed to stay strong and survive.

"I'll... survive..." she murmured.

She would make sure her loved ones could rest in peace.

Therefore, it did not matter even if she was alone.

It did not matter if she did not have anyone to depend on.

"I'll be there for you from now on."

There seemed to be a voice in her ear.

'Who is it? Who's speaking?'

"Grace, depend on me more. I like you to depend on me. I want you to depend on me until you can't bear to leave me."

Chapter 815

'Who is it? Who said that?' It was so sweet but so sad that she wanted to shed tears.

"I'll protect you forever. I won't let you suffer the slightest injustice and let anyone hurt you anymore."

'That's... Jay's voice... It's what Jay once said to me.'

Grace squatted on the ground and felt that all she could hear were the words

Jason had once said to her.

'Don't think about these words. Don't think about them... she kept telling herself in her head.

Then... It seemed that there was the sound of footsteps. The pattering of footsteps sounded so clear.

'Whose footsteps are these?'

A pair of black leather shoes caught her eye.

She slowly raised her head and caught sight of the familiar face.

'It's Jay's face... Just like the one I saw in Drunken Days.

'Is it because I'm drunk? Is that why I'm hearing voices and also hallucinating?'

Grace staggered to her feet, half-crying and half-laughing at the figure in front of her as she said, "Don't... show your face to me again."

She felt even worse when he showed up.

He made her calm mind fluctuate again.

Jason stared at the person in front of him.

'Is she drunk?' There was no clarity in her almond-shaped eyes and her cheeks were red. She stood swaying as if she would fall to the ground the next moment.

He stepped forward and put his hand around her waist to keep her from falling.

However, his action made her frown, and a flash of pain came over her face.

“Is it still hurting?” She realized at once that his hand was now resting on the same spot on her waist where she had

been kicked.

When the scene of that man kicking her came into mind, he felt that he had gone too easy on the man to have just crippled

one of his legs.

Grace looked at the person in front of her with misty eyes. ‘He’s asking me if it hurts... I’m in pain. How could I not be in pain?’

She was in pain when she got kicked.

However, that pain seemed to be better than this pain of seeing him!

‘Jay... Jay...!’

These days, she kept telling herself to forget him, but she would always dream of him at night. Then, she would wake up with wet eyes.

“So what... if it hurts?” She smiled stupidly and suddenly put her hands around Jason’s neck.

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hurts... I’m in pain. How could I not be in pain?’

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‘Jay... Jay...!’

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“So what... if it hurts?” She smiled stupidly and suddenly put her hands around Jason’s neck.

Jason’s body stiffened immediately, but he did not push Grace away. He just lowered his head and stared at her.

Terrence, who had been following Jason, was frightened.

‘What is... Master Reed going to do? He

has been following Miss Cummins out of Drunken Days, and now... he’s just

standing there with her around his neck.

Since it was Master Reed who broke up with Miss Cummins at the beginning, Terrence knew that with Master Reed's character, there was no room for change.

However, the scene now... made him a little unsure.

Grace smiled. Her drunken smile in the night was so beautiful that Jason could not turn his eyes away.

Then, she gently laid her hand playfully upon his cheek, over his forehead, nose, cheek, lips, and finally, on his eyelashes.

"Jay, tell me... Why are your eyelashes... so beautiful... They're so beautiful that I'm... I'm jealous..." she said aimlessly.

Chapter 816

His thin lips were pressed together in a straight line, and he looked at her quietly.

"Jay, I... don't want to think about you anymore. I won't think of you anymore

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from now on..." she continued to mumble as if she was speaking out the words that were buried in her heart through her drunken state.

"It turns out... it's so easy for you not to love someone.

"Tell me. Which of us... Uhh... Has

betrayed the other?

"I should also thank you... for today. Thank you for saving me... and paying the bill for me... but... I... I have nothing to offer you..."

"No, I... I can give you something in return... and that's... to get off your back. Don't worry. I'm not... Not someone who keeps pestering others..."

She babbled, unaware that every word she said was hurting him.

There was a tightness in his chest that made him feel uncomfortable.

'We've broken up. I don't love her anymore, but why... does she seem to be controlling all my emotions?'

Her words and silly smile were still able to cause him pain.

"That's enough. Stop!" his thin lips finally blurted out with much difficulty.

"Jay, let... Let me just say one last word, one last... word..." she mumbled, tiptoeing lightly. Then, her lips just pressed against his thin lips, kissing him.

It was a soft kiss. Mixed with the alcoholic smell and warmth of her body, it spread out on his lips.

He was so stiff that he forgot to give a reaction.

She kissed him intently and carefully as if she wanted to put all her feelings into the kiss.

However, the longer the kiss lasted, the more flustered he became.

His heart could not help beating wildly. Even the hand around her waist trembled slightly.

‘What... am I afraid of?’

‘What is there to be afraid of?’

‘The woman in front of me is just a woman with no fighting power!’

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However, he was afraid, very afraid.

He did not know how long it took, but the kiss was finally over.

In the moonlight, she tilted her chin back, gave him a sweet smile, and said, “Jay, I’m going to forget about you...”

‘Stop it. Stop saying that!’ he cried out in his mind.

However, her voice went on. “I can... Forget about you... Forget... all my feelings for you...”

After saying this, Grace fell headfirst into Jason’s arms and had completely blacked out.

Jason stared blankly at the person in his arms, but his body could not help trembling.

Just then, a silver car suddenly stopped at the roadside, and a figure quickly got out and ran toward Jason.

“Jason, what are you trying to do to Grace?” Lina said hurriedly.

As soon as she came over, she saw her motionless best friend being held by Jason on the side of the road. She panicked instantly.

Chapter 817

However, before she could get to Jason, she was already stopped by Terrence.

“Get out of the way!” Lina wanted to get around Terrence, but how could Terrence let her?

Lina could not get close to Jason after trying for a long time. Therefore, she said to Hadwin Stephenson who was slowly getting out of the car, “Hey, come and help me!”

Hadwin Stephenson stepped forward but looked at Jason and said, “Master Reed, my girlfriend wants to take Grace home.

Please ask your subordinates to let her pass.”

Jason pursed his thin lips and did not say anything. His eyes were still on the body of the person in his arms.

“Jason, why are you holding Grace? Don’t forget, it was you who wanted to break up with Grace! You f*cking broke up with her, so why are you still holding her?”

cussed Lina!

At the sight of Jason, her mind flashed back to the image of Grace sitting alone at the bus stop, lonely and sad.

“Yes, rich folks like you can date and break up whenever you want, but poor folks like us can only endure it?

“You treat love like a game, but have you ever thought about Grace? If you’ve thought about her, even just a smidge, you wouldn’t have done this!

“Sean had hurt her so much. Then, she was falsely accused and got put into prison. She finally got over it and now you have to give her another blow?”

Lina said angrily. She had gone to Reed

Residence to scold him last time, but she did not manage to see him then.

Jason’s face became paler and paler.

Terrence became more and more
terrified as he watched the scene,
fearing that Master Reed would lose his
temper.

‘Who dares to scold Master Reed like this
these days? Only this woman, Lina, dares
to.’

Terrence somewhat admired Lina for her
courage to scold Master Reed for her
friend.

“Let them through,” said Jason after some
time.

Terrence side-stepped to get out of the way, and Lina rushed forward. Looking
at her best friend who had already
blacked out in Jason’s arms, she quickly
pulled her out of his arms.

“Um.. Don’t move... Don’t pull me...” Grace shouted with her eyes closed.
She seemed to be trying to squeeze into
Jason’s arms too.

“Grace, let’s go back!” Lina said
hurriedly, then she said to Hadwin Stephenson, “Come and give me a hand
with Grace.”

Hadwin Stephenson raised his eyebrows but held Grace’s other arm as per Lina’s
orders.

However, when he was holding Grace, he obviously felt Jason’s eyes on his hand.
Hadwin Stephenson showed a smile of
amusement.

It seemed that even after the breakup, Jason still minded another guy touching
Grace.

Just as they were about to turn around and walk toward the car while holding onto Grace, Lina suddenly paused in her tracks and turned around to face Jason. Then, she raised her hand and gave Jason a loud slap across his cheek.

“You owe Grace this!” Lina had her chin up and said indignantly with a desperate look.

Anyway, she was prepared to be hit when she slapped him!

Even though her face was about to be beaten to a pulp, she wanted to vent her fury. The man had no idea how much

damage he caused to Grace by breaking up with her so randomly!

It might even make Grace afraid to love again for the rest of her life!

When she slapped him, the air around them became silent suddenly.

Terrence gasped heavily and looked at his boss’ face which had darkened instantly.

‘Lina is out of her mind! Even if she’s Grace’s best friend, Master Reed

Chapter 818

Hadwin Stephenson’s face paled as he immediately lunged right in front of Lina, saying, “Master Reed, Lina’s just doing this for her friend. If it has irritated you, I’ll bear the consequences for her.”

“Hadwin Stephenson, I don’t need you to help me. I can bear the consequences myself!” said Lina.

“How are you going to do that?! What do

you think you can bear?” Hadwin

Stephenson said angrily.

"I'll just let him beat me to a pulp! I'm mentally prepared for that!"

"Lina, are you trying to piss me off?"

Hadwin Stephenson found that his temper, which had always been under control previously, would always go haywire when it came to Lina.

Jason stared coldly at Lina, clearly not intending to let her go that easily.

However, Grace, who was so drunk that

she had fallen asleep, suddenly rubbed her head against Lina's shoulder. She said in a mutter, "Lina... Don't be afraid... I'll protect Lina..."

Lina's eyes reddened immediately. 'She still wants to protect me even if she's drunk?'

Jason stared intently at the drunk Grace.

A moment later, he turned around and left without saying a word.

Terrence, who was next to him, quickly followed him.

Lina felt a layer of cold sweat on her back when she was blown by the cold wind.

"You were lucky just now. You might not be so lucky next time," Hadwin Stephenson said to Lina.

She bit her lip. 'I know I got lucky. Jason only let me go because of Grace.'

If it weren't for Grace's words, I'd probably have to face tragic consequences!"

"Alright, get in the car first," said Hadwin Stephenson. The pair helped Grace into the car before driving in the direction of the rental house.

When they arrived at Grace's house, Lina helped her best friend to change into her pajamas. After tucking Grace

in, she left the rental house with Hadwin Stephenson.

When they got into the car, Lina spoke up first before Hadwin Stephenson could speak. "I know I was reckless today, but I

just couldn't help it. When I think about how much pain he caused Grace, I just... really want to beat him!"

"But he's Jason, Jason of Emerald City!" said Hadwin Stephenson.

"But Grace's my best friend!" Lina's voice was a little muffled. It was as if this stood for everything.

Hadwin Stephenson's eyes flashed with shock. He always knew that Lina and Grace were very close. When Grace was in prison, this girl could give up the opportunity to study abroad and run back to work on Grace's case. This sacrifice was not something any friend could do.

He thought that was the limit of the friendship between the two women, but it turned out to be more than that.

"Why are you willing to do so much for her?" Hadwin Stephenson's voice cracked.

"Because Grace chose to trust me when I was at my most helpless," said Lina. The scene of that year seemed to appear before her eyes.

Chapter 819

"I was framed for stealing money in class, and everyone thought I stole it. The teacher kept lecturing me, wanting me to admit it. My parents even took the initiative to say that they were willing to pay for the money I stole when I really didn't!"

Lina said while sniffing, her nose
suddenly feeling somewhat sore. "I

don't know if you can understand that helplessness. It's like the whole world has betrayed you, so you
become helpless

and alone. It was useless no matter how
much I tried to explain and defend my
innocence. At that time... Grace believed
in me and even helped me find out who
stole the money."

With that, Lina laughed again. "I decided
then to make Grace my best friend
forever!"

Hadwin Stephenson pursed his thin lips. 'It was just... such a small thing that made Lina willing to risk
everything for

Grace?'

It was not that he could not understand
the feeling she spoke of.

Since he was an illegitimate child, he
had faced so many treacherous actions
since he was little.

Even though he was set up and wronged many times, he would bear it. He
understood that rather than clearing his name, it was better to save his strength and strike with one
blow when he was
strong enough.

Just like how he chose the best timing to become the patriarch of the Stephenson family in one fell
swoop while his aunt and her two sons could only live under
his nose.

"Therefore, you chose to believe Grace when she was imprisoned?" asked Hadwin Stephenson.

"Yeah, I believe in Grace. If she said it
wasn't her, it certainly wasn't her! Isn't

that what real friends are supposed to
be like?" said Lina.

Hadwin Stephenson was silent. 'This

silly woman. Does she know how many people in this world have been betrayed by their best friend?'

Just because Grace had helped her in the past, she was willing to make unconditional sacrifices for
Grace. This

made her seem like a fool to him.

However... it was because of her 'silliness'

that made him, who was familiar with people's dark side, that he could not help being sentimentally
attached to her.

It was as if staying by her side, he could

really relax and ignore the conspiracies and power struggle.

Sighing, Hadwin Stephenson raised his hand and touched Lina's bangs. "Don't be so impulsive as today.
You were lucky today. Jason only let you go for Grace's

sake."

Lina hesitated for a moment before nodding. She knew that she had acted impulsively today.

However, did she regret it? Not really. She was not afraid that Jason would lay

a hand on her, but she was a little afraid

that Jason would do something to her

parents.

"If you're angry, furious, and want to deal with someone, tell me. I don't mind being a sword in your
hand that can

help you deal with people. Just don't be reckless, all right?" Hadwin Stephenson

said earnestly.

'This girl's impulse even made me break

out in a cold sweat.'

Lina was shocked. She looked at the

person in front of her with those round eyes, remembering that Hadwin Stephenson had shielded her to
face

Jason after she slapped the man. He was

even willing to bear the consequences of her impulse.

It was such a mess earlier that she was

too angry to think about it.

However, now she thought about it in detail, she felt a trace of unspeakable

emotion. 'Doesn't he want to get even

with me? Why does he always seem to

protect me?'

"Even if... I'm going against Jason, you're willing to be the sword in my hand?"

Somehow, the words escaped her

mouth.

Chapter 820

He took her hand calmly and gently before saying, "Yes, I am. I can be the sword in your hand even if the person you're dealing with is Jason."

He could make an enemy of anyone for her as long as that was her wish.

This was because... he was so in love

with her.

Yes, he loved her.

However, he had never really told her

about this deep love.

He was angry with her, hated her, and resented her, but in the end, he found

that all these feelings were no match for

his love for her.

During their three years apart, he thought he hated her, but at the end of the day, he was still in love with her. He thought about her every day. Gradually, this love unconsciously became deeper

and deeper.

"Lina, I'll be your sword," he said.

Suddenly, Lina's heart was beating

violently!

His eyes and his voice was like an invisible net catching her firmly.

Grace was woken up the next day by her phone alarm. She was still a little dizzy, and there was a note by her bedside from Lina, letting her know that it was

Lina who sent her home the night before.

Besides the note, there was a new set of clothes and a new pair of shoes on the nightstand.

It was Lina's gift to her as she had gotten a new job.

Looking at these things, Grace's eyes slightly warmed again.

Grace still had a dull headache from the drinking, so after a quick washing up, she got straight on the bus without buying breakfast.

As the bus moved slowly down the road, the memories of last night came back to her mind.

She vaguely remembered that after coming out of Drunken Days last night, she seemed to have... bumped into Jason.

However, after that... her memory was a little fuzzy. She seemed to have said a lot of things to him, but she could not remember anything.

Grace rubbed her forehead that was in pain. She had already said those words anyway. It was useless for her to think about this now.

She met him yesterday by chance, but she probably would not have another chance to meet him again.

Grace felt another pang in her heart as she thought of when he had helped her

to stop the drunk man in Drunken Days
yesterday.

It seemed that even after their breakup,
she still relied on him to help her out of
trouble.

‘However... no more!

‘I have to rely on my own from now on!’
she thought to herself silently.

Once she arrived at the office, some
colleagues were already there. Those
who had gathered together to chat with each other stopped as soon as she came
They looked at her in unison. There
were curiosity and inquisition, but also
disdain and contempt in their eyes.

Grace was quite used to all sorts of strange looks from people.

She put down her bag, turned on her
computer, and headed to the pantry to
get herself a glass of water.

Just then, a female colleague who had
dinner with Grace yesterday came up
to her curiously and asked, “Grace, are
you... really Jason’s girlfriend? Did Jason help foot the bill yesterday?”