

Ex Convict 951

Chapter 951

“Brother!” Zoe limped to Sean’s side and asked urgently, “Can you remove the trending search?”

If the video existed any longer online, even by just a minute, then it would not be impossible for hundreds of thousands of people to witness her embarrassing state.

She felt queasy just by thinking about the video.

Sean shook his head.

“Why can’t it be removed? Is it about money? Are you refusing to spend more money to help me remove it?” Zoe got even more anxious.

“It’s not about the money! We can’t remove it with money because no one dares to remove it!” said Sean.

“Why?” Zoe refused to believe it. “As long as you offer them enough money, why would anyone refuse to make money?”

Sean looked at his sister as he sighed, slowly uttering the words, “Jason.”

Zoe’s face paled immediately. She could not stand steadily.

“Jason refuses to take it down? Why... Didn’t he let us off the hook that day...”

Zoe’s voice suddenly stopped. Jason had never said that he would let her off the hook that day! It was her mere wishful thinking that he would!

Did the video have anything to do with

Jason?

Was it because she said Grace had been on all fours and ate like a dog when she was in prison, so Jason wanted her to experience it too?

Zoe could not help trembling at the thought.

This time, she felt Jason's cruelty going far beyond the previous time. If one made an enemy of such a man... That was why people said Jason was the most dangerous man in Emerald City.

"I'll arrange for you to go abroad again later. You can come back once this is over," said Sean.

"Mom and Dad said they're going to introduce me to the sons of our family friends. Would this video affect that? After all... I wasn't in my normal state when this video was filmed. I was set up."

Zoe was still hopeful.

Sean patted his sister on the shoulder.

"Zoe, when you come back, I'll see if there are any nice men in the company and introduce them to you."

"What do you mean, Brother? Did those families reject me after seeing the video? I'm the daughter of the Stevens family after all!"

"It's not a bad idea to marry an ordinary person," Sean said tactfully.

The remark made Zoe go weak.

'Marry an ordinary man? If the daughter of a rich and powerful family like me marries an ordinary man, then I'll be

humiliated for life!

"It's all Grace's fault. It's all Grace's fault!"

Zoe said bitterly. 'If it wasn't for Grace, would I end up like this?

'How can I accept this?'

"Don't mess with Grace anymore. She has Jason backing her. You can't afford to mess with her," said Sean as mixed

feelings glinted in his eyes.

Chapter 952

Who would have thought that the woman they deemed as worthless had Emerald City's most dangerous man as her

backer now?

Curtis Row had been on edge for the past two days, especially after Zoe's video came out. He could not even sleep at night.

He remembered Zoe insulting Grace at the banquet the other day, and then... this happened to her.

After all, the Stevens family was rich and powerful. The Lambert family was only rich at most, so they were still incomparable to the Stevens family.

With what was happening to Zoe, he would only end up worse.

He had kept Grace standing at the pool table for a long time that day. Grace even seemed to be limping when she left.

For a moment, Curtis Row could imagine getting his legs. broken.

Therefore, Curtis Row rushed to buy thousands of yellow roses

as an apology and sent them to Grace's office. He also prepared an expensive gift and went to Grace's office to apologize sincerely.

Everyone was stunned when Curtis Row showed up at the firm. Yellow roses could be seen everywhere.

Andrea Schwartz was excited. 'Curtis Row's appearance is hard evidence!

'Grace seems to be hooking up with Curtis Row. That's why there are always luxury cars picking her up!'

Andrea Schwartz quickly took out her phone and secretly filmed Curtis Row and Grace together. Then, she secretly uploaded it to the internet and tagged Curtis Row's current real girlfriend-a starlet named You Keer who often quarreled with people.

Andrea Schwartz was in a good mood after doing all this. Now, she just had to wait for You Keer to give Grace trouble. When that happened, the firm would definitely fire Grace.

If such a scandal went viral online, no firm would hire Grace.

A lawyer's career was over when their reputation was ruined.

However, Andrea Schwartz could not hear what the two were saying because of the distance.

Of course, she did not dare to move forward because when

Curtis Row came, he made it clear that he wanted to talk to

Grace alone for a few minutes. The two of them walked to a

corner on the other side of the hall.

Andrea Schwartz could only see Curtis Row taking out a box

and trying to give it to Grace, but it was pushed away by her.

A colleague walked up to Andrea Schwartz and muttered, "What on earth are they talking about?"

"Who knows? It's probably just a conversation between a

homewrecker and her lover," said Andrea Schwartz.

"Curtis Row has a girlfriend. Grace is so shameless to be the

other woman. She's disgracing our firm. Others will think that all our lawyers are homewreckers."

Another colleague chimed in, "I know, right? People like her shouldn't be here."

"Let's report this to the higher-ups. If she stays, our reputation. will be ruined!"

Andrea Schwartz was secretly pleased as more colleagues continued to join the conversation.

Chapter 953

On the other hand, Grace looked at Curtis Row with a

headache. Curtis Row was a different person from the man

she faced that night.

"Miss Cummins, just take it. It was my fault that day. I shouldn't have ignored you and left you standing there for so long. I've been meaning to come and apologize to you in person for a long time, but... I just haven't quite figured out how to show you my sincerity. I've finally bought something suitable to make amends. I don't know what to do if you don't

accept it."

Curtis Row's tone was downright humble.

Even if Grace had not seen what was in the box, she guessed that it was not something cheap. "You don't have to give me anything. Besides, you already sent me yellow roses to express your apology, haven't you?" said Grace.

However, she could not understand why Curtis Row had suddenly sent another batch of yellow roses and even came to apologize in person after so many days.

"Well... I want to show you my sincerity. Just take the gift as my apology." Curtis Row tried his best to push the box to Grace.

He could only feel at ease when she accepted it!

Otherwise, he would be stuck in a wheelchair for the rest of his life!

Grace was a little speechless. She had a feeling that Curtis Row was afraid of something. Even his hands that were giving her the gift were trembling faintly.

"No. It's fine!" She declined.

Curtis Row was close to tears. It was the first time he was giving a woman a gift only to be rejected by her.

"Miss Cummins, just take it. If you don't, I... I'm going to get down on my knees," said Curtis Row.

"You must be kidding me, Mr. Row," said Grace.

'Kidding... I'm not kidding!' Curtis Row was so stung by her words that he was about to vomit blood. 'It's not easy to even apologize these days!

Curtis Row wanted to slap himself even more at the thought of this.

'Out of all people, why did I ignore the woman Jason and Brian both want to fight for? A wiggle of the finger from either of them could kill me.

He could not even rely on the Row family to protect him as they would be ruined together!

Just as Curtis Row and Grace kept pushing back and forth, a figure suddenly rushed into the firm. When they saw Curtis. Row and Grace standing among a bunch of yellow roses, they shouted, "Well, well,

Curtis Row. You've got good taste now. You've even come to a place like this to have fun. How are you going to explain yourself?"

Curtis Row was dumbfounded. 'Why... Why is You Keer here?'"

Andrea Schwartz, who was watching them not far away, was also dumbstruck. "What... What is You Keer doing here? Although I've included the address so that You Keer could find Grace... this is too fast!"

It had only been less than ten minutes since she tagged You Keer in her post!

Andrea Schwartz did not expect that You Keer happened to have something to do nearby when she saw someone tagging her online account. Upon seeing the photos, she immediately got angry and rushed over.

However, Andrea Schwartz's shock was followed by excitement. Since You Keer was here, the whole affair would get even more interesting.

nured Schwartz could not help picking up her phone to

secretly film the scene unfolding before her. She just hoped You Keer would make it worse and Grace would be screwed!

You Keer rushed to Grace and raised her hand to wave it in

Grace's face.

However, Grace grabbed her hand before it could reach her.

Chapter 954

"Are you going to hit me without finding out the truth first?" Grace asked coldly.

"What's the point? I've caught you red-handed! You have no shame. He's got me already, yet you're in a hurry to hook up with him. What dirty tricks have you used to seduce him?" You

Keer said bitterly.

"I'm not interested in your boyfriend!" Grace said coldly.

Curtis Row was having an intense headache. He was already frustrated enough, yet You Keer came meddling in this. He was extremely regretful that he had found a girlfriend like her!

'I shouldn't have looked past You Keer's appearance!"

"That's enough!" Curtis Row pulled You Keer over. "Have you had enough? Apologize to Miss Cummins now!"

"Apologize? You're asking me to apologize? You want me to apologize to such a shameless person? How many times have you slept with her? Were you impressed by her skills in bed?" You Keer was harsh.

Otherwise, she would not get into fights with others so often!

Curtis Row panicked! 'Sleep with her? How could I sleep with Grace? If there's such a thing, Jason and Brian would have.

killed me by now!’

- “Shut up!”

“Never! This woman may look dignified, but she has the cheek.

to do such a shameful thing. Fine, I’m going to expose her and show others her true color!”

You Keer pulled out her phone as she spoke. She planned to use it to film Grace.

Curtis Row was about to faint. ‘Does she have a death wish?

If You Keer films Grace and posts it on the internet, then I can.

forget about staying in Emerald City!’

“Are you crazy?” Curtis Row grabbed You Keer’s phone and slapped her in the face.

You Keer was a little stunned by the slap. It took her a moment

to come to her senses. “Did... Did you just hit me?”

“Do you even know what you’re doing?” snarled Curtis Row.

“Why wouldn’t I know? I’m confronting a homewrecker! You’re

defending her, aren’t you?” You Keer lunged toward Curtis

Row.

The man and woman fought each other in such a way that it was almost a farce.

The colleagues watching the scene were dumbfounded, and so was Andrea Schwartz. ‘This is... a little different than what I expected. Shouldn’t You Keer continue fighting with Grace? Shouldn’t she be embarrassing Grace instead?’

‘Grace is probably just a breath of fresh air to Curtis Row.

You Keer is much better than Grace, regardless of figure and looks! Why is Curtis Row defending Grace instead of You

Keer?’

Andrea Schwartz only felt that the current situation could not be explained with common sense!

Curtis Row and You Keer tussled for a while, but the result was a tie. On the one hand, Curtis Row had feelings for You Keer and could not bear to be heavy-handed. On the other hand, You Keer tore, bit, pulled, and tugged... She used everything and behaved like a shrew, yet Curtis Row only managed to fend her off.

Grace looked like an outsider instead.

The ruckus drew some of the senior lawyers out of their respective offices, and they all frowned at the sight.

Lawyer Carter had also left his office. He was about to ask about what was going on when, out of the corner of his eye, he saw a figure walking into the office. He was stunned.

‘No way. How could he be here?’

The next moment, You Keer suddenly broke away from Curtis

Row and was about to hit Grace who had turned around to

walk toward Lawyer Carter.

Lawyer Carter quickly shouted to Grace, “Watch out!”

Chapter 955

However, it was too late. You Keer’s hand was already on Grace’s back and was about to push Grace to the side where there were a lot of old computer spare parts that the firm had replaced some time ago. If she bumped into these things, then they would all fall on her. She would probably suffer a serious injury if that happened.

A hand suddenly grabbed Grace’s arm and pulled her backward. Then, You Keer was kicked to the ground.

The flurry of actions took place almost instantaneously.

You Keer hit the wall, and her back started to hurt like hell.

“Who kicked...” You Keer raised her head angrily. She was about to swear, but her pupils shrank and her voice seemed to be stuck in her throat when she saw who it was.

‘Isn’t this... the crown prince?’

‘Gosh, why is the crown prince here? He’s even... holding the homewrecker in his arms?’

You Keer was a little stunned and said almost subconsciously, “Young Master Gu, this woman is no good. She’s just a

homewrecker-”

This time, she was slapped in the face before she could finish.

- However, it was her boyfriend Curtis Row who slapped her.

Curtis Row felt as if his life had shortened by several years

today!

“Young Master Gu, I’m sorry. She’s just babbling nonsense. Please forgive her! I’m sorry for what happened to Miss Cummins today. I’ll make amends to Miss Cummins later!” said Curtis Row as he bowed repeatedly.

"Make amends? Can you afford it?" Brian asked coldly.

Curtis Row was dripping with cold sweat.

You Keer was dumbfounded. 'What's... going on here?' She had to be a fool to see that things were not quite what she first thought.

The homewrecker did not seem to be hooking up with Curtis. Row.

On the contrary, she seemed close to the crown prince.

Looking at the figure in his arms, Brian asked, "Are you alright?"

"I'm alright. Thanks," Grace said politely as she pushed Brian. away and took two steps back.

His arms felt empty all of a sudden.

With a frown on his face, Brian found her indifference and distance especially harsh.

Grace turned and looked at Curtis Row. "Mr. Yu, please take your girlfriend and leave! Also, I reserve the right to sue your girlfriend for the insults she directed at me today."

"Sure, sure! I'm sorry. I'm so sorry!" Curtis Row apologized repeatedly. Then, he rudely dragged You Keer to leave the firm quickly.

Not only did he fail to make amends, but he also added new trouble to his list!

As for You Keer, she was still confused about the entire thing.

Grace turned around and was about to explain to Lawyer Carter.

After all, it would leave a bad impression when such a thing happened at the firm... Even if she was not the one at fault.

Just as she was about to pass Brian, he grabbed her wrist and turned to Lawyer Carter who was nearest to them. He said,

"Give me a room. I want to talk to her alone."

Chapter 956

"Ah, sure!" Although Brian had not introduced himself, Lawyer Carter recognized him and agreed. He took him to a conference room and told Grace, "You can talk to Mr. Hart here."

Grace was a little speechless.

When the door closed, only Grace and Brian were left in the conference room.

There seemed to be an indescribable sense of depression in the air.

Outside the conference room, Andrea Schwartz and the other colleagues were stunned.

The plot twist was too unexpected. What started as someone meeting their lover turned into the girlfriend trying to confront the homewrecker. Then, the story changed again.

Grace was not a homewrecker and she seemed close to the entertainment industry's crown prince.

When Andrea Schwartz saw Brian, her mood was different from the others.

Brian had previously run into them when she was giving Grace a hard time and defended Grace.

She thought Brian had lost interest in Grace when the internet was full of gossip about him and Stella.

After all, no woman would last long with the crown prince of the entertainment industry.

However, who would have thought that Brian would appear again today and defend Grace as before?!

"What on earth does Grace have for Brian to defend her like this?"

Andrea Schwartz felt a mixture of hate and jealousy. Her boyfriend, who was an associate professor, was nothing compared to Brian.

The colleagues who had been taunting Grace for corrupting the office's code of conduct by being a homewrecker. immediately shut their mouths and stared at each other.

In the conference room, Grace looked at Brian and said, "Thank you for that, but I don't think we have anything to talk. about, Mr. Hart."

If it had not been for Brian, she might have gotten injured again. However, she had no idea what Brian was doing here.

"What's going on with you and Jason?" asked Brian. She was. with Jason at the banquet that day, but she seemed reluctant. "Do you have a secret? Let me know if you do. I can help you. out."

"Help me?" Grace raised her eyes. "Why?"

'Yeah, why?' Brian looked at the woman in front of him. Frankly speaking, he had nothing to do with her. "You're Lifang's cousin. What's so weird about me helping you out?"

"Does your fondness extend to everyone related to the person. you like? Would you have liked whoever that little girl was and what she grew up to be?" Grace asked abruptly.

Brian frowned slightly. "What do you mean?"

She smiled faintly. "Nothing. I just think you're really nice to Stella. You'd even care about her cousin."

'No, my concern for you isn't because of Lifang, but...! The answer was about to escape his heart! Pursing his lips slightly,

Brian said, "You haven't answered me yet. What's going on. between you and Jason?"

"That doesn't seem to concern you, Mr. Hart. I also don't need your help," said Grace.

sne promised Jason that she would become his sister again for Kyla and Nelson's sake, so she could not go back on her words now.

After all, one had to give something for what they got.

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Chapter 957

"If you have no further questions, then I'm going to leave," said Grace as she walked toward the conference room's door.

However, before her hand touched the door handle, Brian grabbed her.

"Grace, do you have to shut me out like this?" There was a note of impatience in his voice that was usually calm.

Brian felt a rare sense of anxiety, one that he could not even articulate.

Grace stared at the handsome face in front of her. His delicate features reminded her of another miniature face.

Back in the woods, the little boy with that face had once held her when she was exhausted from carrying him. "I'll be very nice to you. I'll buy you a lot of dresses. I'll take you to eat lots of delicious food. I'll protect you better than anyone else!"

She did not take it very seriously at the time. After all, many children forgot what they said the next day.

She then forgot about him and their shared memories after catching a fever.

She was not aware that he had been looking for her for so many years! His obsession was deeper than she had ever

imagined. Only now, his obsession was with Stella.

'As for me... I've chosen not to say anything!

He was not the one she loved. If he shifted his obsession to

her, then there would only be more confusion. It might not be a good thing for him.

Grace did not say anything, but the way she looked at him made Brian feel a pang in his heart.

In a trance, it was as if he was seeing the little girl from his childhood staring at him.

Those eyes... had appeared in his dreams again and again. He had wondered countless times what those eyes would look like

when she grew up...

Brian could not help but raise his hand to caress Grace's eyes...

His cool fingers touched her warm skin, making him want to capture more of her warmth.

Grace stiffened as her almond-shaped eyes closed slowly. She could feel his fingers moving over her lids.

'He's Bryn. The Bryn that went through thick and thin with me. It was all a strange combination of circumstances.

It felt like a dream to her!

'If I hadn't lost my memories of him because of that high fever and if I had met him before falling in love with Jason, then I would've remembered everything...

'Then maybe we would've recognized each other!

'However, now..."

Grace opened her eyes and pulled Brian's hand away from hers. "Mr. Hart, you should remember what you said on the hill. We're strangers to each other now since we've gotten off

the hill!"

Brian shuddered immediately.

He thought he could do it, but now he found it so difficult to treat her as a stranger.

Chapter 958

Her face would surface in his mind from time to time. Even at night, he would dream of when he met her on the hill, carrying

her on his back.

It was as if he was carrying that little girl on his back.

"Are you sure you don't love Jason anymore?" he murmured.

She smiled faintly, but it was somewhat absentminded. "Does it matter whether I love him?"

Jason had told her not to fall in love with Brian.

Now, Brian was asking if she did not love Jason anymore.

'All they want are results. They never care about what I want! All I want is peace!"

Brian stared at Grace, her smile and voice like invisible blades. that pierced his heart!

Grace was exhausted when she got off work. After all, too many things happened today. However, when she reached

her neighborhood, she saw a familiar black car parked near her house. It had already attracted some people's attention.

The Reed family's driver jogged up to Grace and said, "Miss Cummins, Master Reed's waiting for you in the car."

Grace paused for a moment and looked at the black car. 'Is Jason... in the car now?'

He would normally enter her rental house right away whenever he came, but now... She hesitated and followed the driver to the car.

The driver respectfully opened the door to the back seat, and Jason's figure immediately caught her eye.

Grace got into the car, and it slowly drove away from the neighborhood.

"Where are we going?" she asked.

"Reed Residence. I have a sudden craving for your cooking today, but it's a little inconvenient to do so at your rental house," said Jason.

"My cooking tastes average. It's nowhere near as good as the chefs at Reed Residence."

"So what? Your cooking tastes the best to me." He chuckled.

She used to cook when they were staying in the rental house together.

Though she only cooked simple dishes and those meals were far from what he usually ate, he liked it very much. Perhaps he missed the feeling of eating her cooking with her more.

The car drove to Reed Residence, and Grace followed Jason out of the car. She went to Reed Residence's kitchen. All kinds of ingredients were prepared and they were laid out, washed, and cut.

"Do I have to cook all this?" Grace asked, somewhat surprised.

"Of course not." Jason smiled. "You just have to choose some. Since there are just two of us, three dishes and one soup will do."

Grace pursed her lips as she picked out some ingredients and started working on them.

Reed Residence's kitchen was familiar to her, so she did not need time to familiarize herself with it.

Tomato omelet, shrimp stir-fry with lily bulbs, and green pepper with shredded pork... While she was cooking, he just stood and watched silently.

As for the final soup, Grace chose bamboo shoot soup with

gourd. She added the gourd, bamboo shoots, and water into the pot before putting the lid on the pot, thinking the soup

would be ready soon.

Just then, Jason's voice suddenly rang. "Brian went to your firm today. What did he say to you?"

Grace stiffened as she felt a chill spreading through her body. She turned her head stiffly to look at the man who was a few steps away. "You know about it?"

Chapter 959

"Of course, I care about you," he said.

"He came to see me, but he said nothing," she said as she

bit her lip. She felt as if he knew everything about her. 'Is he spying on me?'

"Really?" Jason whispered as he approached Grace, "I'm curious though. Why didn't you tell him that you were the one

who saved him?"

She immediately stiffened even more.

He raised his hand and touched her lips with his fingertips. His elegant voice once again rang like a melodious violin. "Tell me

why."

Grace suddenly found her nose a little sore.

"Why... Is he asking me this? Does he know that it's because I love him so even though I remember it all now, I still chose to bury those memories?"

Even when Stella took her place, she did not utter a word.

She did not want to upset him, so she severed all ties with

Brian.

She ridiculously thought she had given him enough security. She never thought that she was not as important as she thought she was. In the end, it turned out that she was only

something he could abandon at any time.

"How do you know I didn't?" she asked.

His eyes darkened. "If you had told him, you wouldn't be coming home alone when I was waiting outside today."

If she had told him, Brian would never let her go home alone.

Grace turned her head away. "There's nothing to talk about. It's all in the past."

"Doesn't it annoy you that your cousin is treating you with that attitude when she's the impostor? If you're annoyed with your

cousin, I can help you force her back to square one, even if Brian defends her," said Jason.

Grace said, "No thanks."

"You have a soft heart."

"I'm not softhearted," said Grace. 'I'm also disgusted by her behavior, but... After all, we're both Grandma's granddaughters, and she was there for Grandma too.

'Therefore... let's just say it's for Grandma!

Whether it was a smart move or not, her cousin would bear the consequences herself. She did not want to interfere!

"I just don't think it's necessary!" said Grace. Suddenly, she remembered that the soup was still boiling. She wanted to open the lid to check on the soup.

However, her fingers accidentally touched the stainless steel part of the edge of the lid. She instantly burned herself and let out a low yelp.

In the next second, he grabbed her hand and pulled it under the tap to run the cold water over her hand.

"Don't worry. It's just a burn," she said.

However, he frowned and continued to let the water wash over her fingers.

"The soup!" She cried out eagerly. If the soup went on boiling any longer, it would dry up soon.

"You're worried about soup at a time like this?" He glared at her sulkily. When he saw her burn herself, it was as if he had been burned too. It hurt.

"Didn't you ask me to cook three dishes and one soup? If the soup runs dry, I'll have to cook it again later," she said.

Chapter 960

Jason regretted asking Grace to come over and cook dinner.

"Keep your hand under the cold water. I'll handle the soup," he said.

"You?" She was a little surprised.

"What's the matter?" He went to the pot, lifted the lid, and looked at the soup. Then, he added a little seasoning before taking a little soup with a spoon and tasting it. Moments later, he turned off the stove.

His movements looked elegant and natural. Grace felt like she was watching a cooking show.

However, Jason kept looking at her from time to time as he prepared the soup as if to see whether she was keeping her hand under the running cold water from the top.

After running cold water over her hand for about ten minutes, the burn on Grace's fingers was finally relieved.

It was still a little red, but it was not a big deal.

"It's still a little red," said Jason, frowning.

"It should be okay in a couple of days," said Grace.

She had just finished speaking when he put her fingertips in his mouth, gently licking them with the tip of his tongue as if comforting the injuries on her fingertips.

Grace stiffened. She felt as though all her blood was rushing to her fingertips. She tried to pull back her fingers, but it seemed impossible.

Slowly, his licks turned to kisses. Scattered kisses rested on her fingertips.

His eyes were fixed on her.

Her confused face was reflected in his eyes. She felt as if she was drowning as she looked into his eyes.

Her heart seemed to beat faster.

'This can't go on anymore. If this goes on, I'm gonna...

Using almost all her strength, Grace withdrew her hand and took a step back. "My fingers are alright!"

Jason's eyelashes fluttered slightly. His dark eyes seemed to be covered with a veil, and it was getting more and more difficult to figure out what was on his mind.

"Let's eat."

The servant served the three dishes and the soup Grace made. During the meal, neither of them made a sound. The dining room was silent.

Grace noticed that Jason was being unusually silent.

When they finally finished their meal, he said, "I'll ask the driver to send you home."

She nodded.

However, before she left, she looked at him and asked, "Are you alright?"

He smiled. "Why do you ask?"

Grace was speechless. It seemed that she was overthinking, so she said nothing and turned away.

His dark eyes were fixed on her back until she disappeared. Then, he stood up and walked to the bedroom on the second floor.

The bedroom where she used to stay in was now his.

All the things she had used previously were still in the room,
and every night he would come to this room to hold her
clothes to sleep!

He opened the wardrobe, took out a dress she once wore, and held it tightly in his arms.
It was like he was hugging his lover.