

# No Remarriage: You Don't Deserve Me (Lenora and Zachary) Stay Away

## Stay Away 231

Chapter 231 The Only One 37%

X+10 Bonus

Chapter 231 The Only One

Lately, the temperature dropped, and Miranda's grandson caught a cold and ran a fever, which led to her taking a few days off.

Although Zachary was no longer the CEO of Fuller Group, he still owned numerous businesses. His days were filled with constant busyness, leaving him no time to take care of Harrietta.

Harrietta had taken up residence at Lenora's place. Every day, she would go out and about with Lenora, and at night, she would sleep beside her. To say her days were blissful would be an understatement.

It was on Thursday that Sophia's high school reunion took place. Lenora couldn't accompany Harrietta, so she dropped her off at the Fuller residence, promising to pick her up later that evening.

The location for the class reunion was chosen to be a certain five-star hotel.

Before she left, Sophia had meticulously applied an exquisite makeup look.

After she had finished applying her makeup, she glanced at her reflection in the mirror from various angles. Then, she lifted her gaze to Lenora, who was sitting on the couch, and pointed at her own face. With a surge of excitement, she asked, "Nora, what do you think?" Her makeup was neat and sharp, each stroke of her eyebrows drawn distinctively. The slight upward arch of her brows revealed a hint of proud defiance.

In the center of her light-colored eyes was a deep black pupil framed by eyeliner that swooped upward at the corners, lending a playful lift. Earth-toned eyeshadow, coupled with the right cut, enhanced the allure of Sophia's large eyes, making them even more lively and captivating.

She wore brick-red lipstick. Contrasting with her surrounding fair skin, it was as captivating as a red plum blooming in the snow, stealing all the attention.

As long as Sophia didn't reveal her playful gaze, she was the epitome of a cool and aloof queen.

"Beautiful," Lenora said with a smile. "How could it not be, when it's the handiwork of the renowned makeup artist?"

Sophia gave her a disgruntled look, starting to fiddle with her hair while she hummed lightly. "How dare that girl challenge me? If I don't crush her into the ground, I might as well change my surname!"

After she finished styling herself, Sophia headed to her wardrobe and selected the most expensive outfit. She also picked out a handbag that was worth tens of thousands.

Once she had finished getting ready, Lenora gave her a thumbs up.

Sophia glanced at herself in the mirror, extremely pleased with what she saw.

She eagerly positioned Lenora in front of the mirror, "It's your turn now. We can't afford to get stage fright tonight!"

As evening fell, there were already a few people seated in the private room, chatting away in pairs and

trios.

Some high school ex-classmates, unseen for many years, were busy boasting about how amazing they'd become, while others were showing off their attractive girlfriends or boyfriends. A few also brought their partners along.

1/4

DA

Mon, 11 Nov

Chapter 231 The Only One

CX10 Bonus

Sophia led the way, carefully noting the number of the private room. She meticulously checked her makeup and attire, then boldly pushed the door open and entered, carrying herself with pride.

Lenora followed behind Sophia as they walked in.

The murmurs within the private room momentarily hushed when the pair appeared. A myriad of eyes turned to look at the duo, filled with an array of reactions. Some were in awe, some were pondering, and some were disdainful. "Whoa! Are you Sophia? I almost didn't recognize you!" exclaimed the man sitting on the couch by the door.

Sophia's gaze swept around the room, instantly recognizing the man. "Jacob? You're still as sharp as ever!"

As soon as Sophia's words fell, many people caught on. "Sophia? Is that really you? You've become so beautiful now!"

"Sophia, come sit over here!"

"Sophia, do you have a boyfriend yet?" a man asked with a chuckle in his voice.

Her ex-classmates greeted her with a flurry of voices.

Sophia responded with a laugh, "Boyfriend? You guess!"

"Hey, Sophia. Who's this beauty by your side?" a guy named Jacob Wyndham asked.

"Come!" Sophia smiled and said, "Let me introduce you all. This is my good friend, Lenora."

With a nod and a smile, Lenora acknowledged.

"Hey beautiful, how about adding me on WhatsApp?"

Amidst the laughter and teasing, Lenora and Sophia found a spot to sit down.

Sophia was quite the social butterfly, sharing laughs and conversations with her ex-classmates.

Suddenly, a girl named Elsa Yantz blurted out, "By the way, Sophia, have you heard? Zephyr seems to have returned to the country. I think he might be coming over today."

Upon hearing that name, Lenora turned her gaze toward Sophia. Is Zephyr the guy Sophia and her sworn enemy were pursuing?

Sophia paused for a moment before saying nonchalantly, "Is that so? Well, so what if he comes?"

Her gaze was fixated on a certain spot on the ground ahead, and he was lost in thought. Involuntarily, the image of that restrained and refined face surfaced in her mind.

It turned out that certain memories didn't blur with the passage of time, but instead, they became even more profound.

Elsa added, "It must have been quite a while since you two last met, right? Back then, your rivalry with Serena was so intense, I thought you and Zephyr would end up together. I heard that after Zephyr went abroad, Serena also left the country. Apparently, this reunion is organized by Serena, and Zephyr is said to be attending."

2/4

12.69 Mon, 11 Nov GDC.

Chapter 231 The Only One

"Really?" Another female ex-classmate chimed in from the side, "Are they together?"

Elsa glanced at Sophia and said, "Perhaps. They both studied abroad together for many years. Serena has been single all these years, so it's clear she's been waiting for Zephyr. After returning, she immediately organized a class reunion. Doesn't it seem like she's hinting at some good news?" Sophia rolled her eyes discreetly. Her fingers resting on her lap couldn't help but tighten their grip on her sleeve,

Another girl hinted at something by saying, "Sometimes, it's not wise to celebrate too early. You never know who will have the last laugh!"

Sophia's face darkened, her brows furrowed, and she let out a cold laugh. "Picking up my discarded trash, and that's supposed to be having the last laugh?"

The girl's expression froze, and she seemed taken aback by how straightforward Sophia was.

Just at that moment, the door to the private room swung open.

A young man was standing at the doorway, seemingly around twenty-five years old. He stood over one point eight meters tall, dressed in a high-collared sweater and suit pants, with a coat casually draped over, his arm.

He had a refined appearance, adorned with a pair of gold-rimmed glasses. He surveyed his surroundings. with a calm demeanor, his gaze briefly landing on Sophia. He then asked in a nonchalant manner, "What were you all discussing just now?" Sophia's pupils constricted sharply when she saw the figure at the door, her entire body stiffening.

In that fleeting moment, her mind went blank, with only him remaining in her sight.

Lenora nudged Sophia with her elbow.

She was a perceptive individual, and she had long since noticed the unusual connection between Sophia and Zephyr Yankovich.

Regaining her composure, Sophia regretfully averted her gaze.

Unexpectedly, after all those years, she was still so easily influenced by him.

If it were possible, she yearned to erase all traces of their time spent together, as if she had never known

him at all.

The room fell silent for a moment.

Someone finally caught on, calling out, "Zephyr, have you really returned to the country? I thought it was just a rumor!"

"Exactly! Zephyr, when did you get back?"

"Come! Sit over here!"

Another woman's voice rang out at the entrance of the private room. "Sit over there? What do you mean? I'm the one who invited Zephyr, so naturally, he should sit with me. Right, Zephyr?"

The figure of the girl appeared next to Zephyr, affectionately looking up at him.

3/4

12:59 Mon, 11 Nov G @

Chapter 231 The Only One

37%

x+40 Bonus

Her face was adorned with meticulous makeup, and large hoop earrings dangled from her ears. A luxurious necklace glittered around her neck, and her long hair was styled in glamorous waves. She wore an opulent mink coat, each element of her ensemble signaling her substantial wealth.

The crowd looked at the two with suggestive glances, and some even started to whistle.

Some people glanced at Sophia, their faces showing expressions of watching a drama unfold.

Before Zephyr could respond, Serena Yantz withdrew her gaze. She walked into the private room, took a look around, and headed toward Sophia. With a smile, she said, "Sophia, you're actually here! I thought you wouldn't make it!"

## Stay Away 232

apter 939 Stubborn Person

The two of them stood side by side, both undeniably beautiful: Ver, the crowd couldn't help but have their eyes drawn to Sophia.

The two were equally matched in terms of natural beauty. However, Sophia, being a professional makeup arter knew her strengths and weaknesses. She accentuated her assets and downplayed her flaws, which further highlighted her charm

Sophia lifted her eyelids and glanced at Serena. She then forced a fake smile and said, "You provoked me so inch in the group chat. Wouldn't it seem like I was scared of you if I didn't show up?"

When those words fell, an air of awkwardness swept over everyone present,

Surprisingly, even after all these years, Sophia's skills remained as exceptional as ever,

Hack in the day, everyone had their eyes on Zephyr and Serena. One was at the top of the class, and the

No one had expected Zephyr to end up with Sophia.

One was at the top of the grade, and the other was at the bottom.

One was reserved and introspective, the other outgoing and flamboyant.

Back then, no one in the class could out argue Sophia. They even called her 'The Exterminator.

However, in front of Zephyr, The Exterminator would transform into a docile lamb.

Serena pulled a wry smile, "It's been quite a few years since you've seen Zephyr, hasn't it? Zephyr, Sophia is here. At the very least, you were once lovers. Isn't it proper to say hello?" Zephyr's gaze fell upon Sophia, unwavering, as he slowly made his way toward her.

The slender figure from his memories had then matured and become more curvy, The gold-rimmed glasses on his face added a touch of refined elegance to his demeanor.

Sophia cast a glance at Zephyr, their eyes unintentionally meeting.

Beneath his glasses, his eyes seemed to hold some profound meaning.

Sophia asked in an icy tone, "Have you come back because you couldn't hack it abroad?"

Zephyr's expression remained unchanged. "Are you still unwanted after all these years?"

The crowd listened as the two individuals engaged in a verbal spar, exchanging glances among themselves. Serena burst into laughter. "Sophia, you're such a joker. Zephyr is a titan in the venture capital world. How could he possibly not make it? It's been years since you two broke up. You're not still holding a grudge against him, are you? Take my advice, okay? Don't be so narrow-minded."

Lenora said, "Your name is Zephyr, right? You have quite a sense of humor. Over the years, there's been a long line of suitors for Soph. How could she be unwanted? You two broke up so many years ago. You're not still hung up on Soph, are you? Listen to me, okay? Give it up. I've been friends with Soph for many years, and she's never mentioned who Zephyr is!"

1/4

59 Mon, 11 Nov GO

Chapter 232 Stubborn Person

Zephyr remained silent, his eyes narrowed as he fixed his gaze on Sophia.

He wondered if Sophia had really not mentioned him to any of her friends over the years.

Serena's expression darkened, her gaze landing on Lenora with displeasure. "Who are you?" "Me? I'm Soph's friend, Lenora." Lenora calmly met her gaze. "Is there a problem?"

XM40 Bonus

Serena took a long, hard look into Lenora's eyes, a mocking smile playing on her lips. "Oh, I get it now. You're Zachary's ex-wife. He'd rather have an affair than be with you. Birds of a feather flock together, am I right?" "Using this matter to ridicule Nora is utterly laughable!" Sophia exclaimed.

"Ha! So Zachary's infidelity is somehow a reason to belittle me? That's a first. Ms. Yost, are you so obsessed with power that you've lost your mind?" Everyone looked at Serena with a sense of displeasure.

After all, the majority of the people present were ordinary folks with simple mindsets. They believed that the one who cheated was the one at fault. There existed an innate chasm between them and the capitalist Zachary, making it impossible for them to speak in his defense.

Serena wanted to say more, but Zephyr interrupted her by saying, "Enough!"

Finally, someone stepped in to mediate. "Let's all tone it down a bit, shall we? It's not often we get together like this, so let's not make it unpleasant!"

"I wanted to keep things pleasant too, but how could I when some people came with the sole intention of showing off?" Sophia said, her tone filled with sarcasm. "It seems to me that some people are hell-bent on saving face, their stubbornness embodied in every word they utter!" Serena retorted, refusing to back down. "That's enough. It seems about time. Come on over here and sit down. I'll ask the waiter to serve the dishes." said their class monitor from back then. After some persuasion from their ex-classmates, Sophia didn't say much more. She and Lenora chose a spot together by the round table.

Serena scoffed at Sophia, but her demeanor changed instantly when she turned to Zephyr. Her face lit up with a warm smile. "Zephyr, come sit over here." Every other spot was occupied, but the crowd intentionally left the seat next to Serena vacant.

Zephyr pursed his lips, a glint of displeasure flickering in his eyes beneath his gold-rimmed glasses. Without uttering a word, he took a seat beside Serena. The waiter began to serve the dishes.

Serena said to Zephyr, "I'm not sure if you'll like these dishes. If not, feel free to order something else."

Zephyr's eyes were deep and profound. Before he could even speak, a male ex-classmate teased, "I don't like the food. Can I order something else?"

9/1

12:59 Mon, NOV

Chapter 232 Stubborn Person

"Get lost!" Serena said with a laugh.

37%



+10 Bonus

During mealtime, Serena was constantly by Zephyr's side, throwing provocative glances at Sophia from

time to time.

Sophia paid her no mind, engaging in conversation with other ex-classmates instead.

In the eyes of her average ex-classmates, Sophia was more popular.

Several single male ex-classmates subtly and overtly made conversation with Sophia.

Firstly, back in high school, Sophia was always at the bottom of the class, causing her homeroom teacher no end of headaches. As a result, she was moved to the last row of the classroom.

She was the only girl in the last row, lively and outgoing. She got along well with the boys.

Secondly, there was a sense of competition among the men. They were displeased with how Serena was constantly flattering Zephyr.

Jacob, in particular, who used to share a desk with Sophia, was extremely attentive and considerate toward her. He would serve her food with the serving fork and pour her drinks. During their conversations, he showed genuine interest in her daily work and life. Sophia joked, "What's this? Are you so concerned about me? Are you trying to flirt with me?"

Jacob chuckled before asking, "Can I?"

Zephyr was quietly eating his meal. His hand gripping the fork gradually tightened, and his gaze became increasingly somber.

Serena called out to Zephyr a couple of times, but he didn't seem to pay her any attention. Seeing Sophia receiving even more adoration from the others, she felt a surge of frustration building within her. With a swift roll of her eyes, she gave

gave Elsa a knowing look, subtly gesturing toward the wine bottle in front

of them.

Elsa knew what Serena meant. She poured two glasses of wine and brought one to Sophia, saying, "Sophia, it's not often we get to meet. Let me toast to you!"

Sophia took it, reciprocated the gesture, and drank it.

"Sophia, let me toast to you as well!"

"Sophia, here! Let me toast to you."

As more and more people proposed toasts, Sophia found herself unable to refuse and could only continue drinking.

After Sophia had several glasses, her petite face quickly turned rosy, her gaze becoming blurred.

"Enough. Don't pour her anymore. She can't drink any further." Lenora blocked the wine glass Elsa was handing over.

Elsa said, "We're gathering today, and we won't go home until we're drunk. What's there to fear?" Lenora had long ago discerned that Elsa was acting under Serena's instructions, trying to get Sophia  
12:59 Mon, 11 Nov GO

Chapter 232 Stubborn Person

drunk. Fortunately, Sophia had anticipated this and had brought her along.

"In that case, you should get drunk first!" Lenora said in a calm and unhurried manner.

After a while, lunch was almost over.

37%

X+40 Bonus

Most people had finished their meals and were growing restless. Some left to answer phone calls, some went to have a smoke, and many seats around the table were left empty.

Sophia stood up, suddenly swaying a bit, nearly falling over. "I need to use the restroom," she said.

"I'll accompany you," Lenora said.

"No need. I'm fine." Sophia waved her hand, let out a hiccup from the alcohol, and headed toward the restroom.

Zephyr stood with his back to the restroom door, gazing out of the window from afar.

Upon hearing footsteps, he turned around. His gold-rimmed glasses caught a dazzling gleam. "Sophia."

Sophia hummed in response, her words laced with a hint of sarcasm under the influence of alcohol. "I bet the scent here is quite pleasing, isn't it?"

She was known for never letting anyone off the hook with her words.

A flicker of helplessness flashed in Zephyr's eyes. He stepped forward and said, "Not at all. I was specifically waiting for you."

"I'm not interested in reminiscing with you!" Sophia said before continuing to walk away.

Zephyr abruptly seized her wrist. "Am I trash?"

It seemed he had heard her words.

Sophia forcefully withdrew her hand and gazed at him coldly. "Are you not?"

After she finished speaking, she didn't give him a chance to respond. She just strode away.

12:59 Mon, 11 Nov GO.

Chapter 233 Not My Boyfriend

.

## **Stay Away 233**

Chapter 233 Not My Boyfriend

Sophia's silhouette swayed unsteadily, her steps occasionally faltering.

+10 Bonus

Zephyr stood still. His eyes, hidden behind his glasses, were holding a profound look as he gazed intently at her retreating figure.

In his mind, he couldn't help but reminisce about their high school days. She, with her assertive demeanor, cornered him in the hallway. "Zephyr, I really like you. Will you be my boyfriend?" she asked back then.

At that moment, her temperament hadn't really changed, yet she had said he was trash.

She was unaware that he was the one who had suggested that Serena organize the reunion. He had deliberately provoked Serena's competitive spirit, knowing full well that

Serena wouldn't resist the urge to challenge her. He also knew her well enough to understand that her stubborn nature would compel her to attend the reunion after Serena's provocation.

When he arrived, standing at the entrance of the private room, he heard her voice. It took immense self-control for him to maintain his composure.

At last, Sophia reached the private room entrance and pushed the door to step inside.

The chatter in the room came to a halt as everyone's gaze turned toward her.

Sophia was completely oblivious until she noticed the round table was completely bare, and not a soul was in sight. That was when she realized something was amiss. Has the waiter already cleared the table? Where's Nora?

On the couch, a middle-aged man cleared his throat and asked, "Miss, have you perhaps wandered into the wrong room?"

Sophia looked toward the person who was speaking, scratching her head in confusion. Do I have an ex- classmate of such age? Could it be that the homeroom teacher has arrived?

Jonas stood up, flashing an apologetic smile at the middle-aged man. "I'm sorry. I'll to escort her out," he

said.

He walked toward Sophia. "Ms. Tortell, let's go."

The middle-aged man was a director of a certain show who had wanted to invite him to appear on the program. That was why he had invited him and his manager to have lunch together here.

No one expected Sophia to suddenly barge in.

As he drew closer, Jonas could smell the strong scent of alcohol emanating from Sophia. Her cheeks were flushed a deep red, clearly indicating she had indulged quite a bit. It was no wonder she seemed a little. dazed.

Sophia looked up, momentarily startled. Blinking, she asked, "Jonas? What are you doing at my reunion?"

Jonas took hold of her arm and began to lead her out. "Let's head outside first."

Stumbling slightly, Sophia followed Jonas out of the private room. "Jonas, why are you leading me out?" Jonas closed the door and asked, "Where is your private room?"

1/4

12:59 Mon, 11 Nov G

Chapter 233 Not My Boyfriend

Sophia's eyes were hazy as she pointed behind Jonas. "Isn't this it?"

Jonas was rendered speechless.

He then rephrased his question, asking, "Who did you come with?"

00037%-

10 Bonus

Before Sophia could speak, a male voice suddenly echoed from the side. "I'll take care of her. I'm her boyfriend."

The individual who arrived was clad in a turtleneck sweater and dress pants. His fair face was adorned with round, gold-rimmed glasses.

Upon seeing Sophia enter the wrong private room, Zephyr immediately followed after her.

Jonas gave Zephyr a once-over, keenly detecting a hint of hostility in his gaze. Squinting his eyes, he asked, "Boyfriend?"

Previously, when he was in Archulea, he seemed to recall them mentioning that Sophia didn't have a boyfriend.

Sophia quickly hid behind Jonas, clutching tightly onto his hoodie. She peeked her head out and said, "He's not my boyfriend! He's a human trafficker, planning to kidnap me and sell me off to some remote area!"

Zephyr was stumped.

He gently gazed at Sophia and said, "Sophia, stop fooling around. I know you're mad at me, but you can't joke about this matter..."

Jonas stared at Zephyr, a wary look etched on his face. "There's no need for further talk. I won't hand her over to you. If you're wise, you'll leave immediately. Otherwise, I'll call security."

The person before him was acting suspiciously, not quite like a human trafficker, but more likely a scoundrel who had failed to win Sophia's affection and was then resorting to despicable tactics.

A shadow flickered across Zephyr's eyes behind his glasses when he heard those words. He then stared at Jonas with a piercing gaze. "And who might you be? What gives you the right to decide her fate? Let me make this clear. There's no way I'm leaving her in the hands of a stranger like you!"

Zephyr thought the individual standing before him was acting suspiciously, likely plotting to take advantage of Sophia.

Sophia clung to Jonas' clothes, declaring, "Jonas isn't a stranger! Jonas is my friend!"

Jonas looked at Zephyr, raising an eyebrow as he asked, "Did you hear that?"

Zephyr was also looking at Jonas. "She's drunk, and she even mistook the private room. Who's to say she wouldn't mistake her friends?"

Their gazes clashed, the air seemingly filled with the lingering scent of gunpowder after a skirmish.

Neither of them was willing to back down.

However, there were still guests in the private room, so Jonas couldn't stay out for too long. He shifted his gaze, turning to ask Sophia, "Who did you come with?" 12:59 Mon,

Chapter 233 Not My Boyfriend

CXMO Bonus

"Nora. Where has Nora gone to? Why didn't she wait for me?" Sophia asked, her eyes wide with innocent confusion.

Zephyr looked at Sophia and said, "I know where Lenora is. How about I take you to find her?"

Upon hearing this, Jonas immediately asked, "Which private room is Lenora in? I'll take her there straight away!"

Jonas didn't feel at ease letting the man before him take away Sophia, who was drunk.

Zephyr glanced at him, saying in a nonchalant tone, "0307."

Jonas turned his head, looking back at Sophia. "Shall I take you to find Nora?"

"Yes!" Sophia responded eagerly.

"Let's go."

Sophia gently held Jonas' sleeve, obediently trailing by his side.

Clearly, between the two of them, she was more acquainted with Jonas.

Zephyr lagged behind by a step. His eyes beneath his glasses were unfathomably deep. Silently, he followed along.

The private room was separated only by two other rooms. Zephyr pushed the doors open without hesitation, positioning himself at the entrance. He cast a sidelong glance at Jonas.

Jonas entered, scanning his surroundings, his eyes landing on the figure of Lenora.

Lenora also saw him with Sophia, and she immediately stood up and walked over. "Jonas?"

"Nóra!" Upon seeing Lenora, Sophia chuckled before rushing toward her without any hesitation.

Lenora steadied Sophia by wrapping her arms around Sophia's waist. "How did you two end up together?" she asked

Jonas dropped the confrontational demeanor he had when facing Zephyr, his face then adorned with a gentle smile. "I'm also dining here, and she accidentally entered the wrong private room," he said. "Thank you." Lenora pinched the soft flesh on Sophia's waist and said, "I said I would accompany you, but you refused."

Sophia wasn't paying attention at all. She was just lying on Lenora's body, grumbling softly.

Whispers filled the private room as some recognized Jonas, engaging in hushed discussions about him. Jonas said with a smile, "I have guests waiting for me, so I'll have to leave now. Let's catch up over a meal

7

when we have the time."

"All right. Go ahead."

Jonas turned around and casually noticed Zephyr at the entrance. He halted his steps and whispered to Lenora, "The man at the door claims to be Ms. Tortell's boyfriend. I suspect he has ulterior motives. Be careful." 12:59 Mon, 11 Nov GO

Chapter 233 Not My Boyfriend

Lenora lifted her gaze, inadvertently locking eyes with Zephyr.

She immediately averted her gaze and responded, "I understand."

Only then did Jonas leave.

37%

+40 Bonus

As Jonas passed by Zephyr, he raised an eyebrow, feeling a sense of accomplishment for having diffused a potentially disastrous situation.

Zephyr lowered his gaze, his face expressionless. Between his drooping fingers, he twirled something absentmindedly.

Afterward, he walked in and settled down on the couch.

Lenora helped Sophia get back to her original seat, poured a cup of water, and placed it in front of her. "Have some water first."

Sophia obediently picked up the cup and began drinking, much like a well-behaved child.

Lenora asked again, "Soph, do you want to eat some more?"

Sophia didn't respond. Instead, an ex-classmate next to her asked Lenora, "Ms. Wilkin, was that Jonas just now? Do you actually know Jonas?" 12:59 Mon,

Chapter 234 Seven Years

Chapter 234 Seven Years

## **Stay Away 234**

Chapter 234 Seven Years

C+40 Bonus



Upon hearing those words, the few people whispering amongst themselves around the area turned their attention toward the speaker.

Under the watchful eyes of the crowd, Lenora paused for a moment before subtly nodding. "Jonas is our friend."

A look of envy appeared in the ex-classmate's eyes as they turned to Lenora and said, "Ms. Wilkin, Sophia, could I ask you both to help me get Jonas' autograph?" "I want it! Please..."

"Me too! Thank you, Sophia! Thank you, Ms. Wilkin!"

"I also want his autograph! Sophia-"

Before Lenora could even speak, Sophia had already slapped her chest in agreement, saying, "Sure! No problem!"

"Sophia, you're truly wonderful!"

"Thank you, Sophia!"

"Sophia, you must be pretty close with Jonas, right? He even brought you here personally."

Zephyr's gaze was deep and mysterious.

Numerous people were engaged in conversation with Sophia.

A glint of envy flashed in Serena's eyes when she saw the scene. She then clenched her fists tightly. Why? Why do our ex-classmates and Zephyr like her more than me? How could I possibly fall short when compared to Sophia? Someone else asked, "Sophia, do you know any other celebrities?"

Sophia let out a bech from the wine. "Of course! I also know-"

She was bending her fingers, about to reveal the name of the celebrity.

Interrupting her, Lenora asked, "Soph, have you had enough to eat?"

"I'm full." Sophia suddenly changed the topic and uttered, "Where's the wine? Is there any left? I want to drink!"

"No. You can't drink anymore. We need to head back."

"No! I want to drink more!" Sophia pinched her brows, reaching out to grasp Lenora's arm, her eyes already struggling to focus.

"No." Lenora stood up, attempting to help her to her feet. "We need to go home now."

"Hey, Ms. Wilkin. If Sophia doesn't want to leave, let's sit for a while longer," an ex-classmate suggested.

Sophia lifted her gaze to Lenora, and her face held an expression of childish defiance. She pouted and declared, "I'm not leaving! I want to drink!" Mon,

Chapter 234 Seven Years

(+10 Bonus

Lenora had no choice but to lean in and whisper in her ear, "Do you really want Serena and Zephyr to see you making a fool of yourself while drunk?"

Upon hearing that she might embarrass herself in front of her sworn enemy and ex-boyfriend, Sophia shook her head vehemently. Abruptly standing up, she exclaimed, "No! Let's go home!"

"That's more like it!" Lenora helped her up, leading her out. She then said to the others, "Soph's had a bit too much to drink. We'll leave first!"

The others didn't try to persuade her further. They simply said, "Sophia, don't forget to get Jonas' autograph!"

"Don't worry! I won't forget!"

Once they reached the underground garage, Lenora helped Sophia into the back seat. "We'll swing by the Fuller residence to pick up Hattie. If you're not feeling well, feel free to take a nap in the back seat." Sophia remained silent.

After they left the private room, her mood unexpectedly took a dip.

In the dim light of the evening, Lenora was attentively driving when she suddenly heard a sobbing sound coming from the back seat.

She glanced in the rear-view mirror and noticed that, unbeknownst to her, Sophia had begun to cry, her face streaked with tears.

Lenora was taken aback, and she almost forgot to hit the brakes when the car arrived at a red light. "Soph, what's wrong?" she asked.

Having been friends with Sophia for many years, it was the first time Lenora had seen her cry so heartbrokenly.

Sophia cried and murmured, "Why has he returned? He left so resolutely back then... Why must he return?"

Lenora remained silent, not interrupting.

Perhaps seeing Zephyr that night stirred up the heartbreaking events from many years ago. .

Lenora was not making things up. She had known Sophia for three years, and Sophia had never mentioned Zephyr to her. It was as if he never existed.

Throughout those three years, Sophia was always cheerful and exuberantly friendly every time they met.

Everyone had their own share of sorrow. It was just that she chose to hide hers, burying it deep within her heart, meeting life with a smile.

Had it not been for this reunion, that obscure chapter of her life would likely have remained forever buried in the darkest corner of her heart.

At this point, Lenora finally understood why Sophia enjoyed collecting pictures of male idols, and why she liked inviting male waitstaff to join her for drinks and songs, yet she had never gotten into a relationship. Perhaps it was because she had never truly forgotten Zephyr in the depths of her heart, or it could be that

7

2/4

13:00 Mon, 11 Nov GD

Chapter 234 Seven Years

her heart had been so deeply wounded that she no longer dared to believe in love.

X+10 Bovus

"I went out of my way to beg him to stay... Yet, he still left... He was gone for seven years. Why is he back now?" Sophia choked out through her sobs.

The trembling voice in the midst of crying made Lenora's heart unbearably distressed.

She had never seen Sophia in such a state of distress before.

Seven years prior, Sophia had just started attending university.

"Nora, you have no idea how much I loved him back then... My parents wanted me to study abroad, but I couldn't bear to leave him, so I persuaded them to let me stay... However, he suddenly decided to leave without leaving any room for reconsideration... Although he has returned, why must he appear before me?" Sophia didn't stop mumbling, but her voice gradually faded until Lenora could barely make out what she was saying.

Gradually, Sophia fell asleep in the backseat, her face marked with dried tear stains. Her lips moved slightly as if she was whispering in her sleep.

Upon arriving at the Fuller residence, Lenora gently alighted from the vehicle to fetch Harrietta.

She then said to Harrietta in advance, "Ms. Tortell has fallen asleep in the car, so you'll be in the passenger seat. When you get in the car, please don't speak loudly."

Harrietta obediently nodded.

The car drove into the residential area, coming to a halt in the underground parking garage.

Lenora gently roused Sophia from her slumber, saying, "Soph, wake up! We're home! You can continue sleeping once we're inside."

After being called twice, Sophia finally opened one eye and yawned. After that, tears started to stream down her face.

She squinted at the view outside the car window, her voice laden with fatigue. "Are we home already?"

"Yes. Let's go upstairs to continue sleeping."

"Oh."

Sophia leisurely climbed out of the car.

After stepping into the elevator, Sophia leaned against the elevator wall listlessly and closed her eyes.

It seemed she was genuinely very tired.

The elevator dinged once before it stopped.

When Sophia opened her eyes, she met Lenora's gaze, which was filled with concern.

Puzzled, she asked, "Why are staring at me?"

"I'm worried you might not be able to cope."

3/4

13:00 Mon, 11 Nov G.

Chapter 234 Seven Years

100

37%A

X+40 Bonus

Shocked, Sophia responded, "What? You're really underestimating me, aren't you? Just because of Serena and Zephyr, those two pieces of trash, you think I'd lose it? That's giving them too much credit!"

Lenora didn't know what to say in response. Well, I wonder who was the one sobbing uncontrollably in the car just a moment ago. It seems she has forgotten everything after a good sleep. Forgetting might be for the best. I prefer the fearless Sophia. "That's good, but..."

"But what?"

"Well, according to Serena's way of thinking, to outshine her, you'd need to find a boyfriend who's even more outstanding than Zephyr. It would also serve to make that Rubbish Yankovich regret. Have you ever thought about that?" Sophia furrowed her brows, deep in thought. "However, how am I supposed to find a boyfriend who's even better than Rubbish Yankovich?"

Zephyr was the top student in their graduating class. After graduating from Jacaster, he had the caliber to enter any top-tier university through the university entrance exam. Rumor had it that he had been doing quite well overseas in recent years. Otherwise, there was no way he would have dared to return to his homeland.

Most importantly, he was quite good-looking.

Those as accomplished as he was weren't as handsome as him, and those of similar attractiveness couldn't match his accomplishments.

After much thought, Sophia thought of someone and said, "Actually, there is this one person..."

Immediately, Lenora asked, "Who?"

Sophia paused for a couple of seconds and said, "Tyrant Fuller!"

Lenora was rendered speechless.

13:00 Mon, 11 Nov GO.

Chapter 235 Is It Uncle Zachary

.

## **Stay Away 235**

Chapter 235 Is It Uncle Zachary

Lenora held Harrietta's hand and walked out of the elevator with Sophia. (140 Bus

As she waited for Lenora to open the door, Sophia could not help but sigh. "Let me tell you, people like Tyrant Fuller and Rubbish Yankovich, who have what it takes to be pursued by others, can easily turn into scumb\*gs. After all, there are still plenty of fish in the sea waiting for them."

Lenora opened the door and stepped inside. "You're right."

"By the way, how are things with you and Connor? I think he's quite a good match for you. If he dares to have any second thoughts, don't hesitate to kick him to the curb," Sophia said, lying down on the couch. "We're still in touch. He has been a bit busy this week," Lenora replied calmly.

Nearby, Harrietta sat obediently on the couch. She waited until they stopped talking before biting her index finger and looking up with a puzzled look on her face. "Aunt Lenora, does Tyrant Fuller refer to Uncle Zachary?" "Um..." For a fleeting moment, Lenora felt embarrassed.

"Why do you call him a tyrant?"

Sophia responded, "Let me explain it to you, Hattie. It's because your uncle is easily swayed by the slanderous words of other women, much like a gullible tyrant from ancient times. Do you understand?"

Harrietta nodded in a half-understanding manner. She initially wanted to defend Zachary, but upon recalling Lenora's warning, she silently closed her mouth.

Sophia went straight to bed after taking a bath while Lenora spent some time playing games with Harrietta before going to sleep.

As she lay in bed, holding Harrietta in her arms, she casually asked, "Has Ms. Miranda's grandson recovered?"

Not yet. just called Ms. Miranda today. She said that he's very sick, and it seems to have turned into pneumonia."

"That's quite serious indeed. I'll take you to the Fuller residence tomorrow and go visit her."

"I want to go too," Harrietta said, looking expectantly at Lenora.

"No, you're still too young. What if you catch it?"

Harrietta pouted, then said in a wheedling tone, "Can't I just wear a mask? Please let me go, Aunt Lenora. You're the best!"

She nestled her head against Lenora's chest and snuggled up against the latter coaxingly.

Lenora felt her heart soften and almost agreed. "I'm afraid not, Hattie. I... That is, your grandmother has never liked you interacting with me. If you fall ill under my care, she'll have even more reason to keep you away from me. Do you understand?" Harrietta, of course, understood. With a pout, she muttered, "Fine, then."

Lenora woke up on Friday morning all groggy. She reached for his phone on the bedside table and

1/3

13:00 Mon, 11 Nov GO.

Chapter 235 Is It Uncle Zachary

checked the time. It was sixteen minutes past eight.

There was also a WhatsApp notification on the screen.

After unlocking the screen, she saw that it was a message from Gordon.

She thought there was a new update, but when she had taken a closer look, her heart sank.

37%

+10 Bonus

His message read: I'm truly sorry, Ms. Wilkin. You've no idea how much courage it took for me to say this to you. I apologize, but I can't continue with the task you entrusted to me. I'll pay you the penalty as stated in our contract. I'm deeply sorry... Upon seeing that message, she felt a sudden chill wash over her as though she had been plunged into an icy cellar.

Gordon wouldn't suddenly say he has to breach the contract for no apparent reason. Something must've happened. Those people are very sharp. Could it be that they noticed someone is probing into what happened back then?

She closed her eyes and took a deep breath, then responded: May I know why, Mr. Yancey?

Gordon: To be honest, Ms. Wilkin, I've received two death threats within the past week.

Following that, he sent over two images. One was of a threatening text message that included a chilling photo of a ghost. The second was of a piece of paper, covered in bloody handprints.

He continued to explain in another message: After receiving the first death threat, I didn't care about it and continued with my investigation. Then, the second threat came. After that, my wife, parents, and in-laws all received threatening messages. Knowing that his job as a private detective would easily make him a target of revenge, he had carefully concealed information about his family. Yet, someone had managed to dig them up, which left him in a state of constant fear and anxiety. Gordon: I'm truly sorry, Ms. Wilkin. I wouldn't be afraid if I had no family to think of, but I can't put myself and family in danger. I'm so sorry...

my

He sounded very sincere, and she did not insist that he stick it out. She replied: I understand your position, Mr. Yancey, and I appreciate your willingness to help me. Given the circumstances, I wouldn't want to force you. As for the rest, let's just proceed according to what's stipulated in the contract.

Gordon: I appreciate your understanding, Ms. Wilkin. Rest assured that I won't disclose any information about you. I hope you can uncover the truth soon and avenge your father. Lenora: Thank you.

After responding, she turned off the screen and fell into deep thought.

If they managed to find out about Gordon, might they also be able to trace me? But I haven't received any threats. I suppose that makes sense. I only found out that my father's death was linked to that kidnapping case by a twist of fate. No one else knows, so they must think I'm clueless too and didn't associate it with me. They probably assumed that Gordon's investigation into the kidnapping case was due to some other



reasons. However, now that I've lost Gordon's help, the only person I have left is Connor. Although she had decided to get closer to Connor, she simply could not deny her lack of affection for him. There was an underlying resistance within her, and it was always him who took the initiative.

2/3

13:00 Mon, 11 Nov G..

Chapter 235 Is It Uncle Zachary

Over the past few days, it seems as though he has become somewhat distant. I can't let that go on.

CX10 Bonus

Lenora made up her mind to be proactive and send him a message. She typed: Another week is about to pass. How are things for you at the company now? Are you very busy?

She left her phone screen turned on, but seeing that there was no response from Connor even after a few minutes, she turned off her phone and set it aside.

She turned over, only to find herself looking straight into Harrietta's big, round eyes.

For some reason, she inexplicably felt a bit guilty.

She cleared her throat gently and ruffled Harrietta's hair. "Awake already? If so, then it's time to get out of bed."

"Okay."

During breakfast, Lenora carefully observed Sophia and was relieved to see that there was nothing unusual about the latter.

"Don't forget you promised a few of your classmates that you'd get Jonas' autograph for them," Lenora reminded.

Sophia smacked a hand to her forehead. "If you hadn't mentioned it, I would've completely forgotten! I'll ask him for some right away."

Jonas was quite close with them, so helping out with a few autographs was no big deal.

The only thing was that a classmate asked Sophia if she still knew other celebrities, clearly hoping to get a few more autographs. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Lenora interrupted Sophia's response, saving the latter from further hassle.

When Sophia opened her WhatsApp, she suddenly saw that she had a new message request.

She glanced at it and saw that it was from someone she did not know. The sender's profile picture was of a cartoon cat and the nickname was "Comment Vas-tu," but there was no other information in the person's profile. Sophia was not fond of people who would try to contact her for no reason, so she simply chose to ignore

1. it.

She pulled up her WhatsApp chat with Jonas and sent an emoji first before typing: Jonas, could you do me a favor and sign a few autographs? A classmate wants them. Thanks! Thanks, ji

He promptly responded: Sure. When will you come to get them?

Sophia: Hmm... I'll get them from you During the Golden Phoenix Award Ceremony.

Sophia had been specially invited to be a makeup artist at the award ceremony. After all, not every celebrity had a personal makeup artist.

Jonas would probably be in attendance too.

He replied: Okay.

.

## **Stay Away 236**

Chapter 236 Was Zachary Sick

XMO Bonus

After finishing breakfast, Lenora first made a call to the Fuller residence to make sure Zachary wasn't there before she dropped off Harrietta. Then, she bought some gifts and went to the hospital alone to visit Miranda's grandson. After leaving the hospital room, Lenora headed toward the parking lot.

She looked around and unintentionally caught sight of a familiar figure. The tall man resembled Zachary.

By the time she focused her gaze, the figure had already turned the corner and disappeared from sight. Was Zachary sick?

Lenora looked away and headed toward her car before unlocking it.

She opened the car door, sat in the driver's seat, and, before starting the car, took out her phone for a glance.

Connor had replied a moment ago: Lenora, I'm sorry. I have been quite busy lately, but it's not because of work.

Lenora responded: Did something happen? If you're facing any difficulties, feel free to talk to me.

Connor sent an emoji, and even through the screen, his excitement was palpable.

He texted: Thanks for your kind intentions, Lenora, but / can handle it myself. Don't worry.

Lenora typed out: Good luck. If you can't handle it yourself, don't hesitate to ask me for help. Her words were warm despite her indifferent demeanor.

He replied: Okay, Lenora. You're really kind.

She texted: Friends should, of course, help each other out.

Lenora gazed at the screen with a calm expression. After some thought, she used an app to check recently released movies and took a random screenshot. Then, she posted on her Instagram: Anyone interested in checking this out with me over the weekend? The image below was a screenshot of the movie.

After posting, Lenora put away her phone, and a faint glimmer appeared in her eyes.

This post was set to be visible only to Connor.

Simply put, she suspected that Connor had encountered some difficulties.

If she could lend a hand, it would undoubtedly bring them closer. Gordon's withdrawal had left her somewhat anxious.

However, Connor didn't seem inclined to share the information with her at the moment. She didn't feel it was appropriate to press him for answers, as she might appear overly eager.

Given that Connor was busy, there was no way she could be so insensitive as to invite him out for a meal

or a movie.

The only option was to find a way to prompt Connor to take the initiative.

Comm was hat in Hugh past

Frant and

Wake up you hum, fue want fraud, mu matter how many dit nine he amoun

raun casting a plans at the t

we police atation behind him

helors quistly

A from shaxx guns the custom frame father, Buchis, we a part of, was ambdenly mesmeed of nejms shamba mantab the prout im holul complaints with the commune deancation and relevan untuarial and coming Upon meement by professionals from the discom

om dep

mms materials were indeed found in

mener

Busty the negotiation pura, the proper me was roupant and apole harally, deliberately provoking to lite Unable to hold hurt his muger, His his lastal our plyalcully, reauling in his detainment

Commor had already itted a ball application with the police.

Yesterday, he went to the hospital to apolonter to the property owner and negotiate, but the owner firmly refused to settle and even sand he would and Bichis

Commor had long felt something was off, auspecting the owner was targeting his father deliberately

Richie had been in the renovation business for over a decade, always diligent and responsible. No matter how demanding the clients were, he always did his heat to meet their needs. How could he possibly use substandard materials? Nothing like this had ever happened before, whether at home or abroad

Richie also suspected the property owner was being directed t reputation of the company their team was afiliated with

itor who wanted to tarnish

But now

no choice but to accept the situation

What brought him a bit of solace was the fact that the bail application had been approved, allowing Richie to be released from custody

se

Richie's view was that since the property owner was deliberately targeting him, there was no chance of reconciliation. He was simply waiting to respond to the lawsuit, knowing that the worst case scenario would be having to pay a fine. Hurtapretios sum fupes som du noms Aprauap sway at Arradonda aya

Connor, however, thought differently. As a young ambitious person, he couldn't stand injustice, especially

approaching certain departments to request an inspection

Richie sighed before attempting to persuade him. "There's no point in you going, son I have lived many years and understood one thing quite early on it you don't have money or power, you'll always be at a disadvantage! Our documents are lawless, yet they can still be a problem and twist the truth. You'd just

Conor replied, "Dad, you shouldn't have gone to negotiate in the first place. You should have insisted the

13:00 Mon, 11 Nov G.

37%

+40 Bonus

Chapter 236 Was Zachary Sick

assessment was flawed. Now it's probably too late to challenge it."

However, on Saturday, Connor still went to a relevant department and requested a different inspector for

a re-assessment.

The staff firmly told him the report was correct and that a re-assessment was not an option.

No matter how much Connor argued, the result remained the same.

Having wasted an entire morning, he walked out of the department's lobby, exhausted. He stared at the road ahead, not knowing where to go.

He didn't want to go home, wandering aimlessly around the nearby area as if he were a headless fly.

As he walked, he suddenly remembered the Instagram post he had seen the night before.

He checked and saw the post was still there, wondering if that meant Lenora hadn't found someone to go to the movies with yet.

He opened up the chat window with Lenora: Lenora, are you also interested in watching "Four Generations"? I've been looking forward to it for a while now. Have you found someone to go with? If not, why don't we go together. this afternoon? A smirk appeared on Lenora's lips when she saw the message. She replied: Sure. Have you had lunch yet?

Connor replied: No, how about we have lunch together before the movie?

She texted: Sure, I'm currently at Goldthorn Mall. You should come.

Connor: Alright!

After replying, Connor immediately hailed a taxi and headed toward Goldthorn Mall.

Lenora sent him the name of the restaurant and the menu.

When Connor arrived, Lenora was already seated, waiting for the food to be served.

Upon entering the door, Connor glanced around before quickly striding over. "Lenora!" he called out.

With a smile, Lenora said, "Please, take a seat."

Upon seeing her smile, Connor paused and could not resist smiling himself. It felt as if a warm breeze had swept through his heart, erasing all traces of frustration and resentment. Connor sat down opposite Lenora. "Didn't Hattie come today?"

The third wheel was finally gone.

"She's at her great-grandmother's place. I went to the hospital today to visit some patients. There's been a lot of people with colds recently, so I didn't want her to catch

anything." "The weather's been getting quite chilly lately. You should take care of yourself too."

The waiter began serving the dishes.

They chatted as they ate.

13:00 Mon, 11 Nov G.

Chapter 236 Was Zachary Sick

Connor finally felt his spirits lift a bit.

With a casual air, Lenora asked, "By the way, did you manage to resolve the issue you mentioned yesterday?"

37%-

+10 Bonus

When the matter was brought up, Connor's brows furrowed, a wave of irritation surging within him that he didn't want Lenora to see. "Don't worry. It's already been taken care of." "You're not fooling anyone. Look at how furrowed your brows are; they could practically trap flies," Lenora teased before adding seriously, "Don't be shy. Just tell me if there's anything bothering you." Connor's face flushed slightly as he bashfully lowered his head.

He thought about how his family had only recently returned to the country, and the connections they once had were now lost. Facing such circumstances, it was inevitable they would hit some roadblocks.

Lenora was different, though. Being a local and somewhat part of the Fuller family, her connections were far stronger than his and his father's. For example, while he was respectful and polite to Stanley, Lenora could casually call Stanley by his first name. Perhaps if Lenora stepped in, he might actually be able to resolve this issue.

If they could prove the materials were fine, they would only have to cover the owner's medical expenses.

After much thought, Connor laid out the entire sequence of events to Lenora.

Mon,

Chapter 237 A Trap

## Stay Away 237

Chapter 237 A Trap

Chapter 237 A Trap

When Lenora heard Connor mention Richie, her heart skipped a beat.

37%

XMO Bonus

She lowered her gaze and picked up a shrimp. Slowly and meticulously, she peeled off the shell and popped it into her mouth.

Once Connor finished speaking, Lenora pondered momentarily, swallowing the food in her mouth. "From what you're saying, it does indeed seem like a deliberate targeting."

Connor nodded. "Definitely. The vibe he gave me was that he wasn't interested in solving the problem. He just wanted to deal with my dad."

Lenora couldn't help but smile at his wording.

"But even if the materials have issues, wouldn't the renovation company be responsible for this?"

Connor explained, "My dad's just affiliated with the company. He is the one responsible for the materials."

Lenora nodded knowingly, picking up another large shrimp. She lifted her gaze to meet Connor's eyes, pursed her lips, and spoke. "I hope you don't mind me asking, but are you certain about the quality of the construction materials your father uses? It's not that I don't trust you, but this is a crucial matter."

It was hardly surprising that Richie, a kidnapper with no regard for morality or law, would resort to using substandard materials.

But in Connor's eyes, Richie was his beloved and respected father, whom he undoubtedly trusted unconditionally.

It was only a concern that Richie, resigned to not being able to overturn the case, might be keeping Connor in the dark.



Connor stated with absolute certainty, "The quality is fine. My dad is incredibly honest. He's been in this business for years, and nothing like this has ever happened."

Upon hearing him saying Richie was incredibly honest, Lenora lowered her gaze, a trace of irony flashing in her eyes.

Lenora picked up a piece of pork chop and ate it as she said, "Have you ever considered this scenario? You've just returned to the country and don't have much understanding of the current situation here. In your haste to take on projects, you could have been deceived by material suppliers."

Connor paused, thinking it over. "That is possible."

Sipping on her warm water, Lenora suggested, "How about this-I can pull some strings to have them retest it. We can also get a private institution to conduct a separate test and see what the results show. If the test results are the same, it's likely that the issue lies with the materials. If your father was unaware, we can hold the supplier responsible. Even if the owner's targeting you, there's not much we can do if the report backs them up."

She paused before adding, "If the test results differ, it's likely a setup. At that point, we should consider<sup>1</sup> whether the property owner is in cahoots with the officials."

A look of joy surfaced in Connor's eyes when he heard Lenora's suggestion. "Alright, Lenora, I really can't thank you enough! If it weren't for you, I truly wouldn't know what to do next!"

1/4

37%

(+10 Bonus

Chapter 237 A Trap

Lenora's gaze was calm, a hint of a smile playing at the corner of her lips. "Don't mention it. Let's eat. You've just started your internship. Don't let this affect your work." "Okay!"

Connor nodded earnestly.

Though he'd put away his smile, the joy in his eyes was unmistakable.

Every now and then, he would glance up at Lenora. But whenever Lenora looked at him, he would quickly lower his head.

At first, when he struck up a conversation with Lenora in Nardor, it was mainly because she looked like a fellow Clusian, and her appearance instantly captivated him.

The fact that he shared a hometown with Lenora was something Connor had never anticipated.

After these recent interactions, Connor's fondness for Lenora gradually deepened from a superficial attraction to an appreciation of her character.

Her guidance at work, the tenderness she showed when caring for Harrietta, and her willingness to offer help all reinforced Connor's belief that his first impression of her was right. Lenora was in the person he desired.

So wh

if she had been divorced before?

Lenora looked up, inadvertently locking eyes with Connor.

Connor gave a slight smile, his lips curling subtly. His large eyes crinkled a bit, his light brown irises clear, reminiscent of gems submerged in water, brimming with unspoken affection. He seemed rather innocent.

It was clear that Connor hadn't once doubted that Richie might lie.

Such was the nature of

they had experienced so little.

If it were just about being ordinary friends, that would be fine. However, when it came to choosing her future partner, Lenora would never pick him.

She had no interest in helping someone mature.

If it weren't for the fact that Connor was Richie's son, she would have likely already walked away.

After they had lunch, the two went to watch the movie at the movie theater inside the mall.

Since the movie hadn't started yet, Connor handed the popcorn he'd just bought to Lenora, saying, "Lenora, why don't you go sit over there first? I need to use the restroom." Lenora nodded.

After leaving the movie theater, Connor followed the signs inside the mall to find the restroom. The restroom in the mall was tucked away in a secluded spot. 13:00 Mon, 11 Nov G

## Chapter 237 A Trap

As Connor turned the corner, he suddenly bumped into someone.

With a thud, a milkshake hit the ground, its packaging broke, and the drink splashed everywhere.

Instinctively, Connor took two steps back, his gaze falling on the spilled milkshake on the ground. Quickly, he looked up and said, "I'm so sorry. I'm really sorry."

The person before him was a young woman with fair skin and delicate features.

She glanced at the spilled milkshake on the ground, a hint of regret in her eyes. However, she still managed to give Connor a slight smile. "It's alright. It's just a milkshake." 36%

+40 Bonus

As she spoke, she bent down to pick up the cup on the ground. Then, turning around, she walked back into the restroom.

The men's and women's restrooms in the mall shared a common sink area.

By the sink was a trash can, with a few unused mops resting in the corner.

Connor watched as the woman tossed the broken cup into the trash can before reaching for the mop in the corner.

Seeing this, Connor quickly approached, intending to take the mop from the woman's hand. However, unexpectedly, he accidentally grasped her hand instead.

He quickly let go, his ears gradually turning red. "Sorry. Hand it over to me. I'll mop."

Just as the woman was about to speak, a janitor washing a mop nearby saw them and asked, "Miss, what are you doing with that mop?"

"Ma'am, I'm sorry. I spilled my milkshake. I'm worried someone might slip, so I want to mop it up," the young woman explained with a light smile. Her smile, revealing two faint dimples at the corners of her mouth, was extraordinarily charming. The janitor said, "Just leave it there. I'll mop it up in a bit."

"Thank you, mam. Sorry for the trouble."

The woman returned the mop to its original place.

"Thank you," Connor also said.

The woman was about to turn around and leave when Connor called out to her, "Miss!"

The woman halted, turning to look at him with a puzzled expression.

"Sorry for knocking over your milkshake. Let me send you the money so you can buy another one

Upon hearing this, the woman gave a subtle smile, her lips pursing lightly. She waved her hand dismissively. "No need."

As Connor watched her turn and walk away, he had a fleeting moment of thought that, from a certain angle of her profile, she bore a striking resemblance to Lenora.

He snapped out of his daze, only to realize she had already walked away.

13:00 Mon, 11 Nov G.

DA

Chapter 237 A Trap

With a sigh of resignation, Connor made a turn and entered the men's restroom.

+10 Bonus

After leaving the restroom, the woman glanced back. Seeing that Connor hadn't followed her, she let out a small sigh of relief. The smile on her face disappeared, replaced by a look of seriousness.

This being her first time doing something like this, Madison was so nervous that her palms were drenched in sweat, and her facial muscles were stiff from smiling.

However, she had no choice now; her father was still waiting for her in the hospital.

Connor returned to the movie theater and took a seat next to Lenora.

Lenora casually grabbed a piece of popcorn and ate it. "What's on your shoe?"

Connor glanced down, noticing the many yellow specks on his white shoes. "I accidentally knocked over a young lady's milkshake earlier, and it splashed onto them," he explained. Lenora didn't pay much attention to it and changed the topic.

13:00 Mon, 11 Nov GO

Chapter 238 Lingered In Her Mind

.

## **Stay Away 238**

Chapter 238 Lingered In Her Mind

Chapter 238 Lingered In Her Mind

36%

10 Bous

Coming out of the movie theater, Lenora brushed back a strand of hair by her ear and asked, "Do you still have any of the materials that were deemed non-compliant at your place?"

Connor gave a nod. "There's still a batch at home. We were planning to send it to the property owner's residence, but it got reported before we could."

"Then let's go back to your place to get some."

"Alright."

The two arrived at the parking lot. Lenora took the driver's seat while Connor settled into the passenger

seat.

After fastening his seatbelt and watching Lenora start the car, Connor suddenly felt a bit awkward. "Lenora, maybe I should drive."

Lenora turned her head and smiled. "I'll drive. Your foreign license needs to be approved before it can be used here in our country." "I'll go apply for that another day," Connor said.

Half an hour later, Lenora parked near Connor's residential area in a public parking spot. "Go grab it-I'll wait here."

"Then wait for me. I'll be out in no time," he said.

After finishing his words, Connor unbuckled his seatbelt and got out of the car.

Just as he was about to close the car door, Lenora called out to him again, "Oh, and don't mention me to your parents."

Connor paused for a moment, then instinctively asked, "Why? You've done me such a huge favor, Lenora I was actually hoping to invite you over for dinner at my place."

The real reason was that she worried Richie might grow suspicious if he learned of her identity and became wary.

However, she couldn't voice these thoughts. Lenora remained calm and collected, looking at Connor with a steady gaze and a sparkle in her eyes. "It's because I've been divorced before... I think most parents wouldn't want their child to be with a woman who's older and has been divorced."

That was especially the case since Connor was considered quite outstanding.

Suddenly, it was as if Connor realized something. The smile on his lips grew wider, and he looked like a big puppy, showing his cute little canine teeth. "I understand, Lenora. I swear I won't mention you to them!"

After saying his piece, he waved cheerfully at Lenora and headed inside in high spirits.

.

Didn't her words mean that she might also like him and have plans to be with him?

Connor was so happy he felt like he was floating as he walked.

However, what Lenora said was right. His mother likely wouldn't agree to them being together.

1/4

13:01 Mon,

Chapter 238 Lingered In Her Mind

His mother was rather conservative and had recently been arranging blind dates for him through connections, all with women in fields like teaching or medicine.

However, he wasn't going to yield.

+10 Bonus

Bringing up Lenora with his parents at this point wasn't the best timing. If his mother sensed anything unusual, she might just force him into more blind dates, thereby limiting his freedom.

It would be better to wait until his relationship with Lenora was secure before mentioning her.

Richie's construction team was reported for using substandard materials, specifically synthetic resin emulsion wall paint and polyethylene pipes.

Connor grabbed a portion of the paint and some pipes, then jogged out of the neighborhood and put them in the back seat of the car.

He pulled open the car door and slid into the passenger seat, catching his breath. As he buckled his seatbelt, he said, "My parents were asking about you, Lenora."

Lenora's hands that were resting on the steering wheel unconsciously clenched. "Oh?"

Connor grinned. "Good thing you reminded me ahead of time. I told them you're a helpful colleague of mine."

With a smile, Lenora said, "That's not exactly a lie. You could say we were former colleagues."

Connor chuckled, his eyes sparkling like stars. "That's exactly what I was thinking."

With a light chuckle, Lenora then drove off to the testing facility.

After handing over the materials to the inspection personnel, Lenora and Connor left the testing facility.

Connor was not ready to leave just yet. He pointed and said, "Lenora, I recall there's a newly opened cake shop in that mall over there. How about we go take a look?" Meeting Connor's hopeful gaze, Lenora gently nodded in response.

The two of them walked side by side at a leisurely pace, gradually making their way toward the nearby mall.

While pedestrians on the street hurried by, the two of them strolled casually forward, chatting as they went.

Suddenly, Connor's swinging arm brushed against Lenora's hand.

Subconsciously, Lenora pulled her hand back a bit before continuing forward, casually mentioning, "I've tried cakes from several cake shops around Goldthorn Mall..." Connor lowered his gaze, not really paying attention to what Lenora was saying.

His ears tinged a faint red, and he closed his eyes for a moment, mentally cheering himself on. Suddenly, he took hold of Lenora's soft, slender hand.

His hand was one size larger than hers, enveloping hers tightly.

As the sensation of his skin touching hers registered, Lenora tensed, instinctively wanting to pull away.

2/4

13:01 Mon, 11 Nov G DO

Chapter 238 Lingered In Her Mind

Yet, she simply held herself back.

Lenora pressed her lips together, lowered her head, and said nothing

At that moment, she only felt awkward, as if she were sitting on pins and needles.

An image of Zachary inexplicably flashed across her mind, adding a touch of heaviness to her heart.

Why did he come to mind again?

She must have truly lost her mind!

Her emotions were in turmoil, but she didn't want Connor to notice, so she had no choice but to lower her head and conceal her feelings. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Connor said with a smile, "Lenora, your hands are a bit cold. Next time you go out, wear a bit more. Don't catch a cold."

Lenora remarked, "It might be due to my constitution. My hands are always cold in winter."

"Then, every winter from now on, let me be the one to warm your hands." Connor's voice was incredibly tender.

Lenora remained silent.

She really didn't know what to say.

Connor simply assumed she was feeling embarrassed.



That was fine. Everything was progressing in a good direction.

The two of them arrived at the cake shop.

Looking at the array of cakes in the display case, Connor saw the sparkle in Lenora's eyes and asked, "Lenora, which one do you fancy? The black forest cake?" Lenora's face darkened. "No, I don't enjoy eating chocolate."

Whenever she saw a black forest cake, it would remind her of those unpleasant memories from the past.

And then there was Zachary, who would still linger in her mind persistently even if he was gone from her

life.

"Then let's buy something else."

In the end, Lenora chose a slice of matcha-flavored cake, a slice of red velvet cake, and a slice of tiramisu.

After buying the cakes, they stopped by a shop for some milkshakes.

By the time they left the mall, the sun had already set, and the sky was growing dark.

Lenora dropped Connor off at home before heading to the Fuller residence to pick up Harrietta.

Harrietta was sitting on the couch, swinging her short legs with a hint of dissatisfaction. "Aunt Lenora, why did it take you so long to come pick me up?" 13:01 Mon, 11 Nov G.

Chapter 238 Lingered In Her Mind

Lenora sat down beside her, gently patting her head. "I had some matters to attend to."

Harrietta didn't say anything else.

Lenora spent some time chatting with Allison before she left with Harrietta.

After climbing into the back seat of the car, Harrietta spotted the cakes and milkshakes next to her. Delighted, she exclaimed, "Oh, there's cake! I want some!" Lenora settled into the driver's seat, fastening her seatbelt. "If you want some, open the packaging yourself."

36%

## M10 Bonus

Harrietta unwrapped a piece of cake and grabbed a milkshake. As she ate and drank simultaneously, she muttered, "This is really good! So delicious!" Lenora caught sight of Harrietta's puffed cheeks in the rearview mirror. She chuckled before starting the

car.

Suddenly, Harrietta's eyes twinkled mischievously. She said, "Oh, Aunt Lenora, I know now! You went out with the skinny... with Connor, right?" Lenora was speechless.

.

## Stay Away 239

Chapter 239 The Deception.

Chapter 239 The Deception

36%

XM40 Bohus

Two days later, Lenora received two reports on the substandard materials used by Richie.

One was from a private evaluation agency, and the other was from a re-examination by the relevant authorities.

The wording of the two reports differed slightly, but their conclusions were the same: there were indeed problems with the materials.

Lenora speculated with the utmost suspicion that Richie must have known about the material issues but had feigned ignorance and even confidently let Connor have the materials assessed to confirm his supposed lack of awareness.

The previous data Gordon had shared indicated that Richie had moved his entire family abroad under the guise of a job transfer. In the early years abroad, they lived quite well, far beyond what his salary could support. The Morris family wasn't wealthy initially, with limited savings.

Gradually, their standard of living declined, and by the time they returned home, it had reverted to the level they'd had domestically.

In theory, since the Morris family had bought a house abroad for Richie's job transfer, his salary should have been high, and their quality of life should have improved. Yet, it worsened.

Lenora guessed that Richie never had any high-paying job abroad and relied entirely on some illicit fortune provided by someone in the background. When that money was exhausted, their living standards naturally fell.

After returning to the country, Richie wanted to re-enter the renovation business but lacked both connections and funds. Driven by a need to make money, he used substandard materials and embezzled part of the owners' materials budget.

However, Lenora's goal was to help Connor solve this issue and earn his trust, not to expose Richie just yet.

She'd let him keep pretending to be unaware for now. First, she'd pull out the supplier behind the defective materials as leaving them around would only bring harm to others.

Lenora sent the electronic versions of both reports to Connor: The test results are out. The materials are substandard. Mr. Morris was likely deceived by the supplier.

Connor must have been quite shocked to see the reports.

The chat interface showed "typing" from his side for several moments before he finally replied a few minutes later: Understood. I'll explain everything to my dad, then report the supplier to the relevant authorities and demand compensation. Lenora replied: Do you want me to find you a lawyer?

Connor: Yes, please. My dad and I aren't familiar with the market here, and we're getting taken advantage of by the supplier. Thanks, Ms. Wilkin. If it weren't for you, I'd probably still be hitting a wall right now.

Lenora: You're welcome. When are you free over the next two days? Let's set up a meeting with the lawyer and bring the receipts for the materials Mr. Morris purchased.

Connor: How about tonight? I'm off work at five-thirty. Ms. Wilkin, please schedule an appointment with the lawyer.

1/4

Mon,

Chapter 239 The Deception.

Lenora: Got it.

XM40 Botus

Lenora sought out Tristan from the Fuller Group's legal department, who rarely took on private cases. But because it was Lenora asking, he agreed immediately, even going above and beyond. With official test results and purchase proof, this case was relatively straightforward.

However, negotiations over compensation with the supplier could break down, possibly requiring a lawsuit to protect their rights.

Following Tristan's guidance, Connor reported the supplier and sought compensation.

The relevant authorities acted quickly, confiscating the defective materials, ordering the factory to make corrections, and organizing a mediation meeting.

At Golden Phoenix Award Ceremony, Sophia had been busy since afternoon.

The award ceremony would feature several performances interspersed throughout. Sophia was applying makeup to backup dancers in the communal dressing room.

An assistant rushed over. "Sophia."

"Hmm?" Sophia answered while keeping her focus on the dancer's face, her hands moving swiftly with her brush.

"The makeup artist for Mr. Zirk isn't feeling well and went to the hospital. Could you head over right away? He still has a rehearsal coming up and is short on time."

Sophia stood up, packing away her eyeshadow palette and brushes. "Sure, you take over here."

"Got it. You go ahead. Mr. Zirk is in Dressing Room 3."

"Okay."

Sophia gathered her makeup case and headed to Dressing Room 3.

This room was a cut above the communal dressing area, shared between Jonas and another popular actor.

The dressing room door was open. Sophia knocked before stepping inside and walked over to Jonas, who was seated at the mirror.

His assistant immediately handed her a cup of coffee. "Thank you, Ms. Tortell. Cindy suddenly had to go to the hospital with stomach pain."

"Just set it on the table. When is his rehearsal?" Sophia set her makeup case on the vanity in front of the mirror.

"In an hour. Also, here are the signed postcards you asked for," Jonas said, pointing at several postcards on the counter. "Don't forget them."

"Great, thanks." While opening her makeup case and pulling out her usual brushes, Sophia joked, "Thanks again for the other night. Luckily I walked into your private room by mistake. Otherwise, I'd have been so embarrassed." "No problem," Jonas replied with a warm smile.

13:01 Mon, 11 Nov GO.

Chapter 239 The Deception.

"Have you done your skincare routine?"

"Yes, it's done."

36%

SYMO Borus

Sophia took a look at Jonas' complexion and chose a primer from her case. She patted his face lightly, saying, "Jonas, your skin is incredible. I hardly need to apply any makeup."

It was Sophia's first time working with Jonas.

His assistant jumped in, "Right, Ms. Tortell. All the makeup artists who've worked with him say he's the easiest to work with."

Next to them, another makeup artist silently lamented their actor's rough, dull skin.

After applying primer, Sophia gave Jonas a light base layer and started on his eyebrows.

She already had the shape in mind and leaned closer, holding an eyebrow powder palette in one hand and a brush in the other, using the powder to outline a basic shape.

She then set down the powder and picked up a flat-head eyebrow pencil, steadying his head with her free hand. "Hold still."

"Mm."

Sophia began to sketch each individual eyebrow hair carefully, her steady hand creating an incredibly lifelike effect. Each hair seemed vivid and realistic, even the stray ones. Jonas, expressionless, glanced up at her.

With their faces so close, he could see the roots of her eyelashes.

Her skin looked flawless, even up close. Despite wearing makeup, she had no patchiness or flaking, looking far more natural than many other celebrities.

In shows, Jonas often saw celebrities whose skin looked uneven and yellowish under makeup, requiring good lighting and post-production to salvage. Their retouched photos looked unrecognizable, and candid shots were strictly prohibited. Her eyes were crystal clear, intently focused on his eyebrows without a hint of movement. The serious expression on her face was a stark contrast to her usual lively demeanor.

Jonas' assistant showered her with praise, "Ms. Tortell, your eyebrow work is top-notch. They look so real!"

1

After a while, an employee with a staff badge knocked and entered. "Mr. Zirk, are you ready? It's almost time for your rehearsal."

Sophia shook the setting spray in her hand. "Almost done."

After a final spritz of setting spray, she packed up her makeup case. "You're good to go. Time for rehearsal."

Jonas stood up and adjusted his outfit facing the mirror. "I'm leaving."

"Bye."

Jonas left for rehearsal, and Sophia, makeup case in hand, stepped out into the hallway. Suddenly, she

13:01 Mon, 11 Nov GO.

Chapter 239 The Deception

stopped in her tracks.

In the corridor ahead stood a figure, unmistakably familiar.

m

36%

## Stay Away 240

Chapter 240 His Trump Card

Chapter 240 His Trump Card

Zephyr's gaze was intense, his eyes fixated on her, unwavering.

36%

(+10 Волон

Sophia averted her eyes, brushing past him as though nothing had happened, continuing on her way.

As they brushed past each other, Zephyr abruptly caught her wrist, staring at her. "Sophia."

It was Jonas again.

Seeing her laugh and chat so easily with him stirred up an inexplicable bitterness within him, a mix of heaviness and resentment, as though he were drowning in saltwater. There was no longer a place for him at her side.

Sophia stopped, her expression calm. "If you have something to say, wait until this is over. I still have work to do and am very busy."

Zephyr looked at her for a long moment, then released her hand. "Go, then."

By the time the Golden Phoenix Award Ceremony officially started, he went backstage to find her. Sophia had already disappeared without a trace.

His fists clenched as he returned silently to his seat.

The man next to him pointed at Jonas, who was singing on stage. "That's him?"

Zephyr's expression darkened as he gave a slight nod.

The man scrutinized Jonas thoughtfully. "He's a bit like you, actually."

He wasn't referring to Jonas' looks but rather his aura—a fair-skinned, refined elegance that was reminiscent of a scholarly figure from ancient times.

Zephy glared intently at Jonas on stage, his gaze growing colder.

Meanwhile, Richie, as the victim, attended the mediation meeting alongside Connor and Tristan.

Lenora, wary of crossing paths with Richie, opted not to go and advised Connor to avoid mentioning her.

She was at the Children's Palace with Harrietta, painting, when Connor sent her a message-the mediation had failed.

The supplier had refused to meet the compensation terms proposed by the Morris family.

Their options now were to attempt a second mediation or proceed with a lawsuit to await a judge's ruling.

Tristan mentioned that Richie had demanded a full refund of all material costs with tenfold compensation, plus additional fees: lost wages, defamation, emotional distress, and so on, totaling three hundred thousand.

Tristan texted: Richie refuses to budge, and the supplier insists that he knew about the defective materials. They're only willing to refund the material costs plus an additional hundred thousand in damages and won't consider anything else. I doubt further mediation will work, so we may need to go to court.

Lenora: What did Connor think of Richie's terms?

1/4

13:02 Mon, 11 Nov GO.

Chapter 240 His Trump Card

Tristan: Nothing. Richie was the only one talking. Not to sound harsh, but he feels he has the upper hand and is quite arrogant, threatening litigation at every turn.

Lenora wasn't surprised.

Richie, a known swindler, was hardly the paragon of integrity.

Connor, though, had surprised her. She'd expected him to step in, considering the supplier wasn't likely to agree to tenfold compensation plus three hundred thousand in extras, practically treating the supplier as a fool.



If the supplier chose to avoid a lengthy trial, they'd likely try for a private settlement. But an angered supplier in court could easily leave the Morris family without the sum they were after.

If the goal was monetary gain, Richie's approach seemed reckless. With Tristan's expertise, he could secure a fair sum with a more reasonable demand.

Lenora replied: Let them pursue the lawsuit if that's what they want. I'll leave it in your hands, and get whatever compensation you can.

After all, the case had nothing to do with Ultimately, it came down to the Morris family's stance.

Just then, Connor sent another message: Ms. Wilkin, do you know any private detectives?

Lenora: A private detective? Why do you ask?

Connor explained: To be honest, I already anticipated this outcome. Before the mediation, I saw the supplier's representative talking to a man who said that no matter what compensation we demanded, they wouldn't agree, that they'd force us to file a lawsuit, drag out the process through multiple trials and appeals, and delay enforcement for as long as possible, maybe even years.

This tactic meant dragging the process out for years.

Connor's message was unexpected.

To clarify he sent her a recording. Though it only captured the latter part of the conversation, the intent was clear.

No wonder he hadn't stopped Richie. He knew mediation was futile.

Lenora listened carefully, recognizing the voices of both the supplier's representative and the instigator. The instigator's voice was oddly familiar, as if she'd heard it somewhere before.

Yet, she couldn't quite place it.

Lenora: This is strange. You want to investigate that man's identity?

Connor: Actually, I suspect this is linked to the owner too. I think this man is setting us up. If we just sit and wait, they'll drag us through years of litigation. I'm hoping to find some leverage on them. Could it be that Richie truly didn't know about the defective materials and was just being targeted?

Lenora: I don't know any private detectives, but I'll ask around. If I find someone, I'll send you their info.

Connor: Okay. Thanks, Ms. Wilkin.

2/4

13:02 Mon, 11 Nov

Chapter 240 His Trump Card

Lenora then chatted with Gordon, briefing him on the situation and asking him to discreetly investigate the person for Connor.

Gordon didn't respond.

She looked over at Harrietta, happily immersed in her painting, colors smudged across her face, hands, and clothes.

While she waited for Gordon's reply, she casually browsed through her Instagram feed.

Many had updated their Instagram.

She liked what needed to be liked, and commented where a comment was necessary,

She saw that Elijah had posted a video of a cat.

Who knew that a rugged man like Elijah would own a cat?

She clicked on the video, and Elijah's voice rang out. "Come here, kitty."

She froze, her smile vanishing instantly.

This voice...

She continued watching, hearing Elijah's voice coaxing the cat once more.

Lenora's eyes shut tight for a moment as she closed the video abruptly.

Switching back to her chat with Connor, she replayed the recording, listening closely. [SEARCH THE \(f\)indNOVEL.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

D\*mn it, no wonder the voice felt familiar. The instigator is Elijah. Why would Elijah be targeting Connor?

It didn't take much thought to link it to Zachary.

He'd been leaving her alone these past few days, and she'd assumed he'd finally let things go. She hadn't anticipated he was scheming behind her back. Jerk!

Lenora took a deep breath, quelling her urge to lash out.

Thinking it over, she messaged Gordon again: Forget what I said earlier. Please disregard the previous request.

There was no need to investigate further.

Gordon would easily uncover Elijah's identity and his connection to Zachary.

Lenora shut her eyes, then texted Elijah: Mr. Levine, you seem to have a lot of free time lately to play with cats?

Elijah replied: Just killing time. Why do you ask, Ms. Wilkin?

Lenora: Free for lunch today?

A red flag went off in Elijah's mind. You're inviting me to lunch?

Ever since the two parted ways in Nardor, they had not been in touch.

7

13:02 Mon, 11 Nov G

Da Pr

Chapter 240 His Trump Card

Something was amiss if Lenora wanted to buy him lunch.

Lenora: Correct.

Elijah: Why?

Lenora: Because I like you. I said so in Nardor, didn't I/?

Elijah was shocked.

000

.

