

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

Stay Away 311

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Chapter 311 Frustration Over Unfulfilled Potential

Chapter 311 Frustration Over Unfulfilled Potential

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Zachary clenched his fists tightly, his knuckles turning white. Veins popped out on the back of his hand, and a glint of malice flashed in his

He believed Johanne.

eyes.

They grew up together, and nobody understood Johanne better than him. Johanne was mild-mannered, indecisive, and though he had the ambition, he lacked the courage to act. Those actions were definitely influenced by someone behind the scenes, that's the only reason he would have acted that way.

Had it not been for Susanna, the brothers might not have ended up where they were today!

However, the origin of the issue was undeniably linked to Johanne.

Zachary was disappointed that Johanne wasn't living up to his potential.

"Not too long ago, Mallory mentioned she found out you've been in touch with another woman

"It was Susanna," Johanne looked up and said, "Your people were searching for her everywhere, she secretly came to see me, and we had a fight."

The scratches on his neck that Mallory saw were indeed caused by Susanna.

Yet, frustratingly, he couldn't utter a single word. He could only watch her as she painfully struggled, her spirit diminishing and her appearance withering,

To be honest, now that Zachary knew everything, Johanne actually felt a sense of relief.

At last, he no longer needed to be on tenterhooks, living in constant fear and trepidation.

Zachary scoffed. "She caused Grandpa's death, and she even had the audacity to approach you..."

As he spoke, Zachary paused abruptly, as if suddenly recalling something. His pupils contracted sharply. "Grandpa's death...!"

"Yes. Grandpa didn't die because of you, but because of me. I am the one who disappointed him..." Johanne closed his eyes in anguish.

Susanna laid everything bare before Gerald, even shifting the blame for the staged kidnapping and the death of Fernando entirely onto Johanne. Gerald could never have imagined that his eldest grandson, who had always been gentle and humble, was actually involved in taking a life.

The life at stake wasn't just anyone's; it was Lenora's father.

Johanne had once attended his funeral, acting as if nothing was wrong-

This revelation left Gerald deeply devastated, filled with immense disappointment.

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He prided himself on being a champion of justice, and deeply regretted the death of Fernando. He hadn't expected the person responsible for Fernando's demise would be his own grandson. Zachary gritted his teeth, slamming his fist against the wall once more. His knuckles turned bright red, the skin scraped raw,

You really are despicable!"

No wonder

No wonder Gerald's will was so peculiar.

Johanne gazed despondently at the ceiling "Yes, I am despicable! Have you figured out what you're going to do with me?" Zachary looked up at him, unable to hold back as he stepped forward and delivered a swift kick to his leg.

Johanne struggled to his feet, swaying slightly as he began to move away. "If you're still unsure, then I'll head home first."

As he approached the door, Zachary's voice echoed from behind him. "Spend some quality time with your wife at home these days..." Johanne paused. "I know."

Lenora had been waiting in the office until it got dark. Just when she was about to lose her patience, Zachary finally returned.

Seeing him enter, Lenora looked up from her book "I called you, why didn't you answer..."

Before she had even finished speaking, she was left agape in surprise.

The Zachary standing before her now seemed like a completely different person compared to when he had left.

His face bore several bruises, his hair was disheveled, his collar was askew, and his tie hung loosely across his chest. His suit was wrinkled all over, making him look utterly disheveled and far from his usual polished self. "Zachary, d-did you get into a fight?" Lenora instinctively put down the book in her hand and rose from the sofa. *Search the find n0vel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.*

Zachary stood rooted to the spot, his gaze intensely fixed on Lenora. His eyes were a deep abyss, with something stirring within.

Seeing him silent, Lenora took a step forward, tilting her head curiously as she asked, "What's the matter? Why are you staring at me?"

Suddenly, Zachary strode forward without uttering a word. He pulled her into his arms, burying his head in the crook of her neck. His eyes were closed, and his voice was hoarse. "Nora..."

Lenora placed a hand on his shoulder, slightly tilting her head. "Zachary, what's wrong?"

His scorching breath fanned against Lenora's neck, and she fought hard to resist the urge to pull away.

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After a lengthy silence, Zachary took a deep breath, led his eyes, and managed to regain his composure "It's nothing," he said.

He slowly took a step back, releasing Lenora.

Lenora looked up, keenly noticing the heaviness in his heart.

She studied the red swelling and purple bruises on his face up close. "Did you get into a fight?"

"Yes," Zachary responded softly.

Lenora was taken aback. "I'll get the first aid kit, you sit down first!"

The Chairman's office had a spare first-aid kit, which contained some basic medications.

Zachary remained silent, casually draping his trench coat over the back of the sofa before sitting down. Lenora placed the first aid kit on the table, sat down and started rummaging for ointment. As she did so, she asked, "What happened? How did you end up in a fight? Don't you have a driver?"

In other words, who dared to strike Zachary?

Who had the audacity to beat up Zachary like this?

Zachary remained silent.

After not hearing his voice for a long time, Lenora glanced over and opened the ointment, squeezing some onto a cotton swab. "Come here and let me see your face."

He was unwilling to speak, and Lenora did not press further.

The only reason she was willing to help him with the medicine was to show her gratitude. After all, he had negotiated with Susanna on her behalf to give her the upper hand.

Zachary obediently leaned his head toward Lenora. As she pressed the cotton swab against his skin, a soothing sensation spread through him.

Lenora glanced at him. "Does it hurt?"

"All good."²

Zachary gazed deeply at Lenora, his eyes filled with profound affection.

A sudden jolt of nervousness made Lenora's heart skip a beat. The sensation sent a shiver down her spine, forcing her to avert her gaze. As she administered the medicine, she asked, "Are there any injuries apart from your face?" "Yes," Zachary paused for a moment before he spoke.

"Where?"

Instinctively, Lenora sized up Zachary

Zachary took hold of Lenora's soft, delicate hand, pressing it against his own chest. His gaze was fixed on Lenora. "Right here. The wound is right here... only you can heal it."

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Lenora's mouth twitched slightly as she swiftly pulled her hand out of his grasp. "Zachary, have some decency," she said,

Suddenly, Lenora turned and grasped Zachary's hand tightly.

"What's this? Changed your mind?" Zachary raised an eyebrow, a subtle smirk playing on his lips, carrying a hint of an elusive amusement.

"Change my mind, my foot!" Lenora glared at him. "What's the matter with your hand?"

Zachary looked down, noticing that the knuckles on the back of his hand were swollen and red. There were also some areas where the skin had broken and was oozing blood. "It's just a minor injury.

With a soft huff, Lenora returned the ointment back to its place. "A minor injury? Then there's no need for medicine."

"Hey, hey, hey!"

Zachary immediately stopped her, picking up the ointment and placing it back in Lenora's hand. "It's needed."

Lenora rolled her eyes at him, taking his hand with one of hers while gently applying ointment with a cotton swab in the other.

Zachary lifted his gaze, observing Lenora who was fully engrossed with her eyes lowered and brows furrowed. He let his own eyelashes flutter close, a mix of emotions swirling within him. Had he noticed her earlier, cared for her, cherished her, would she have fallen for someone else?

Unfortunately, there were no what-ifs.

He still didn't know how to tell her about her father's situation....

She had always held Johanne in high regard. Learning that her father's death was linked to Johanne would undoubtedly cause her great distress... Zachary let out a soft sigh.

"Done."

Lenora tossed the cotton swab into the trash bin and organized the first-aid kit before turning to Zachary "Can we discuss that matter now?" she asked. Zachary paused for a moment, glancing out the window. "It's getting a bit late, are you hungry? How about we find a restaurant and chat over a meal?" A vein throbbed on Lenora's forehead.

From getting out of the car to arriving at the office, then through the meeting, going out and back again, was now time for dinner.

She seriously doubted that Zachary was intentionally messing with her.

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Chapter 312 Remarry Me

Zachary, you better not be messing with me?

Zachary was laughing when he abruptly stopped, gently touching the injury at the corner of his mouth.

"How could

Lenora couldn't help but let out a laugh.

It was the first time she had seen Zachary in such a disheveled state.

Zachary glanced over.

Lenora quickly wiped the smile from her face and casually mentioned the name of a restaurant. They have private rooms," she added, in case he didn't want to meet anyone

in his current disheveled state. Zachary gave her a knowing look and instructed Miles to make a reservation.

Once they arrived at the private dining room in the restaurant, Lenora ordered a few dishes and handed the menu over to Zachary who was sitting across. "See if there's anything else you'd like to add," she said. Zachary took it from her. "Lamb stew?"

"Mm-hmm." Lenora nodded. "I'll eat it. I'll have the waiter bring it over to me later."

"You like lamb

"Yes."

Lenora had a fondness not only for mutton but also for lamb broth. The rich, creamy broth, paired with the refreshing taste of chopped green onions and cilantro, was simply delectable.

However, Zachary had a distaste for the flavor of lamb. In the past, nothing related to lamb had ever made an appearance in his home.

Zachary paused for a moment.

Many of the dishes he had ordered from the menu were his favorites, or were suitable for his current stomach condition.

She knew his tastes well, yet the dishes she favored that he could accurately order were few and far

between.

Apart from the grilled fish and the Black Forest cake.

Moreover, she no longer fancied Black Forest cake.

They were married for three years, and it was only upon their divorce that he discovered her fondness for

lamb.

From the outset of their marriage, he was never truly present.

Even if she didn't like him, she still treated him with sincerity. 175

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He simply didn't seize the opportunity to be with her

A wave of bittersweet sorrow washed over Zachary as he flipped through the menu "What do you like? Order anything, don't mind me"

Lenora chuckled. "There's so much food I enjoy, I would like to finish in all in enjoy order these for today?"

In reality, everything he enjoyed eating, she also loved

The infatuation of a young girl often comes with a touch of loving everything worse with a chip of her affection.

Whenever they dined at the Fuller residence, she would always subtly nudge which takes sepias Then, after a few minutes, she would casually pick up a morsel of food from the meat and poultry

In the past, she found the usual food to be mundane. But in that moment, it was as if a filter had been applied to her taste buds, and the food suddenly became incredibly delicious Gradually, she found herself falling in love with it. Zachary pursed his lips, handing the menu to the

Once the waiter left, Lenora crossed her legs. "Can we discuss the terms now?"

Zachary leaned back, his eyes relaxed, as he rested against the chair with his arms crossed over his chest "So, you're really that keen to know what leverage Susanna holds?"

"Of course,"

"How about this?" Zachary raised an eyebrow. "If I say. Remarry me, and I'll tell you, what do you think"

Lenora's expression hardened. "Would you consider changing the terms?"

She hadn't expected him to be so direct.

Zachary shook his head. "No, these are my terms. If you don't agree, then there's nothing I can do."

Lenora pursed her lips, her gaze lowered in thought.

To remarry Zachary for the sake of two so-called advantages?

No matter how she looked at it, Zachary had the upper hand.

Although it seemed that Zachary genuinely liked her-after all, he used her leverage to negotiate with Susanna-Lenora felt grateful for his support. However, she had no plans

to remarry him at the moment Seeing her hesitation, Zachary expected it, yet he still felt somewhat disappointed.

However, he wasn't too disappointed about it, as his initial intention was to dissuade her by proposing remarriage.

If she really agreed, he would be in a predicament-he simply couldn't reveal the truth to her, no matter

what.

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"How about it? Have you decided?" Zachary asked again "I'll give you three minutes to think it over. If you don't agree within these three minutes, even if you agree later, the deal will be off"

With surprise, Lenora lifted her gaze, shooting Zachary a glance. "Zachary, did you never intend to tell me from the start?"

"Of course not." Zachary smiled. "Why would you think that? Weren't you able to date Connor for some information before? What's the matter? You can't do it now?"

Lenora's expression stiffened, her eyes flickering as she averted her gaze. "It's not the same," she said.

What's the difference?" Zachary asked earnestly.

Every time he thought about the matter, it made him so furious that it was almost physically painful. Search the findnovel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

With downcast eyes, Lenora nervously pursed her lips. "I was just avenging my father..."

Moreover, to put it bluntly, it was precisely because she had no affection for Connor that she was able to exploit him rationally.

But Zachary was different.

She didn't dare.

She didn't dare to remarry Zachary simply because of what some might call leverage.

"So, you'd dare do anything for the sake of avenging your father? Nora, Fernando's spirit surely wouldn't want to see you like this. I believe, he would rather see you living well." Lenora responded, sounding as meek as a wronged young wife, "Mhm."

"Thankfully, you received the news early and logically ended things with Connor. But, have you ever considered what if things hadn't gone so smoothly?"

"Then I'll come up with something else..."

Lenora's voice gradually faded, cautiously lifting her eyes to meet Zachary's gaze. The last few words she spoke were barely a whisper.

Zachary's face was stern. "Hmm, I remember you mentioning that Connor was handsome, optimist, and ambitious. You said you liked him a lot and asked me to stop bothering you, right?" Lenora's face flushed red, she blinked and scrambled for an explanation. "U. I was... I was just afraid of raising suspicion, so I had to make my act more convincing..."

"You even said you'd use the money I gave you to support him, telling me not to overestimate myself."

Lenora was caught off guard.

At that moment, she desperately wished to bury herself in a hole. "It was all a joke... Just a joke..."

"Heh, you clearly got the news you wanted. On New Year's Eve, I asked you to break up with Connor, but you refused. If I hadn't used both carrot and stick, who knows, you two might still be..."

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Lenora's ears turned red. She dared not look at Zachary, as she tried to defend herself. "No... I was

planning to break up with him, it's just that you arrived unexpectedly..."

"So, you've changed your mind? Lenora, are you deliberately using him to provoke me?"

Lenora abruptly clamped her mouth shut,

She had slipped up.

She shook her head in denial. "No, that's not it..."

She wasn't trying to provoke him with Connor, instead she wanted to use Connor as a shield, to make him back off.

"Heh

Zachary stared at her with a profound intensity.

Lenora kept quiet at that.

She felt a chill run down her spine under the intense gaze.

It was so stifling.

Clearing her throat subtly, Lenora shifted the topic. "The conditions you proposed earlier require careful consideration on my part. Three minutestis just too short..."

"So, have you considered remarrying me?"

"No."

"Why didn't you just reject me then?"

Lenora was at a loss for words.

She let out a soft huff, casting Zachary a sidelong glance. "Forget it. Maybe you and Susanna are conspiring against me, making up this whole thing!"

"Thinking like that works too," he said.

Lenora rolled her eyes, feeling a nagging irritation.

He had absolutely no intention of telling her!

Zachary glanced at her. "Lenora, there are things that are better off unknown to you. I don't want you to write a settlement agreement to Susanna because of this."

He didn't want to let Susanna, the murderer, off the hook without any consequence.

Of course, even if she did write a settlement agreement, it was specifically regarding this incident,

The truth about her father's affairs would soon be revealed, and by then, Susanna wouldn't be able to escape.

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Chapter 212 Remy Mc

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Chapter 313 Do You Still Love Me

Chapter 313 Do You Still Love Me

At that moment, the waiter knocked and entered, serving the dishes one after another.

Zachary picked up his fork, shifting the conversation. Let's eat," he said.

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The enticing aroma filled the room, with the lamb stew placed on Lenora's side. Its scent subtly mingled with everything else, not particularly standing out.

When Zachary saw Lenora repeatedly reaching for the lamb stew, he curiously asked, "Is it really that delicious?"

"Do you want to give it a try?"

Zachary then reached out with his fork and picked up a piece..

As soon as it neared his mouth, a strong scent of mutton wafted through.

He forced himself to take a bite, chewing stiffly. He closed his eyes for a moment, then swallowed.

"How is it?"

Judging by his expression, Lenora didn't hold much hope.

"Not bad." Zachary said with a poker face,

"If you don't like it, don't force yourself," Lenora said.

Yet, unbeknownst to her, her words had somehow struck a sensitive chord within Zachary

After finishing one piece, he picked up another.

Halfway through her meal, Lenora paused, pursed her lips, and glanced at Zachary, "Zachary," she began.

"Yes?" Zachary looked up.

"Thank you," Lenora said sincerely.

"What are you thanking me for?"

"Even though you bypassed me and dealt directly with Susanna, depriving me of my right to know, I still want to thank you..."

Zachary paused, lowering his gaze.

He concealed her origins for her own good, but when it came to the matter of her having given birth, he kept it a secret due to his own selfish motives.

He feared she would remember, worried that the child belonged to the man she loved, and dreaded the thought of her leaving.

It would be best if this matter remained a secret for a lifetime.

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Chapter 313 Do You Still Love Me

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Otherwise, he couldn't shake the anxiety that she might blame him for allowing her child to remain lost, with no knowledge of their whereabouts, Let's discuss it when she truly finds out.

"No problem." Zachary shifted the topic. "Didn't you just mention earlier that this might not be true? Now you believe it?"

"Can I not do that?"

Noticing the nuances in her expressions, Zachary smiled and replied, "All right."

She was the type who often said one thing but meant another.

Deep down, she had believed him long ago, genuinely touched by his words. Yet, she feigned disbelief, trying to play him for a fool. Fortunately, he understood her well enough not to be deceived.

After dinner, the driver took the two of them home.

First, Lenora was dropped off. As they arrived at the entrance of the residential area, she got out of the car and bid farewell to Zachary, Zachary reminded, "I'll pick you up tomorrow morning to drop off Hattie at school"

"All right."

When Lenora returned home, she found Sophia lounging on the sofa, a face mask applied as she scrolled through her phone. When Lenora left in the morning, Sophia knew she had arranged to meet with Ezekiel.

Lenora chuckled. "No, I got held up with something else."

Sophia let out a sigh, complaining. "Had I known it would be like this today, I would planned to sleep all day, but that didn't happen." "What's going on?"

Sophia pointed upstairs. "The renovation, it only started today."

Lenora raised an eyebrow, "Is there someone upstairs?"

"Must be, the renovation noise is giving me a headache

...gone out too. I

"It should get better after a while. If it really doesn't, you could always go back and stay at home for a few days"

Sigh...

After a brief chat with Sophia, Lenora decided to do some yoga. Once the session was over, she took a bath, leaving her body feeling completely relaxed. She then laid down on her bed, played with her phone for a while, and eventually drifted off to sleep.

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Chapter 313 Do You Still Love Me

She closed her eyes, letting her mind drift into emptiness.

For some reason, sleep eluded her that night.

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Susanna's words from that afternoon still haunted her. With Zachary protecting you, of course you can do as you please...

Susanna's words seemed to suggest that Zachary was quite fond of her.

Looking at the facts, it was clear that Zachary had indeed made a deal with Susanna for her sake, forsaking his vengeance for Gerald.

He had also stepped in because he didn't want her to be Susanna's assistant and be bullied by Susanna. So, he had sought out Susanna for another round of negotiation Lenora rolled over, letting out a sigh.

She recalled the time right after her divorce when she was traveling abroad. Zachary had followed her throughout the journey, offering his assistance on numerous occasions...

Perhaps, what Zachary had been saying all along was true, he was fond of her.

Lenora felt a wave of melancholy, reassurance, and complexity in her heart.

After years of unrequited love, there was finally a response.

However, it was too late, they were already divorced....

Zachary had always wanted to remarry her.

Lenora recalled the question Sophia had asked her at the party that day-did she still love Zachary?

Does she?

Lenora opened her eyes, staring at the ceiling, unable to respond.

Having been divorced for so long, she still couldn't firmly utter those two words, in reality, the answer was already there.

In truth, she still had feelings for Zachary

It was precisely because of her affection for him that she couldn't bring herself to accept his aid without a pang of guilt. She didn't want him to think less of her, nor did she want to feel inferior in his presence. However, this affection was no longer as pure as it had been during their teens or early twenties.

In the past, Zachary was the anchor of her emotions, with her studies and work all aimed at keeping pace with him.

But now, loving him was just a part of life, something that could be there or not. She had other things to

1. do.

As for remarrying, she didn't have any plans for that at the moment.

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Chapter 218 Do You Still Love Me

Let's just go with the fine, I pur

Lenora turned over, closing her eyes, and forced hers to fall atorg

On the morning of the seventeenth day of the fire mh, Zahary's driver arrived at Lenor's residence at seven thirty

by

Lenora opened the back door of the car. Marietta was sy shifting her schoolbag to the middle "Aunt Lenora, hop in quickly she urged

Zachary sat on the other ude, with a laptop resting on his legs, seemingly engrossed in some work He looked up at Lenora when he heard the door open

Lenora got into the car and closed the door. "Hattie

"Are you nervous for your first day of school in facaster

"No!" Harietta said, tilting her face up.

"That's good. Once you're at school, get along well with your classmates. If anything comes up, don't hesitate to call Uncle Zachary or me, Lenora advised.

"I understand, Aunt Lenora.

"Did you bring everything?" Lenora glanced at her small backpack

Zachary glanced up at Lenora, a trace of melancholy flashing in his eyes.

The way she was showing concern for Harietta now seemed somewhat familiar.

It was so much like the time before he left on a business trip, when she helped him pack his luggage. She would repeatedly check and remind him of things, always hoping for his early return

He indeed returned on time, but with Susanna by his side.

At that time, she had just found out she was pregnant. He couldn't imagine how distressed she must have felt.

Harietta unzipped her backpack for Lenora to see.

Inside, apart from stationery, there were also quite a few snacks.

Harietta blinked and chuckled. "Aunt Lenora, don't get the wrong idea, I was planning on sharing these with my classmates. "Such a good girl for sharing your snacks."

Zachary reined in his emotions and said, "It's okay to share, but don't let yourself be taken advantage of understand? Hattie." "Right, I understand." Harietta nodded.

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She had no intention of playing the fool.

In the midst of their conversation, they arrived at the kindergarten at seven fifty.

The two of them escorted Harietta inside together.

Class was about to begin. In the preschool classroom, the children had already taken their seats.

Upon seeing them approach, the teacher greeted them and pointed to an empty spot in the middle by the window. "Let's have Harrietta sit there for now, and if its not suitable, we can make adjustments." "All right," Zachary responded.

Well, Harrietta, shall we go in?"

"Okay," Harrietta responded. She turned and waved at Zachary and Lenora. "Goodbye, Uncle Zachary, Aunt Lenora!"

"Goodbye, Hattie, I will come pick you up tonight!"

"Kiss..

Harrietta, carrying a small backpack, walked into the classroom. She briefly introduced herself to the class before taking a seat at her desk.

The other children found Harrietta, the now transfer student, to be quite fascinating and they would always watch her.

Lenora and Zachary didn't leave immediately. Instead, they observed from outside the window for an entire class. Seeing that Harrietta was adapting well, they finally decided to depart together.

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Chapter

Chapter 314 Filming Advice

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Tom Cation, Interior bound's estan thrones something to disons with you for your te

Taken aback Longraded. What does Director on peed from mer

Creed, "I had in explain over the heartbeat an jose with your part in the bim. If you have tw could you please come to the st

After a moment of thought, Lenore answered, "All night, I'm on my way ne

She had filed a few scenes on weer wls.

After the film crew had learned why the police took Sunna away, they realized that Susanna was beyond help derided to replace her

They're probably outing a new candidate for the role. Perhaps the scenes that I shot aren't needed anymore

Le made a um at the intersection ahead, heading toward the film set.

On the film set, the crew stepped aside, leaving the actors in the camera frame. Tyler sat sternly behind the monitor, his gaze fixed on the screen.

An actor broke character and laughed, causing the scene to be reshot twice.

Lenora found a spot next to the crew to watch.

Tyler would step in during the filming to demonstrate if the actor's portrayal or expressions were off.

Once the entire scene was shot, the actors took a break. Some held their scripts, prepping for the next scene, while others went to the changing room. The crew was busy tidying up the set and organizing the props.

Tyler sat in front of the monitor, review

the scene they had just shot.

Quietly, Lenora moved behind Tyler, her gaze falling upon the monitor.

Hearing the shuffling behind him, Tyler looked over his shoulder and spotted Lenora, "You're here."

III

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Chapter 314 Filming Advice

Lenora chuckled. "You were looking for me, Director Stone?"

"Lenora, what do you think of this scene?" Tyler pointed at the monitor "Something feels off to me."

"I don't know much about this-

a sense of unease in his voice

"Don't be modest, you've overseen quite a number of advertisements before. I heard you've been learning photography recently?"

Even though the content was different, the way a co
similar.

was expressed through the camera's lens was

Tyler had specifically taken the time to learn Lenora's career history and review the projects that she had been a part of and found himself in admiration of her. "I'm still a novice-

"Hey, don't be so hard on yourself. I've seen your work and they're quite good. Why else would I be asking you?"

Seeing Tyler was sincerely asking for her opinion, Lenora said, "I'll speak my mind then, Director Stone Please don't laugh at me if I say something wrong

So, this is the reason Director Stone is looking for me? Is he unsatisfied with the assistant directors opinions?

1

"No worries, go ahead and speak freely," he reassured.

Lenora's gaze fell onto the monitor. She rewinded the scene a bit and drew circles around a figure on the screen with the mouse cursor. "Here, this young priest's posture isn't right. When he stops running, there should be fatigue in his forward-leaning upper body, but his stance during his abrupt stop suggested foot had lifted just in time to hold steady. His upper body should be leaning back, indicating the inertia Also here, from what I understand, this elder is a dominant character who likes to control everything. The shot of him sitting and looking down weakens his personality traits. An upward angle might work better here...

Lenora pointed out a few areas she felt weren't quite right. "Director Stone, I apologize if my comments seem blunt."

As Tyler listened, he nodded along, his hand on his chin in thought. He cast an approving glance at Leon and said, "I think you're quite right. It's all about the details."

After he finished speaking, he picked up the loudspeaker and shouted, "Don't touch the set. Let's redo the previous scene one more time!"

The crew paused for a moment, then rearranged the props back to their original positions while the assistants went to call the actors.

"Give me a second," Tyler said, setting down his megaphone and heading outside. He gathered the actors and the cameraman together to discuss the scene. Once the discussion ended, they resumed filming.

Having performed it once already, the actors were well-rehearsed, executing the scene flawlessly in a

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single take.

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Tyler returned to the monitor, replaying the scene from earlier once again. He gently nodded. "Good, this feels much better now."

With a smile, Lenora asked, "Director Stone, is there anything else you need?"

She was thinking of leaving if there was nothing else.

Tyler looked up and chuckled. "There is. Let's head over there and have a chat."

"Okay," Lenora responded, though she felt somewhat surprised inside.

What else is there? Maybe they're going to cut my scenes.

Lenora settled down across from Tyler, as the assistant served them both a glass of water.

She gestured for the assistant to place it on the table, then with a smile, she said, "Director Stone, is there something you need? Feel free to speak."

With a chuckle, Tyler said, "Then, I'll just get straight to the point."

Sure."

"Ms. Wilkin, I hope you can continue with Melody's role." ""Sure-Wait!"

Bewildered, Lenora stared at Tyler. Have I misheard him?

"Aren't you cutting my scenes?"

She was already prepared to have her scenes cut. After all, she never liked being under the spotlight. "Who said anything about cutting your scenes? Did Colton's message

cause a misunderstanding?" "No... he didn't say anything. It was all in my head. Wasn't the film crew recruiting an actress for Melody?" Tyler interlaced his fingers, saying, "I have indeed considered recruiting new actors, but as you know, filming requires scheduling. Many actors' schedules are jam-packed, so there aren't many who can film immediately. Also, I wasn't quite satisfied with the actors with available schedules. After much consideration, I thought it might be better if you give it a try."

Lenora immediately waved her hands. "I can't, Director Stone, I can't act. My acting might work as a stunt double where my face isn't shown, but I really can't handle a serious role."

"Don't be quick to refuse," he advised. "How do you know you can't if you've never tried?"

"I really can't do it!"

"I've seen your work. The actors' emotional portrayals are incredibly immersive. I'm sure you deserve credit for that."

"All the credit goes to the director. It has nothing to do with me."

3/4

Chapter 314 Filming Advice

"All right, I'll just come right out and say it. The other works of the directors you've collaborated with are quite average"

Lenora didn't know what to say

The corner of her mouth twitched slightly. "Director None, you flatter me."

"Everything I said was the truth"

Seeing Lenora's resistance, Tyler begin to have a serious heart-to-heart talk with her. "Lenora, are you unwilling to be an actress?" [SEARCH THE website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

Lenora hesitated for a moment before nodding. "I don't like being the center of attention, with reporters and netizens watching my every move."

Tyler began to persuade. "Honestly, your worries are somewhat unnecessary. This is the least of your concerns, the team will handle such matters well. Do you know what the paparazzi's goal is? Isn't it just to make money? Whose money they make doesn't really matter, right? So, look at the recent celebrities whose reputations have collapsed, which one of them was exposed by the paparazzi? They were all reported by someone

else. So you see, these scandals are known to both the paparazzi and people in the industry, it's just a tacit understanding. No one wants to offend others. As long as you abide by the law, what can the paparazzi or the netizens do to you? If they try to smear you, it's just rage."

Lenora always felt that something was off, but she couldn't quite put her finger on it. "But..."

Tyler suggested, "How about this? Try acting a scene first. If it doesn't work out, I won't force you

After a moment of hesitation, Lenora said, "Okay."

Stay Away 315

Chapter 315 A Born Star

Chapter 315 A Born Star

#10 Free Coins

"All right," Tyler said, beaming as he rose to his feet. He quickly fetched a script, flipping through it until he found a scene for Melody. "Here, take a look at this, he said.

Lenora took it, her gaze fell on the script, and she began to read it earnestly.

This scene took place toward the end of the story. Melody, the female lead, was critically injured by the male protagonist. On the brink of death, she engaged in a conversation with him, which revealed the origins of her character.

The conversation came to an end, and Melody closed her eyes, reminiscing about the past.

Melody had a tragic experience during her childhood.

Born to a human and a fox, she entered the world in human form but with fox ears. Lost among humans. she was scorned and driven away by the villagers, regarded as a monster. Wandering alone until she was about four or five years old, she was finally taken in by a kind-hearted old man.

The old man's household was impoverished and Melody was frail and skinny. She was often bullied and ridiculed by her peers, with no one willing to befriend her.

After she was once bullied, she ran off to the edge of the pond, crying in frustration and sadness all by herself.

A girl of about the same age from the same village approached her.

When she was being bullied by other children, the little girl didn't join in. Instead, she always watched from a distance.

The little girl approached her, offering her a piece of candy. Melody was taken aback and grateful. From that moment on, the little girl held a special place in her heart.

One day, a formidable assassin organization from the cultivation world suddenly descended, annihilating all the villagers. They took away all the children, including Melody, and during the journey, they killed a few disobedient kids. This terrified all the children, leaving them as scared as quails.

As they passed by a certain location, the individuals clad in black took a break within the woods. Melody and her companions found themselves bound together, encircled by trees.

Suddenly, her fox-like ears twitched, keenly picking up on the distant sound of footsteps. She was born with heightened senses, able to hear and see far beyond the capabilities of an average person. Melody suggested she needed to use the restroom.

-If it were any other child, the assassins might have grown impatient, but Melody was different.

When the leader of the assassins first encountered Melody, he immediately recognized her potential. He was determined to take her back and nurture her growth.

The assassins were rather tolerant toward Melody, they untied the ropes that bound her and escorted her to relieve herself nearby.

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Chapter 315 A Born Star

While taking a quick break, Melody encountered a self-proclaimed righteous person, a disciple from a particular sect who had come down from the mountains to undergo training.

Upon hearing the situation, the righteous individual planned to take Melody away. He was alone and couldn't confront the assassins head-on, he needed to reach out to his mentor for backup.

Melody declined, expressing her wish for the righteous ones to take the little girl away first, while she chose to stay with the assassin.

She was useful to the assassins, making her relatively safer than the other children if she stayed.

If he couldn't make it in time and the assassins left, she could also devise a way to leave markers along their path,

After some consideration, the man agreed.

After Melody left, it was unclear what tactics she employed, but not much time had passed before the little girl emerged.

The man had taken the little girl away. By the time he and his fellow apprentices arrived, there was no trace of the assassins or the children in the forest.

They searched around but didn't find any signs or marks.

Twenty years later, the demoness, Melody, mysteriously emerged.

She was ruthless and brutal, killing people with ease. Often, she found herself at odds with righteous characters.

Certain experiences from Melody's childhood did bear some resemblance to Lenora's.

The scene Lenora was set to perform was the dialogue between Melody and the male lead just before her death.

"Director Stone, I'm ready to begin. Let's give it a try."

"All right, you may begin." Tyler sat up straight, brimming with joy.

Lenora did not respond.

Summoning all her strength, Melody propped herself up and looked up at the man. "What is good? What is evil? We both commit the same acts of violence, so why are you considered honorable and righteous. while we are deemed deceitful and wicked, beyond redemption? Some people, they're born without the luxury of choosing between good and evil. Take me for example, I was raised in the shadows since childhood, trained in martial arts, killing people. I had no power to resist, it was just a part of life... I never desired to kill, I just wanted to survive... If back then, I had waited for the master to return and became his disciple, would you have fallen for me?"

Before the onset of wickedness, when she still had a choice, she was once kind-hearted.

Lenora opened her eyes, took a moment to collect herself, then rose from the ground. "Tyler, you see? I'm simply not cut out for acting," she said.

2/4 It must be said, the character design of Melody was incredibly three-dimensional. There was goodness in

Chapter 315 A Born Star

her malevolence, and vice versa. Despite being the antagonist, the audience wouldn't hate her.

Surprised yet delighted, Tyler looked at Lenora. "Inappropriate? Not at all! You're the spitting image of Melody herself!"

"No, Director Stone, please don't praise me insincerely

"Am I really that kind of person? Everything I've said is true. Oh, Lenora, I've really found the right person in you. You're a natural-born actor. If you don't pursue this path, it would truly be a waste of your talent.

"Heh heh..." Lenora forced a smile. "Director Stone, what talent do I have"

"Don't be so modest. Even when you were just a stand-in. I knew you had potential. You were new to the industry, yet you made fewer mistakes than those who'd been acting for years

"No, it's not..."

Lenora found herself swayed by Tyler's words.

Tyler seized the moment. "Lenora, I'm really struggling to find an actor, and you're just perfect for the role. How about giving it a try? Think about it, Susanna's mishap has something to do with you, doesn't it? You stepping in for her role, isn't it just right?" What's so right about this?

Lenora hesitated. "I'm sorry. Director Stone, may I take some time to think about it?"

"Absolutely, absolutely! You can take a couple of days to think it over. Coincidentally, Melody's scenes aren't scheduled for the next two days."

Lenora-kept quiet at that

Judging from Tyler's demeanor, it seemed as if he was certain she would agree after giving it some thought

When Lenora returned home, there was a renovation going on upstairs.

She prepared lunch and took it to Harrietta

While taking the elevator. Lenora ran into a renovation worker from an upper floor.

She casually asked a couple of questions, to which the renovation guy replied, "It's already well-furnished. we're just making a few tweaks here and there. It won't take more than a few days to finish."

Upon hearing this, Lenora was quite pleased.

By the end of the morning. Harrietta had gotten along quite well with her classmates.

Lenora sat with her on the edge of the flower bed, while Harrietta was narrating everything that had happened at the kindergarten that morning, all the while nibbling on her food.

Once she finished eating. Lenora tidied up the lunch box and handed her another one. Inside were a few freshly baked doughnuts she had made at noon. "You should get back to class soon. I'll pick you up after school," she said.

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Chapter 315 A Born Star

"All right

+10 Free Coins

When Harrietta returned to the classroom, her deskmate glanced outside a couple of times, curiosity piqued. He then asked, "Harrietta, was that your mother who delivered your lunch?"

Harrietta paused, glanced out the window hesitantly, then gave a nod

His desk mate complimented with a smile, "Your mommy is truly beautiful!"

Harrietta took out her lunchbox and shared the doughnuts with her desk mate and the other classmates.

Her desk-mate took a bite of the doughnut. "Did your mom make this herself? It's delicious! Unlike my mom, even a dog wouldn't eat her cooking."

A surge of pride welled up in Harrietta's heart. She puffed out her little chest and declared, "Of course, my mommy is incredibly amazing!TM

"What does your mommy do for a living? Doesn't she have to work?"

"Mmm... My mommy is a photographer, she doesn't work a regular schedule. She once took a series of photos of me and posted them online, and someone reached out to her, they wanted me to be a child model Harrietta said with a sense of pride. The first time she uttered the word "mommy", it felt a bit awkward for her. But as time went on, she became quite comfortable using it.

"Your mommy is really something else, isn't she? So wonderful."

Stay Away 316

Chapter 316 Bring Out The Best Actress

Chapter 316 Bring Out The Best Actress

+10 Free Cons

At half past five in the afternoon, Lenora arrived punctually at the kindergarten entrance, waiting patiently.

Led by their teacher, the children filed out of the main gate in an orderly line.

Rows upon rows of similarly sized kids were lined up, causing Lenora confusion.

Upon seeing Lenora, Harrietta's face lit up with happiness and she was about to call out to her. However, something crossed her mind and she promptly closed her mouth.

She gave a quick word to her teacher before briskly jogging toward Lenora.

Only then did Lenora notice her, she moved forward. "Hattic."

Upon reaching Lenora, Harrietta turned to glance at her classmates before saying. "Aunt Lenora, let's go home."

"Sure." Lenora took off the small backpack from her back and carried it, leading her by her chubby little hand toward the car. "Hattie, ho

did you find your day at kindergarten today?"

"It wasn't too bad. My classmates were all quite friendly. It's just that the teacher was overly attentive to me. as though I didn't know how to do anything.

The teacher was aware of Harrietta's extraordinary family background, and the fact that she had just transferred from abroad. Fearing that she might have difficulty adjusting, the teacher couldn't help but give her extra attention

"All right, our Hattie is clever. Give it a week, okay? After a week, I'll discuss it with your teacher. Hattie, if you have any concerns, you can also speak directly to your teacher. Let them understand you better."

Being constantly under the teacher's scrutiny wasn't really that great either.

But Harrietta had only been here for a day. After all, she was just a child and still needed a teacher to keep an eye on her. Once she became familiar with all areas of the kindergarten, she could then be treated like the other students. "Harrietta!" A childish voice echoed from behind.

Harrietta had good memory. She could immediately tell, that it was unmistakably the voice of her desk

mate

She pretended not to hear, saying, "Sure, Aunt Lenora, your donuts are really delicious. My classmates all love them!TM

"That's good to hear." Lenora glanced back. "Hattie, I think I heard someone calling for you just now?"

Harrietta lifted her face, blinked her big eyes, and asked, "Really?"

"Perhaps I heard it wrong."

In the midst of their conversation, the two had already reached the car.

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Chapter 316 Bring Out The Best Actress

Lenora opened the back door of the car, and Harrietta hummed as she climbed in.

After escorting her back to Galaxy Bay, Lenora returned home.

+10 Free Coins

On the matter of whether or not to take on the role of Melody, Lenora sought advice from Sophia.

Upon hearing this, Sophia was thrilled and said, "I'm all for it! Nora, show some spirit, bring home the Best Actress award!"

"Things aren't even set in stone yet and you're thinking about being the best actress already?"

"Shouldn't we set a goal first? It's all right if you don't aim for the Best Actress award. There's no harm in giving it a try, consider it as having some fun. After all, you're the lead."

After some thought, Lenora said, "Let me mull it over a bit more."

Before she could make heads or tails of the situation, she received news from Ezekiel. He informed Lenora that Gaston had already entered the country and was handed over to the Yarwood police. They were preparing to transfer him to Jacaster. Upon hearing this news, Lenora was overcome with joy.

Lenora responded on WhatsApp: Thank you so much, Ezekiel. I really don't know how to express my gratitude.

Aside from the time she married Zachary years ago, she had never been this happy.

T

Gaston was handed over to the police by Ezekiel's people, making it difficult for any hidden forces to interfere. Even if there were insiders, they would hesitate to act due to the influence of the Hoffman family.

Ezekiel maintained his previous courteous demeanor. "No need for thanks. I believe Gaston will reach Jacaster in a day or two. By then, we'll be able to seek justice for Mr. Wilkin."

After two days of anxious anticipation, Lenora finally received a call from Benedict.

The line connected and Lenora courteously exchanged a few words with him. Then, she asked, "Mr. Lawson, has Gaston already arrived in Jacaster?"

Benedict said, "Not yet, he will arrive this afternoon."

"So, you called today..."

"I wanted to let you know, someone has turned themselves in."

Lenora was taken aback.

With a shocked expression, she put down her phone and hastily grabbed her car keys to rush to the precinct.

A few hours before Gaston arrived in Jacaster, someone had turned themselves in?

Undoubtedly, the puppet master behind the scenes had received the news, knowing there was no way out, they intentionally pushed someone forward to take the blame!

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Chapter 316 Bring Out The Best Actress

+10 Free Cons

Upon reaching the police station, Lenora parked her car and swiftly walked into the lobby, heading straight for Benedict's office.

Knock, knock, knock.

The knocking on the door was impatient, urgent. Lenora called out loudly, "Mr. Lawson, are you there? It's me, Lenora." "Come in."

Lenora pushed the door open without hesitation. "Mr. Lawson."

Suddenly, she halted in her tracks, her gaze landing on Zachary who was seated across from Benedict on the couch. She exclaimed in surprise, "Zachary?"

How on earth did he end up here?

Zachary looked up, his expression solemn, and said, "Let's sit down and talk."

Lenora nodded at Benedict, then took a seat next to Zachary. "Mr. Lawson," she began, "you mentioned earlier that someone has confessed. Is that true? Are we certain it's related to the case from years ago?" Benedict nodded, casting a glance at Zachary standing next to her. "We're currently in the midst of the interrogation. We'll know the outcome once it's concluded," he said.

As he spoke, he set down his teacup and rpsse to his feet. "I'll go check out the interrogation room. You guys sit tight here for a bit."

"All right," Lenora said with a slight smile, clutching the strap of her bag tightly.

The truth was soon to be unveiled, finally bringing justice for her father. The director had left the office, casually closing the door behind him.

Lenora relaxed, turning to look at Zachary. "What brings you here?"

Zachary leaned forward, his elbow resting on his knee, his slender fingers interlocked. He stared at the table, not looking at her. "I brought someone to turn themselves in," he said.

Lenora raised an eyebrow, "Was it you who found the person who turned themselves in?"

So, does that mean it wasn't necessarily a pawn pushed forward by the person behind the scenes?

Thank you, Zachary," she said with a smile.

Zachary lowered his head, briefly closing his eyes, his lips pressed tightly together.

He wasn't sure how to tell her that the one who turned himself in was Johanne.

He didn't know how to tell her that her father's death stemmed from his family's actions.

If only Johanne hadn't made that absurd request of Susanna.

If he hadn't let his guard down and accepted Susanna's advances.

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Chapter 316 Bring Out The Best Actress

If he'd been more vigilant, she wouldn't have gotten her hands on the project data.

If he'd chased after her when she ran off `SEARCH the find novel.NET website` to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

So many "ifs-and if just one had turned out differently, her father might still be alive.

They wouldn't have met either.

She would remain the daughter of a journalist. Just like any other girl, she would complete high school and enter college.

Perhaps she wouldn't meet the man she fancied, nor would she give up on photography, Chances were. she might have become a photographer quite early on.

While he would graduate in due course, joining Fuller Group.

Perhaps they would never meet each other.

But, the ifs happened.

Her father had passed away.

They had met.

"Zachary, what's wrong with you?"

Lenora noticed his unusual behavior and slowly let the smile on her face fade away.

It seemed like he was unhappy.

"Nora." Zachary's voice was hoarse as he asked in a whisper, "Do you know who turned themselves in?"

"Who is it?"

Taken aback for a moment, Lenora continued to question along the lines of his inquiry.

Judging by his tone, it seemed like she knew the person who had turned themselves in.

She had never considered this question before. How could she possibly know the person behind her kidnapping?

After a few seconds of silence, Zachary spoke. "It's Johanne."

Lenora also fell silent.

She stared at Zachary in disbelief, raising an eyebrow. Zachary, you're lying to me, aren't you?"

How could it possibly be Johanne?

Zachary straightened up. his deep-set eyes earnestly met Lenora's gaze. With a grave expression, he said, "Nora, I'm not lying to you. The one who turned himself in was Johanne, and I personally brought him in." 4/4 13:09 Wed, Nov

Stay Away 317

Chapter 317 We Were All Deceived

Chapter 317 We Were All Deceived

Lenora gazed into Zachary's eyes for what seemed like a long time.

She finally confirmed that Zachary wasn't deceiving her

With her lips slightly parted, Lenora asked in confusion, "Why Johanne?"

How could it be Johanne?

She felt completely disoriented, as if she had been struck by lightning.

How could Johanne possibly be connected to the kidnapping case and her father's death? 10 Free Go

Gerald had once shared with her that the idea to adopt her was first proposed by Johanne. He had suggested it as a way to express his gratitude for her father's life-saving liver donation. Because of this, she had always held him in high regard.

Suddenly, a thought flashed through her mind. She remembered Connor once mentioned that the person who had sent their family abroad had six fingers on his left hand. Johanne's driver also had six fingers, but she had never connected the dots between them... Seeing Lenora's question, Zachary gave a bitter smile. "Surprised, aren't you? When I first heard the news, I had the same reaction as you."

"What on earth is going on?" Lenora was still utterly confused. "W-Why would he want to kidnap Susanna..."

At that time, Susanna was Zachary's girlfriend and Johanne's sister-in-law, Why would Johanne want to kidnap Susanna?

"Kidnap Susanna?" Zachary chuckled lightly, shaking his head. "We've all been deceived..."

"What does that mean?"

Zachary looked at Lenora with a grave expression. The kidnapping case never existed from the start. It

was all a charade."

Lenora stared at Zachary, momentarily at a loss for words.

The kidnapping case was a hoax?

Then what did her father's death amount to?

"Do you recall what Mallory said on New Year's Eve? She accused him of having another woman. He insisted his relationship with that woman was innocent but he refused to reveal her identity to her."

A chilling thought flashed through Lenora's mind, causing a slight furrow in her brows and a subtle movement of her lips.

"You guessed it."

"Is it Susanna?" A vague understanding dawned upon Lenora that this might just be the answer, but it still

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Chapter 317 We Were All Deceived

felt surreal

"Yes."

unbelievable.

Zachary watched Lenora's expression, giving her time to compose herself.

After a while, he ventured to speak again, gradually revealing everything to Lenora.

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Feeling dejected, Lenora hung her head low. Her eyes were tightly shut, elbows propped on her knees, with her hands buried in her hair.

She held this pose for quite a while.

Zachary did not disturb her.

Watching her inability to accept the situation, something pricked at his heart.

Even he couldn't accept it, let alone Lenora.

Initially, it was believed that the death of her father was caused by the wicked kidnappers and the forces lurking behind them. However, it turned out that the kidnapping was merely a sham, orchestrated by the very individuals involved. Shockingly, her father met his end at the hands of the supposed "victim" he had sought to rescue!

The brother she had revered so much was actually an accomplice in her father's death!

The cause of all this was nothing more than a casual joke made by Johanne!

How ridiculous, it was truly ludicrous!

Even Lenora couldn't help but let out a laugh.....

She and her father had actually stumbled upon such an absurd situation.

Her father had unveiled countless sores hidden beneath the splendid facade, steadfastly standing his ground throughout his life. When his death wasn't linked to the kidnapping case, Lenora even suspected that certain capitalists, believing her father had obstructed their path to wealth, were responsible for his

demise.

Yet the answer was so unexpectedly surprising

Her father didn't perish at the hands of capitalism, but rather, his own benevolence led to his demise.

The person he perceived as a victim was, in reality, a devil!

Perhaps until his last moment, Fernando couldn't comprehend why things had turned out this way....

She really was naive.

Given Gerald's status, how could he possibly lack a liver donor?

It was merely a coincidence at that time. Her father had just donated his body when, unfortunately, Gerald's health was deteriorating and he required an organ transplant.

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Chapter 317 We Were All Deceived

Even if the liver source wasn't from her father, it would be from someone else. There particularly special about it.

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e was nothing

Previously, Gerald had met her father and knew she was the only one left in her family, so his proposal to adopt her seemed reasonable enough. But for Johanne a monetary reward would have sufficed-why go so far as to adopt her? It hinted at guilt....

So, Gerald's passing wasn't due to her relationship with Zachary but rather Johanne's actions. That explained the will: he left so much wealth to her, while Johanne received

unfavorable terms, a clear attempt at making amends. Zachary remained silent, his large hand slowly found its way to her shoulder, patting gently in comfort.

Suddenly, Lenora thought to push his arm away, abruptly standing up and taking a few steps back. With a cold voice, she said, "Don't touch me!" Zachary's hand froze mid-air.

He understood Lenora's emotions at that moment.

Her father's death, at its core, was due to the exploitation of the rift between them as brothers.

He too bore an undeniable responsibility, and was inevitable that she would vent her anger on him.

"Nora, I know you're hurting right now. If you want to hit me or yell at me, I'll take it. Just don't bottle up all your feelings.

A surge of emotions welled up within Lenora. Her fists clenched tightly, she closed her eyes, taking in a deep breath.

She clenched her teeth tightly before managing to utter, "Scram!"

Lenora turned around and left Benedict's office.

"Nora..."

Zachary immediately took large strides to catch up.

Lenora halted, not looking back. "Stop following me, let me be alone for a while."

"All right..."

Zachary remained rooted to the spot, his lips tightly pressed together as he impatiently closed his eyes.

She was undoubtedly harboring intense resentment toward him in her heart....

Previously, he had repeatedly compromised Lenora for the sake of Susanna, which had turned into a joke. Lenora returned to the car, leaning weakly against the seat, her eyes closed.

Upon learning the truth of the matter, her resentment toward Zachary reached its peak.

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Chapter 317 We Were All Deceived

Logically, she knew that Zachary was also one of those who had been deceived.

Yet emotionally, she couldn't help but blame him....

Why did he accept her, even though he clearly didn't have feelings for Susanna?

Why couldn't he see through Susanna's lies and intentions?

Why did he indulge Susanna so much?

The depth of love was matched only by the bitterness of resentment.

All the pent-up frustrations and indignities from her marriage erupted in an instant.

How many times had he chosen to believe Susanna over her?

How many times had he chosen to protect Susanna?

How many times had he broken his promises to her because of Susanna?

How many times had she personally witnessed him being called away by a single phone call from Susanna?

410 Free Coms

She clearly remembered one day when they were being intimate on the bed, Susanna suddenly disappeared. Without a word, he tried to leave. She pleaded with him to stay, only to be met with, "Lenora, why don't you have any empathy?" After all this time, she thought she had long forgotten, but now as she reminisced, it felt as if it was just yesterday.

Due to Susanna's "psychological trauma", Zachary was particularly partial to her.

Now, Zachary revealed to her that he too had been deceived by Susanna.

It was Susanna's staged kidnapping ruse that had deceived him, leading him to tolerate much of Susanna's behavior.

If the kidnapping case was real, he was a man of deep loyalty and affection. If the kidnapping case was fabricated, he was a victim of deceit.

He was so innocent.

In the end, she was the one who got hurt.

Everything was beyond retrieval.

Her father couldn't return, and neither could her child..

Tears welled up like a tidal wave.

After an indeterminate amount of time, the tears on her face had long since dried. Lenora opened her eyes, her face taut, squinting against the harsh light.

At that time, she had absolutely no desire to see Zachary.

4/5

Chapter 217 We Were All Received

Adore scene themagh, nor derided to go Benedit call. She mentioned that the hard to leave due to wwe perinat mamers, and hoped that Benedies rep relay the details of the case cred-help

Benedict responded, expressing his gratinade before hanging up the phone. SEARCH THE (f)indNOVEL.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Benefick the phone away from his ear, turning took at Zachary "She said she left already"

Zachary said, "In that case, I be leaving to

"Take car. Mr. Fuller

"Chief Lawn, hold on

Lenora was driving around the city aimlessly.

She casually glanced around her surroundings, spotting a bar nearby.

Lenora mawed closer, found a parking spot, and parked her car. After getting out, she headed toward the

entrance of the bar

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Chapter 318 So It Really Was Zachary

Chapter 318 So It Really Was Zachary

+10 Free Coins

Tamara stepped out of the jewelry store, catching a glimpse of a familiar figure from the corner of her eye.

When she turned to look, the figure had already vanished from the doorway not too far off.

Tamara glanced up at the sign hanging above the entrance, it was a bar.

Did Lenora go to that bar?

She took a few steps forward, surveying her surroundings, and sure enough, she spotted Lenora's car.

Tamara's eyes flashed as she pulled out her mobile phone and dialed a number.

During the day, the bar was largely deserted.

Several staff members were bustling in and out, carrying boxes. They were busy stocking up on supplies.

The bartender was also busy replenishing the cocktail ingredients on the counter.

Lenora ordered a few bottles of wine and casually selected a seat to settle into. She uncorked a bottle and poured herself a glass of wine, which she promptly tilted back and downed.

The bitter yet spicy liquid slid down her throat, causing her delicate brows to furrow slightly. The suppression and pain in her heart were not diluted in the slightest.

Lenora poured herself a few more drinks.

The image of her father appeared before her eyes, both familiar and distant. Uncontrollably, her eyes filled with bittersweet tears.

At last, she was able to seek justice for her father.

But the truth was nothing like she had imagined.

The towering figure of her father did not perish due to the encirclement of capital, but rather, he was innocently entangled in a conspiracy that had nothing to do with him. He fell victim to the power struggle within the Fuller family, to Susanna's ambition, to a staged kidnapping, and to the very "victim" he had extended his hand to help.

Lenora would have preferred if his father had been taken by some unscrupulous capitalist, rather than his life just fading away to nothing.

She just couldn't find peace in her heart.

Lenora picked up her wine glass, downing several drinks one after the other.

Lenora's gaze wavered, as if Zachary's shadow loomed before her.

She gripped her wine glass, frowning. With a swift wave, she dismissed the shadows- yet she couldn't shake him from her mind.

He was supposed to be quite sharp, wasn't he? So how could he not see through Susanna's lies?

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Chapter 318 So It Really Was Zachary

How could someone like him be deceived by Susanna for years?

Lenora found it pitiful, tragic, yet amusing.

+10 Free Cont

Chairman Zachary of Fuller Group, esteemed for his sharp insight, had actually been led in circles. If word of this got out, it would be nothing short of hilariously shocking

Unsure of how much she had drunk, warmth spread across her cheeks, tinging them a soft pink. Her gaze was hazy and unfocused.

She rarely drank to the point of intoxication, but perhaps today, she sought oblivion in alcohol. Her consciousness quickly began to blur.

Three young men entered through the door, casting their gaze around the bar. The place was eerily vacant, their eyes quickly landing on the spot where Lenora was seated.

The trio exchanged glances before heading directly toward the direction of Lenora.

"Hey gorgeous, why are you drinking alone?" The buzz-cut man took a seat across from Lenora in the booth, a glimmer of astonishment flashing in his eyes as he looked at the slightly tipsy Lenora.

Additionally, two men were positioned around Lenora; one was seated to her right, while the other stood to her left.

Lenora's reaction lagged a beat. She slowly set down her wine glass, her gaze sweeping over the three people before her, a slight frown creasing her brow. "I'm sorry, but I'd like some solitude for a while. Could you please not disturb me?" she asked. Encountering such a situation even in broad daylight, how annoying!

So annoying!

"Hey, if there's anything bothering you, just tell us, we're here to help, right?" The man said, glancing at his two companions.

The other two men chimed in agreement.

"No need, please leave," Lenora said, rubbing her forehead.

"What if we don't leave?" the man suggested, his tone teasingly defiant.

Lenora paused for a moment, steadying herself on the back of the sofa as she wobbled to her feet, intending to leave.

The man on the left blocked her path. "Where are you off to, gorgeous? Let me accompany you."

"Bill, please."

"What's the rush to settle the bill? Stay a bit longer."

Lenora was getting impatient, she raised her voice and called out, "Waiter."

Two attendants had just finished moving boxes, emerging from the warehouse

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Observing the situation, one of the waiters stepped forward, scrutinizing the three men for a moment. "Ma'am, what's the matter?"

"I wanted to settle the bill, but they wouldn't let me leave."

The waiter said, "Gentlemen, could you perhaps make some room? Let's not make things difficult for others..."

"Beat it, this isn't your business!" The buzz-cut man turned around, immediately cutting off the waiter's words with a fierce warning "Buddy, take a chill pill..."

"Who said we're buddies?" the buzz-cut man retorted, "If you know what's good for you, stop meddling in things that don't concern you!" "Sir, if you continue to behave this way, you're not welcome here," warned the waiter.

The buzz-cut man raised an eyebrow, took a step forward, and arrogantly challenged, "What's the matter? You dare to try and kick me out?"

an on the left couldn't help but step forward, pointing at the waiter and demanded, "What's with

attitude toward Tyron? Bring your manager out here now!"

The man on the right also said, "You're new here, aren't you? Have no idea who Tyron is, do you?"

Another waiter stepped in to diffuse the situation.

The bald man and his companion were relentless.

Upon noticing that they had unintentionally made way, Lenora immediately took the opportunity to leave.

Having only taken a couple of steps, the buzz-cut man spun around, abruptly seizing Lenora's wrist. "Hey, gorgeous, don't rush off just yet!"

"Let go!" Lenora struggled with all her might, but she just couldn't break free.

Under the influence of alcohol, her tone carried no intimidation.

"Have a few drinks with me, and I'll let go."

"Keep on dreaming!"

The man with the buzz cut's smile vanished from his face. "Some people just don't appreciate kindness!"

He gave a strong tug.

A wave of dizziness washed over Lenora, leaving her head spinning. She glanced around, realizing she had somehow ended up back in the booth.

The man swiftly poured a glass of wine and assertively placed it in front of Lenora. "Drink it!"

Lenora lifted her gaze to the man, her lips pressed tightly together. She remained silent, refraining from

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drinking the wine.

The atmosphere instantly grew tense..

"What happened?"

Suddenly, a voice echoed from not too far away.

Everyone simultaneously turned to look in the direction of the sound.

The buzz-cut man raised an eyebrow. "Who are you?"

Lenora was momentarily stunned, her eyes lighting up. "Zachary!"

Her disdain for Zachary vanished in an instant, and she felt a surge of relief at his timely arrival.

The buzz-cut man eyed the newcomer, sizing him up with a look that quickly shifted to a sycophantic grin. "Chairman Zachary of Fuller Group? It's an honor to meet you here," he said with a nervous smile

The man didn't bother to confirm his identity; instead, he fixed the man with an icy stare and demanded. "Well, aren't you going to scam?"

The man with the buzz cut's expression shifted, wanting to retort but holding back. "Fine, I'll leave right now. Do as you please, Mr. Fuller," he said.

Upon leaving the bar, the buzz-cut man's companion asked curiously, Tyron, was that really Zachary?

"Looks like it was him," Tyron said.

"I also thought he seemed somewhat similar, but not quite," the companion commented. There appears to have a slight discrepancy with what was reported in the news."

The news must have been doctored, Tyron stated. "The woman is his ex-wife, Lenora. Who else could the man be if not Zachary?"

"Who cares who they are? As long as we got the money, that's all that matters."

As the trio departed, and Lenora breathed a sigh of relief. With a squinted smile, she said, "Zachary, thank goodness you showed up... I'll forgive you, but just for a few minutes."

The man approached, settling across from Lenora with a serious expression. He gazed at her intently "Who am I?"

Lenora paused for a moment, blinked, and said, "Zachary, have you lost your mind?"

Ezekiel kept quiet at that.

It was evident that she was drunk, which was why she mistook him for Zachary

Ezekiel lowered his gaze, a shadow of darkness flickering in the depths of his eyes.

Stay Away 319

Chapter 310 A Mix Of Love And Resentment

Chapter 319 A Mix Of Love And Resentment *TO Free Coins

Once upon a time, when Lenora was studying abroad, he indeed had a soft spot for her. Otherwise, he wouldn't have taken such special care of her

She knew of his passion for photography, and he had noticed her natural flair in the same field. He once suggested that she should consider learning photography, but she declined.

However, for reasons unknown, Lenora had grown distant from him afterward and even moved out of the apartment he had recommended.

Afterward, Lenora returned to her homeland, erasing all his contact information, resulting in a complete loss of communication between the two.

The slight affection he felt for her wasn't enough to compel him to return to his country with her. Gradually, he pushed thoughts of her to the back of his mind.

Until one day, after work, he opened his phone's group that and saw a familiar account. Perhaps it was because her account wasn't used much in recent years, her profile picture and nickname had never changed.

He was actually one of the organizers as well as one of the judges for Smada International Photography, Competition.

Ezekiel hadn't anticipated that he and Lenora would cross paths again due to photography, let alone that Lenora would sign up for his photography class.

It was then that he realized, she had lost her memory, forgetting about the year they spent studying

abroad.

At that time, Ezekiel was somewhat melancholic, suggesting a gathering to seek inspiration, but in reality, he didn't have many thoughts about it.

However, upon discovering that she was the ex-wife of his half-brother, Zachary, who shared the same father but different mothers, his feelings had unconsciously shifted... Ezekiel's gaze fell upon Lenora's face.

Her cheeks were subtly flushed, her eyes moist and misty, with a slight reddening at the corners, exuding a charm that was usually absent.

"Let's go, I'll take you home."

"No, I want to drink more."

Lenora picked up the readily available glass of wine before him and downed it in one go.

Immediately. Ezekiel rose to his feet, gripping her wrist with one hand. He snatched the half-filled wine glass from her grasp. "Stop drinking!"

Lenora glared at him, reaching for the bottle of wine on the table. "I'm going to drink!"

That detestable Zachary!

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She took back the few minutes of forgiveness she had granted him.

Lenora had just taken two sips from the bottle, when Ezekiel snatched it away, setting it far away from her.

"Give it to me!"

Meeting her pleading eyes, filled with an air of accusation, Ezekiel hesitated for a moment. Then, steeling his heart, he said, "You can't drink anymore, I'll take you home."
"No, don't concern yourself with me.

"Don't be stubborn."

"I refuse, Zachary, you're so annoying."

Ezekiel grabbed Lenora's arm, pulling her up.

Lenora's other hand was tightly clutching the table.

With a sense of resignation. Ezekiel let go, "All right, go ahead and drink."

He retrieved the bottle of wine and the glass, setting them down in front of Lenora.

With a hint of suspicion in her gaze, Lenora looked at him, then lifted her wine glass. Slowly, she brought it to her lips.

While sipping, she glanced up at him.

It seemed as if she was waiting to see if he would stop her again.

Ezekiel couldn't help but suppress a chuckle.

The intoxicated Lenora was somewhat different from when she was sober, much more endearing, and significantly more willful.

After finishing half the cup, Lenora let out a long sigh, her head drooping down. She raised her hand to rub her throbbing brow.

Once she was sure he wouldn't interrupt her again, Lenora poured herself another full glass. She savored it slowly, taking one sip after another.

Ezekiel settled himself back down across from her. "Why the drinking? Something bothering you?"

Lenora paused for a moment, a foolish smile graced his lips. She lifted her gaze to him and murmured. "Zachary, don't you know? How could you not know..."

Ezekiel kept quiet.

So, it was related to Zachary

Was she really fond of Zachary?

Not long ago, Zachary was still entangled with Susanna, how could he possibly be worthy of her?

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Chapter 319 A Mix Of Love And Resentment

Ezekiel ran his tongue over his back teeth. "Did I upset you?"

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Lenora leisurely set down her wine glass, her gaze fixed on the tabletop. She remained silent for a long time before she finally murmured, "Zachary, you truly make me feel a mix of love and resentment... As she spoke, her voice quivered slightly, carrying a hint of a sob.

Ezekiel's fingers twitched slightly.

Unbeknownst to her, her eyes had filled with tears. They delicately clung to her lower lashes, shimmering with a clear brilliance.

Her dark eyelashes fluttered momentarily, and a tear dropped suddenly, splashing onto the table.

A sudden pang struck Ezekiel's heart as if out of nowhere.

She was deeply in love with Zachary.

What made Zachary so worthy?

Lenora dabbed at the corner of her eyes, then downed the wine in her glass in one go.

Ezekiel didn't say much more. He watched as she drank some more wine, tipsy enough to slump over the table, yet insisting on continuing to drink.

He took the cup from Lenora's hand, settled the bill, then lifted Lenora up and left the bar. He gently placed her in the backseat of the car.

Lenora was already so drunk that she was unconscious, lying motionlessly on the back seat.

After making a round, Ezekiel climbed into the passenger seat.

"Sir, where are we heading?"

"Hotel," Ezekiel said.

The driver started the car, heading toward the hotel where Ezekiel resided.

Halfway through, Ezekiel's phone began to ring. It was a call from his secretary.

Ezekiel picked up the phone. His secretary's voice came through from the other end, "Sir, Mrs. Hoffman and Ms. Lovestone have arrived in Jacaster. They're currently at the hotel. Mrs. Hoffman wishes to see you" Mrs. Hoffman referred to the second wife of Bertram, who was the biological mother of Donovan and the stepmother of Ezekiel.

"I'll see them tonight."

"Mrs. Hoffman mentioned that she wished to see you right away, she has urgent matters to discuss with you," conveyed the messenger.

Ezekiel paused for a moment, "I'll be there shortly, ask her to wait a bit."

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"All right, by the way, sir, Johanne has turned himself in

Ezekiel glanced back at the peacefully sleeping Lenora "Got it," he said.

Without uttering another word, the secretary hung up the phone.

Ezekiel slipped his phone back into his pocket, idly fiddling with his fingers.

Upon apprehending Gaston, his subordinates immediately conducted an interrogation. Consequently, Ezekiel gained a general understanding of the events from that year

However, Gaston had not yet arrived in Jacaster.

Looking back now, her sadness today must have stemmed from learning the truth through Zachary and Johanne.

Upon reaching the hotel, Ezekiel had someone prepare a new room, where he carried Lenora into.

Just as he was about to lay Lenora on the bed, suddenly, Lenora opened her eyes, Ezekiel was taken aback.

"Ugh-

By the time Ezekiel realized what was happening and let go of Lenora, it was already too late.

Lenora had thrown up, she had vomited quite a bit.

Her clothes, the bed sheets, and even Ezekiel's attire, none of them were spared.

A sour, fotten scent wafted over.

With a grimace, Ezekiel swiftly removed his coat and sweater, flinging them far away.

Upon glancing up, Lenora had already fallen asleep on the bed.

Ezekiel was speechless.

He stepped forward, holding his breath, rolling up his shirt sleeves. Swiftly, he took off his warm down jacket and tossed it into the corner. With the utmost speed, he carried her to his room. He filled a disposable cup with water, calling for Lenora to wake up to rinse her mouth.

After a hasty rinse, Lenora closed her eyes and went back to sleep.

With a helpless smile, Ezekiel set down her water glass. He pulled out his phone and dialed his personal assistant, instructing him to purchase a ladies' down jacket,

Following that, Ezekiel took a quick shower, changed his clothes, and left the house. Before he left, he left a note for Lenora.

After a deep slumber, Lenora didn't wake up until the afternoon.

She opened her eyes, realizing she was in a hotel. Ignoring the throbbing pain in her head, she abruptly sat

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up, hastily checking her clothes.

Aside from the down jacket, everything else was still on her.

"Thank goodness, thank goodness."

Lenora laid back down again, closing her eyes.

She carefully recalled the events. At the bar, she had been harassed by three men. Then it seemed like Zachary had shown up, hadn't he?

"How long do you plan on sleeping?"

Suddenly, a voice echoed from the side.

Upon hearing it, it was immediately clear that the voice didn't belong to Zachary

Startled, Lenora instantly opened his eyes, quickly locating the source of the voice. "Ezekiel? W-What are you doing here?"

With a smile that didn't reach his eyes, Ezekiel gritted his teeth. "This is my hotel room!"

Stay Away 320

Chapter 320 Do Not Disturb

the was, lugnay growned in front of him, seemingly engrossed in work.

Bewildered, Lenor propped her up in sing position, taking a moment to survey her vinto a sitting

Mulike newly decked room, das room bore distinct signs of someone staying in it. Innered, the whed, "How did I nod

up

The cover of Kukus lips twined. How do you think?

for giving it some serious though, we asked, "Was it you who brought me back from the bar?"

Icome Levure

Satan't achary who had come to my rescue back then, but rather, it was Ezekiel? Could it be that I had mistaken their identities because I had a bit too much to drink at the te Roche quirked an eyebrow, not denying anything

Thyla you for helping me out, Exekiel Lenora said with an embarrassed smile. She then tentatively wed, "I had too much to drink I didn't say anything offensive, did 12" For example, calling him Zachary instead.

While mistaking someone for another might not be a big deal, it was rather impolite, especially toward someone like Ezekiel whom she had failed to recognize. Ezekiel smiled. "No, you didn't."

Lenora let out a small sigh of relief. "That's good to hear"

"But you threw up all over me." Ezekiel said immediately after.

"Huh?"

Lenora was utterly dumbfounded.

"Your own coat got smeared with vomit, so I threw it away."

With a sheepish grin, Lenora pulled back the covers and climbed out of the bed. "Sorry... Um, how much did your clothes cost? I'll reimburse you" That's not necessary. My wardrobe can do without it.

For Ezekiel, a piece of clothing really didn't amount to much. After considering it for a moment, Lenora proposed, "How about I treat you to dinner tonight?"

It was only fair to invite Ezekiel for a meal, considering he had helped apprehend Gaston and had come to

her rescue at the bar.

Ezekiel lifted his gaze to look over. "All right."

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He motioned toward the paper bag on the couch and added, "By the way, I had someone buy you a new down jacket. See if it fits? Do you like it?"

"Your judgement is surely impeccable."

"It was the secretary who purchased it."

Lenora felt speechless after realizing she had flattered the wrong person.

She pulled out the down jacket from the paper bag and unfolded it. It was white and cropped.

She unzipped the dress and slipped it on, taking a moment to admire herself in the full-length mirror. "Your secretary has quite the eye for style," she commented. Ezekiel simply kept quiet.

Lenora once again took off the down jacket, headed to the bathroom to wash her face, and dried it with a paper towel.

Her makeup had already worn off. She leaned in closer to the mirror, noticing that the scars on her face were no longer as prominent as they used to be.

She ran her fingers through her hair, subtly using it to shield the side of her face.

Emerging from the bathroom, Lenora's gaze swept across the room. She noticed her phone resting on the bedside table. She walked over, picked it up, and instinctively pressed the power button. Huh? Is the phone's battery dead?

Lenora then held down the power button to start up the device, and saw that the battery was still more than half full.

It seemed as if Ezekiel knew what was on her mind. He said, "Someone kept calling you, so I turned off your phone to avoid disturbing you. I hope you didn't miss out on any important messages." "It's okay"

The flood of incoming call records rushed in.

Lenora was browsing through her phone, dozens of call logs were there, all from Zachary,

He must have been worried because he couldn't reach me. Should I call him back or not?

Lenora was in a dilemma, when Ezekiel closed his laptop, stood up and suggested. "Let's go for dinner."

It was already past four in the afternoon, by the time they reached the restaurant, it would be after five. The timing was just about perfect.

"All right." Lenora responded, slipping into her down jacket, and putting her phone back into her pocket.

The restaurant was chosen by Lenora.

Ezekiel mentioned that he hadn't spent much time in Jacaster and had asked Lenora for some recommendations. As a result, she chose a private restaurant.

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After tasting it, Ezekiel couldn't stop praising the flavor of the food here.

+10 Free Cont

Halfway through the meal, the ringtone of Lenora's phone, which was placed on the table, began to sound.

She picked it up and glanced at it. It was a call from Zachary.

After a moment of hesitation, Lenora declined the call

She still wasn't sure what to tell Zachary

After some thought, Lenora reopened the messaging interface and sent a brief reply to Zachary: I'm safe. Do not disturb.

After sending the message, Lenora placed her phone face down on the table, offering Ezekiel a smile.

A meaningful glint flashed in Ezekiel's eyes as he asked, "Why didn't you answer the call?"

"It wasn't important," Lenora replied nonchalantly.

No sooner had she finished speaking, when her phone rang again.

Upon picking it up, Lenora saw that it was still Zachary

-Why don't you go and answer it? It might be something important," said Ezekiel. "I remember Gaston arrived in Jacaster this afternoon. They might have found out something from the interrogation.

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Recalling the truth she had discovered that morning, Lenora pursed her lips and switched off her phone. "It's okay; there's no need to answer this call.

A glint flashed in Ezekiel's eyes, and a hint of a smile, almost imperceptible, played at the corners of his lips.

After finishing dinner, it was already nearing seven in the evening.

"Let's go. Where do you live? I'll drive you home," said Ezekiel.

Lenora mentioned the name of the residential area.

Ezekiel dropped Lenora off at the entrance of her residential area. As Lenora pushed the car door open, she waved at Ezekiel and said, "Thanks, Ezekiel, Bye!"

"See you next time."

Only after Lenora entered the residential area did Ezekiel drive away.

While powering up her phone, Lenora walked into the lobby of the apartment building.

A string of call logs flooded in once again.

All of those calls were from Zachary.

There was someone waiting in front of the elevator. Lenora glanced up and saw that the up button was illuminated. She lowered her gaze to the screen displaying the numbers, hesitated for a moment, but ultimately decided to dial Zachary's number. 3/5

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Seconds later, the familiar ring of a cell phone echoed, emanating from nearby.

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It took Lenora a couple of seconds to react. When she finally looked up, she met Zachary which startled her.

intense gaze,

"Zachary? W-Why didn't you say anything earlier?"

She had been so engrossed in her phone just now that she simply assumed the person waiting for the elevator nearby was just another resident there.

Zachary held an unfinished cigarette in his hand, his gaze intensely fixed on her. His eyes fell on her upturned cheeks, sketched in the bare light, where a faint scar, contrasting with her skin color, was barely visible.

He remembered she had been wearing makeup when she was at the police station that morning.

And then there was her hair. Once styled neatly into a bun, it was now undone and loose,

The clothes she was wearing had also been changed.

A flicker of pain flashed through Zachary's eyes, which quickly turned ominously dark, filled with a fierce intensity. It was as if he was a trapped beast struggling to break free.

His brows were furrowed deeply, his hanging fists clenched tight, the strain causing his knuckles to pop. He stared at Lenora in silence.

A few seconds later, Zachary moved to the space between the two elevator doors. He extinguished his cigarette on the top of the trash bin with a forceful grind, snuffing out the ember and breaking the cigarette butt. Following his gaze, Lenora noticed, the area was littered with cigarette butts. The ground where he had stood was carpeted with a layer of ash.

herse

A shiver ran through Lenora's entire body, a chill creeping up her spine. It was as if it wasn't the cigarette butt that Zachary had crushed, but her instead.

She unconsciously took a step back, swallowing before she asked, "Zachary, what's wrong with you?"

He's acting so strange today. Is it all because I didn't answer his calls?

Zachary turned around, his gaze fixed intently on Lenora. He advanced toward her, step by step, struggling to contain his urgency. His voice was hoarse as he asked with pauses between each word, "Where did you go today, after you left the police station?" A thick cloud of smoke, laden with an assertive masculine scent, enveloped the area. On instinct, Lenora held her breath. "I just drove around aimlessly."

"And?"

"I had a few drinks at the bar."

"And?"

With a raised eyebrow, Lenora retorted, "I don't see why I should report my activities to you."

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As the words fell, the elevator had also reached the fire floor.

Lenora lifted her foot and moved forward.

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