

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

## **Stay Away 341**

Chapter 341 We Are Kidnapped

Chapter 341 We Are Kidnapped.

"Why would she like to see me?" Lenora slightly furrowed his brows and took a sip of her juice. "I don't have time right now."

The line erupted into chaos for a few seconds before a stern female voice cut through. "Ms. Wilkin, is it? My son had an asthma attack because of you and nearly lost his life. You need to come to the hospital and apologize to him immediately!" The female voice was unfamiliar, distinct from the unreasonable woman she had encountered earlier, yet just as demanding.

Indeed, birds of a feather flock together.

Lenora rubbed her temples in irritation. "What does your son's asthma attack have to do with me? He ran into my daughter and hasn't even apologized yet. Frankly, it's already generous of me not to have taken this matter to the hospital"

The woman sneered. "So, should I thank you for your generosity? From what I know, your daughter just had a minor scrape, yet you've been nitpicking over a child relentlessly. You used the police to intimidate my son, causing his asthma to flare up! And you still have th

"Are you saying I'm not telling the truth? He ran into my daughter. An apology is the least he because he's sick doesn't mean he gets a free pass from Liking responsibility for his actions."

If they apologized early on, she wouldn't hold a grudge or call the police.

can do. Just

"I'm going to ask you one more time: will you apologize or not? Think carefully before you answer. Don't say I didn't give you a chance if something goes wrong in the future."

Lenora abruptly ended the call, setting her phone down on the edge of the table. She was aware that this family had connections, their words thick with veiled threats. But she was not one to be timid or fearful.

Harrietta only caught Lenora's side of the conversation, but she could easily guess what the person on the other end had likely said.

Pouting, she exclaimed, "Aunt Lenora, that's so unfair! have to tell Uncle Zachary about this!"

Lenora chuckled softly. "Hattie, don't let these insignificant people get to you and ruin your good mood."

"You too, Aunt Lenora. Here, have some meat." Harrietta fed Lenora a spoonful of meat.

Thank you, Hattie."

Just as Lenora shifted her focus to the food before her, a message arrived that upset her so much that it stole her appetite,

It was from Benedict, informing her that the case involving Susanna and Gary had been reviewed and transferred to the prosecutor's office, where it was set to proceed with prosecution. Benedict had been closely monitoring the situation. Sanna's appointed attorney had submitted a

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medical report to the court, claiming that Susanna had been suffering from psychological and mental illnesses in recent years.

Plus, the case was an unsuccessful attempt in the first place, leading to a relatively lenient sentence. With this medical report in play, it was enough to spare Susanna from the misfortune of imprisonment. Lenora's chest heaved, her fingers slowly tightening as she felt disgusted.

So it turns out that being ill really can absolve one from the consequences of their actions. I'm so pissed. Am I going to let Susanna escape from the clutches of the law so easily?

After their meal, Lenora took Harrietta to the mall to shop for spring clothes.

Over two hours later, the pair emerged from the elevator, stepping into the first basement level with several shopping bags.

Harrietta was so exhausted that she could barely move

Lenora coaxed, "Hattie, just hold on a little longer. We're almost at the car."

Suddenly, she stopped in her tracks.

A few towering, formidable men appeared before her, their expressions fierce and intimidating.

Even though the weather was still chilly, one of them donned a short-sleeved shirt, revealing a large tattoo on his arm.

The man leading the group fixed his gaze on Lenora and said, "Ms. Wilkin, we would like you to come with us, please."

Harrietta grew alert at that moment, clutching onto Lenora's thigh fearfully. Her eyes, round as saucers, darted nervously between the people in front of her.

Lenora gently patted the girl's shoulder to comfort her lifting her gaze to the few men standing before them. "Who sent you?"

"Ms. Wilkin, are you not aware of who you might have offended?" one of the men said.

Lenora raised an eyebrow, understanding that it was the same group of people earlier that day who sent

these men

They're fast.

"Fine. I'll go with you guys. Let me first put my stuff in the car," she said.

"All right."

Lenora first placed the bag of clothes he was holding into the car, then gently took Harrietta's small hand and led her into the van parked opposite. "Don't be afraid," she reassured the girl.

Harrietta nestled in Lenora's arms, glancing at the fierce-looking men around them. She whispered, "Aunt Lenora, where are they taking us? 2/4

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The young girl's face was pale as she fiddled with her wristwatch.

Uncle Zachary, hurry over. Aunt Lenora and I have been kidnapped.

"Hmm.... the hospital, I suppose." Lenora speculated.

+5 Free Coins

She looked up at the leader of the men in the passenger seat, asking curiously, "From your accents, you guys don't seem to be locals, are you?" The leader stared ahead, acting as though he hadn't heard a thing.

The others, too, kept silent.

Her words fell on deaf ears like a leaf falling gently onto the surface of the lake, causing no ripples at all.

Lenora asked again, "May I ask who sent you? We did have a bit of a disagreement with someone this morning, but I'm still unaware of their identity." Lenora recalled that the police had mentioned the child's name was Donovan or something similar.

Yet, she still received no response.

"How is the kid doing now? Is he okay?"

"Where are you planning to take us? To the hospital?"

Lenora's voice was the only sound in the car.

The van pulled up at the hospital, coming to a halt in front of a particular residential ward.

The burly men got out of the car all at once, leaving the car door wide open. The leader, with a stern expression, commanded, "Get out and come with us."

Lenora was the first to get out of the car, carrying Harrietta in her arms. She followed the leader, making her way up to the fourth floor of the hospital building. They stopped in front of a certain ward.

The leader made a gesture, instructing Lenora to wait at the door before he went in to report, "Ma'am, we've brought her here."

"Let them in. A feminine voice echoed from within the room, closely resembling the one heard over the phone.

Lenora led Harrietta into the ward.

The young boy was lying on the bed, his complexion pale.

Sitting by the bed was a woman whose makeup was impeccably applied. Dressed in a tailored white business suit and towering high heels that added roughly ten centimeters to her height, she radiated an air of privilege and sophistication. Her hair was pulled back neatly, enhancing her elegant and graceful demeanor. She appeared to be around forty years old, but a closer look at her attire-expensive clothing, designer shoes, a luxurious handbag, and fine jewelry- suggested she was a woman who valued upkeep and presentation. This indicated that her true age was likely a bit greater than her youthful appearance suggested.

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The boy was around seven or eight years old, which hinted that she had given birth to him later in life. Considering his asthma condition, it was no surprise that she cherished him so deeply.

As Lenora sized up the woman, the latter was also scrutinizing her in return.

"Are you Lenora! The woman gave Lenora a glance.

"I that obvious!"

A hint of a cold smirk appeared on the woman's face. Still snarky, huh? With that attitude of yours, you're bound to face trouble sooner or later"

"Yosi needn't worry about me." Lenora said with a sarcastic smile.

The woman's gaze fell upon Harrietta, her voice a soft murmur. "Is she your daughter?"

Instinctively, Lenora shielded Harrietta behind her. "Can the crap. What's your purpose for bringing us

here

"Apologize to Donovan," the woman demanded.

Lenora glanced at the boy on the bed. "I can do that, but he needs to apologize to Hattie first"

Had she not been in their territory, she wouldn't have even agreed to apologize.

The woman chuckled. "Looks like you're not aware of your predicament."

She waved her hand, signaling for the men to take action

suddenly, one of the men approached from behind and lifted Harrietta off the ground, his hand

threatening around Harrietta's neck.

Startled, Harrietta let out a cry. Tears filled her eyes, threatening to spill at any moment. "Let her go!" Lenora's expression changed.

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5 Free Coins

"If you apologize sincerely, I will let her go. Otherwise, I can't make any promises. It's unfair that my son is bedridden while your daughter is still full of life, the woman snarled. "A-Are you not afraid Zachary finding out?"

"If he wants revenge, bring it on!" The woman's expression was nonchalant, exuding confidence. It was clear that she wasn't the least bit intimidated by the Fuller family's influence in Jacaster.

She arched her eyebrows playfully, grinning as she asked. "Have you made up your mind?"

Lenora fixed her gaze on the woman. Her fists, hanging by her sides, gradually tightened as she pursed her lips. Slowly, she said, "Fine, I'll apologize."

"I'm sorry." Lenora gazed at the boy on the bed, hanging her head. "I shouldn't have been so relentless and unforgiving. I apologize to you and hope for your swift recovery."

"That's more like it." The woman's face lit up with satisfaction, "Remember, a wise person submits to circumstances. I urge you to keep this in mind and not to constantly show off your abilities, or you'll end up like your father." What a bully! Who does she think she is to mention my father?

Lenora wanted to retaliate, but for Harrietta's sake, she held herself back.

She walked up to the man, took Harrietta from him, and held her close. "We can leave now, right?"

The woman waved her hand dismissively.

Lenora, with Harrietta in her arms, left the ward.

Upon reaching the elevator, Lenora set Harrietta down and leaned over, gazing at her tiny face. "Were you scared just now, Hattie?"

Harrietta shook her head, burying herself into Lenora, embrace. "As long as you're here, I have nothing to fear."

She was aware things turned out this way because of her. Aunt Lenora wanted to stand up for me, that was why she insisted on the boy apologizing, which in turn led to everything after that.

"I'm glad you're okay." Lenora held Harrietta, gently stroking her hair. "Let's go home."

"Okay."

As soon as Lenora led Harrietta out of the hospital, Zachary approached with a few burly bodyguards in black trailing behind him.

Upon seeing them, he strode forward, his expression serious as he scrutinized Lenora and Harrietta. "Nora, are you okay?" "I'm fine."

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Harrietta, stepped forward pitifully. She stretched out her arms toward Zachary, pouting. "Uncle Zachary, you're finally here."

Upon seeing the band-aids on her palms, Zachary felt his heart ache. He lifted her into his arms, cooing in a soft voice, "I'm sorry I'm late, Hattie." Harrietta wrapped her arms around his neck, resting her head on his shoulder.

"Don't be scared." Zachary gently patted Harrietta's shoulder, raising his gaze to look at Lenora. "What did that boy's mother say to you?" Lenora glanced at him. "She didn't say much. She just asked me to apologize to him."

"Do you feel wronged?"

"Hmm?" Lenora raised an eyebrow.

"I can seek justice for you right now."

After he finished speaking, he glanced back at the several bodyguards behind him.

All she had to do was nod, and he would pursue justice for her, regardless of who was upstairs-whether it was Jasmine or Lenora's mother.

Given that Lenora hadn't changed her name and the occasional media coverage, how could Jasmine possibly fail to recognize her? Yet, she still insisted on forcing Lenora to apologize to her son. After abandoning Lenora for over twenty years without a second thought, she Before Lenora could even speak, Harrietta was the first to agree. "Uncle Zachary, let's go take revenge for Aunt Lenora right away!"

Zachary looked at Lenora.

After a moment of thought, Lenora said, "I'm fine, but you should go up there and have that child apologize to Hattie."

That woman adores her son. Forcing her son to apologize will hurt her the most.

"Wait for me in the car."

"All right."

Lenora went to wait in the car, while Zachary, carrying Harrietta, entered the elevator with the bodyguards.

At the entrance of the ward, the leader of the men who kidnapped Lenora and Harrietta earlier and another one of his subordinates stood guard outside.

Upon seeing Zachary approaching with Harrietta, he sensed impending trouble and instantly became

alert.

Ten meters away from the entrance of the ward, Zachary halted his steps. He made a hand gesture and whispered to Harrietta, "Hattie, don't look."

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Harrietta obediently turned her head away.

Behind him, eight bodyguards swiftly lunged forward, promptly subduing the two men.

+5 Free!

Coins

The commotion outside caught Jasmine's attention. "Andy, what's going on?"

The leader named Andy was silenced by the bodyguard who stuffed a rag into his mouth and could only whimper.

Sensing that something was off, Jasmine was just about to head outside and check when suddenly, the door to the ward was pushed open. Zachary, carrying Harrietta, walked in.

Jasmine was taken aback, her brows slightly furrowed as she studied Zachary's face. "Zachary? I didn't expect you to arrive so quickly."

"You flatter me," Zachary said, maintaining his composure. "I came specifically to seek justice for Hattie, who was pushed down the slide in the amusement park. I heard that just now, you had Nora apologize to your child. It's clear that you deeply love your child, and I feel Jasmine's expression shifted slightly. "Donovan didn't mean to do that. From what I can see, Hattie isn't hurt. Besides, Donovan has congenital asthma and just had an attack, so he's physically weak. Why do you need to be so petty?"

Zachary didn't bother to waste his breath on her. Instead, he subtly signaled his bodyguards with a glance.

Two bodyguards immediately approached Donovan's bed.

Immediately, Jasmine stepped in front of the bed, her voice seething with rage. "How dare you, Zachary?" "Why won't I dare?" Zachary raised an eyebrow, instructing the bodyguard to carry on.

Two bodyguards closed in. One pulled Jasmine away, while the other went to grab Donovan.

"Aren't you afraid of making an enemy of the Hoffman family?" the woman asked.

"I'm not afraid," Zachary said.

He had already been at odds with the Hoffman family since Ezekiel started targeting the Fuller family for

no reason.

Donovan, whose face was ashen, curled up in the corner of the bed.

Jasmine's heart ached when she saw Zachary's bodyguard reach out to drag him over. She cried out, "Stop!"

Looking at Zachary, she suppressed the rage within her "You want justice for your daughter, don't you? I'll apologize on behalf of Donovan. Is that enough?"

Zachary paused for a moment, then turned to Harrietta "Hattie, what do you think?"

Harrietta blinked, glanced at Zachary, and turned to look at Donovan, pointing at him with her chubby little finger. "No, he has to apologize." [search the find novel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

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Zachary turned to Jasmine. "Did you hear that? She demands an apology from Donovan."

Jasmine shot Harrietta a frosty glance.

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"Mrs. Hoffman, I hope you realize your current situation. It would be best if you could persuade your son. If not, I'm afraid I'll have to order my men to take action."

Jasmine gritted her teeth, shooting Zachary a resentful glare before she moved to the bedside. She then whispered a few words into Donovan's car.

Cautiously, Donovan looked at Zachary and Harrietta before speaking. "I'm sorry for accidentally bumping into you."

Harrietta pursed her lips. "Fine, I'll forgive you."

Zachary shook his head with a smile. "A situation that could have been resolved with just a few words, yet it had to escalate to this point. Now that it's resolved, I'll stop bothering you. I'll take my leave."

He turned to leave with Harrietta in his arms.

The bodyguards, too, withdrew in an orderly manner.

As she watched their retreating figures, Jasmine's fists clenched tightly, a glimmer of malice flashing in her

eyes.

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## **Stay Away 343**

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Chapter 343 Taking Her Place

As Lenora got into the car, she leaned back in her seat to rest.

+5 Free Coins

She was in a particularly bad mood that day, and it wasn't just because of Donovan and his mother, but

also Susanna.

Susanna was indeed pitiful for suffering from mental and psychological illnesses, yet Lenora found it impossible to muster any sympathy for her.

The mere thought of Susanna possibly evading legal punishment stirred relentless agitation in her heart.

She felt a lump of anger in her chest that she couldn't get rid of

Ding!

The notification sound from WhatsApp chimed.

Snapping out of her annoyance, Lenora picked up her phone and glanced at it.

It was a message from Fiona.

She reminded Lenora that the results of the Smada International Photography Competition were announced that day, asking if she had checked the results yet.

Only then did Lenora remember to go to the official website to check the results.

However, her inbox remained silent. Lenora figured she probably didn't win anything, otherwise, there would have been a notification.

That's okay. It's the participation that counts.

Perhaps it was because she had previously taken an unconventional path, spending less time on formal education, she found herself facing a barrier when compared to professional photographers. Wanting to learn, Lenora meticulously went through each award-winning piece. She diligently analyzed their highlights, seeking to identify her shortcomings.

When she opened the first-prize-winning piece, she was taken aback.

She scrolled to the top of the page to check the name of the winner, then scrolled back down to examine each piece of work. After several back and forths, she finally confirmed a fact Her work had won first prize, but she was not the one who received the award.

Someone had usurped her achievement, taking her place. This kind of situation was all too common in many circles, especially within academia. Lenora never expected to experience it herself, This only deepened Lenora's already gloomy mood, exacerbating her irritation and anger.

At that moment, the rear car door was pulled open.

Zachary first settled Harrietta next to Lenora, then took a seat himself, closing the door behind him.

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"Aunt Lenora, we're back," Harrietta chirped.

Lenora took a deep breath, put away her phone, and turned to them. "Well? Did he apologize? Harrietta nodded, casting an admiring glance at Zachary. "Yes. Unele Zachary's so impressive," Zachary chuckled as he affectionately ruffled Harrietta's hair, stealing a glance at Lenora. Their eyes met, but Lenora quickly looked away, pursing her lips. "What about me?"

"Aunt Lenora, you're amazing, too. You're the best," Harrietta hurriedly said.

"Hmph. You cheeky girl."

Harrietta chuckled softly.

"Mr. Fuller, where shall we head now?" the driver asked as he steered the car out of the hospital.

Zachary glanced at the two beside him before mentioning the name of a restaurant.

5 Free Coins

Lenora asked curiously, "Who are this mother and son? They seemed unfazed upon hearing your name." Zachary glanced at Lenora and hesitated to speak.

To Lenora, Jasmine was now nothing more than a stranger. Do I really need to remind her?

Harrietta replied, "The little boy is named Donovan. Uncle Zachary calls his mother 'Mrs. Hoffman.'"

Lenora raised an eyebrow.

While Eenorah didn't frequently engage with people in high society, she had a fair understanding of it. In the upper echelons of Jacaster's political and business circles, no one bore the surname Hoffman. The accents of those men who took them to the hospital suggested they were from Jeahron.

Indeed, there were nobles in Jeahron with the surname Hoffman-Ezekiel Hoffman being a prime example.

Ezekiel Hoffman, Donovan Hoffman... What a coincidence.

"Could they possibly be related to Ezekiel?"

Zachary's face fell when he heard the name Ezekiel, and he nodded without a word.

Unaware of the change in his emotions, Lenora speculated, "Is Donovan the younger brother of Ezekiel?"

Zachary wore a grim expression, "They share the same father, but have different mothers. Donovan's mother is Ezekiel's stepmother."

"So that's how it is," Lenora said, looking at him with concern. "Will this cause trouble for you?"

Zachary was pleased with how much she cared for him

He flashed her a faint smile. "Don't worry."

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Even without this incident, Ezekiel would not give up on opposing the Fuller family.

Therefore, there was no need for him to show the Hoffman family any mercy. "Good

+5 Free Coins

Harrietta started nodding off in the private room of the restaurant halfway through dinner, eventually falling asleep in Zachary's arms.

Lenora barely ate anything before setting down her fork.

Seeing that, Zachary quietly asked, "Is that all you're going to eat?"

"I'm not hungry."

"Are you feeling down?"

Lenora responded with silence.

"I'm already aware of Susanna's situation. Her medical report was a fabrication," Zachary said.

Lenora had never doubted that because she had placed Susanna in the position of the kidnap victim, believing that Johanne was the real culprit behind the scenes.

Zachary, on the other hand, trusted Johanne, firmly believing that the kidnapping incident was a charade orchestrated by Susanna herself.

The kidnapping case was a sham, and naturally, the medical report was also a fabrication.

As he spoke, Zachary paused for a moment, lifting his gaze to meet Lenora's eyes.

Previously, he had wholeheartedly believed the medical report to be real.

Time and again, he found his heart softening for Susanna, only to hurt Lenora in the process.

Lenora raised an eyebrow, her eyes lighting up. "It was fake? What do you mean?"

"Didn't I tell you before? The kidnapping case was a hoax, so naturally, her emotional trauma was also fabricated."

"Oh..." The light in Lenora's eyes dimmed once again.

So, it's because of that. But was the kidnapping case really a hoax?

She reminisced about the words Tamara had spoken that day at the police station.

In truth, she still harbored some doubts about Zachary helping Johanne to evade blame.

But she dared not show it-fearing that Zachary might once again lose it.

After catching a glimpse of Lenora's doubtful expression, Zachary knew that Lenora still harbored uncertainties about the matter. He simply said, "Don't worry. You can apply for a medical assessment."

His persistence didn't stem from a desire to force Lenora into trusting, Johanne; rather, he simply want

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to ensure that she wouldn't distance herself from him.

After all, Lenora was the one most deeply affected by her father's death, and she was the one who longed to uncover the truth the most. Truth would always remain truth, while falsehoods would eventually be exposed. Sooner or later, the day would come when everything would be revealed.

"Mm-hmm." Lenora nodded.

Although she didn't quite believe it, she felt she had to give it a shot. Who knows, it might just work out.

"Come on, eat more," Zachary suggested, serving her some food.

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Lenora took a few more bites and set down her fork.

Zachary didn't insist that she eat more. Instead, he picked up Harrietta and stood up. "Let's go, I'll take you home"

Harrietta resting her head on Zachary's shoulder, grunted in her sleep. Her tiny leather shoes kicked against the hem of his suit, smearing it with a bit of din

hary lowered his gaze, gently patting Harrietta's shoulder, his eyes filled with tenderness.

Lenora raised an eyebrow, stealing another glance at Zachary.

When he cared for Harrietta, he radiated a distinct aura that could only be described as paternal.

"If you want to look at me, just look. No need to be sneaky about it," Zachary said earnestly as he walked ahead.

Lenora was at a loss for words.

The flicker of affection she had begun to feel for him extinguished once more.

"Don't speak," she said.

It's a shame he can't keep his mouth shut.

The driver maneuvered the car directly into the underground parking garage. .

After Lenora got out of the car, Zachary also stepped out, cradling Harrietta in his arms.

She looked at him with a puzzled expression.

Zachary explained with a smile, "I've been planning to move here with Hattie these few days along with Miranda.

Lenora's lips twitched. "Why?"



"Hattie likes you. If we stay here, she can spend more time with you. It also makes it more convenient for you to pick her up and drop her off at school." "What a self-righteous reason." Lenora sneered.

Chapter 344 You Are Ruthless

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## Stay Away 344

Chapter 344 You Are Ruthless

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Upon returning home. Lenore sorted through the petri dishes were the ties HE IS TH photography competition organizers Vie

She had the competition entry email, the original 123 and the

evidence that she was indeed the photographer

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Handling this matter shouldn't be too difficu

After doing all that, she shut down her computer and went so freshen up in the bathroom

As she lay in bed, ready to rest, she received a sudden stige mcage from Zachary Come tut

Following that, another message popped up I'm at your front dive

me at hegre

Lenora's sleepy haze was cleared in an instant: What days and from that

Zachary Let's go for a drive. Remember to dren sorely

Lenora: Are you out of your mind?

Why are we going for a drive at this hour?

Zachary I'm giving you ten minutes. After ten minutes. I'll be on the door if you're worried about Sophia, you'd better come out quickly.

Lenora gritted her teeth: You're ruthless!

She crawled out from under the covers, swiftly dressing herself before going out of the room

ext,

Zachary was standing by the window next to the fire smoking. Upon hearing the door open he immediately extinguished his cigarette and walked toward Lenora forcing that she was dressed warmly he pressed the elevator down button "Let' Lenora shot Zachary a glance. "Why did you suddenly want to go for a driver

"A sudden whimsical thought."

"I don't want to go"

"Since you're already out, let's have some fun."

The elevator doors slid open, and Zachary pulled Lenora inside, pressing the button for the first floor

"Aren't we going to the basement?"

"You'll know when you get there"

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The elevator came to a halt on the first floor Zachary led the way, exiting the spartan building and heading toward the carpen not too far off

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What is going on?

Intrigued, Lenora followed Zachary, watching as he headed toward a motorcycle.

The motorcycle exuded a striking presence, featuring sleek lines that instantly conveyed its premium value.

So this is what he meant by "going for a drive"

Zachary retrieved a helmet from the handle of the motorcycle, gesturing toward Lenora.  
"Come here"

Lenora approached him, eyeing the motorcycle, "Is this yours?"

Zachary placed the helmet on her head. "It's a friend's I borrowed it for a ride"

"You know how to ride this?"

"Of course."

Zachary picked up a second helmet and slipped it on. Rolling the motorcycle out, he swung his leg over,

and positioned himself with one foot on the ground. Glancing back at Lenora, he said, "Hop on."

This was the first time Lenora had seen Zachary dressed like this, a complete departure from his doting father persona at dinner.

She took a seat behind Zachary, her hands clutching onto his clothes.

"Are you settled in? Shall we get going?"

-All right

Zachary started the engine.

As they slowly left the residential area, Zachary revved the motorcycle's throttle. Like an arrow released from its bow, the bike swiftly zoomed off. Lenora gave a start, grumbling inwardly while tightly wrapping her arms around Zachary's muscular waist, pressing herself closely against his back. The wind whistled by her ear.

At this hour, there were hardly any vehicles on the street.

The motorcycle weaved freely through the city streets, the roar of the engine filling their ears, making it seem as if they were the only two people in the world. "Well? What do you think?" Zachary's voice drifted over

"It's thrilling," she said. "It's just that my hands feel cold."

"If your hands are cold, you can put them in my pockets," he suggested, seemingly aware of her discomfort,

Tucking her hands into his pockets, Lenora asked, "When did you learn to ride a motorcycle?"

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To her, Zachary's demeanor seemed completely out of place on a motorcycle.

"Back in high school," he answered.

That's quite early.

As the scenery on both sides of the road flashed by, Lenora asked, "Where are you taking me?"

"Wherever the road takes us."

After a half-hour ride, the motorcycle came to a halt by the river.

Lenora hopped off the motorcycle, removed her helmet, and exhaled.

+5 Free Coins

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"How does it feel?" Zachary asked, hanging their helmets on the handlebars of the vehicle, wearing a half smile. "Do you feel cold?" "I'm fine."

Thankfully, she was dressed warmly.

She leisurely strolled along the railing, embracing the cool breeze. Gazing at the river shimmering under the moonlight, she stretched.

"How are you feeling now?" Zachary approached her. "Still in a bad mood?"

Lenora belatedly realized that Zachary had taken her out for a ride because she was feeling down.

Moved by his gesture, she turned to face him and smiled. "I'm feeling much better now, thank you."

She didn't thank him solely for taking her out for a ride, but also for his timely arrival in the afternoon. He had come to stand up for Harrietta, and in doing so, he had also stood up for her.

Zachary watched her unblinkingly.

Across the river, the lights sparkled brightly, casting a mesmerizing gleam in his eyes. They reflected like a precious gem glimmering beneath water-radiant and crystal clear. The glow illuminated his profile, adding depth and definition to his features. For a moment, Lenora was in a daze, captivated by his charm.

Subsequently, Zachary spoke in a hushed tone, uttering a sentence that made Lenora wish she could tear him into pieces. "If you really want to thank me, give me a kiss." Words cluded Lenora.

In an instant, all the beauty of the moment and the feelings she held shattered completely.

She snapped back to reality, the corners of her lips twitching slightly as she shot Zachary a look of disdain. "In your dreams."

Lenora turned away, taking a leisurely stroll along the riverside.

Watching her retreating figure, Zachary let out a chuckle. He quickened his pace to catch up with her, ag

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they walked side by side.

Neither

them spoke, leaving only the sound of the wind, the soft murmur of the river, and the occasional distant honk of a car horn. Gradually, Lenom's heart began to calm.

Not far ahead, a figure appeared by the riverside.

Upon hearing the sound of footsteps, the figure turned around. A jolt of surprise coursed through their body and a flicker of disbelief flashed in their eyes. Tentatively, they called out, "Lenora?"

Upon seeing the person in front of her, Lenora paused for a moment before stepping forward. "Connor, it's been a while," she said. "I didn't expect to run into you here."

He had lost a significant amount of weight compared to before, and he seemed more mature.

Casting a glance at Zachary who was standing next to her, a hint of bitterness flashed in Connor's eyes. "It's indeed been a while. I come here for a stroll from time to time."

"I'm sorry," Lenora said earnestly. "All this while, I've owed you an apology."

She had considered seeking him out, yet feared he might not want to see her.

The deceit and harm had already been done, and any apology seemed futile.

"I should be the one apologizing to you. I never thought my father would turn out to be a kidnapper. I've only ever heard about such things on the news.." Connor paused, closing his eyes for a while before continuing, "Have there been any updates about him?" "Not for now. This matter doesn't concern you. You don't need to apologize to me. On the contrary. I the one who took advantage of you."

Connor took a deep breath, managing to muster a relaxed smile. "The past is the past, so let's not dwell on it anymore. It's getting late. You guys go ahead. I'll head back first."

Lenora moved her lips, wanting to call out to him, yet she realized she had nothing to say,

In the end, she said, "Take care."

Connor's figure disappeared from sight.

Zachary glanced over at the distracted Lenora, clearing his throat before saying, "Stop staring. He's long

gone."

Coming back to her senses, Lenora averted her gaze and let out a sigh."

Zachary raised an eyebrow, "Feeling sorry for him?"

Lenora gave him a glance, then turned around to walk away. "I feel bad. After all, I was the one who deceived him."

"Even knowing it would hurt him, you still chose to deceive him-

and if given another chance, you'd do it again. It's done now, so accept it. His father was a criminal, and that stolen wealth was spent on him. Your deception wasn't merely for selfish reasons; it was for your father and for justice. There's no need to diminish yourself like thi

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Yes. Even if given another chance, I would still do the same.

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Lenora let out a sigh of relief. "Thank you."

"I'll say it again. If you really want to thank me, give me a kiss, Zachary drawled.

Lenora stood on tiptoes and swiftly planted a kiss on his cheek. Then, without uttering a word, she strode off ahead.

Zachary, however, remained frozen in place. The fleeting warmth on his cheek that he felt just a moment ago seemed almost like an illusion.



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A surge of elation welled up in his heart. His eyes narrowed, fixated on Lenora's retreating figure as if eying a prey before he strode forward.

Warmth gradually crept up Lenora's cheeks as she quickened her pace.

As the footsteps behind her drew closer, she found herself almost breaking into a light run.

She stared at the ground, noticing the man's shadow creeping closer, almost merging with her own. Her heart skipped a beat, and she swiftly ran off, putting distance between herself and Zachary.

Zachary's lips curved into a smirk, and a glint of determination flashed in his eyes. With a few quick strides, he caught up to Lenora, his arm reaching out to grasp her wrist. In one swift motion, he pulled her into his embrace. His piercing gaze fixed on her, he asked, "Why a "Why are you chasing me?" Lenora's gaze flickered. She shoved him on the shoulder.

"Why do you think I'm chasing you?" Zachary raised an eyebrow, wearing an amused expression.

"How should I know?" She feigned ignorance.

She's saying one thing but meaning another.

"I'll let you know." Zachary grasped the back of her head, leaning in to kiss her.

As their lips met, their breaths mingled in a slow, lingering dance. His lips were scorching, his kiss assertive, and possessive.

Lenora's long lashes fluttered as she struggled to catch her breath, her legs growing weak. Clinging tightly to his collar, she held on desperately, fighting to stay on her feet.

The night was chilly, and a cold wind swept along the riverside, yet Lenora felt like she was burning. Heat radiated from within her, and a fine sheen of sweat glistened on the tip of her nose...

Zachary was captivated, his lips pressing passionately against hers, his kiss deepening with intensity. He wrapped one arm around her slender waist, drawing her closer, as if

he wished to merge her into his very being. Under the dim streetlight, their figures entwined with fervor, as if they had been made from the same soul.

Overwhelmed, Lenora forcefully pushed Zachary away struggling to catch her breath

Zachary gently brushed against the tip of her tongue before slowly pulling away.

Lenora gasped for air heavily.

Her cheeks flushed a deep crimson, her eyes moist and glistening. When she looked up, an unintentional hint of allure sparkled in her gaze,

Zachary's heart tightened; he lifted his hand, gently gripping her chin to tilt her head up, and kissed her

once more.

"Mmph..." Lenora's eyes widened. She found herself unexpectedly close to Zachary, so close she could

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make out every detail of his lashes from root to tip.

He's pushing his luck!

After a long while, Zachary finally let go of Lenora.

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Lenora instantly pushed him away, retreating a few steps. She raised her hand and gently touched her lips, feeling a slight sting-

She shot Zachary a fierce glare before turning around to walk away.

Zachary gave an awkward chuckle, quickening his pace to catch up. "Nora, I'm delighted just now."

He had only joked about wanting a kiss, never expecting her to actually do it.

As her lips met his, his heart raced wildly, a rush of warmth spreading through him. He felt as though he were floating, light and ethereal, caught in a moment that felt almost unreal. Lenora shot him another glare. "Shut up."

"Nora, we-"

With a raised eyebrow, Lenora glanced at him. "We don't have any sort of relationship right now. Don't get the wrong idea."

It's just a kiss. What's the big deal?

Zachary chuckled lightly, playing along. "All right. We don't have any relationship."

Her feisty demeanor set Zachary's heart racing, igniting a primal urge to claim her right then and there. Yet, he knew better than to rush-

such haste could easily backfire. For now, he felt content; remarrying her wasn't a necessity. As long as she didn't push him away, he believed everything would fall into place.

"Let's go.

"All right."

The two of them put their helmets back on.

Zachary brought Lenora home on the motorcycle.

The incident of her photography piece being stolen was thoroughly documented and backed by evidence, leading Lenora to believe a resolution would soon be forthcoming. However, after two days, she received no response from the organizers; it was as if her email had been ignored. It was at this point that Lenora began to grasp the gravity of the situation. Why was someone else's name attached to her work? She had only submitted those photographs for the competition via email; she had never shared them with anyone else or posted them on any social media, whether implicitly or explicitly.

The ID "Panoramic" struck Lenora as familiar. After doing some research, she discovered that this individual had claimed second prize in the previous photography competition.

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The legitimacy of that award remained uncertain, and it was highly likely that it had been obtained through dishonest means as well. Should a scandal erupt in such a prestigious competition, it would

rely tarnish in value and credibility.

Lenora remembered that Ezekiel was not only a judge for the Smada International Photography Competition but also one of its founders, with extensive connections among the

organizers. Considering their relationship, she opted not to publicly denounce the situation. Instead, she discreetly compiled the evidence she had gathered and sent it to Ezekiel, providing a detailed explanation of the circumstances.

An hour later, Ezekiel responded. Nora, I'm really sorry. The announcement on the official website has been changed I will provide you with a satisfactory explanation

Lenora Thanks, Ezekiel I'll be honest with you. This incident might be connected to the event organizers staff

Ezekiel: I understand, someone has already been sent to investigate

He sent another message. By the way, I heard you had an agreement with Donovan and Aunt Jasmine yesterday. Lenora: Yes. I believe it's already resolved.

At least it was resolved on her end. She didn't know whether Donovan and Jasmine would hold grudges..

Ezekiel: Donovan was born with asthma, so Aunt Jasmine always treasures him. If the offended you in any way, please Lenora: I understand, Ezekiel

Ezekiel: Among all the entries, I like yours the best. Keep up the good work

Lenora: Thank you.

Ezekiel set down his phone, gazing at Alex, who was standing before him. "Get Ms. Summer to come over?" he instructed.

"Yes, sir."

Alex had been by Ezekiel's side for quite some time, and he could read the signs clearly: a single glance revealed that Ezekiel was seething with rage.

Before long, Summer pushed the door open and stepped inside. Her face, flawlessly made up, concealed the fatigue from the past two days. "You wanted to see me?"

Ezekiel lifted his gaze, his voice sharp and stern. "Who gave you the right to put your name on someone else's work?"

The ID "Panoramic" belonged to Summer.

In the past, Summer had harbored feelings for Ezekiel, and in an effort to build a good rapport between them, she had taken up photography to share a common interest. However, she quickly realized she lacked a natural talent for it and made little progress.

Determined not to lose face in front of Ezekiel, she discreetly enlisted the help of the staff. As the young lady of the Hoffman family, she had no shortage of people eager to please her. They assumed her requests had Ezekiel's endorsement and handled the matter ethicient

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The reason Summer had only secured second place in the last competition was that the first prize had gone to a well-

known photographer. At that time, she had yet to meet Zachary when she reached out to the staff for assistance. Once they connected, she promptly pushed the incident from her mind, never anticipating that it would eventually come back to haunt her.

Summer knew Ezekiel couldn't tolerate any mistakes. She immediately admitted it, "I'm sorry. Ezekiel. I was wrong. I shouldn't have done that. I promise it won't happen again!"

Ezekiel stared at her coldly.

Feeling increasingly guilty, Summer urgently said. "I swear I realize my mistake. I shouldn't have passed off someone else's work as my

.

**Stay Away 346**

## Chapter 346 Apology Statement

### Chapter 346 Apology Statement

Summer's face turned pale. Gathering her courage, she questioned, "Ezekiel, wouldn't it be easier to just change the name back? Why do I have to apologize?"

"You're so blinded by vanity and completely lacking in responsibility. Is this how Aunt Jasmine raised you? You don't have the right to call yourself a young lady of the Hoffman family! You truly are a disgrace!" Summer trembled, fear creeping into her voice. "L. I was wrong. I... I apologize."

"What are you doing standing here? Go and write an apology statement!"

"I go right now."

As soon as she left Ezekiel's office. Summer's fearful expression immediately gave way to a look of annoyance, a gloomy, resentful look filling her gaze.

It's not a big deal, yet they went and complained to Ezekiel, resulting in me getting an earful from find out who did this. I make sure they pay for it!

Summer found a sample apology letter online and made a few quick modifications to tailor it to her situation

After doing so, she sent a message to the staff, asking whose competition entry was the photo I submitted What's it called?

She needed to know so she could fill in the name on the apology statement.

The staff member responded. It's a contestant named Lenora Wilkin.

Given that Lenora used her real name online, her ID was simply her own name,

The staff simply didn't pay attention to the news and didn't recognize her.

Taken aback, Summer had a hunch that this Lenora Wilkin was the same one she knew.

She sought out Ezekiel's photography assistant, Jerry, who spilled out everything.

Only then did she learn that Ezekiel and Lenora had once visited Newcove for a cultural excursion trip. together

No wonder this reached Ezekiel's ears! It turns out it was Lenora who spilled the beans

Summer clenched her hands into fists, a glint of ruthlessness flickering in her eyes.

Lenora again! What's so special about her? Zachary is completely devoted to her, insisting on remarrying her, and now Ezekiel is on her side too!

Recalling the incident that took place in the underground parking lot that day, Summer was so infuriated that her nails dug into the flesh of her palm, and blood oozed.

Had things gone according to plan, Zachary, the chairman of Fuller Group, would've become my man instead of some random drunken ruffian. It was all Lenora's fault. Had she not been in the picture, Zachary would certainly not have

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Chapter 346 Apology Statement

been so desperate to leave even when drugged!

Summer was trembling with rage, determined to make Lenora pay the price.

Lenora glanced at the official website, noticing that the first prize winner had been updated to her registration ID.

She had also received an award notification email. In the email, the organizer invited her to Jeahron in a few days to attend the award ceremony.

Lenora made a point to check, and fortunately, she wasn't required on the film set for those few days

By then, the weather would warm up, making it the perfect opportunity for her to switch to her spring attire and enjoy a few days of fun in Jeahron while attending the ceremony.

However, Lenora never anticipated the tables to turn.

Some unscrupulous media outlets twisted the narrative, alleging that Lenora had colluded with the organizers to use her influence to oppress others and leverage her financial power to secure the first prize.

They pointed to her presence in the group chat for Ezekiel's course, claiming it indicated collusion since Ezekiel was a judge.

However, the scandal was swiftly quelled when the organizers released a statement unequivocally confirming Lenora as the rightful first-prize winner. The user ID "Panoramic, originally credited as the first-prize winner, publicly apologized on Twitter for illicitly using someone else's image competition

in the

As Lenora read the statement, a slight frown creased her brow. It seemed the organizers, in an effort to safeguard the competition's reputation, had shifted the blame onto "Panoramic, claiming that the only issue was a failure in thorough vetting. If it were revealed that the staff had been complicit in tampering with the results, the credibility of the Smada International Photography Competition would take a severe hit. Even the integrity of past winners could come under scrutiny.

Ezekiel apologized to Lenora once again. "Nora, you've seen the statement, haven't you? I'm truly sorry that the mishap from the organizers has negatively affected you. The staff member who altered the signature has been dismissed. However, due to certain reasons, we

"I can comprehend why you're reluctant to publicize this. As the initiator of the Spada International Photography Competition, the reputation of the competition not only affects the organization of future editions but also concerns your personal prestige. However, the occurrence doesn't worry," he assured. "I'll have someone review it again. If we find any similar issues, the organizers will retract the award"

"I'm counting on you, Ezekiel"

That was all Lenora could do.

"No worries. It's the least I could do. Honestly, this incident has been quite embarrassing for me. How

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about this? When you come to Jeahron for the awards ceremony, let me play host and treat you to a feast."

"Thanks, I'll gladly accept then."

After Lenora posted about her award on Twitter, Jonas congratulated her on WhatsApp, casually mentioning having her do a photoshoot for him.

Lenora sent him an emoji: Are you serious? You want me to do it? You're not joking, right?



Jonas: Why would I joke? I have faith in your abilities.

Lenora: All right, since you trust me, I promise not to let you down. When should we do it?

Jonas: When will you be free? I reckon it'll take a whole day.

Lenora presented Jonas with her schedule for the upcoming week, indicating that she had scenes to shoot on both Monday and Tuesday.

Jonas then set the date for Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Lenora participated in three high-energy action scenes, soaring through the air while suspended by a wire harness

By the time she wrapped up her filming, it was well past eight in the evening, and she was utterly exhausted. Since that was the only show she filmed and assuming her limited scenes would be manageable, she hadn't hired an assistant. As a result, she had to handle ever After changing, she left the film set and headed toward the parking lot.

A black car was parked underneath the streetlight, and suddenly, its hazard lights started flashing.

Instinctively, Lenora looked over and pursed her lips.

It was Zachary's car.

While she was hesitating, the rear car window rolled down, and Harrietta poked her head out, waving at Lenora, "Aunt Lenora! Uncle Zachary and I came to pick you up! Hurry up."

A relaxed smile spread across Lenora's face as she strode over and opened the car door. Glancing at Zachary, she asked, "What brings you here today?"

His arrival was quite timely. She didn't feel like driving at all at the moment, all she wanted was to lie down and relax.

"Hattie went to your house to find you after school, but you weren't there," Zachary said with a smile. "You must be tired after a whole day. Come on up." Harrietta moved aside to make room for Lenora.

Lenora slid into the car, closed the door, and rolled up the window. "Let's go."

The car slowly drove away.

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Chapter 346 Apology Statement

Zachary

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her. "Ie a glance at the man in the rearview mirror, his brow furrowing slightly. He turned to look at

"No. What's the matter?" Lenora replied. I do have to do a photoshoot for Jonas, though.

"Nothing."

Zachary stole another glance in the rearview mirror, but the man had faded from view, his outline barely discernible.

He shifted his gaze away. "Where should we have dinner?"

"Whatever."

the:

Jonas stood rooted his expression calm as he watched the black car drive away, blending into the traffic until it disappeared from sight.

His tightly-clenched fists revealed his inner turmoil.

After reviewing her schedule, Jonas was aware of when Lenora would wrap up her scenes for the day. He timed his arrival perfectly, only to see her slipping into Zachary's car.

Why? Did she make up with Zachary? What's so great about Zachary? He's just rich I'm rich, too. Is she not afraid of getting hurt again by such a fickle-hearted man? So, she would rather reconcile with a man like Zachary than be with me?

**Stay Away 347**

Chapter 347 Forgive Zachary Morning You're here."

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Inside the photography studio, Lenora was absorbed in reviewing the random shots captured on his camera. When she heard footsteps and voices, she glanced up to find Jonas walking in. A smile lit

up her face as she greeted him.

Upon seeing Lenora, Jonas paused in his tracks, the look in his eyes complex. "Good morning. You're here carly."

"Yeah, this is the first time we're doing this. I should be professional and enthusiastic, don't you think?" Lenora chuckled, her voice light as she spoke. As she snapped a few shots of the freshly arranged scene with her camera, she focused intently on capturing the right vib eyes.

"I'm going to put on my makeup first."

"Go on," Lenora said, her gaze fixed on the photo in the camera, not bothering to look up.

Jonas pursed his lips, giving Lenora a deep, meaningful look.

He wanted to ask her what was going on between her and Zachary. Is she really that fond of Zachary? So much so that she can forgive his infidelity?

"Mr. Zirk?" Jonas' assistant called out to him upon noticing Jonas standing still.

Coming back to his senses, Jonas glanced at Lenora again before heading off to the makeup room.

A couple of days ago, Jonas' team had sent her a requirements document, which Lenora had meticulously analyzed. However, the first official shoot was far from smooth. She struggled to collaborate effectively with Jonas, leading to photographs that captured him as emoti The pace dragged on, and the results left much to be desired. Lost in her own thoughts, Lenora failed to notice that Jonas was also out of sorts. Assuming the blame was hers, she resolved to do everything she could to improve the situation. Jonas closed his eyes, rubbing his temples as he desperately tried to convince himself to forget about what he saw last night.

The following shoot went much smoother.

Based on the photos approved by Jonas' team, Lenora quickly grasped their evaluation criteria. While striving to express the tension in the images, she tried her best to meet these standards, significantly improving her efficiency.

Halfway through the shoot, Jonas changed into two different outfits, altering both the setting and style in the process. By the time the photoshoot wrapped up, it was nearly eight in the evening, and everyone was feeling the weight of exhaustion. "All right, that's all for today." Jonas' manager reviewed the photos in Lenora's camera and nodded in approval.

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Everyone breathed a sigh of relief.

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In an instant, Jonas relaxed, rising from his seat and stretching languidly. "Finally, it's over. I'm going to change now."

After taking a couple of steps, he paused and turned around, calling out to Lenora and addressing his manager. "Nora, don't leave just yet. Hugo, could you make a reservation at Aroma Tower? Let's all have dinner together tonight." Hugo glanced at Jonas, giving him a meaningful look. "You have work tomorrow. You've had a long day, so you should head home and rest early," he suggested.

He was just caught by the paparazzi a few days ago! Can't he learn from his past mistakes? Love is a treacherous game, you know!

Jonas understood Hugo's concerns and reassured him. "We're just having a meal together. There's nothing to worry about."

"All right then." Hugo reluctantly agreed.

Lenora stowed the camera back in her bag and engaged in a discussion with Hugo about the photos' post-production. Before long, Jonas, the makeup artists, and the others joined them, and the group made their way to the parking lot together. "It's too crowded over there. I'll ride in your car," Jonas said to Lenora, glancing at the minivan not

away.

far

Before Lenora could respond, Hugo stepped forward and patted Jonas' shoulder. "Why don't you go sit over there and get some rest? I'll sit with Ms. Wilkin. Ms. Wilkin, you don't mind, do you?"

Hugo was on high alert, adamantly preventing Jonas and Lenora from having the chance to be alone together.

"I don't mind," Lenora said with a smile.

Jonas fell silent.

He glanced at Hugo, finding him an eyesore for the first time in forever.

Lenora also noticed Hugo's intentions, finding it amusing.

Upon arriving at Aroma Tower, everyone entered the private room and sat around the round table. Jonas glanced at Lenora, who was separated from him by Hugo and his assistant, His eyebrows furrowed, a hint of irritation visible in his eyes. At the dining table, everyone engaged in lively conversation and laughter.

As the meal was coming to an end, Jonas had yet to find an opportunity to talk to Lenora. After some thought, he pulled out his phone and sent Lenora a message on WhatsApp.

Upon hearing a notification from her phone, Lenora picked it up and was surprised to see a message from Jonas.

What is he up to? Bewildered, Lenora lifted his gaze to look at him.

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Seeing that Hugo was distracted, Jonas pointed at his phone.

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Lenora took a glance at the message. Jonas asked her to find an excuse to step out for a bit, for he had something to tell her.

She silenced her phone, stealing a glance at Hugo before replying Can't we discuss this over the phone? What if we get photographed?

Jonas replied: Don't refrain from doing something for fear of a possible risk. We can't possibly avoid seeing each other again just because we might get caught.

He added: Don't worry, it won't interfere with my work

Lenora: All right then.

Lenora put away her phone and stayed for a few more minutes before excusing herself to go to the

restroom

After exiting the restroom, she waited at the entrance of the fire exit, Jonas approached soon. "Have you been waiting long?"

"No. What did you want to tell me?"

Jonas gazed at Lenora, his expression a mixture of emotions, his deep eyes radiating with intense affection.

Upon seeing his expression, Lenora felt her heart sink. He still hasn't given up, has he?

Ever since she turned down Jonas at the restaurant, their interactions had significantly decreased. Lenora sincerely hoped that Jonas could consider her as a friend.

She forced a smile. "Why aren't you saying anything?"

After a few seconds of silence, Jonas spoke up in a low voice. "Are you... back together with Zachary? I saw you get into his car yesterday."

Lenora fell silent, hesitating for a moment.

I haven't reconciled with Zachary, but it's undeniable that I had shared some intimate moments with him. However, all of that was his doing. We are definitely not back together!

Jonas noticed Lenora's hesitation, and a flicker of pain streaked past his eyes as if a storm had swept over his heart, churning his emotions like turbulent waves,

He swallowed his inner turmoil and resentment, striving for composure as he said, "I don't know what has transpired between you two recently, but have you forgotten his history of infidelity? If it's happened once, it can easily happen again. I just don't understand why you At that moment, his voice abruptly trailed off, and he let out a sigh that revealed his frustration and disappointment.

Realizing that Jonas had misunderstood the situation, Lenora chose not to correct him. She allowed the misconception to linger, hoping it might dampen his hopes,

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She paused before responding. "When it comes to matters of the heart, no one can say for sure."

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"But... Jonas began, his agitation evident, but his energy suddenly waned as disappointment crossed his face. "What is it about him that you find appealing? Aren't you afraid he'll hurt you again? Nora, I hope you can think rationally. Weigh the pros and cons, don't let your "Jonas. I appreciate your concern, she began gently. "I've considered everything you've said. Reconciling with Zachary is a decision I've reached after a lot of thought. I hope you can understand..."

"I don't!" Jonas interrupted her, his gaze filled with bitterness. "Why won't you even consider me? Am I not even a match for Zachary who can't stay faithful?"

Lenora was at her wit's end. "This isn't about comparisons, it's about chemistry. Sometimes, there's just no logic to why we like someone. Besides, there's nothing between him and Susanna. Jonas, I hope you understand, even without Zachary, you and I could never be. I you can move on soon."

Jonas shook his head with a bitter smile. "Forgetting someone isn't as simple as you make it sound. Just as you can't forget Zachary, I can't forget you. You said you wouldn't remarry Zachary. I thought that as long

I stayed by your side, you would have eyes for me one day..

as

Lenora said, "I've said everything that needed to be said. Jonas. From now on, I'll communicate directly with your agent regarding work matters. I'm giving you some time to cool down. But if you continue like this, then... I'm afraid I'll have to let go of our friendship." After she finished speaking, she turned around, ready to leave.

"Nora!" Jonas gripped her wrist, his heart aching as he looked at her. "Are you really going to be this heartless?"

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## Stay Away 348

Chapter 348 They Were All Lies.

Let go Lenora said coldly

Jonas looked at her, his fingers slowly tightening their grip.

"Let her go?"

Suddenly, a man's voice echoed from around the corner

Her heart skipped a beat

Oh no. Why is Zachary here! Did he hear everything I said at now? Could he have misunderstood?

Zachary strode over and yanked Jonas wrist away, then placed himself protectively in front of her. He fixed Jonas with a piercing gaze, asserting his dominance. "She has made it very clear that she's not into you Jonas. Don't bother her anymore." The be numed to her and said. "Let's go.

He took Lenora's hand and started walking.

After a moment's hesitation, she followed him.

Jonas stood rooted to the spot and watched the pair leave before closing his eyes in anguish.

Meanwhile, Lenora slowed her pace after they rounded a corner and let out a sigh.

"What's the matter? Heartbroken" Zachary glanced at her, a small smile playing on his lips.

Jonas is relentless! However, I owe my thanks to him. If he hadn't been so persistent. I wouldn't have known that she

I liked me and was already planning to reconcile with me.

The realization filled his heart with a sweetness akin to honey, and he could hardly stop himself from jumping with joy.

She rolled her eyes at him and did not answer his question. Instead, she asked, "What are you doing here?"



Hi just as I thought. Judging by that smile on his lips, he has definitely misunderstood.

"I had a dinner party," he replied. "I'll take you home."

"That won't be necessary. I didn't drink any alcohol"

-Then I'll ride back in your car," he responded, grinning.

She stared at him wordlessly for a moment.

"Has your dinner party ended?" she could not help but ask.

"Yes"

Inside the elevator, it was just the two of them.

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Chapter 348 They Were All Lies

While she looked up at the electronic screen in the upper right corner that displayed the foot tumber with unblinking eyes, he gazed at her intently. The corners of his lips were lifted, and he was in buoyant spirits. I knew she'd reconcile with me, but I didn't expect it to happen so quickly. It's fortunate that I come here and heard her say all that

His intense gaze lingered on her for a long time, making her feel on edge

She sneaked a glance at him out of the corner of her eye. When she noticed the smitten look on his face. the comers of her lips twitched.

I should tell him the truth

She cleared her throat. "Zachary

"Hmm

At that moment, the elevator reached the underground parking lot.

She stepped out first and said. "Let's talk in the car."

Seeing her solemn demeanor, he wondered whether she was preparing to officially reconcile with him.

A glimmer of anticipation flashed in his eyes.

Zachary had had a bit to drink at the dinner party, so Lenora drove.

She pulled out of the underground parking lot, merged smoothly into the flow of traffic, and drove forward steadily.

Seated in the passenger seat, he turned and asked. "What was it you wanted to tell me earlier?"

"Mmm... After I tell you, don't get worked up," she responded, keeping her attention focused on the road ahead.

"Don't worry."

Although reconciling with her was an incredibly thrilling prospect, he was determined to maintain his composure to preserve his image and dignity. "How much of my conversation with Jonas did you catch just now?"

"I basically heard everything," he answered.

I can't believe Jonas badmouthed me behind my back! Luckily, she didn't believe him.

"In that case, I'll just get straight to the point."

He hummed in response.

"Actually, what I said back then..."

Was all from the bottom of your heart?

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Chapter 348 They Were All Lies.

Zachary tilted his head to look at her, a smile twinkling in his eyes.

"They were all lies," she continued.

The smile on his face froze instantly.

Did I hear that right?

He was silent for a long while, and Lenora started feeling somewhat uneasy. She turned to glance at him briefly before promptly turning her head back.

Zachary pursed his lips. his smile fading away. In a somber tone, he uttered, "Come again?"

"Everything I said, they were all lies," she said much more weakly.

"What do you mean?"

"Jonas saw me getting into your car yesterday and thought we had reconciled. I consider him a friend and wanted him to give up on his hopes, which is why I didn't deny it."

"So, what you're saying is that all your talk of reconciliation and your professed affection for me were lies? You were just using me to get Jonas off your back?" He flicked his gaze, which was as dark as a moonless night, toward her.

Hearing his dangerous tone of voice, she defended herself by saying. "Well... I wasn't really using you... It was more like... casually doing a favor..."

T

"Hah!" he sneered. "Lenora, you truly do have a knack for pulling this stunt

When we were still married, she used Jonas to provoke me. Later, she even used Connor in an attempt to make me back off. She was so convincing that I almost believed her. If Harrietta hadn't convinced me otherwise, I would've let her go a long time ago. Lenora pressed her lips together uneasily and did not say anything.

It was silent inside the car.

While waiting for the red light, she stole a glance at him. He happened to catch her in the act, and she quickly averted her gaze, pretending as though nothing had happened.

The light turned green, and she started driving.

Suddenly, he said, "Since you've told Jonas that we're back together, we need to act more affectionate these next few days to make it more convincing so that he doesn't suspect a thing."

"Huh?" She had not expected such a turn of events. "Is. Is that really necessary?"

He raised an eyebrow and looked at her with an expression that was not quite a smile. "Why not? Didn't you hear him say how hard it is to forget someone? You've openly admitted your feelings for me, yet he still refuses to give up. On top of that, you don't genuinely like Though his words held a certain logic, she hesitated. "But..."

"No buts. It's settled, then. From now on, I'll pick you up every day after filming ends," he stated firmly.

## Chapter 348 They Were All Lies

"There's no need for that-

"Yes, there is"

She was rendered speechless

Did I just shoot myself in the foot

Upon returning home. Lenora immediately began editing photos. Since she had no scenes to film for the next two days, she wanted to take the opportunity to quickly get it done.

She spent Friday with the film crew.

After filming ended in the evening, she discovered that Zachary had indeed come to pick her up

As he stood by the car, leaning casually against the car door, his legs appeared even longer.

When he saw her approach, he took the initiative to open the car door and smiled at her. "All done? Get in. Let's go grab some food."

atto

"Okay she replied. Just as she was about to bend down to get into the car, he suddenly planted a quick kiss on her cheek "Zachary, you-

-Shh!" He raised his index finger to his lips. "Jonas is right behind you. Don't turn around."

She froze.

Having sent Jonas her filming schedule previously, it was not surprising that he knew she would be done

around this time.

"Kiss me." Zachary said with a tender smile. He glanced behind her and added. "He's watching you."

She bit her lower lip, then tiptoed to his him on his cheek before hurriedly climbing into the car and closing the door

Turning to the window, she looked in the direction she had just come from only to find that there was not a single person in sight.

Her mind buzzed as the realization that she had been tricked by Zachary dawned on her

"Zachary Fuller!" She glared at him, gnashing her teeth in anger.

His eyes glinted with amusement. "I'm here"

"Get lost she muttered, turning away from him

The sight of her puffing out her cheeks and looking like a pufferfish made him curve his lips into a slight smile "Are you free this weekend? Let's take Hame to the Fuller residence" Lenora's entire body stiffened I don't dare. I don't dare go back and see Grandma.

He continued. "Amally, Grandma is still unaware of Johanne's situation."

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Chapter 348 They Were All Lies

Johanne already had a family of his own, so even if he did not visit the Fuller residence for half a month. even a month. Allison would not think it odd. Zachary, Mallory, and the others had intentionally kept the truth from Allison.

According to Zachary's plan, he was going to wait until some time had passed before announcing that Johanne would be transferred to a branch company.

## **Stay Away 349**

At noon on Sunday, Lenora and Zachary went to the Fuller residence, bringing Harrietta with them.

Harrietta let go of Lenora's hand and dashed inside. "Great-grandma, I've come with Uncle Zachary and Aunt Lenora to visit you!"

"Ah, Hattie I've missed you terribly

Allison had been lounging on the recliner with her reading glasses on, reading the newspaper.

Hearing voices, she set down the newspaper and removed her glasses. As she walked toward the living room, she waved at Harrietta and asked with a smile, "You came with your Uncle Zachary and Aunt Lenora, did you?" "Mm-hmm."

Harrietta's eyes sparkled as she

1. d. She stood on her tiptoes and leaned in closer, here

demeanor radiating an indescribable liveliness.

Allison bent down obligingly.

Leaning close to the elderly woman's ear, Harrietta whispered, "When I call her 'Aunt Lenora' now, she doesn't even argue about it anymore."

In the past, Aunt Lenora always referred to herself as my father's sister. But now... Hehehe....

"Good, good. That's great." Allison straightened up, a trace of a gratified smile spreading across her face.

Needless to say, it'd please me to see the two of them reconcile,

Allison liked seeing Harrietta being so cheeky, but when she noticed the little girl's eyes and brows that were strikingly similar to Zachary's, her heart skipped a beat again.

Furthermore, Tamara's attitude toward Harrietta only served to deepen her suspicions about Harrietta's identity.

However, my suspicions can only remain as such. Until someone else brings it up, I can't mention it and turn my suspicions into reality. Otherwise, what will become of Zachary and Lenora? Zachary and Lenora entered one after the other, greeting Allison with warm smiles.

"My, my, how come both of you came together today?"

Allison gazed at the striking couple in front of her as she smiled and settled onto the couch. "Did you arrange it beforehand?"

Hearing the teasing tone in Allison's voice, Lenora felt her tension ease a little.

Zachary glanced at Lenora and responded with a smile "Grandma, you'd better not ask about this."

"Okay, okay, I won't ask anymore," came her reply.

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Chapter 349 You Did Nothing Wrong

+5 Free Coins

Upon observing Lenora's evasive gaze and peculiar expression, she simply assumed that Lenora was feeling shy.

The housekeeper brought over some drinks and fruits, and the pair sat down to chat with Allison.

Lenora could not help feeling increasingly tormented and ashamed as she listened to Allison speak with such care and affection.

The fact that Allison knew nothing made Lenora feel even more distressed than if the former had been aware. Nonetheless, she grappled with her inner turmoil as she could not let the older woman see how she felt

I'd rather she know the truth and berate me. Nonetheless, I understand that she's getting on in age and can't withstand a heavy blow. Keeping it a secret from her is the most appropriate way.

After having lunch, they spent some time with Allison before departing.

With his hands on the steering wheel, Zachary glanced in the rearview mirror and said, "Don't worry. Even if Grandma finds out the truth in the future, she won't blame you."

"I just... Ah..." Lenora sighed.

There was no denying that Johanne was related to her father's death. However, Gerald and Allison were completely unaware. They treated her as though she was their granddaughter, and she was terrified of breaking their hearts. "Lenora, you did nothing wrong. If anyone fails to understand you or blames you for this, it only proves that they're not on the same wavelength as you and isn't someone you can form a deep friendship with."

She pressed her lips together, knowing that what he said was right

However, her childhood experiences had shaped her into a people-

pleaser, especially when it came to friends and family. Moreover, she no longer had any blood relatives left. Her relationship with Nathan and Griselda was distant at best, and Allison was the only elder she had left in her life. Hence, what Allison thought of her was of utmost "Uncle Zachary, Aunt Lenora, what are you talking about?" Harrietta asked curiously, tilting her face upward.

Zachary chuckled. "Your Aunt Lenora did something and is scared that your Great-grandma won't be happy about it."

Upon hearing that, Harrietta leaned into Lenora's arms and looked up at the latter, saying with a grin. "Don't be scared. I'll always be on your side. If Great-grandma gets mad at you, I'll help to persuade her!"

As Lenora listened to Harrietta's innocent assurances and gazed at the latter's delicate, flawless skin and chubby face, she could not help but feel comforted. She pinched the little girl's nose and said, "Thank you, Hattie."

"No need for thanks. It's nothing, Harrietta replied with a laugh. Then, she casually added, "I've got school tomorrow, Will you send me to school, Aunt Lenora?"

"I'm afraid I can't. I have a flight to catch tomorrow morning."

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#### Chapter 349 You Did Nothing Wrong

Before Harrietta could respond, Zachary asked, "A flight to catch? Where are you going?"

"I'm going to Jeahron to attend the photography competition's award ceremony."

Zachary paused, his face expressionless as he stared straight ahead.

+5 Free Coins

It had occurred to him that Ezekiel was one of the judges for the photography competition, and he guessed that the latter would be going too. He pursed his lips.

Meanwhile, Harrietta exclaimed in amazement, "Wow! You're awesome, Aunt Lenora!"

At the kindergarten on Monday, Harrietta went to her classroom and asked her deskmate, "Who dropped you off this morning?"

"My mom. Why?" her deskmate responded, puzzled.



Feigning a sigh, Harrietta said, "My housekeeper dropped me off today because my mom went to Jeahron." Search the Find\_Novel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

The children attending that kindergarten were either wealthy or from prestigious families, so it was not surprising for them to have drivers or housekeepers.

As expected, her deskmate proceeded to ask, "What is she doing in Jeahron?"

"She's attending an awards ceremony. My mom won prize in a photography competition."

"Wow! Your mom is so impressive!"

The corners of Harrietta's mouth quirked up slightly, then she relaxed them as she let out a sigh. "She said she'd bring the trophy back for me to see, but I really wish she could spend more time with me."

Her deskmate immediately said, "Your mom knows how to do everything. I'm so envious of you. My mom. doesn't do anything at home. All she does is go shopping"

"In that case, your mom must have plenty of time to spend with you. That's also nice," Harrietta responded politely.

The flight from Jacaster to Jeahron took roughly three hours.

After disembarking from the plane, Lenora turned on her phone while going to collect her suitcase.

As soon as the phone was switched on, several WhatsApp messages popped up.

Ezekiel had enquired about her flight the previous day, and right on time, he had sent her a message just five minutes ago. It read: Have you arrived?

Lenora replied: I'm collecting my suitcase Wait for me for a few minutes.

Ezekiel: Okay, I'll treat you to lunch today. What do you feel like eating?

Lenora: Duck confitt

Ezekiel Sure:

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## Chapter 249 You Did Nothing Wrong

With her suitcase in tow, she headed to the bustling airport terminal, paused, and looked around.

Not far away stood Ezekiel in a suit. Tall and handsome, he drew the attention of many passersby. +5 Free Coins

Both of them called out each other's names at the same time.

She walked over with a smile, pulling her suitcase behind her. "Hi. Ezekiel."

"Let's go and eat," he responded, promptly taking the suitcase from her.

As she walked beside him, she asked casually, "When did you get back?"

"Yesterday Donovan still has school and can't make it today, so he'll be returning with the others."

Naturally, Summer would also be returning.

"Has your younger brother recovered?"

"Yes. Don't worry

"That's good, then."

Ezekiel took Lenora to the most famous duck confit restaurant in the whole of Jeahron. Its fame had spread across the country, attracting tourists from all corners. During the holidays, it was almost impossible to secure a reservation.

She had dined at the restaurant before, and the food was quite good. She had not thought much of it when she was not in Jeahron, but as soon as she arrived, her cravings were instantly activated.

He had reserved a private room and let Lenora order some dishes she preferred.

During that time, he apologized to her again.

"You're not leaving tomorrow, right? I'll introduce you to a few people tonight."

He was determined to help her make connections as a way to demonstrate his sincerity.

As a seasoned photographer and the Hoffman family's heir, he had connections that were beyond the reach of ordinary people.

Lenora found herself unable to refuse, so she agreed.

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## Stay Away 350

Chapter 250 er 850 Who Is Panoramic

Sher lunch. Berior seat Lenora to the five-star hotel ecided by the event organizers. In the afternoon. they west as the seque te he canal

seve in the evening Lenors arrived at the venue of the awards cerem

ceremony.

The ward ceremony had not yet begin but several of the award recipients had already arrived. They were seated in the faits market vits their names eting in casual conversation. Lenses sensed to her seat fipping open her notepad ready to prepare her acceptance speech

Two sesso the right, a young photographer was seated. He glanced at Lenora, then continued his Asemeruaride with the person next to himn

Beide the young photographer was a man wearing glasses. He leaned forward, peering past the proape toataimpse of Lenora. In a hushed tone, he said. "Hey, isn't the woman next to you

won the first prize I only found out she was the ex-wife of the Fuller Group's CEO when 1 ked were day"

The young photographerably danced at Lenora responding. "It seems so."

The man with passes dismissed with a soner. "Bebeve it or not, I bet that award was bought. It's quite pedal for Paratic. Despite her excellent work and winning first prize, it ended up in someone else's Bad, and she was even forced to apologize." forced to apologuer

The young photographer disagreed. Im not sure if she bought it, but Panoramic is far from innocent. I know the orpat author of the photo that won him the second prize in the last competition. We attended \* phonghy seminar together. When the original author found out tha one else he tried to cam has rights on Instagramand other platforms, but all his attempts were appressed. I thought the issue was hopeless, but who knew that this time, Panoramic finally met his

The sun with glasses exclaimed in surprise, "What? Really?"

Why would I lie to your Look at his Instagram. He was talking about this just a couple of days ago," the grate photographer said as he pulled out his phone, showing it to the bespectacled man. "It's a shame, really. He was so disappointed about the whole thing last time that he didn't even participate in this year's competition. If he had, I bet he would have won something."

That's indeed quite unfortunate. All attempts to seek justice have failed. So. Panoramie is no ordinary. person esther. Otherwise, how could he have such great influence?"

"That's for sure. When the incident occurred, the netizens demanded the real name of Panoramic to be minded" The young photographer sighed. They wanted to prevent him from continuing to steal photos. wder new 11. But the organizers ignored the requests. Even the i desty was lear that there was more to it than met the eye.

"I know who Panoramic

Sly,ddle-aged man seated in the row ahead turned around, casting wary glances to his left and rige before speaking in a hushed tone

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Chapter 350 Who Is Panoramic

The young I is it?"

photographer and the bespectacled man simultaneously looked up, voices overlapping, "Who

"She's a cousin of one of the judges. Think about it, why else would the original author's claim fail? Why would the organizers refuse to disclose Panoramic's real name?" the middle-

aged man said meaningfully. "If it weren't for this instance of plagiarism hitting a snag, it would've never come to light."

The young photographer and the bespectacled man shared a glance, not fully believing those words.

Lenora was typing with her head down, finding their conversation amusing.

Although it was because of her acquaintance with Ezekiel this time, the conversation between the three men certainly pointed out a problem, and that was, in the eyes of the

outsiders, the reason she was a match of Panoramic was because of her relationship with the Fulle She was inextricably linked with Zachary.

Marriage could be dissolved through divorce, but interpersonal relationships were hard to sever. Despite her verbal refusal of Zachary's assistance, she had subconsciously accepted his help.

The man with glasses lowered his voice, curiously asking, "Which judge is it?"

"I'll tell you, but don't spread this around," the middle-aged man cautiously said. "We're not dealing with simple identities here."

The bespectacled man quickly assured, "Don't worry, we'll surely keep this to ourselves."

The middle-aged man glanced around cautiously before whispering, "It's Zeke."

"Huh? Really?" the young photographer expressed in surprise. "I thought he had a good reputation. Is that what he's really like?" Lenora kept her head lowered, but her fingers that were typing had come to a halt. A thoughtful glint flashed in her eyes.

Panoramic is Ezekiel's cousin?

Her first reaction was disbelief.

Having known him for so long, Lenora intuitively felt that Ezekiel was not the type to indulge his relatives in bullying the weak.

Moreover, when she handed over the evidence to Ezekiel, his reaction didn't seem like that of someone in the know.

The middle-aged man said, "That's how it is with wealthy people."

"I did a quick search. Zeke's real name appears Ezekiel Hoffman. There's a good chance that Panoramic could be his cousin. She wouldn't happen to have feelings for him, would she?" the man with glasses speculated. The young photographer shook his head. "No way. In this day and age, who falls for their cousin.

"Well, the middle-aged man spoke, "it definitely won't happen between blood relatives, but this cousin

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isn't really Zeke's cousin. She's the niece of his stepmother's family."

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Upon hearing this, Lenora was reminded of how unreasonable Ezekiel's stepmother was. Suddenly, she felt that what that middle-aged man said had some credibility.

Perhaps it was all the doings of his stepmother's niece, and Ezekiel doesn't know anything about it.

"So, what's Panoramic's name?" asked the man with glasses.

"Summer Lovestone."

Before the young photographer and the man with glasses could say anything. Lenora suddenly started coughing heavily.

The trio simultaneously turned their heads to glance at Lenora, then changed their topic and started discussing the competition this round.

After a long bout of coughing, Lenora finally stopped, rubbing her chest to soothe herself.

She cleared her throat, shifting a seat to the right.

The three men halted their conversation, looking at Lenora with identical expressions.

middle-aged

With a smile, she turned to them and asked the middle aged man, "So, is Summer really Ezekiel's cousin?"

The middle-aged man raised an eyebrow, responding. "Why would I lie to you?"

"How did you find out?" Lenora asked curiously..

"A relative of mine has done business with the Hoffman family before. You should know what Ezekiel's family does for a living, don't you?"

The bespectacled man and the young photographer didn't know much about Ezekiel, other than that he was a photographer and a judge for the competition. However, the middle-

aged man clearly knew that Ezekiel was the head of the Hoffman family, suggesting that most of what he said was likely true.

Summer is Ezekiel's cousin and the niece of his stepmother. So wouldn't that make Ezekiel's stepmother...

The thought of Ezekiel uttering "Aunt Jasmine" caused Lenora's breath to momentarily hitch. There was an indescribable feeling in her heart.

She sat motionless in her spot for a while before pulling out her phone and sending a message to Ezekiel: I'm really sorry, Ezekiel. Something urgent has come up and can't attend the award ceremony. Could you please find someone to accept the award on my behalf? Th Lenora pur away her phone, picked up her bag, and stood up to leave.

She aimlessly wandered the streets.

Even though it was early spring and the weather was warming up, she felt an unusual chill. The cold seemed to seep in from all directions, leaving her heart feeling as cold as ice.

She could still recall, that when she was a child, some sy adults, thinking she was too young to

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understand, would teasingly ask her, "Little girl, do you know your mother ran off with someone?"

Back then, she didn't know what expression to wear.

She still remembered, that during every New Year's family visit, some would always urge her father to remarry, claiming that she probably wasn't his child.

She had heard it all, and she truly feared that her father would abandon her. Yet, she could only pretend to be oblivious.

She also remembered, that back in elementary school, when her classmates found out she didn't have a mother, they all distanced themselves from her. Her best friend, who shared her desk, was initially kind to her. However, the others began bullying her deskmate for her association with her. Eventually, even her deskmate started to drift away from her.

Every time her deskmate was bullied, she would always stand in front of them, yet, she still couldn't alter

the outcome.

She could still remember, the look of sympathy in the eyes of her primary school teacher after learning about her family situation.

She lowered her gaze, growing increasingly silent.

Gradually, she grew up

on her own).

She had already grown accustomed to all of these, as well as the solitude of being