

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

Stay Away 381

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Seeing her feigned ignorance, he chuckled in exasperation. "Gift's off the table."

"No, Uncle Zachary, please!" She pouted, throwing her arms around his neck and giving him a few quick kisses on the cheek. "Uncle Zachary, you're the best." "I'm not the best at all. Just now, you didn't even want a hug and kept asking for your aunt."

Harrietta grinned sheepishly.

In that moment, Zachary was reminded of Lenora from the night before.

The same guilty expression, as if they'd been carved from the same mold.

Zachary couldn't bring himself to "interrogate" the little one anymore.

Oh, let her be. Who knew what went on in that little head of hers.

Zachary had brought Harrietta a beautiful music box. She loved it, playing with it in the living room for a long time, occasionally sighing, "When will Aunt Lenora wake up?" Lenora finally woke up around noon.

As she opened her eyes, she realized she was in an unfamiliar room.

Memories of the previous day came flooding back. She had gone to see Jasmine, but Zachary had shown up midway and taken her away. After that, things had taken a turn. Disjointed images flashed through her mind, bringing flush to her face. She closed her eyes, her long, curled lashes trembling slightly.

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21:41 Fri, Nov 15

Chapter 381 Thankfully The Room Is Soundproof

Lenora became acutely aware that she was completely uncovered under the blanket.

"Zach..." she began to call, but a sharp pain shot up her throat, leaving her speechless with teary eyes.

She looked around, propped herself up, and held the blanket to her chest. Reaching for the glass of water on the bedside table, she drank a few gulps, easing the soreness slightly. "Zachary Lenora forced out the word despite the pain.

Playing with her music box in the living room, Harrietta looked up in confusion. "Ms. Miranda, did you hear a duck quacking?" "No, I didn't."

Zachary, who was working on his laptop at the side, said nothing.

Setting down his work, he picked up a shopping bag from the sofa and headed to the guest room.

"Aunt Lenora's awake?" Harrietta put down the music box, hopping off the sofa to follow him

Zachary stopped her. "Wait until she's dressed, then you can play with her."

Pouting, Harrietta returned to the sofa.

Zachary brought the clothes in and, as expected, was promptly sent back out.

Harrietta chuckled gleefully.

A moment later, Lenora emerged from the guest room, fully dressed. Harrietta happily ran up to her, chattering away.

After a while, noticing that Lenora hadn't spoken, Harrietta asked curiously. "Aunt Lenora, why aren't you talking?"

Lenora glared at Zachary, trying to come up with an explanation. Miranda intervened, "Her voice must be hoarse. It happens with colds. She'll be fine in a couple of days." Lenora nodded in agreement, thankful for Miranda's cover.

Zachary scratched his nose.

How could he possibly be blamed for this?

She had been drugged, lost her sanity, and didn't hold back in screaming

He covered her mouth, but she resisted.

Thankfully, the soundproofing in this room was effective.

Speaking of the drug, Zachary intended to trace it back to its source.

He was convinced that Jasmine had drugged her.

Lenora typed a message on her phone for Zachary to read: I didn't drink any water or eat anything at the

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Yet, she still found it somewhat hard to believe.

Jasmine had carried her for nine months!

Even if Jasmine didn't like her, would she go so far as to harm her just for Summer?

I want to go back to the restaurant

After reading what she typed, Zachary grabbed his car keys. "Let's go. I'll take you."

They returned to the same restaurant, to the same private room. Inside, Lenora detected no trace of the scent from the day before.

Instead, the room smelled only of the restaurant's standard air freshener.

Lenora's heart went cold, her limbs numb.

She'd thought Jasmine was simply indifferent to her and just a little partial to Summer, but she'd never imagined Jasmine would go so far as to drug her.

Had Zachary not arrived in time, and the effects kicked in, where would Jasmine have sent her?

Seeing Lenora's shoulders tremble slightly, Zachary came over and held her. "Nora, it's fine. She doesn't see you as her daughter, so don't let her hurt you. She's not worth it."

Lenora sniffled, her voice hoarse as she said, "I know."

Back in the car, Zachary waited until she calmed down before casually bringing up. "Have you thought about why she drugged you?"

Lenora guessed, "Maybe she wanted to use me to bribe someone?"

The case involving Howard was clear-cut, requiring minimal investigation, and had already been handed over to the prosecution. The prosecution was expected to initiate the public prosecution next. Depending on the charges brought forth in the public prosecution, the sentencing standards would vary.

Needless to say, the court held the ultimate fate of Howard in its hands.

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Judging by her reaction, Zachary could tell she still wasn't considering Ezekiel, and he felt almost furious.

Does she trust Ezekiel that much?

""Why not? Don't I?"

Lenora shot him a look. "You don't count."

Zachary tried probing further. "By the way, all of this began because of Ezekiel. What did he say about it?"

"He said he would try to rein in Jasmine, but he broke his promise."

"He broke his promise. Don't you hate him?" Zachary pressed his lips together.

He couldn't help but recall how he had broken many promises to Lenora in the past for Susanna.

"Oh, I understand. That's his stepmother, so he might not have a choice. Besides, he doesn't owe me anything.

She didn't expect anything from Ezekiel, so she wouldn't feel disappointed.

Zachary was speechless.

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Lenora froze for a moment. "You mean..."

""Yes." Zachary nodded.

"Impossible. Ezekiel doesn't like me. Why would he do something like that?"

Zachary fell silent.

Somehow, he felt a lot better.

No wonder Lenora had no idea Ezekiel liked her.

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Chapter 382 If She Would Just Disappear

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The plan had failed, and Jasmine had intended to return to the capital, but was stopped by Bertram. Bertram said, "I also happen to have to make a trip to Jaraster tomorrow. We can return together then." Just as Jasmine was about

to agree, Bertram continued, "By the way, I'll bring Summer along. We'll find a time to apologize to Lenora. After all, this was Summer's fault. When the time comes, you can accompany Summer. It might help to smooth things over between you two." Jasmine's eyes widened in disbelief, her lips parting slightly as she struggled to maintain her composure.

"Bertram, you know what Summer's temperament is like-

Moreover, after last night's incident, Lenora is probably seething with resentment toward me. How could there possibly be any deep mother-daughter affection between us?

Bertram interrupted her. "It's precisely because she's hot-tempered that she needs to be properly disciplined. She needs to understand what's acceptable and what's not. Your approach will only spoil her."

"All right, I understand that. However, Lenora harbors deep misunderstandings about
1. me.

I think it's something that can be easily resolved."

"As long as you treat her right, given enough time, she'll eventually understand your feelings. There's no need to rush things," Bertram advised her casually,

At that moment, if he approached Zachary, claiming to be his father, asking Zachary to return with him to the Hoffman family. Zachary would most probably drive him away.

He was afraid to see a face filled with hatred on Zachary, and he couldn't swallow his pride either, so he could only let Jasmine and Lenora act as the intermediaries. After hanging up the phone, Jasmine was on the verge of throwing her phone again..

Bertram actually asked me to go and apologize to Lenora with Summer? He really expects me to curry favor with Lenora? Does that b*stard even deserve this?

The day Summer took the money and left the Hoffman residence, she didn't even manage to leave Jeahron before she was apprehended by Ezekiel's men. They confined her in a two-story apartment. Ezekiel had merely restricted Summer's freedom, but he hadn't mistreated her in any other way.

Whatever Summer desired to eat or wanted, she could instruct the bodyguards outside to purchase it for

her.

At first, she used this method to torment her bodyguards, expressing her protest. After two days of this torment, she realized it was futile and decided to calm down.

Until that day, she was finally released and brought back to the Hoffman residence.

Summer breathed a sigh of relief, but didn't find Jasmine at the Hoffman residence. Upon inquiry, she found out that her aunt had gone to Jacaster.

Subsequently, Bertram suggested that she accompany him to Jacaster to apologize to Lenora.

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Summer instinctively wanted to refuse, but the stern look on her uncle's face made her swallow her words before they could escape her lips.

He expects me to apologize to Lenora, groveling before her? Where then, would my dignity go? Where would my pride go? Throughout my life, I have never once been defeated by Lenora. She'd surely be thrilled with triumph if she sees me bowing and scraping before her. Filled with resentment and dissatisfaction, Summer followed Bertram to Jacaster.

Throughout the journey, Summer dared not voice a single complaint.

But when she arrived in Jacaster and met Jasmine, she found herself alone with her cousin. She tearfully confided in Jasmine, expressing that she didn't want to apologize to Lenora.

Jasmine let out a sigh, hinting at her own predicament, "I'm helpless too. Whatever your uncle decides, can't be changed."

Bertram's willingness to protect Summer was already considered a stroke of luck for her. In his view, it was only right for Summer to apologize.

"Why did Uncle Bertram suddenly ask you to mend your mother-daughter relationship with Lenora?"

"Perhaps it's due to Zachary. A few days ago, Zachary personally visited the Hoffman family to seek justice for Lenora. In the past, I remember your uncle watching Zachary's interview, his words full of admiration for him. His personal visit this time was also intended to collaborate with the Fuller family."

Recalling the tall and upright figure, the man who was refined and elegant, a man of responsibility and duty, Summer's fondness for him deepened even more.

Upon reflection, it became apparent that Zachary's responsibility was all for Lenora.

A flash of jealousy contorted Summer's face.

Why? Why does Lenora manage to win the affections of both Zachary and Ezekiel? Why, even after their divorce, is Zachary still so unwaveringly devoted to Lenora? If Zachary could have treated me the same way, standing up for me right after I was wronged, I would have. "Aunt Jasmine, are you really planning to mend your relationship with Lenora and bring her back to the Hoffman family?" Summer asked, shaking Jasmine's arm and pouting her lips.

"Of course not. Even if I wanted to, Lenora wouldn't agree. She's not a fool, you know. Rest assured, no one is going to take what's yours."

Summer breathed a sigh of relief. "You're so nice to me, Aunt Jasmine."

Jasmine chuckled, but her smile froze as a thought crossed her mind. She 'gently patted the back of Summer's hand, "Summer, your uncle and Ezekiel are planning to send you abroad for studies. Which country do you prefer? They will arrange everything for you." Summer's eyes widened, staring at Jasmine in disbelief

Seeing Jasmine's serious expression and realizing she wasn't joking, Summer panicked. [Search The find novel.net website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.](#)

"Aunt Jasmine, I don't want to study abroad. Is that okay? Can you talk to Uncle Bertram and Ezekiel about

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Chapter 382 If She Would Just Disappear

it?"

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Jasmine heaved a sigh. "It's no use. Summer, do you still not understand my status in this family? How can I change the decisions made by those two? The trouble you've caused this time is too significant."

Tears welled up in Summer's eyes as she pleaded, "Aunt Jasmine, I beg you, I really don't want to study abroad! I won't know anyone there, and my Uprian isn't good. What if something happens? Can you bear to see me suffer in a foreign land?"

Jasmine patted Summer's back, unswayed. "It's not that I don't want to help you, it's that I can't. Don't worry, your uncle and cousin will take care of everything for you. They won't let you suffer."

No matter how much Summer cried, Jasmine remained unyielding.

Since childhood, Jasmine had always been the one who pampered her the most. If even her aunt refused to agree to this matter, it meant there was no room for negotiation at all.

She simply would have to go study abroad.

However I'm no longer young. I'm well past

the age of schooling By the time I returned from studying abroad in a few years, the people in my social circle would have become strangers to me. Who would want me, then? I certainly have no intention of marrying those small- time business owners or spoiled and pampered kids! Since going abroad is inevitable anyway, what's the point in apologizing?

Summer was particularly repulsed by this matter.

Coincidentally, Bertram returned from outside and had already set a date. He asked her to accompany Jasmine to the Fuller residence the day after tomorrow.

At the dining table, under Bertram's imposing authority. Summer dared not complain. She nodded submissively, a flash of resentment flickering in the depths of her eyes.

Ever since she crossed paths with Lenora, nothing seemed to go her way.

Lenora is nothing but a jiu! It'd be better if she's just disappear! Then, I wouldn't have to apologize, and Uncle Bertram and Ezekiel wouldn't make me study abroad either.

The thought had briefly crossed Summer's mind and never faded. away

"Summer."

Jasmine noticed Summer was lost in thought and gave her a nudge with her elbow. She flashed an apologetic smile at Bertram before saying, "Summer, your uncle was speaking to you. Did you hear him?" Snapping back to reality, Summer looked at Bertram and gave a small nod. "Yes, I heard you!

Bertram furrowed his brow, but didn't say a word.

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Chapter 383 Gone Missing

Chapter 383 Gone Missing

The person Zachary sent to Mysonna returned with good news.

It turned out that Gaston had already gotten married and had a child in Mysonna

According to Zachary's men, they arrived at Gaston's dwelling in Yiefmery. Upon inquiring with the locals, they discovered that after Gaston was taken away by Jayden and his men. Gaston's wife and child were also taken away by another group of people.

Zachary speculated that the group who took Gaston's wife and child must've been Ezekiel's men. Hence, after they captured Gaston at the border, it was only logical for them to leverage his wife and child as threats against him, before handing him over to the police.. Delving deeper into the matter, it was possible that Gaston's escape from Jayden at the border might have been orchestrated by Ezekiel's people. Their intention could have been to get closer to Gaston, to intimidate him.

Presumably, the operation was more than halfway successful. The group that had kidnapped Gaston's wife and child had let their guard down. This provided an opportunity for the men Zachary had sent. They managed to rescue Gaston's wife and child, and brought them Zachary personally visited Gaston's wife and child, then proceeded to the police station to request a meeting with Gaston himself.

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The guilt of Gaston was established a decade ago. Regardless of whether Susanna was innocent, he could. not escape from it.

Therefore, he would obey whoever had his wife and child in their control.

After Zachary showed him a video of his wife and child, Gaston agreed to reconsider the case.

The case had already been closed and handed over for review at the procurator's office. After Zachary pulled some strings, it got held up at the procurator's office.

To overturn the initial investigation results, it was essential for the procurator's office to order a retrial.

For this reason, Zachary had specifically hosted a banquet, inviting relevant connections. Among them was an individual from the procurator's office.

The man's maternal uncle happened to be Zachary's business partner, Jonathan Wright, the CEO of Oceanic Technologies.

The intricate web of relationships within the business and political realms, was well exemplified by -Jonathan's brother-in-law, who hailed from a family steeped in scholarly tradition. His parents and

siblings were either holding positions within the government or were employed in the public prosecution and judicial sector. His sister, on the other hand, was a university professor.

Last time, after Jonathan played matchmaker, Jonathan's brother-in-law readily agreed to Zachary's request. The case was then left untouched in the procurator's office, the review process was continuously delayed.

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This time, after Zachary sent out the invitation, Jonathan's brother-in-law gracefully declined Zachary's invitation and expressed his own predicament after the last event. His parents, who worked in the government, had faced pressure from higher-ups. Zachary simply asked casually, without giving him any pressure.

The pressure endured by the parents of Jonathan's brother-in-law and the hasty closure of Benedict's case by the higher-ups were both orchestrated by the same person.

The man's name was Isaac White, a cousin to Ezekiel's mother, making him Ezekiel's maternal uncle. He held a significant position in a certain department.

With Isaac standing in his way, Zachary simply had no way to get the case reopened.

Looking at the stack of documents about Isaac on the table, a hint of depth flashed in Zachary's eyes.

At three in the afternoon, once Lenora's scenes were wrapped up, she headed over to check on the charity foundation.

After the charity foundation was established, she rented a floor in an office building in a certain area as her workspace. She set up several departments and had already hired the necessary staff. The operation was now underway, but it was inevitable that various issues would arise. After spending some time busying herself at the charity foundation, she was surprised to find that it was already nine in the evening. Her office was the only one on the entire floor still illuminated.

Lenora stretched languidly, easing her weary body. After shutting down the computer, she left.

At that time, there weren't many people in the entire office building, so no one was vying with her for the elevator. Lenora went straight to the first basement level without any hindrance.

Stepping out of the elevator, she made her way toward her car using her memory.

Suddenly, a beam of light shot from behind, accompanied by the sound of a car horn. Immediately, Lenora darted to the side of the road.

The van drove past her.

Upon a quick glance, Lenora noticed that the van surprisingly had its side door open.

A sudden realization flashed in her mind, setting off alarm bells. But it was too late to evade.

A figure emerged from the vehicle, swiftly pulling her into the car with a speed that left no room for reaction. A swift, hand-chop then struck her on the back of her neck.

Lenora's vision went dark, and she fell into unconsciousness.

It was already ten, and when the driver noticed that Lenora hadn't come down yet, he decided to give Lenora a call.

No one answered.

Chapter 383 Gone Missing

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Lenora had hired the driver during her busiest moment. She often had to work overtime or attend social engagements until eleven at night.

Seeing that it was only ten, the driver merely assumed that Lenora was still busy and hadn't had the chance to answer her phone.

A few minutes had passed when he decided to call again.

Still, no one answered the call.

It was then that the driver sensed something was off. He locked the car and took the elevator up to take a look, only to find that the doors to the charity foundation were already locked.

A pang of anxiety hit him as he stood at the door, dialing Lenora's number once again, only to be met with

no answer.

The driver was somewhat flustered. He rushed to retrieve the surveillance camera footage from the office building's security room. The security personnel were quite cooperative, but reviewing the footage was going to take some time. After putting in a considerable amount of effort, they finally spotted Lenora in the surveillance footage.

The surveillance footage showed that Lenora entered the elevator at nine twelve. By nine thirteen, she had exited. The opening and closing of the elevator doors revealed that she was on the first basement level.

Adjacent to the office building was a shopping mall, with the first basement level of the parking garage. leading directly to the first basement level of the mall. This level housed a comprehensive supermarket. Could Lenora have possibly stopped by to pick up some items? It has already been an hour, though. Shopping shouldn't take this long and there's no reason not to answer the phone..

"Where's the surveillance footage from the underground garage?" the driver asked hastily.

The staff in the surveillance room let out a sigh. "This is bad. The surveillance cameras in the underground garage had some issues yesterday and it hasn't been fixed yet. The entire underground garage is without surveillance." The driver's heart was in his throat.

The surveillance cameras just happened to fail at that very moment? That's too much of a coincidence!

The driver, with trembling fingers, pulled out his mobile phone and dialed Zachary's number.

"H-Hello, Mr. Fuller.. I-It seems Ms. Wilkin has gone missing.

When Lenora woke up, she found herself in a dimly lit small room. Her hands and feet were bound, leaving her sprawled on the ground like a helpless insect.

The surroundings were shrouded in complete darkness, so much so that she couldn't even see her own hands in front of her.

The air was damp and chilling, causing Lenora to shiver involuntarily.

Recalling her memories before she passed out, her heart sank to an all-time low,

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Chapter 383 Gone Missing

Did I get kidnapped? Who kidnapped me? What's their aim? It would be understandable if they're interested in my money, but I wouldn't have access to it for the time being. It might be someone who bears a grudge against me. After much dawdling, Lenora finally managed to sit up.

The air held a faint unpleasant odor, and it was noticeably chillier than in the city. Lenora suspected she might be in the outskirts, likely near a chemical plant, or perhaps a ditch filled with discarded pesticide boules.

However, she had no idea where her phone was.

Lenora tried to struggle with her hands, but the bindings were too tight, so she simply couldn't break free.

She cautiously probed around with her feet, inadvertently kicking a brick.

Lenora deftly maneuvered the brick closer using her foot, trapping it between her feet. She then started to fray the rope using the brick's sharp edges,

However, the hemp rope was too thick, and Lenora hadn't been rubbing it for long when suddenly, she heard voices from outside.

"She's inside?" The man's voice was a bit shrill, and notably loud.

"Yeah. Did you bring the money?" Another man's voice rang out, gruff and rugged.

"I brought it, but I need to see what she is like first."

The gruff male voice sounded somewhat anxious, "Do you really think I'd trick you? Give me the money quickly, I need to leave."

"No way."

The sharp, male voice rang out, crystal clear as if just outside the door.

In the next moment, the door to the small, dark room was flung open.

Stay Away 384

The faint moonlight gently poured in. 10 Free Cons

At the entrance stood a rather short man, sporting a buzz cut. He was sizing up Lenora with the same scrutiny one would use on merchandise. Turning toward the person behind him, he said, "Judging by her looks, she should fetch a good price." Lenora's heart immediately sank.

I encountered a human trafficker?

Lenora found her thoughts drifting to past instances of women who were kidnapped and sold to remote areas. Their experiences were each more tragic than the last. If it were truly as such, she feared that a fate worse than death awaited her. The man behind her looked worn and disheveled, his hair and beard appeared to have not been tended to in a while. His tone was somewhat impatient as he said "Give me the money, quick." Lenora felt a sense of familiarity.

A spark flashed through her mind, her pupils abruptly constricting as she stared at the disheveled man- outside.

Richie!

Due to the police manhunt and investigation, they had placed informants at various train stations, bus stations, and highway intersections. Richie found it impossible to leave Jacaster and had no choice but to keep hiding from place to place. A couple of days ago, someone had discovered his hideout. They proposed a deal to him-

pull off one last job, then sell the target to human traffickers, who would take the target to a remote mountainous region from where the target would never be able to return. This way, just like a decade ago, he could escape the country and evade capture.

Of course, Richie remembered. It was when Lenora uncovered new clues and reopened the investigation that he ended up in this miserable state.

He was filled with resentment. He despised how, after all these years, this wretched woman was still obsessing over this matter.

He agreed immediately, seizing Lenora to sell her to human traffickers, condemning her to a life trapped in the mountains, destined to be nothing more than a child-bearing tool for some old bachelor.

Richie should have accompanied the human traffickers in transporting Lenora out of Jacaster, and personally witnessed her being sold off to said remote mountainous region.

However, he was no fool. The police weren't naive. With Lenora's sudden disappearance, the authorities would only intensify their surveillance. It made it even more imperative for him to stay hidden. That was why he planned to take the money

and lay low for a while, waiti The short man pulled out a wad of cash from his pocket "Here."

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Chapter 384 Rescuing Herself

Upon seeing it, Richie snatched it from his hand. "Is this all?"

"It's quite a lot. Do you still want it or not?"

"You..."

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Richie glared at him, his annoyance flaring into anger. However, fearing a delay, he ultimately swallowed his pride. He tucked the money into his pocket and cast a glance at Lenora in the room, "Remember what you promised. Sell her far, far away, and make sure she neve "Don't worry: I know what to do."

The short man spat in the direction of Richie's retreating figure.

Does he really think I'm clueless about what I've always been doing? If we sell her somewhere too near, she could run

away!

The man's gaze fell back onto Lenora, a hint of astonishment flickering in his eyes, revealing a lewd

expression.

He had been in this line of work for quite a few years. Due to the recent increase in scrutiny, he planned to pull off one last job before retiring for good.

However, he hadn't expected the last girl to be this stunning. She would surely fetch a good price, and he was certain to make a hefty profit.

In the past, every time he received new merchandise, he would always toy with them before selling them

off.

This time, there was even less chance of letting that chance slip him by

Lenora discerned his intentions, and her body filled up with wariness. She tensed up, swallowed hard, and tried to control her trembling frame as she asked, "What... what are you planning to do?" "You, obviously." The man's words were coarse and broken, as he excitedly lunged toward Lenora.

"S-Stay away from me... Don't come any closer..." Lenora's face was deathly pale as he slowly moved backward.

"I'd advise you not to waste your energy. We're in the middle of nowhere, so no one's coming to rescue you. It'd be wise to cooperate with me, or else you're in for a world of trouble!" he warned.

A sensation of coldness washed over Lenora, as if a bucket of icy water had been poured over her head. A chilling sensation seeped into her core, snapping her into a heightened state of alertness. No one would come to save her.

All she could do was hope that the driver would notice her absence sooner rather than later, and alert the authorities promptly.

In the meantime, she had to figure out a way to save herself.

Lenora managed to calm herself down, taking a deep breath as she said, "You bought me just for money, didn't you? My family is wealthy. As long as you let me go, you can name your price."

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Chapter 384 Rescuing Herself

"Do you think I'm a fool? Don't waste your energy!"

The short man glared at Lenora, smirking coldly.

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This girl is indeed quite attractive, with a certain elegance about her. There is indeed a chance she actually comes from a wealthy household, but it's still safer to just sell her off. There's no telling if she'd call the police to arrest me once she's free.

The man advanced, forcefully pushing Lenora aside. With her hands and feet bound, Lenora was utterly

unable to rise.

"You could only sell me off to some remote farming village, full of bachelors who can't find wives. How much could you possibly get for that? But if you let me go, I can give you five hundred thousand, even a million!" she exclaimed.

Upon hearing this, the man halted in his tracks.

She makes a valid point. Why are those people buying wives?

this girl

No one was willing to marry me due to my family's poverty and my own lack of talent. Despite her beauty, could only fetch tens of thousands at most. Any more than that these bachelors wouldn't be able to afford it. This might just be the sum of all the money they've painstakingly saved. As soon as Lenora quoted numbers like five hundred thousand and a million, it truly teased out the greed hidden in the man's heart.

If I could really secure a million, coupled with my family's savings, I wouldn't have to worry for the rest of my life!

Lenora saw the interest in his eyes and decided to strike while the iron was hot. "If you doubt me, you can check my handbag. It's genuine leather and could fetch twenty thousand even in a second-

hand market. Also, my phone, it's an Apple 15 plus model with 2 terabytes of storage. It could easily sell for ten thousand."

She was bluffing about the handbag.

She wouldn't usually spend that much money on a handbag. The bag was over two thousand, not cheap but not overly expensive either. However, she could tell that the man in front of her had no experience with designer handbags and didn't understand their value, so she bluffed. However, she wasn't lying about her phone. Inspiration could strike at any moment, so she had a habit of capturing those moments on camera. That necessitated a high-quality device. Additionally, she was accustomed to saving those images immediately. Upon hearing this, the man furrowed his brows. "Your handbag isn't with me."

Richie must've taken it along with her phone. If her financial situation is really as she claimed, then her phone should be quite valuable.

He was already halfway convinced, feeling a tinge of regret in his heart. If he had known earlier, he wouldn't have paid the money. Instead, he would have simply dismissed Richie right away.

Lenora sighed. "That's a shame. But I assure you, I'm not lying. If you agree to let me go. I promise my family will pay you a hefty sum. It's a better deal than if you were to sell me. After all, they are aware of my

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disappearance and they will search for me. But they will also seek vengeance on those who have sold me."

The man hesitated for a moment, growing increasingly uncertain.

She's right in what she said. If I had trafficked her, her family would surely go to great lengths to investigate the matter, and the police would spare no effort in searching for her. In the past, it was difficult to locate those who had been kidnapped, but now, with the advancement of technology, it would be much easier to find them. But I would also live in fear of retribution from her family day and night.

I retired for the sake of leading a peaceful life. Taking such a risk for this last job simply wasn't worth it.

At that time, he was left with only two options. One was to kill her outright, leaving no survivors, thereby avoiding any trouble.

She was procured by Richie, and their transactions were all in cash, leaving no trace of evidence. Thus, the police couldn't possibly track him down.

But if he did that, then his efforts would turn out to be in vain, and he would have ended up handing over twenty thousand to Richie for nothing.

He really couldn't bring himself to accept such an outcome.

The second option was just as she had mentioned-to use her as a means to demand money from her family, and then leave immediately after receiving it.

The man already had an inclination in his heart, yet he remained cautious. "Is your family truly that wealthy, able to just casually hand out a million? What's your name?"

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When Richie handed her over to him, he was afraid he might refuse, so he didn't mention Lenora's identity or their shared history. He simply stated that he hadn't eaten for a while and, upon seeing her alone, he was overcome with ill-intent and decided to seize her. A desperate person was capable of doing anything.

Upon observing Richie's demeanor, the man instinctively guessed that he was hiding from the police, without questioning the veracity of his words.

Lenora was certain she couldn't reveal her real name.

The man wanted to know her name to confirm whether her family was genuinely wealthy.

If he were to investigate Zachary, he would find out about the latter's character and background, and he might kill her off instead.

After all, there was a ready example involving Zachary Years ago, when someone tried to use his girlfriend. Susanna, as a threat against him, he didn't succumb to the intimidation but instead, he immediately reported it to the police.

Pausing for a moment, Lenora said, "This coat I'm wearing is worth three thousand in the second-hand market. If you don't believe me, you can take this coat to the second-hand market and ask for yourself. Also, my name is Sophia Tortell. My dad is David Tortell, and he runs a clothing company called Tortell Fashion. You'll see if you look it up."

She adopted Sophia's name as the latter came from a wealthy background, leading a carefree life, yet she wasn't as ostentatious as Zachary.

At that moment, Lenora couldn't help but feel relieved. It was fortunate that Richie had taken her handbag, which contained her ID card. Otherwise, her cover would have been blown. "Sophia Tortell..." the man repeated, giving her a glance. "You wait here for a moment."

He turned around and left, closing the door behind him. He then summoned a lackey who was keeping watch not too far away, and relayed the conversation he just had with Lenora.

Upon hearing the mention of a million, the lackey's eyes lit up with excitement. "Boss, I think they can definitely afford more than just a million. It could even be two or three million," he said.

The man was intrigued and said, "She told me her name is Sophia Tortell. Her father is David Tortell, who runs a clothing company. Could you check if such a person exists?"

The lackey wasn't particularly educated, nor did he know how to conduct an investigation. So, he simply typed "David Tortell" into the search engine. A string of people with the same name popped up, each with different identities. The man stood behind his lackey, watching as he scrolled through the screen, his brow furrowed in concentration.

Suddenly, he cried out, "Stop!"

III

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Chapter 385 You Have To Save Me

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The man snatched the lackey's phone, his gaze fell on a particular entry. It read: David Tortell, Chairman of Tortell Fashion in Jacaster.

The brief lines within the document provided a scant overview of the business situation. Information about David himself was pitifully sparse, let alone about his daughter.

After all, there were many companies of various sizes throughout the country.

The lackey exclaimed with surprise, "Could it be this one? Is he really the owner of a company?"

The man conducted another search for Tortell Fashion in Jacaster. He didn't find any useful information, only that the business was listed as operational, confirming the company's current existence,

The man pondered for a moment, then typed the words "Sophia Tortell" into the search bar.

To his surprise, he actually found something. The webpage introduced Sophia as a renowned makeup artist, detailing some of her works. At the end, it made a special note that she was a close friend of Zachary's ex-wife: Lenora,

Makeup artists typically worked behind the scenes, only coming into public view under certain circumstances. They either had top-tier skills or were associated with hot topics. For instance, when a

ertain actor's styling was subpar, the makeup artist would be criticized by fans and become a trending

Sophia was well-regarded in her industry, her schedule always packed. However, her real breakthrough into the public eye was due to the gossip surrounding Lenora and Zachary. When the truth was revealed. Sophia, who had defended Lenora, was widely praised, Later on, Lenora and Sophia traveled together, causing the media to further link them as a pair.

Thus, when the man clicked on Sophia's profile, the first thing he saw was a photo of Lenora and Sophia together, leading him to mistake one for the other.

The man was sure that Lenora was not lying, and tossed his phone to his lackey. "Seems we're on the right track. We need to plan carefully now. Once we get the money, we'll leave this place and lay low for a while," he said.

The lackey hastily nodded. "Okay! What's your plan, Boss? Are you going to call her dad tonight?"

The man pondered for a moment before telling his lackey, "Use a new card. Have them start gathering the We should also plan our escape route. In a couple of days, we'll find a place to make the exchange." money.

"All right!"

The lackey took out a row of new cards from the car and switched them into his mobile phone.

Those involved in this line of work were constantly in fear of being tracked, so they switched out their SIM cards frequently.

The man returned to the room with his phone in hand, his gaze fixated on Lenora.

Lenora cautiously watched the man, holding her breath

"Don't worry; I won't touch you. Just give me your father's phone number. You'll be free to go as soon as I

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Chapter 385 You Have To Save Me

get the tone said the man.

Lenora heaved a quiet sigh of relief. "I can tell you this. Once I see my father, I can even persuade him to drop the charges. But you have to assure my safety. You absolutely cannot harm me."

The man studied Lenora, finding it to be quite a shame. However, as long as he had money, he could have any kind of woman he wanted in the future.

"I promise you," the man said.

"Give me your phone; I'll talk to my dad," Lenora said.

The man refused, suspecting she might have ulterior motives. "You tell me the number. I'll make the call."

Feeling helpless, Lenora gave him Zachary's number.

Her heart was racing.

If Zachary knew about my disappearance, there should be an unspoken understanding, right?

She had promised not to bother him for help, yet here she was, troubling him once again.

The man dialed, and the call connected almost instantly.

"Hello?"

From the receiver, a deep male voice came through. It sounded as if he was struggling to hold something back. The man couldn't help but glance at Lenora. This voice sounds quite young. Could she have been lying?

The man's voice carried a sinister undertone as he asked, "Are you David Tortell, the owner of Tortell Fashion?"

"Who are you?" Zachary narrowed his eyes, suspecting something, yet he didn't deny anything.

The man saw his silent acknowledgment and smirked. No need to worry about who I am. Your daughter is with me. If you don't want anything to happen to her, prepare five million in cash immediately. I want to see the money in three days." Zachary paused for a moment before saying, "You really don't shy away from making excessive demands."

"It all depends on whether Ms. Tortell's worth in your heart matches this price."

"All right. I can agree to your terms, but I need to know that my daughter is safe. Let her speak on the phone, Zachary said.

The man placed his phone against Lenora's ear.

Lenora hesitated for a moment before disregarding all consequences and blurted out, "Dad, it's me! You have to save

me!"

It was Lenora's voice.

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Chapter 385 You Have To Save Me

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Zachary subtly let out a sigh of relief, softly consoling her, "Don't worry; I will definitely rescue you. Don't

be scared."

"Okay..."

Lenora wanted to say something more, but the man pulled his phone away, placing it back to his ear as he said, "You heard her, didn't you? Get the cash ready as soon as possible. I'll contact you again in three days." "You need not worry about that. However, in three days, I must see my daughter, safe and sound, or else..."

Zachary's tone was sharp, the words he left unsaid only added an extra layer of threat.

"As long as you deliver the money, I assure you of your daughter's safety."

The man's heart grew increasingly excited.

He just wanted to give it a shot, so he asked for five million, not expecting that the other party would actually agree.

The thought of having five million in his hands in just three days brought

a hint of a smile to his lips.

Just then, the lackey suddenly burst into the room. "Boss, we're in trouble! The cops are here!" he exclaimed.

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Stay Away 386

Chapter 386 The Rescue

Chapter 386 The Rescue

The man was taken aback, exclaiming in surprise, "How could it be so fast?"

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"I really don't know! The message from over there said we were only a few miles away." The lackey looked at the man anxiously, seeming somewhat at a loss. Experienced human traffickers like this man would always set up secret lookouts near their trading spots.

The lookout was positioned at a distance, ready to provide an early warning in case of any unforeseen circumstances, thus allowing the man more time to escape. Upon receiving a tip-off from a covert lookout, the lackey was informed that the police were heading in that direction

The man cursed under his breath, "D*mn it! You guys tricked me!"

After he finished speaking, he swiftly ended the call and tossed his phone back to his lackey.

The lackey skillfully removed the SIM card from the phone and tossed it away.

The man cast a gloomy glance at Lenora, and suddenly, his hand swung up in a slap. "You're stalling!"

Caught off guard, Lenora was struck and fell to the ground. Her chest throbbed in pain, her ears rang, and her head spun. "I-I'm not..."

She wasn't truly attempting to stall for time. She simply didn't want to be sold.

No one would have thought that the police would find this place so quickly, only to be discovered by the human traffickers.

After this, he probably wouldn't trust Lenora's makeshift plans anymore.

The man sneered, shoving a rag into Lenora's mouth before hoisting her onto the car.

"Hurry up and go."

The car sped away from the location swiftly.

There was a tracking device in Lenora's bag.

That was a bag she frequently used, and it was the same one Elijah had once placed something in at the airport.

Thus, there were times when Zachary could discern Lenora's whereabouts, effortlessly locating her.

When the driver informed Zachary about Lenora's disappearance, he immediately accessed Lenora's location, finding it on a remote road, unmoving. Upon contacting the police to retrieve the surveillance footage, it was discovered that Lenora's bag had been discarded and thrown from a van. The authorities promptly traced the tracks of the van through surveillance, and after determining its

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Chapter 386 The Rescue

approximate location, they dispatched a team to rescue the hostage.

Zachary's people also went along.

Unexpectedly, while on the road, Zachary received a call from the man.

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While he was engaging in a dialogue with the kidnappers, he simultaneously gestured to Elijah, signaling him to connect with the lead police officer. He wanted them to avoid alerting the enemy. Lenora was safe for the time being. They had plenty of time to plan her rescue. Ensuring her safety was their top priority.

Unexpectedly, the man on the other side noticed the police presence and immediately hung up the phone.

Zachary sensed trouble and immediately reached out to the authorities, who rushed to the scene with all their might.

When the phone number was dialed again, it was no longer reachable.

Zachary gripped his phone tightly, an icy aura emanating from him. "There are people looking out nearby. Take some people and go check it out,"

The car came to a halt, and Elijah stepped out. He and a few of his buddies from the car behind split into two groups, rushing toward the wheat fields on either side.

By the time Zachary and the police arrived at the abandoned cabin, it was completely empty. With a flick of the flashlight, dust filled the air everywhere.

This place seemed untouched for a long time. A layer of dust had settled on the ground. The back-and-forth footprints were particularly noticeable.

In a corner within, the ground was significantly cleaner, and along the edges, one could barely make out the outline of a person and the imprint left by their clothing folds. Unsurprisingly, that was the place where Lenora had spent her time.

"They must have left not long ago." The police captain crouched down to inspect the scene. "There are footprints of at least three individuals here."

"Go after her immediately, Zachary said, his jaw tight with tension. He spoke in a muted tone before he turned and walked away.

The captain stepped out and gestured toward the police car driver, who hadn't exited the vehicle. Understanding the signal, the driver immediately stepped on the gas and chased forward.

The police captain watched as Zachary prepared to get into the car. Stepping forward with a sigh, he cautioned, "We were negligent... However, if we continue to pursue, the suspect, feeling cornered, might very well harm the hostage: Zachary's body stiffened, and his loosely hanging hands suddenly tightened. His lips thinned as he pressed them together, his expression turning serious.

If it was a suspect's first offense, it wasn't too bad. As long as they didn't commit murder, there was still

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Chapter 386 The Rescue

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room for leniency. However, if it was a ruthless criminal with a history of other offenses, knowing they were caught by the police meant certain doom. Cornered and desperate, they would inevitably take hostages to shield themselves. The captain then added, "My suggestion is not to pursue them closely. Once we've confirmed their location, we should covertly establish control, set up checkpoints, and then consider negotiating with them. We should seize the opportunity to act when the time is right. Th The mere thought of Lenora possibly suffering at the hands of ruthless kidnappers left Zachary feeling as if a piece of him was missing, an unbearable discomfort settling in his heart.

However, to ensure her safety, he had no choice but to act in such a manner.

Zachary fell silent for a few seconds before responding, "All right."

If it were someone else, he might have immediately urged the police to pursue with all their might. However, it was Lenora, and he truly didn't dare to do so.

He couldn't bear to imagine what he would do if something were to happen to Lenora.

've got him. He was hiding in the ditch, nearly gave us the slip."

"Zack, we've

Elijah pushed open the car door and approached, closely followed by his buddy, who was escorting someone from the back seat.

The individual was short in stature, yet their gaze was restless.

Zachary's gaze was momentarily filled with hostility when he saw the person.

""What's your name-

The captain pulled out a recording pen and notebook from his pocket, ready to interrogate. Suddenly, Zachary kicked the man in the stomach, sending him stumbling backward and falling to the ground. The man shivered as he met Zachary's ferocious gaze. The captain was momentarily stunned as he watched Zachary stride forward, ready to continue. He quickly stepped up to hold Zachary back, saying, "Calm down. Don't hit him anymore. Let me interrogate him. We might get some useful information."

The man hunched his shoulders, his body taut with tension. Without a doubt, if no one intervened, the man in the suit could very well have killed him.

Zachary glanced at the person, hid his sharpness, and turned back to the car.

The captain began questioning on the spot.

Cecil Wilton knew there was no escape, and in hopes of a lighter sentence, he confessed to everything.

It was then discovered that the man's name was Cecil, the youngest child in his family. He was known for shirking his responsibilities and leading an idle life, often mingling with a group of societal

misfits. When his parents were alive, he would regularly ask them for money. His father, despite his old age, still had to work. Tragically, he died suddenly on a construction site. Not long after, his mother also passed away due to illness.

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No one was left to control Cecil. In his pursuit of money, he had been a thief, swindled and deceived others, and gradually, he found himself involved in the human trafficking business.

Eventually, he ended up turning into a human trafficke.

The captain was somewhat surprised.

Abductions had always been a major concern for the police department. Unexpectedly, they had apprehended a human traflicker this time around. If they could bring his accomplices to justice as well, they might be able to rescue a significant number of kidnapped women a Cecil informed the captain that their boss was named Gaspar Laird, and Gaspar had a lackey named Marlon Mador.

Gaspar had been in this business for many years. He had connections with human traffickers from various regions. Whether he had kidnapped them himself or bought them from others, he had dealt with numerous women and children. It was also he who led Cecil into this line of work.

This time, someone reached out to Gaspar, claiming they had a top-tier item they wanted to sell him. They had agreed to meet here for the transaction.

Gaspar was a cautious and cunning man. He wouldn't just meet anyone who reached out to him. Only -when he was certain there was no danger would he appear. Moreover, he would set up secret sentries in

advance. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to stay hidden for so many years.

No one had anticipated that the police would arrive there so quickly.

Cecil had also mentioned that Gaspar had a peculiar interest. Whenever a woman ended up in his grasp, he always insisted on toying with them before letting them go. Despite his short stature and less-than- impressive performance in intimate matters, Gaspar frequently resorted to using certain props to torment these women.

Upon hearing those words, both the captain and Elijah turned pale.

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Stay Away 387

Chapter

87 Crafty Escape

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Chapter 387 Crafty Escape

The captain felt a slight sense of relief in his heart, thankful that Zachary had returned to the car. If he were to hear this, wouldn't he be driven to murder?

Cecil also divulged the usual hideouts they frequented and the individuals who often acted as their intermediaries.

Some bachelors, unable to find a wife, would discreetly inquire about purchasing one. They would approach intermediaries, who were typically acquainted with a few human traffickers. Whichever trafficker had available victims would facilitate the connection. The captain immediately contacted the bureau, arranging for the informant's arrest and the search of the hideout, proceeding on two fronts simultaneously.

After the questioning, the captain returned to the vehicle and drove off in the direction from which Gaspar had fled. [SEARCH THE website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

In the van, Gaspar was driving at a breakneck speed.

Lenora was sprawled across the backseat, gazing out at the darkened streets flashing through the car window, her heart slowly sinking into an abyss.

The lackey, Marlon, was fiddling with his phone when he suddenly exclaimed, "Boss, we've got a problem! I can't reach Cecil"

"Do you really have the time to worry about him? You should be thinking about yourself! They'll definitely catch up to us soon."

Marlon shivered all over. "Will he betray us?"

"So what if he does? The important thing is not to get caught."

There were quite a few fugitives who hadn't been brought to justice at that time.

"Will we get caught, then?"

"Why don't you just shut up?" Gaspar reprimanded.

Marlon fell silent for a moment. After a while, he asked again, "Boss, what do we do now? We definitely can't go to those hideouts. Also, there's her..."

He pointed at Lenora in the back seat, asking, "What should we do?"

Truth be told, he was still somewhat preoccupied with that five million.

"What should we do?" Gaspar glanced at Lenora through the rearview mirror. "We need to dump everything quickly and hide overseas to lay low. Try reaching out now to see if there's anyone interested in the nearby area. You can forget about the informants that Cecil was He had initially planned to send her far away, but it seemed impossible then.

However, he couldn't bear to kill someone outright. Even without five million, selling for a few tens of

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Chapter 387 Crafty Escape

thousands was still profits.

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He had to quickly sell Lenora off. Only then could he make his crafty escape. Otherwise, there was no way he could leave with her in tow.

"I'll get in touch with them right away." Marlon started making calls on the phone.

Lenora, seated in the back, had been listening all along. To say she wasn't scared would be a lie.

Yet, she managed to remain composed, reminding herself that the police were right behind her. They might catch up any moment then. Even if she were to be sold off, they could locate her quickly.

Even if it meant enduring some hardships, it was far better than being sold off to some remote mountain

arca.

After a series of phone calls, Marlon located a suitable buyer. The buyer was from a county in Folask, which was right next to Jacaster in Adonia.

The disparity in Adonia

was severe. People in the southern region were affluent and the economy thrived, whereas in the north, residents lived in poverty and their mindset was outdated, favoring males over females. Consequently, there were many bachelors who couldn't find wives. However, ing bride.

Gaspar said, "Tell him we'll travel overnight and arrive by early morning."

"All right." After finishing his conversation with the person on the other end, Marlon hung up the phone.

Caspar glanced at the road ahead, and they were about to get on the highway.

He couldn't stop the car on the highway.

He glanced at Lenora, who was sprawled out in the backseat, through the rearview mirror. From his perspective, he could only catch a glimpse of Lenora's profile.

Caspar wasn't one for fancy adjectives. All he knew was that this girl

was attractive, with a generous bust and fair skin. She was the most beautiful of the women he had been with. Indeed, she has an aura about her. After all, she's the daughter of a company CEO. Since she's going to be sold anyway, it'd be a shame if I didn't get a taste.

However, he didn't dare to stop the car, fearing that the moment he did, the police would be hot on his tail.

After a moment of thought, Gaspar said. "Let's switch seats. You drive for a while."

As he spoke, he cast a meaningful glance toward Lenora, who was seated in the back.

The van's interior was spacious enough to move around comfortably.

Immediately, Marlon understood and cast a glance at Lenora.

He also desired to experience this young lady's allure, but he had to wait until his boss was done with her.

Lenora sensed Gaspar's intentions. Her heart leaped into her throat, causing her body to shudder briefly. Her mind going blank. What should I do? Am I going to get assaulted but these men? Who is going to come to my

2/4

Chapter 257 Crafty Escape

Gaspar pulled over intending to move to the passenger seat, when a police car suddenly appeared from the highway exit ahead, heading in his direction

Gaspar was taken aback. All thoughts of wealth and women were instantly forgotten. He slammed on the accelerator, and the van sped off down a different road

Given his criminal activities, if he were to be caught, the death penalty would be inevitable. After all, nothing mattered more than his own life.

In a state of panic Marlon clutched the seatbelt in his hand tightly, his whole life flashing before his eyes

Lenora couldn't see what was happening ahead, but judging by the reactions of the two, she guessed that the police must have caught up. A surge of immense hope unexpectedly rose in her heart

After two hours of speeding down the highway. Marlon finally snapped back to reality. Glancing at the rearview mirror, he exclaimed joyfully. "Boss, there's no police car following us anymore." "You're just realizing now?" Gaspar shot him a sideways glance.

As he drove, he kept a watchful eye on the rearview mirror. He had noticed quite a while ago that the police car trailing them had made a right turn at a certain intersection. It seemed they had other emergencies to attend to and they weren't after them. Yet he dared not let his guard down.

The fear was that if the police from Jacaster contacted the highway authorities to set up a roadblock, it could trouble. If any of the highway patrol officers happened to remember their van, a simple direction would be enough for the police in Jacaster to catch up easily. Once those words fell, Lenora's heart, which had been hanging in mid-air, fell back down, sinking deeper into despair.

However, after this incident, Gaspar no longer had any interest in her. All he wanted was to quickly rid himself of the situation and make a swift exit.

Although it was certain that this person would be found, the buyer would inevitably end up with nothing.

However, Gaspar had already decided to retire, no longer caring about his reputation in that line of work.

After a night's journey, by the break of dawn, the van had reached the vicinity of the buyers' village.

That night, Lenora didn't feel the slightest bit of drowsiness. She was on tenterhooks.

Though it was a relatively undeveloped area, it was still part of the eastern region where some locals were not as naive. They understood that human trafficking was an illegal and criminal act.

Fearful of being reported, Marlon reached out to the buyer. They arranged to meet in the forest on the east side of the village for the exchange.

Lenora's buyer was a man in his thirties named Fabian Davidson. He had sunken eyes, a flat nose, and thick lips. He was quite short, standing just over one hundred sixty centimeters tall, shorter than some women.

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21:43 FMI, NOV

Chapter 387 Crafty Escape.

Along with Fabian, his parents had also appeared.

+10 Free Cons

Upon encountering the Davidson family and exchanging secret codes, Gaspar immediately asked, "Did you bring the money?"

Reluctantly, Won. Fabian's mother, pulled out several stacks of money from her pocket and flashed them. "Obviously, I brought it. Let us see the woman first."

She felt the asking price was too steep and wanted to wait a bit longer. However, her son was growing impatient.

Fabian and his father, Norman Davidson, kept glancing toward the car, but they couldn't see anything

Gaspar gave a subtle signal, upon which Marlon immediately opened the backseat car door. He then carried Lenora, who was bound hand and foot, out of the car and gently placed her on the ground. Lenora cautiously observed the Davidson family members across from her.

The moment Fabian laid eyes on Lenora, he was completely captivated.

Even though her mouth was gagged, her clothes were covered in dust, and she was in utter disarray, one could still tell she was a beauty in the making just by looking at her eyes, nose, and skin. She was simply too beautiful.

"Mom, give them the money," Fabian immediately said. Once we pay up, this woman will become my wife! In the future, no one will dare to say I can't get a wife! In fact, my wife is going to be even prettier than Jerome's wife!

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Stay Away 388

Chapter 388 Sold Into Slavery Chapter 388 Sold Into Slavery 10 Free Cons

Jerome Davidson came from a background that was even more impoverished than Fabian's. Orphaned at a young age, he was raised solely by his grandfather. Despite his circumstances, Jerome was tall and handsome, with a commendable academic record. Aware of his In the village, Jerome, a university student, became the role model for the entire village. His name was frequently mentioned, always accompanied by lavish praises. The two families lived close by, and Fabian was often compared with Jerome.

After completing his master's degree, Jerome began teaching at a local high school, while Fabian dropped out halfway through his studies. He tried working a few jobs, but none lasted long. With each mention of his situation by the villagers, he became increasingly reclusiv After the passing of Jerome's grandfather, he was the only one left

in the family. Despite having no house, no car, and not much in terms of savings, his own merits made him a sought-

after bachelor. Numerous suitors came knocking at his door, but Jerome turned them all away.

It wasn't until a couple of years ago that Jerome went home during All Souls' Day to pay respects at his grandfather's grave. A girl accompanied him, and it was only when his uncle, who lived nearby, asked about her that it was revealed she was his girlfriend. His girlfriend The villagers lavished praise and admiration, drawing comparisons with Fabian, who was still living off his parents at home. With his less-than-stellar appearance and lack of skills, Fabian increasingly seemed to have no redeeming qualities.

Back then, both Fabian and Jerome were thirty years old. Their peers, guys of the same age, already had sons. Yet, these two were the only ones who remained unmarried.

The villagers claimed that one of them didn't want to find a partner, while the other just couldn't find one. If Jerome had wanted to find a partner, he would have immediately found a good one. On the other hand, Fabian's parents had pleaded and begged and set up countle Later, it was said that Jerome had married his girlfriend, who brought along a house as part of her dowry. Apart from visiting his grandfather's grave, Jerome seldom returned to the village.

Fabian mostly kept to himself at home, rarely venturing outside. He didn't go to work or do any chores Moreover, he would occasionally lash out at his parents.

Had it been merely a matter of being compared to by the villagers, Fabian wouldn't have harbored such intense resentment toward Jerome.

There was a hidden story within.

Years ago, a matchmaker had proposed a marriage prospect to Jerome. The woman in question was, well aware that Jerome was a postgraduate, held a respectable job, and earned a handsome salary. Upon seeing his tall stature and good looks, she was immediately

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Chapter 388 Sold Into Slavery

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Exile was well www of schemes. He won that he wouldn't he picky, as long as the

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The price them for a harshe only gave him a single book before turning to the bed wees the even had the city question the matchmaker. To this the man you Frea that is forme even snger in his heart.

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Upon seeing Leno, kata was filled with by the mehate reaction was to compare her with Jerome's

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After all these years, he finally had weeding he contdeurdhine Jerome in

After reductantly handing over the money. Vinna med as Caspar and Marlon immediatly got into Waid to Norman, "You better carry her home chickly. Things might get tricky once the treetts get

crowded at glanced of

After she finished speaking the seed Lenees and earnestly instructed Fabian, Tie her up in your room for now. Don't let her evage. We'll discom this farther once she has had the child, understood Once a woman has a child, she won't be able to run away? "Mom. I understand," Fabian said, his are fixed on Lemors. His eyes were dark and inscrutable, hiding his thought

Lenora looked intre Fabian's eyes, and her face paled. She even shivered slightly

Subsequently, Fabian, with the help of Winona, hoisted Lenora onto Norman's back. Without delay, the family hurried back to their village.

Lenora faced downward, her tongue pressing hard against the rag in her mouth.

As soon as the ray fell, she immediately shouted, "Help Help me-

Quick as a flash, Winona covered Lenora's mouth tightly Glancing around, she urged, "We need to move quickly!"

As the spike, she fiercely pinched Lenora's waist, causing Lenora to wince in pain, tears welling up in her eyes. "You little troublemaker! I dare you to scream again!" Winona threatened.

Fortunately, the house was situated at the very end of the village, with only a few neighboring households nearby

Upon entering the house, Norman placed Lenora on the bed in the room. Winona found a hemp rope as thick as a water pipe and tied one end to Lenora's ankle and the other to the bedpost. Although crudely made from wood, the bed was incredibly solid.

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Chapter 388 Sold Into Slavery

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+10 Free Coles

"Fabian, listen to me. If she steps out of line, don't hesitate to discipline her, and do it harshly. That's the only way to keep a woman in check," Norman said.

Fabian stared straight at Lenora, a hint of impatience in his tone. "Dad, I get it. You guys can leave now," he

said.

Norman and Winona observed their son's growing impatience. Without a word, they turned around and exited the room, even going as far as to lock the door from the outside. Only Lenora and Fabian were left in the room.

Fabian found himself increasingly drawn to Lenora, his gaze fixed on her. He moved toward the large bed.

Lenora warily eyed him, shifting further in. "Stay away!"

Unfazed, Fabian climbed onto the large bed, positioning himself over Lenora. "You're truly beautiful. If you stay with me, I promise to treat you well. However, if you're thinking of running away- "Do you even realize that human trafficking is illegal? The police will be on to us any

minute-

A flicker of irritation flashed in Fabian's eyes. He quickly covered Lenora's mouth, snapping. "Shut up!"

Lenora's preachy attitude instantly reminded him of Jerome.

"I couldn't care less about what's legal or not. All I know is that I've paid for you to be my wife! Once you have our child, you'll change your tune!" he said.

A wave of nausea stirred within Lenora when she saw the dirt lodged under his fingernails. She fought hard to turn her head away, struggling desperately.

Fabian's annoyance only escalated. With his other hand, he grabbed Lenora's coat, yanking it backward, causing the hem of her knitted sweater to flip up. He was intent on pushing her vest further.

Lenora was both anxious and desperate inside. Without a care for the consequences, he bit down on Fabian's finger.

In pain, Fabian hastily withdrew his hand. Recalling his father's words, he slapped Lenora's face twice. "I dare you to bite me again! You wretched woman!"

Lenora's ears buzzed, and her cheeks burned hot. As she came back to her senses, she saw Fabian's big yellow teeth approaching, accompanied by waves of bad breath.

He wanted to kiss her.

Lenora was startled. Not knowing where she found the strength, she twisted her upper body to the left, and with a sudden jerk of her bent knees, she pushed Fabian away. He slid to the edge of the bed and, unable to steady himself, rolled off the bed. Lenora let out a sigh of relief for the moment, struggling to sit up from the bed. However, he noticed Fabian beneath the bed, completely motionless.

She leaned forward to take a look, her eyes widening in surprise.

There was a wooden table conveniently located beside the bed. When Fabian rolled off the bed, he hit his

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Chapter 388 Sold Into Slavery

head on the corner of the table, knocking him unconscious and causing a significant amount of blood to

flow.

Unconsciously, Lenora let out a sigh of relief, completely disregarding Fabian

Her feet were bound by a rope, limiting her distance from the bed. All she could do was hastily rub the rope on her wrists against the edge of the bed.

After she exerted an unimaginable amount of effort, the rope finally wore through. Her wrists were chafed raw, bleeding slightly, but at least her hands were free to move again.

She was about to untie the ropes on her feet when Winona's voice suddenly echoed from outside the door. "Fabian, it's been an hour. How's it going? Is it done yet?"

A jolt of anxiety surged through Lenora's heart. She held her breath, hastening her actions.

When Winona didn't hear any response from Fabian, she used her keys to unlock the door. The sight that met her eyes was a shocking one. Fabian was on the floor, surrounded by traces of blood. Her eyes widened in horror as she rushed over to him. She screamed at th quick!"

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Stay Away 389

Chapter 389 Arrive Late

Chapter 389 Arrive Late

+10 Free Coms

Winona lifted her gaze to see Lenora still untying the knots. A flash of rage filled her eyes as she glared at her viciously. "You shameless wretch! Are you thinking of running away? I'll make sure you pay!"

She picked up the broom by the door and swung it forcefully toward Lenora.

Winona had been working in the fields all year round, her strength surpassing that of some men. The force of her swing was not to be underestimated, Lenora knew better than to take it head-on, so she could. only try to dodge it.

Yet, her feet were still bound by ropes, leaving her no place to escape. She was hit several times, and the force of the hits made her feel as if her skin had been torm.

At that moment, Norman rushed in from outside. Upon seeing the state Fabian was in, he exclaimed loudly, "What on earth are you doing? Hurry up and call for a doctor from the clinic!"

There was no health clinic in the village. However, there was a private health clinic in the neighboring village that was connected to the healthcare system, allowing for

insurance reimbursements. It primarily treated minor ailments like colds and fevers, but it was bit of a dist Once Winona collected her thoughts, she discarded the stick she was holding. "What are we going to with her? We can't let the doctor see her like this."

do

The doctor had also been a university graduate in the past. After returning, he opened a clinic. Winona feared that Lenora would seek help from the doctor.

Norman's eyes flickered with an idea. "Take her to the sheep pen out back and gag her."

Fabian was not inclined to go out and work, spending his days idly at home. Upon deliberation, his decided to get him two sheep to tend to. Unexpectedly, this did not sit well with Fabian. parents

"All right!"

The two of them advanced together, effortlessly restraining Lenora. They re-tied her hands and feet, gagged her with a piece of cloth, and carried her off to the sheep pen.

The Davidson residence's sheep pen was situated behind the house. Further beyond lay a stretch of forest, followed by a wheat field. It was a place not commonly traversed by passersby. Two sheep were tethered in the sheep pen.

As Lenora approached the sheep pen, she was immediately hit by a strong, unpleasant smell. Upon closer inspection, she saw that the ground was completely covered in sheep droppings. Norman tossed Lenora into a corner of the sheep pen, securing her with two thick hemp ropes. One was tied around her ankles, the other around her neck.

Once he was certain that Lenora could not free herself Norman hurried back to the courtyard to tend to Fabian

The village doctor graduated from medical school years ago and had been running this clinic for a decade. His wife, a nursing school graduate, helped him manage the clinic.

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Chapter 389 Arrive Late

When Winona arrived, there were a few patients receiving intravenous drips in the clinic.

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+10 Free Coins

Upon hearing from Winona that her son had bumped his head and was resting at home, the doctor instructed his wife to look after the clinic while he accompanied Winona to check on her son.

Upon arriving at the Davidson residence, the doctor immediately sensed trouble when he saw that Fabian was injured at the back of his head. He gently pried open Fabian's eyes, shining a flashlight into his pupils. before asking. "How long has he been unconscious?" "Um... Less than an hour... 1-1 suppose..." Winona stuttered. "We aren't exactly sure when. He returned to his room after breakfast. After about an hour, I called him for something, and we found him like this."

The doctor glanced at them before resuming his examination of Fabian. Accidentally, he noticed a deep bite mark on Fabian's finger. Its angle didn't seem like it was self-inflicted.

The doctor casually glanced over, noticing the hemp rope in the corner of the bed.

"I suspect he's suffered a brain injury," the doctor said. "I can't treat it here. You should take him to a city hospital. It's best to go now. Head injuries shouldn't be delayed."

"Oh! Okay..." Fabian's parents exchanged a glance, their hesitation evident. "Is it really that serious?"

A hospital? That's going to cost a lot! Winona and Norman had just spent tens of thousands, leaving them with hardly any savings left.

"He's been unconscious for an hour. Don't you think that's serious?" the doctor questioned.

Winona gave an awkward smile.

The doctor then suggested, "How about I call for an ambulance for you? They can come directly to your house and-

"We need to discuss it first.

After a bout of hushed discussion, Norman and Winona finally decided to follow the doctor's advice and called for an ambulance.

The doctor kindly called for an ambulance before turning to Winona and Norman to say. "I'll be heading back now. You should wait for the ambulance."

As soon as the doctor left, a fierce hatred ignited in Winona's eyes. She cursed angrily, "That b*tch! I swear I'll make her pay!"

She picked up the broom and headed toward the sheep pen at the back.

The doctor hadn't gone far, and he was just outside the courtyard walls. Seeing Winona emerge, he quickly hid himself and followed her. To his surprise, Winona entered the sheep pen and started hitting someone. There's a person hidden inside there! The doctor drew in a sharp breath, hastily pulling out his phone to make a call. Suddenly, the wail of a siren filled the air, growing closer and closer.

He hurriedly ran forward, only to see two police cars parked on the main street, with a few private cars trailing behind them.

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21:43 Fri, Nov 15

Chapter 389 Arrive Late

The village chief had received the news earlier and had been waiting there, listening to the police

questioning.

Some curious villagers were standing around and watching the drama unfold.

The doctor was unaware of what the police had said, but the village chief hastily waved in dismissal, saying. "That's impossible! How could such a thing happen in our village?"

The doctor had moved a bit closer when he seemed to overhear the mention of human trafficking. Overwhelmed with excitement, he rushed forward, exclaiming, "I know!" The village chief was stumped.

Before the police could say anything, a man in a suit who had just alighted from a private car behind them immediately asked, "What do you know?"

"Dr. Griffin, be mindful-"

The village chief hadn't finished speaking when he caught Zachary's gaze and instinctively fell silent.

Elijah and his crew quickly surrounded the village chief

Zachary then said, "Go ahead. There's nothing to worry about."

Robert Griffin then recounted his recent discovery.

Zachary's heart felt as if it had been brutally hammered when he heard that the Davidson family had confined someone in the sheep pen. His large hands clenched tightly, his knuckles cracking audibly. His body exuded a chilling aura, and his pupils abruptly contracted. His was so intense it looked as if he could devour someone whole.

Raze

The police captain hastily said, "Lead the way."

Robert then led them to the Davidson residence, heading straight toward the sheep pen at the back.

Many of the onlooking villagers also followed along.

Drawing closer, the sharp scolding of Winona could be heard, along with the thudding sounds of a stick hitting something. "You b*tch! I'll beat you to death! I'll kill you! You thought you could run, didn't you? You thought you could harm my son and get away with it! If anythin Lenora curled up and whimpered.

Winona was about to continue when suddenly someone grabbed her wrist.

She paused for a moment, turning around to find a man who had seemingly appeared out of nowhere standing behind her. He was dressed in a pristine suit, a sight that was completely out of place amidst the grimy sheep pen.

"You-

The moment Winona began to speak, she was abruptly interrupted by a kick to her stomach from Zachary, sending her flying several meters away. The broom she was holding was flung out of her grasp.

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Chapter 389 Arrive Late

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+10 Free Cors

Zachary looked down to see Lenora huddled in the corner, her body trembling. Her clothes were covered in grime, and her hands, feet, and neck were bound by thick hemp ropes, almost as thick as her wrists.

At that moment, he was rendered speechless. His eyes abruptly brimmed with a rim of red, indicating his emotional turmoil. He frantically undid the ropes that bound Lenora,

lifting her and holding her close, clutching her tightly to his chest. D He noticed that the moment he touched her, her trembling intensified.

"Don't be scared, Nora. It's me. I've arrived late." Zachary's voice was hoarse, suppressing the sourness in

his throat.

A chill ran through Lenora's body when she heard the familiar voice.

She could hardly believe it. Cautiously lifting her gaze, she peered at the man through her disheveled hair.

When she saw the face she had longed for, her tears instantly overflowed from her eyes. She collapsed onto Zachary's shoulder and sobbed, "Why did you take so long to come!"

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Stay Away 390

Chapter 390 I Am Here

+10 Free Com

She didn't cry

when she realized she was bound, nor did she shed a tear after she was sold. Even when Winona thrashed her with a broom, she remained stoic. Yet, the moment she saw Zachary, for reasons she couldn't comprehend, her tears began to fall uncontrollably. She knew she wasn't supposed to ask for his help, and she was aware that he was under no obligation to continuously assist her.

Yet, deep down, she yearned for him to show up, rescue her from her predicaments, and be her hero.

"Sorry. I arrived late."

Observing Lenora's swollen, flushed cheeks and the chafing marks around her neck, Zachary swallowed hard. He held her tightly, using one hand to gently wipe the grime off her face. "Don't be afraid," he assured her.

Lenora buried her head in his chest, tears streaming uncontrollably, dampening his clothes.

Upon seeing the situation, Winona instantly understood what was going on. That b*tch's man has arrived! I'm doomed! All the money we've paid is going down the drain!

Zachary helped her off with the filthy, stinking overcoat she was wearing and wrapped her in his

suit jacket. He then lifted her horizontally and turned to the police captain and Elijah. Giving a glance to Winona, he said to the two. "I'm taking her away first. You guys handle things here. We can talk about the testimonies later" "All right." The captain nodded.

"Don't worry. Leave this to me," Elijah said.

Winona was utterly reluctant in her heart, but facing so many police officers and a few towering, intimidating men, she didn't dare to obstruct.

As Zachary passed by Robert, he didn't forget to pull out a business card from his suit pocket and handed it to him. He said. "Thank you. Feel free to contact me if you ever need anything in the future."

Robert chuckled. "It's not a big deal. Human trafficking is a criminal act, and anyone who knows about it would report it."

Following that, a villager chimed in, "Exactly."

On his way back, Robert initially intended to discard the business card. He didn't want anything in return, but upon seeing the line of gilded letters on the card, he ended up slipping it into his pocket. I seem to have heard of Fuller Group before. Doesn't Fuller Group own the Several years later, it was discovered that Robert's daughter had been diagnosed with mucopolysaccharidosis, a rare congenital disease with an incidence rate of one in a hundred thousand. This condition prevented the child from producing an enzyme that would break up lead to organ failure and, eventually, death. Most children with this condition wouldn't live past the age of ten. The only known cure was a stem cell transplant.

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Chapter 390 I Am Here

The cost of the surgery was astronomical, something he couldn't possibly afford. In the depths of his despair, his wife unearthed a business card from somewhere. Robert recalled the events from years back. He was in a desperate situation, so he decided to give it a shot. He dialed the number, explained his predicament, and, fearing disbelief

on the other end, even sent a picture message of the medical records. Subsequently, he received a positive response.

After hanging up the phone, his wife noticed his stunned expression. She let out a helpless sigh, and her tears fell once again.

"He said yes..." Robert said blankly, still somewhat unable to believe it, as if he was dreaming.

Over the past year, he had traveled great distances for his daughter, which had considerably worn him out

"What did you say?"

"I said he's agreed to help us."

"Really?" The wife lifted her head, her eyes glistening with tears as she asked, her voice clinging onto hope like a lifeline.

Robert gave a nod

A few minutes later, the couple gazed at the balance notification message from the bank, hugging each other and weeping with overwhelming joy

Their daughter was saved.

Due to a head injury, Fabian was taken to the hospital by the authorities, who waited for the ambulance to arrive. They decided to wait until he regained consciousness to discuss further. Meanwhile, Fabian's parents were escorted away by the police. Zachary carried Lenora back to the car, instructing the driver to first head to the hospital in Folask. He wanted Lenora to undergo a thorough check-up before they returned to Jacaster.

He gently patted her shoulder with his large hand, his chin resting against her forehead, reassuring her. "It's okay now, Nora"

Lenora sniffled, her eyes swollen and red. The corners of her eyes were still damp.

She closed her eyes, leaning into his embrace, basking in the familiar warmth that, despite having experienced it just a few days prior, felt as though it had been absent for a long time. "What did you say?" Lenora asked, her words muffled and tinged with a hint of tearfulness.

Zachary held her hands and repeated, "I said it's okay now. Don't be afraid."

This time, Lenora heard clearly. Her small hand clutched his tightly, and she couldn't stop the tears from streaming down her face.

At that moment, she didn't want to say anything. All she wanted was to close her eyes and rest properly.

Suddenly, Lenora had a realization. She abruptly opened her eyes and croaked out, "Zack, the one who first kidnapped me wasn't a human trafficker. It was Richie."

III

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21:44 Fri, Nov 15

Chapter 390 I Am Here

+10 Free Coins *Richie?"

"Yes. He's a complete mess, always on the run from the police.." Lenora took a deep breath, wiped the corner of her eyes, and summarized the situation, saying. "If he really needed money, there was no need for him to take such a huge risk to kidnap me."

She was always escorted by security whenever she visited film sets and office buildings, and she even had a personal driver. If Richie was really after money, he would've chosen an easier target to kidnap.

She suspected that someone was pulling the strings behind Richie, likely having promised him some

conditions.

Considering Richie's predicament, it was highly probable that the person behind the scenes had promised to help him escape, evading the pursuit of the police.

Once upon a time. Richie was exploited by Johanne and possibly even by Susanna.

One was in jail, and the other one was awaiting trial. Neither of them was in a position to secretly manipulate Richie at the moment

Therefore, the person behind the scenes was from another party.

It had to be someone who was most hoping for her to run into trouble then.

Lenora immediately had an answer in her mind. It's either the Winfrey family or the Hoffman family.

T

The Winfrey family was preoccupied with rescuing Howard. The incident had taken place in Jacaster, the stronghold of the Fuller family. It was highly unlikely that the Winfrey family would risk offending Zachary at such a critical juncture. Otherwise, they wouldn't have ceased. In that case, there was only the Hoffman family left. It could also be Summer or Jasmine.

"I've got this," Zachary assured her, gripping her hand tightly.

It turned out that the human trafficker had intended to sell her off right from the start.

She devised a plan to stall for time, persuading the human trafficker to agree to a monetary exchange.

His oversight, coupled with the police's negligence in failing to spot the hidden lookout, led to the sudden betrayal of the human trafficker, subjecting her to such hardship.

Otherwise, he could have directly rescued her the previous night.

Listening to Zachary's words, Lenora felt an unusual sense of comfort. She held his hand tightly and glanced up at him.

The tears on her face slowly dried up, leaving her skin feeling taut.

The driver glanced at the embracing couple in the rear-view mirror, deeply moved by the sight, yet nose was highly bothered

his

The car was filled with a distinct musky odor, reminiscent of a sheep.

III

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The driver dared not breathe too deeply. Noticing that Zachary was not paying attention to him, he subtly covered his nose with his sleeve, took a sharp breath, and then swiftly lowered his sleeve.

He guiltily glanced at the rearview mirror, noting that the two were still embraced. Zachary had some dirt on him, yet he, who usually liked cleanliness, seemed as if he hadn't noticed. He sighed inwardly, feeling even more touched.

Once they arrived at the hospital. Zachary completed the hospital admission process for Lenora. A nurse handed over a hospital gown, saying "Please get changed inside."

Holding the hospital gown in her hands. Lenora gave Zachary a lingering look. her reluctance to part evident in her gaze. She then slowly moved inward saying to him. Wait for me outside.

"Okay." Zachary gave her a reassuring look

Lenora averted her gaze, gradually moving her feet forward to enter the room. She then closed the door behind her.

Suddenly, she opened the door again, looking at Zachary with a serious expression. "Promise me you won't go anywhere," she instructed.

Upon seeing the situation, Zachary stepped forward. "Let me go in and keep you company."

Lenora pursed her lips, paused for a moment, and hesitated. "Would it be inappropriate? Maybe we shouldn't do that."