

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

Stay Away 391

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Chapter 391 Another Chance

"Don't worry I'll go in and close my eyes. I won't see anything. You'll get changed on your own." Zachary said.

He could tell that she didn't feel secure, wanting him by her side but not admitting it.

Lenora made way for him, and after he entered, she closed the door. Turning to face him, she instructed, "Turn around and close your eyes."

Following her words, Zachary did as she said.

Normally, he might tease her a bit, but the most important thing was to get her checked out at that

moment.

After Lenora had changed into the hospital gown, the nurse brought her to undergo various examinations.

While waiting for the test results in the ward, Zachary asked in a soft voice, "You must be hungry, right? What would you like to eat? I'll go and buy it for you."

Lenora lowered her gaze, her small hands fiddling with his fingers. She said nonchalantly, "Can't we just ask the driver to get it? Some oatmeal and poached egg will do."

"Sure. I'll get him to get some food," Zachary said, his gaze fixed on Lenora's crown of hair, a pang of bitterness swelling in his heart.

She had never depended on him as much as she did at that moment.

He had imagined such a scenario, yet he had hoped that she would genuinely fall for him, not like then, when she became dependent on him only after being kidnapped and hurt. Zachary then called the driver.

He slipped his phone back into his pocket, rose to his feet, and headed out.

Hearing the sound from behind, Zachary halted his steps.

Lenora accidentally bumped into his back. Touching her forehead, she looked at him, puzzled.

"I'm going to the bathroom. Are you coming with me?"

"Maybe it's better not to," Lenora said before turning back.

Two hours later, the results of the examination were out. Apart from abrasions on Lenora's wrists, ankles, and neck, there were numerous bruises and contusions all over his body. Beyond that, her left eardrum had been punctured, which resulted in a decline in her hearing ability.

The nurse brought in some ointment for external injuries and explained to them how to use it.

Once the nurse left, Zachary picked up the ointment from the table and glanced at it. Turning to Lenora, he said, "I'll go run some warm water for you. After you've wiped down, you can apply the ointment yourself, all right?"

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Lenora cast her gaze downward, falling silent for a couple of seconds before saying in a soft voice, "I can't reach the wound on my back to apply the medicine." "I'll help you."

Seeing that she didn't shy away, Zachary agreed without hesitation, saying, "Get onto the bed."

"All right."

Zachary filled a basin with hot water in the bathroom and brought it over to the bedside. He then soaked a sterilized towel in it..

Lenora sat by the bed, watching him do all of this.

With eyes closed, the startling events of the previous night replayed in the mind, scene by scene.

Everything happened within a night.

For the rest of the world, it was nothing more than a night's sleep.

However, for her, it was akin to a devastating blow.

His presence felt like a dream, and when she awoke, she found herself still tethered like livestock in a sheep pen, enduring beatings. Both her body and heart ached. She was very

scared.

She was fortunate to be saved this time, but she wondered if it could happen again.

She could only feel a sense of safety when he was in her sight.

Seeing that he was ready, Lenora took off her hospital gown and lay down on the bed.

The back that was once fair, smooth, and gracefully contoured was then marred by a multitude of bruises in shades of green and purple. There were even areas that were swollen and discolored with clotted blood. A glint of sympathy flashed in Zachary's eyes as he gently dabbed at the wound on her shoulder with a towel. "Does it hurt?"

"Not really."

In the next moment, a hot breath fanned over her cool shoulder. She instinctively shrank her neck in response, attempting to look up, only to be held down by Zachary.

He lowered his head, his lips gently meeting her skin. Tenderly and reverently kissing the wound on her shoulder, he was devoid of any hidden desires. ""Stop... That tickles..."

Zachary, however, didn't stop. His lips slowly moved to the nape of her neck and back, not missing a single wound.

"Okay... That's enough. No more kisses..." Lenora pleaded, unable to bear it any longer.

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Chapter 391 Another Chance

+5 Free Comt

Only then did Zachary start to apply ointment and massage Lenora, aiding the ointment in being absorbed quickly, Lenora tended to the other wounds by herself.

In the midst of it all, Zachary stepped out to take a call and was gone for quite some time.

Lenora felt a sense of unease in her

heart, prompting her to seek

Zachary out She found him

standing at the entrance of the fire escape, one hand holding a phone to his ear. Whatever was being said on the other end was unknown, but it caused his brows to furrow in deep thought, his expression somber.

Zachary's features relaxed instantly when he caught a glimpse of Lenora. He uttered a few brief words into the phone before hanging up. He then walked toward Lenora and said, "I'm sorry. That took a bit longer than expected." "It's fine... I just came out to have a look..." Lenora said as she started to walk back.

Upon returning to the ward, she hesitated with her gaze lowered and pondered for a few moments. She then looked at Zachary and said, "Zachary, should we-

She wanted to give him a chance, as well as give herself one.

Zachary, however, interrupted her, "Have you finished applying your medicine?"

Lenora was taken aback. "Not yet."

"You should continue. I'll have someone bring lunch over. After we eat, we'll head back."

"All right." Lenora moved back to the edge of the bed, undressed, and applied the medicine.

When Zachary interrupted her like that, the words she had intended to say remained unspoken.

It was fine, though. Since she decided not to leave, there would be plenty of opportunities in the future. There was no need to rush.

Not long after, Zachary's phone rang again. He glanced at it, and it was a call from Bertram.

Zachary's gaze darkened, but he didn't leave. Instead, he answered the call in front of Lenora. "Hello, Mr. Hoffman?"

After Bertram clarified his intentions,

Zachary glanced at Lenora beside

him and said, "I thank you on her behalf, Mr. Hoffman, but it's really not necessary... Why? You'll find out soon enough... If there's nothing else, I'm hanging up."

After ending the call, he casually placed his phone on the table.

Lenora asked, "What did Mr. Hoffman say?"

Zachary didn't hide anything from her. "He wanted Jasmine and Summer to apologize to you, but he couldn't reach you on the phone, so he ended up calling me," he said.

Lenora nodded in agreement.

It was a good thing that Zachary had rejected on her behalf.

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Chapter 391 Another Chance

After Jasmine had drugged her, she had no desire to see her at all.

She felt the same way toward Summer.

Lenora just didn't know who among them was responsible for what had happened this time.

Over at a hotel in Jacaster, Bertram was taken aback for a moment as he listened to the dial tone on the phone.

"What did Zachary say? Is he able to get in touch with Nora?" Jasmine watched his expression dosely.

A spark flashed in Summer's eyes when she saw Bertram turn his head. She quickly lowered her gaze, her hands tightly clenched inside her sleeves. Her heart was pounding in her chest. Bertram slightly furrowed his brow. "He told us there's no need to go over

When they were at the Hoffman residence the previous time, Zachary suggested that Jasmine and Summer personally apologize to Lenora. Yet, Zachary had changed his mind. Zachary even told Bertram he would know the reason soon enough.

Bertram gazed at Jasmine coldly and asked, "Did you seek out Lenora again afterward?"

Jasmine had already prepared an excuse. "Yes. I did seek her out once... However, it was upon your advice. I wanted build a relationship with her, so I invited her for a meal." Bertram was staring at her intently.

Jasmine managed to keep a straight face. "Has something happened? Did he ask Nora? Did he make the decision for Nora?"

"Surprisingly, I didn't hear him ask Lenora."

Bertram glanced at Summer once more, pondering. He thought Summer probably wouldn't dare to stir up any more trouble at this critical juncture.

Summer's heart was in her throat. It seems everything has worked out successfully! The human traffickers must've sold Lenora. Zachary is likely busy searching for her all over the world, which would explain why he has refused our visit. I don't need to apologize to Lenora

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Stay Away 392

Chapter 392 Put All Eggs In One Basket

Chapter 392 Put All Eggs In One Basket

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After interrogating Cecil, the captain gained a rough understanding of Gaspar's character. If the police behind him hadn't been relentlessly pursuing, Gaspar would surely have released the victims, made a quick buck, and then fled.

Brimming with confidence, he started strategizing after seeking approval from his superiors. The Jacaster police force continued to close in, but they had to be careful not to press too hard. Based on the direction Gaspar was escaping, they were able to roughly pinpoint the After Gaspar had sold the victims, some pursued to rescue the captive, while others kept a close watch on the surroundings. As soon as Gaspar showed up, they immediately moved in for the arrest.

The authorities took trafficking very seriously. How could they let a big shot slip away after finally catching one?

In the end, Gaspar couldn't escape and was caught squarely by the police.

Following the interrogation, Gaspar confessed to his involvement in several kidnapping and trafficking cases, including Lenora's case.

Only then did the captain realize that the crime was related to Richie.

Gaspar was very scrupulous. From his initial interactions with Richie, he had guessed that Richie was a fugitive. During their initial meeting, he jested with a smile, "Do you plan to keep hiding out here, or are you looking for a chance to run after this?"

Both were people with a warrant on their heads. Richie didn't warn Gaspar, but he also didn't and simply replied, "Of course, I'm finding an opportunity to escape."

Later on, Richie received a phone call.

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The old phone was faulty, often leaking sounds. Gaspar had traveled all over the world, so he was particularly attuned to accents. As soon as he heard the voice on the other end, he could tell the accent was from Gornburg.

The captain immediately got in touch with the police department in Gornburg for a joint investigation.

By the time they returned to Jacaster, it was already five in the evening. After providing their statements at the police station, Zachary escorted Lenora home.

Sophia was not around as she had been away on a business trip with a celebrity for the past couple of days, still unaware of Lenora's kidnapping.

Zachary slipped off his coat, heading straight for the kitchen. He opened the fridge and glanced inside. "What do you want to eat? I can go out and buy the ingredients." Lenora licked her lips and hesitated for a moment. "How about we order takeout?"

She didn't want him to leave and leave her alone at home.

Zachary was fixated on her rosy lips. "I'll request for the ingredients to be delivered to our doorstep."

III

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Chapter 892 Put All Eggs In One Basket

"Well, let's go with tortellini then."

"All right."

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Zachary made a phone call, and in no time, the supermarket staff delivered the ingredients he requested.

A slab of fresh meat, a box of frozen shrimp, and some fresh mushroom.

Shrimp was needed for the tortellini's filling.

Zachary was busy preparing the meat and mushroom, while Lenora sat at the dining table, peeling the shrimp and deveining them.

For a moment, no one spoke, only the sound of busy movements filled the silence.

Despite the quiet, Lenora felt an immense sense of tranquility and warmth.

She glanced toward the kitchen and stared at Zachary's back. He had an apron tied around his waist. However, it was a size too small, making him look somewhat comical. Lenora chuckled silently, only to hear a sudden crack.

"Cotton!" Lenora was completely flustered.

The pesky cat leaped onto the table, sniffing the shrimp. It seized a large shrimp and began to nibble on it off to the side while she was distracted.

After the two had finished their meal, Zachary's secretary delivered a new phone to Lenora under Zachary's instruction. The phone came with a replaced SIM card, retaining the same number as before.

Lenora fogged back into WhatsApp, only to discover that Milly and the film crew had tried to contact her. They had scenes scheduled for her that day but couldn't find her.

Lenora called the director to explain the reason.

The notion of being kidnapped and trafficked sounded over the top, but the director believed it. He knew Lenora well; she was always serious about her work and punctuality. There was no reason for her to spin such a lie. The director had his assistant coordinate with the other actors, moving up their scenes by two days, allowing Lenora to get a proper rest at home.

Lenora had even gone out of her way to inform Milly, assuring her that there was no need for concern.

Beyond that, the charity foundation's manager and assistant also called her. One was work-related, while the other was seeking her opinion on external invitations.

Lenora was typing a response on her phone when it was suddenly snatched away, leaving her hands

empty.

She paused, blinking as she lifted her gaze to meet Zachary's.

Zachary's heart softened when he caught her dazed expression. "You can always reply later. You should get some sleep first."

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Chapter 392 Put All Eggs In One Basket

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She hadn't slept at all in the human trafficker's van and only managed to catch a few hours of sleep on the way back that afternoon, but it was fitful. "Just one sentence left. Let me finish writing it, then I'll go to sleep" Lenora raised a finger. Zachary handed her the phone back.

Lenora quickly typed out a message and sent it to Milly. After turning off her phone and setting it aside, she climbed into bed and laid down, pulling the covers over herself. "All done."

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"Go to sleep. I'll stay right here with you."

"Okay,"

Lenora looked at him, gently nodded, and closed her eyes.

She had some trouble falling asleep.

Recalling her two experiences of being kidnapped, Lenora was paranoid and insecure.

She opened her eyes.

"What's wrong?" Zachary asked upon noticing her opening her eyes. "Could you please check if all the windows are shut?"

Zachary knew they were locked but still went to check. Upon his return, he sat down by the bed, gently took her hand and softly reassured her "They're all securely locked, don't worry. We're staying on the upper floor, no one will be able to come in. Plus, I'm here with you."

Lenora reached back to grip his hand, a sense of calm finally settling in her heart as she closed her eyes

once more,

She was exhausted. After allowing herself to unwind, she quickly drifted off to slumber. .

The sound of even breathing reached Zachary's ears. His eyes filled with warmth as he gazed at the tranquil face before him.

He slowly extended his fingers,

gently caressing her fair, delicate

face. He traced the contours of her

eyebrows and eyes with utmost sincerity and focus, savoring every detail. en

After much effort, he had finally managed to move her heart.

She was willing to let her guard down and give him another chance.

However, he had no choice but to hurt her once more.

Extreme sadness plagued Zachary.

He couldn't bear to part ways with her.

However, he had no choice but to put all his eggs in one basket.

He would ensure she had a way out.

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Chapter 392 Put All Eggs In One Basket

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Even if he couldn't be with her in the future, he would be content as long as she led a happy and peaceful life.

Zachary gazed intently at Lenora's face, slowly leaning in to plant a kiss on her forehead.

It was his mark of love for her, a badge of his unwavering commitment.

"I love you, Nora," he whispered.

Every word was filled with profound affection.

However, no one heard it nor responded.

Zachary sat up, cautiously tucking the cover around Lenora. He then gently rose to a stand and left.

Once the door closed, only a sleeping Lenora was left in the room, oblivious to Zachary's inner turmoil. Lenora had slept soundly until the next morning. When she opened her eyes, the room was bathed in bright light.

The sun was shining brightly.

"Zachary?" Lenora called out.

Yet, there was no response from outside.

Did he leave?

Lenora reached for her phone by the pillow, glanced at it, and saw that it was already past eight in the morning.

She dragged herself out of bed. Not in the mood to cook, she ordered takeout instead.

As she waited for her takeout to arrive, she sat on the bed at a loss, unsure of what to do. Suddenly, she felt a strange unease creeping into her heart.

A knock on the door echoed from outside.

Lenora's heart leaped into her throat.

Images of the break-ins and robberies flooded her mind.

At that moment, her phone rang. The number displayed had been recorded by many as the food delivery

service.

Once the call was connected, a voice came from the other end. "Hello, your delivery has been left at your doorstep. Please remember to pick it up."

"A-All right."

Lenora let out a slow exhale.

It's just the takeout.

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Hexitam for a moment, Lenora dialed Zachary's number

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Chapter 292 A Soft Spot For Zachary

Chapter 393 A Soft Spot For Zachary

Coexpectedly, the person who answered the phone was Miles. He said, I'm sorry Ms. Wilkin, Mr. Fuller is currendy in a meeting. If there's anything you need, you can tell me and I'll relay the message to him was "If not anything important. Let him finish his work first. I'm hanging up."

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"What did she say?" Zachary whed, lowering hin gase.

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Chapter 393 A Soft Spot For Zachary

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Watching Harrietta's eyes dart around in search of the cat, Lenora huffed, "Hang out with me? I think you're more interested in playing with Cotton, aren't you?"

Over the span of a few months, Cotton had grown into a large cat. Its eyes were big and round, and its fur was soft and fluffy. Holding it was incredibly comforting. Harrietta chuckled lightly, showing no signs of embarrassment. "I came to hang out with you and Cotton," she added.

Despite her words, she unabashedly made her way toward the cat climbing frame.

Miranda asked, "Mrs. Fuller, have you had your breakfast yet?"

"I've already eaten. I just ordered takeout."

Miranda carefully studied Lenora's expression, finding nothing out of the ordinary with the latter's demeanor.

This is strange, it doesn't seem like she was just in an argument. In that case, why did Mr. Fuller have me bring Hattie over to keep her company but insist that I shouldn't tell her, claiming it was Hattie's idea to come? With Harrietta and Miranda to accompany her, Lenora felt much more at ease and was able to settle down to continue her work.

For the entire day, Lenora didn't leave the house.

Miranda stayed on and prepared dinner there.

When Miranda called Lenora for dinner, she glanced outside. The sky had already darkened, and the first city lights began to glow. It was already seven o'clock, but Zachary hadn't come home yet.

Is he still busy?

After finishing dinner, Harrietta spent a few more hours hanging out there.

Around ten o'clock, she was so tired that she couldn't stop yawning.

Miranda wanted to take her home, but Harrietta didn't want to leave. She insisted on sleeping with Lenora, to which the latter agreed.

Even if Harrietta couldn't protect her when danger arose, and she had to be the one to protect the form she still felt at ease just by having someone by her side.

At that moment, Harrietta had already gone to sleep. While freshening up, Lenora seized the opportunity to give Zachary a call.

The ringing continued until it was automatically disconnected.

No one is answering. He is probably busy.

Lenora put away her phone, wiped the water droplets off her face, applied her skincare products, and went back to sleep.

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11:48 Sun, Nov

Chapter 393 A Soft Spot For Zachary

After Lenora spent two days cooped up at home, Soph returned from her business trip

"Soph, thank goodness you're finally back!" Lenora reacted as if she had seen her survivor

She hadn't felt this way before, but after this time, she realized that living alone in the spacios the ones truly desolate and frightening.

"Nora, what's up? You seem really happy to see me

Sophia pushed her suitcase into the corner of the room

Lenora briefly shared what happened with her.

Sophia simply gaped in shock.

She never would have guessed that so much had happened in the few days she was not at home

After expressing her concern, Sophia sighed and said, "You know what, from the look of things. Tyrant Fuller doesn't seem too bad after all..."

After all, the last time Zachary saved Fiona, he had also helped Sophia. This had somewhat alterel Sophia's perception of him.

Lenora lowered her gaze, pursing her lips. "Soph, I don't think I can leave anymore.

She had previously established a charity foundation and shared with Sophia her thoughts of leaving this place to settle somewhere else. But now, she felt her heart melt for Zachary and was completely won over by him.

Sophia let out a sigh.

From the very beginning, when Zachary ensnared Lenora with Harrietta, she knew that a day like this would inevitably come.

Moreover, Lenora had been in love with Zachary for so many years.

"Nora, no matter what decision you make, I'll always stand by you. Your happiness is what truly matters."

"Soph, you're truly wonderful." Moved by her words, Lenora embraced Sophia.

She was fortunate to have such a friend who was so understanding and was always there to support her no matter what.

Having made the decision to stay, Lenora was determined to diligently manage the charity foundation.

At last, she dared to step out of the door.

She hired a bodyguard for herself, who followed her every step of the way.

Upon arriving at the ground floor of the office building, Lenora noticed an increased number of security personnel, likely a result of her recent kidnapping.

After a busy day, Sophia had already prepared dinner by the time she got home. Seeing her return, Sophia

Chapter 393 A Soft Spot For Zachary

sat down at the table and said, "I found some frozen tortellini in the fridge, so I cooked them." [SEARCH THE \(f\)INDNOVEL.NET WEBSITE](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

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Lenora glanced at the food, recognizing the tortellini Zachary had made last time. Their fillings were generous and the texture soft to the bite,

Sophia took a bite but ended up burning her tongue slightly. "Phew... The taste is actually quite good. Did you make these, Nora?"

"No, Zachary did."

Lenora found herself thinking about him again.

On Sunday, she called him again, but it was his secretary who answered, informing her that Zachary was on a business trip and had been extremely busy with work recently. Lenora understood, yet she couldn't help but feel a sense of disappointment.

Even amidst a busy work schedule, can't he spare a few minutes to call me back? When he returns, I'm definitely going to give him a piece of my mind.

A thought flickered through Lenora's mind, and before she knew it, she found herself laughing at the idea that had just occurred to her.

Over the past few days, she had

been acting quite timid, yet she dared to talk tough to Zachary, This was because, deep down, she knew he would always indulge her especially her tantrums.

"I can't stand this."

Sophia pursed her lips, mumbling her complaints under her breath.

For a woman in love, even her laughter would radiate with bliss.

Inevitably, Sophia's thoughts drifted to Zephyr. She wondered what methods he had used the last time to end up as her blind date.

Lately, she had no idea what kind of

spell he had cast on her father. Her dad just wouldn't stop singing. Zephyr's praises in front of her, constantly trying to set her up with the latter.

However, there was no way she would have agreed.

Soon, Lenora's holiday came to an end, and it was time to return to the film set to continue shooting.

After the director called for a break Milly approached her with her phone in hand. "Ms. Wilkin, there's a call for you. The caller says he's Officer Wadzinski..."

Officer Wadzinski was the police captain who went to the village to rescue Lenora.

Lenora took the phone, glanced at the number, and called back.

"Ms. Wilkin, it's Officer Wadzinski. Richie has been apprehended and taken into custody."

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Chapter 394 The Mastermind Behind The Scenes Chapter 394 The Mastermind Behind The Scenes

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+10 Free Coins

After the interrogation, Richie gave up the name of the person whom he was acting for—a small-time thug named Pablo Labarbera. Further investigation into this character led to the discovery of the true mastermind behind the scenes—Summer Lovestone. When the matter was thoroughly investigated, Summer and Jasmine were still in Jacaster, while Bertram had already returned to Jeahron.

He couldn't stay in Jacaster for long, so he had the two of them stay behind. Their task was to find an opportunity to apologize to Lenora and mend their relationship.

At that moment, the police had found out that Summer was residing in a hotel. After staking out the location and verifying her presence, they went straight to her door to apprehend her.

The case was kept under tight wraps, and Lenora stayed indoors. Thus, Summer had thought her plan was successful early on. She happily galivanted around Jacaster, eating, drinking, and having fun. When she was tired, she would return to the hotel to rest. Upon hearing a knock at the door, she nonchalantly went to answer it. As she opened the door, she was met with the sight of two stern-faced police officers in uniform, with hotel staff standing behind them.

In that instant, Summer's heart sank, and in reflex, she shut the door.

However, the police wasn't going to give her such an opportunity.

They barged in directly, one person pinned Summer down, while another cuffed her hands.

"Ms. Summer Lovestone? We are the police. After an investigation, we suspect that you're involved in a human trafficking case. We need to take you back with us for further inquiries."

"No... I have no idea what you're talking about! This has nothing to do with me. You better let me go immediately, or else, you'll regret this!" Summer deliberately raised her voice to bolster her courage. "It's not up to you to decide whether you're innocent or not," the two officers said as they dragged her out

the door.

"Do you have any idea who my uncle is?" she exclaimed. "How dare you lay hands on me. He'll make sure you regret it!"

"Even if your dad is Matthew Xenos, it wouldn't matter, let alone your uncle!" the younger policeman

retorted.

Matthew was Zephyr's uncle.

-Given that it involved numerous cases of human trafficking, the authorities took it extremely seriously. They even dispatched a supervisory team to handle the matter, making any personal status or identity irrelevant. Summer's was subsequently filled with utter despair.

What on earth was going on? My plans are flawless. How did they manage to still trace it back to me?

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09:21 Mon, Nov 18 BGT.

Chapter 394 The Mastermind Behind The Scenes

As she passed the door of the neighboring room, she struggled and cried out, "Aunt Jemine, save the Aunt Jasmine!"

Upon hearing the commotion, Jasmine emerged from her room. Seeing Jasmine handcuffed and excored by the police, she bluntly asked, "What's going on here?"

"You're Summer's aunt? Summer is currently suspected of involvement in a human trafficking case. W need to take her back for investigation. Please don't obstruct police business" Jasmine paused, casting a surprised glance at Summer

Summer's eyes flickered as she pleaded, "Aunt Jasmine, I have no idea what they're talking about. This human trafficking matter has nothing to do with me. You must save me..."

After knowing Summer for such a long time, Jasmine knew her like the back of her hand.

She could tell at a glance that Summer was lying, but now wasn't the time to discuss that

Jasmine stepped forward, asserting, "Summer has always been sensible, how could she possibly do such a thing? I demand to see your credentials and arrest warrant!"

The young police officer flashed his badge and paperwork. "Excuse me, could you please move aside.

Jasmine snatched it away and tore it up. "Your ID is fake, and so is this arrest warrant. Do you think I don't know what a police badge looks like? I don't know what you're trying to achieve by impersonating the police, but if you're smart, you'll release Summer

immediately. Many of the surrounding guests watched on, unaware of what was really happening.

The young police officer hadn't anticipated Jasmine to be so audacious. He exchanged a glance with his senior, picked up his badge, and sternly warned, "Madam, I'm warning you, if you dare to obstruct us from doing our job again, it will be considered as obstruction of justice. With that, regardless of what Jasmine said next, the two of them paid her no mind. They brushed past Jasmine and took Summer away with them.

Jasmine immediately caught up and grabbed hold of the young policeman, preventing them from leaving. She shouted, "Everyone,

look! A bunch of loan sharks are pretending to be police officers in broad daylight, trying to take my niece away. Is there any justice left in this world? The debt was her father's, not hers. Whoever owes you money, go find them! Don't take my niece away!" The entire hotel lobby was filled with Summer's wailing, attracting a crowd of onlookers.

Jasmine was impeccably dressed in a ladies' suit jacket and a matching skirt, with a cape draped over her shoulders. Her hair was meticulously styled, and her exquisite attire exuded an aura of sophistication. At first glance, she was clearly a woman of stature. When a respectable individual caused a scene on the spot, it easily gained the public's trust.

Many were misled by Jasmine and began disparaging the two police officers.

The young policeman, in a fit of anger, pushed Jasmine away. "Get lost." He warned her once more, "Don't

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09:21 Mon. Nov

Chapter 394 The Mastermind Behind The Scenes

think for a second that I won't dare to arrest you?"

+10 Free Coins

An older man couldn't stand it

anymore. Stepping forward, he

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exclaimed, "You guys are acting like gangsters This is too much, if someone owes you money, go find them! Why are you targeting a young girl? Look at how scared she is, and you're even pretending to be cops. I've already called the police!"

"She has misled you. We are the police, and we have apprehended her because she's a suspect in a crime."

"What did she do wrong?"

"Human trafficking."

"Human trafficking?" The older man seemed to have heard something amusing. "I think you're the one planning to sell her off, isn't it?"

The police officer was rendered speechless.

Jasmine knew that Summer probably had gotten herself into really deep trouble. If she was taken away by the police and charges were pressed, it would be all over for her.

She had to exhaust all means to keep Summer there, even going as far as arranging for her to leave the country overnight.

Jasmine was adamantly pulling and tugging, refusing to let the police take Summer away. A few other "good samaritans" stepped in to intervene, leaving the two police officers feeling particularly overwhelmed. The young officer retorted angrily, "Didn't you call the police? Then wait for them to arrive and let them verify our identities. As long as they confirm that we're genuine, you'll all be in trouble!"

The older man and the other samaritans exchanged glances, not daring to speak anymore.

Can they really be actual police officers?

Seeing that the bystanders didn't dare to intervene, Jasmine loudly exclaimed, "This is their trick. They're trying to scare you off!"

Meanwhile, she subtly signaled toward the crowd.

Suddenly, a burly man burst out and tackled the older police officer, cursing, "It's you loan sharks who have ruined my family! I'm going to teach you a lesson today!"

If Lenora had been present, she would have recognized the burly man as one of the individuals who had previously kidnapped her and Harrietta, compelling them to apologize to Donovan at the hospital. [SEARCH THE findnovel.net website](http://www.findnovel.net) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

The older cop was caught off guard, while the younger officer hesitated for a moment, then quickly rushed to pull the burly man off his colleague.

In a split second, Jasmine grabbed Summer and they quickly took off running.

In response, the young police officer immediately gave chase. However, the older man and a good samaritan blocked his path, preventing him from proceeding. "Didn't you say we should wait for the police?" they questioned.

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Chapter 394 The Mastermind Behind The Scenes

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The young officer's face had turned red in anger. "By the time the police arrive, the suspect would have long since fled!"

"What's going on? Who called the police?"

At that moment, three uniform-clad police officers arrived.

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Stay Away 395

Chapter 395 Your Retribution Is Here

Chapter 395 Your Retribution Is Here

"I did." The older man stepped forward voluntarily, "They are impersonating police officers-

"Impersonating my ass!"

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The older cop on the ground managed to get up and handcuff the burly man, unable to hold back his outburst.

He pulled out his police badge. "Hello, we're from Bruiville branch, here on a mission. But the suspect is rather cunning, and these guys..."

He intentionally glanced at the older man. "They have caused trouble, leading to the suspect's escape. We need to pursue them immediately." The newly arrived police chief glanced at his credentials and addressed the older man. "His documents are in order. Is there anything else?" The older man froze, his body stiffening. "In... In order?"

The police didn't say much to him, simply stating, "The suspect hasn't gotten far. We need the three of you to back us up."

"Alright."

The group of police officers hurriedly pursued in the direction of Summer.

Before leaving, the young cop didn't forget to throw a menacing warning at the older man. "Just you wait! Once I've caught the criminal, you're next! You claim to be a good samaritan and enjoy playing the good guy, don't you? If anyone else gets trafficked in the future, it's The older man shuddered all over, hastily leaving Jacaster under the cover of night. Luckily, he was just a tourist there.

I didn't expect that young girl to turn out to be involved in human trafficking. It just goes to show one can't judge a book by its cover.

Later on, he would find himself wondering if the girl involved in human trafficking was ever caught. In the event she wasn't, he would... Outside the hotel, Jasmine's men picked Summer up.

They didn't have time to buy plane tickets and had no choice but to speed toward the highway.

Upon realizing that he couldn't catch up, the older police officer immediately contacted headquarters.

In the end, they managed to intercept Summer and her companions at the highway intersection.

Aside from Summer, Jasmine and the driver were also brought back to the police station.

News of Summer's arrest reached the Winfrey family, much to their delight.

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09:21 Mon, Nov 18 B GT

Chapter 395 Your Retribution Is Here

Upon learning of the same, Bertram blew his top, anger written all over his face.

He rushed to Jacaster overnight to bail Jasmine out.

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Outside the police station, he couldn't help but lash out at her. "No

wonder Zachary suddenly changed his attitude. It turns out your darling niece has caused a major incident! I really underestimated her. How could she resort to human trafficking? When she promised to apologize, I thought she had turned over a new leaf. I even planned to mindedness. After all the years of raising her, is this the result?"

Bertram was truly furious and was on the verge on having a heart attack.

Whenever he heard the name Summer now, he felt incredibly irritated.

He wasn't particularly fond of Summer in the first place. When Summer had a conflict with the Winfrey family, he had shown mercy by protecting her. Yet, to his surprise, Summer didn't show any signs of remorse. She was cold-

hearted and ruthless, even involving herself in human trafficking.

Ironically, the person whom she kidnapped to be sold off was Lenora.

Bertram could already picture what Zachary's attitude toward him would be in the future.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have been so angry.

Jasmine lowered her gaze, letting out a soft sigh. "I never expected Summer to end up like this... Alas, she is my brother's only child and it's unbearable to watch her behind bars. I feel like I've let my brother down... Bertram, can you think of something? If she can be relea Bertram turned around, giving her a cold gaze.

Meeting Bertram's indifferent gaze, Jasmine recoiled slightly, her heart pounding with apprehension.

"Is that what you were thinking when you left the police station?" Bertram asked.

"Hmm?"

"Lenora is your own daughter, yet you're not concerned about her. Instead, you want to save the human trafficker? Jasmine, what has become of you?" Bertram looked at the woman before him, a sense of unfamiliarity in his eyes.

When he first met her, she was strong, resolute, decisive, brave, understanding, and empathetic, all while embodying the gentle charm of a woman.

How did she end up like this? Even though her ex-husband was domestically abusive, he had passed away. Her child is innocent. Why is she so indifferent toward her own daughter

"Setting aside the fact that she's going to jail, do you think you've done right by your brother by turning her into this? From now on, let Donovan stay in boarding school, and you should stop hovering around him when it's not necessary!" Bertram added. This meant she was no longer allowed to interact with Donovan.

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Chapter 395 Your Retribution Is Here

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Jasmine felt her heart drop. "Bertram, Donovan is still young, and he has asthma. He can't be away from

his mother..."

"With the nanny around, there won't be any problems. He's not a little boy anymore. It's time he learns to stand on his own."

Bertram strode forward. "You're

going back with me. Tomorrow, we'll go to the fuller residence to apologize. As for rescuing Summer, don't even think about it. This case has escalated and the authorities have sent their people down. It's not as simple as getting her out of prison."

Jasmine moved her lips, but she dared not say anything more.

The memory of Summer clinging to her arm in tears made her heart soften.

Her daughter had been separated from her since childhood, and Summer had grown up by her side. She had long considered Summer as her own daughter, so she couldn't bring herself to watch her go to jail. Since Bertram was unwilling to help Summer, she had no choice but to come up with a different plan.

Meanwhile, Lenora managed to find time to visit the police station.

Upon learning that Summer was the one pulling the strings behind Richie, Lenora was not surprised in the slightest.

The officer whispered to her, "Ms. Wilkin, rest assured, this case has been given high priority. Even if Summer has influential connections, she won't be able to evade justice."

"Thank you."

"By the way," he said, "she mentioned that she would like to see you if you were to come by."

Lenora hesitated for a moment. "Take me to see her."

She too was curious as to why Summer harbored such hatred for her. A hatred so deep that it led to her being kidnapped and sold off to someone else.

"You only have ten minutes, so let's keep it brief."

"Thank you."

The officer escorted Lenora to the detention room where Summer was being held.

Through a pane of glass, Lenora saw Summer. She was looking down, her face noticeably more pale than before.

Upon seeing Lenora, Summer abruptly rose from her seat, exclaiming, "Lenora!"

"You wanted to see me?" Lenora raised an eyebrow.

Summer nodded eagerly. "Hurry... Hurry up and write me a settlement agreement, then I won't have to go to jail."

Lenora was rendered speechless.

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Chapter 395 Your Retribution Is Here

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She reacted as if she had just heard a joke. "Summer, have you lost your mind? You had me kidnapped and you expect me to forgive you?"

Summer froze, brimming with dissatisfaction. She forced a smile and said, "You are my cousin after all, and your mother is my aunt. Out of respect for her, can't you forgive me? Besides, you're fine now, aren't you?" Lenora is truly cunning. After being rescued, she chose not to come out, misleading me on purpose. If I had known earlier that Lenora was rescued and brought back, I would have fled long ago.

Lenora chuckled. "Summer, I've always been curious, why do you despise me so much? First, you instigated Howard against me, then you tried to have me kidnapped. What have I done to offend you?" Summer pursed her lips. "Do you really want to know? If I tell you, will you forgive me?"

"In that case, you can forget it."

"You..." Summer's expression changed instantly as she glared at Lenora. "What exactly will it take for you to write me a settlement agreement?"

"That's just not going to happen."

Summer, in a fit of rage, yelled out,

"Lenora, you wretch! I've never seen anyone as cold-hearted as you. No wonder your father met his end because of you. No wonder Aunt Jasmine abandoned you! It's no surprise that Zachary wants to divorce you! You'll get your comeuppance one day!"

"Fine then, I'll await my retribution. However, your comeuppance is already here. Just wait for the law to deal with you."

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Stay Away 396

Chapter 396 Wickedness Of Human Nature

Chapter 396 Wickedness Of Human Nature

Upon leaving the police station, Lenora received a call from the Fuller residence.

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Allison's voice, filled with concern, sounded over the phone. "Nora? Oh dear. Why didn't you tell me about the significant incident that happened a couple of days ago? I just found out that you almost didn't make it back! Are you treating me like a stranger now?"

Lenora quickly replied, "No. How could I ever treat you like a stranger? I just didn't want to worry you, Grandma. I'm perfectly fine now, aren't I?"

"Hey, I'm not as fragile as you all think. You all kept Johanne's matters from me, and now you're hiding your affairs too. You're all treating me as if I'm a nobody."

"You're not a nobody, Grandma. This time, it was my fault. In the future, if anything happens, I'll make sure you're the first to know."

"You always know how to say the right things to cheer me up. Alas... The

Hoffman family called today, saying they will come over tomorrow to apologize. It was only then that I found out about your near abduction. Bertram's second wife is your mother, so the one who tried to kidnap you is your cousin? People can really be wicked, and that's why So, it turns out a member of the Hoffman family has made a call to the Fuller residence. No wonder Grandma suddenly learned about this matter. Reflecting on Summer's attitude, Lenora said, "Grandma, there's no need for to go over. Maybe Mr. Hoffman is genuinely apologetic"

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Genuinely apologetic my foot! Allison thought. If it weren't for the connection with Zachary, and if Lenora were just an ordinary person, would Bertram have humbled himself to personally apologize? Impossible. Perhaps he would've even stepped in to lend Summer a helping hand.

"Okay," Lenora responded.

After hanging up the phone, Lenora bought some fruits and headed to the Fuller residence to visit Allison.

Unexpectedly, Griselda was also there.

Upon seeing Lenora, Griselda immediately began pouring out her troubles to her.

Ever since she saw Mindy at the mall, she had taken a strong dislike toward the latter, hoping that Stanley would break up with her. Stanley verbally agreed, but a few days later, he came home and suddenly announced that Mindy was pregnant. Griselda was absolutely livid.

Yet, there was nothing she could do since it was Stanley who failed to restrain himself.

She had a discussion with Stanley, suggesting that Mindy should terminate her pregnancy, and in return, she would provide her with hundreds of thousands in compensation.

Unexpectedly, Mindy disagreed, and so did Stanley.

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Chapter 396 Wickedness Of Human Nature

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Griselda had no choice but to compromise. She would allow Mindy to have their child and even hold a wedding

ceremony. However, she insisted that they would not register their marriage officially and would announce their divorce a few years later.

Lenora was taken aback. "Stanley wouldn't agree to it, would he?"

"He agreed," Griselda said.

Lenora was dumbstruck.

Observing the surprised expression on Lenora's face, Griselda chuckled, "He's my son. Don't you think I know him well? I can tell that he doesn't have strong feelings for Mindy. He's just interested in the child.

After all, the child would be Griselda's first grandson or granddaughter. Since they were to stay, they needed a proper lineage. Therefore, she agreed to let Mindy and Stanley have a wedding ceremony without an official marriage registration. This way, it would appear to everyone that the

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child was born in wedlock.

The corner of Lenora's mouth twitched as she was momentarily rendered speechless. "How far along is Ms. Schmidt in her pregnancy? Is the wedding date set?"

"She told me she got pregnant

around the New Year, so she's now

about two months along. Nathan and I have discussed it, and we've decided to set the wedding for the month after next, keeping everything simple."

"All right. In just a few months, you'll be able to hold your grandchild," Lenora remarked.

"I know, right?" Griselda laughed.

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Stay Away 397

Chapter 397 His Indifference

Chapter 397 His Indifference

In the evening, Stanley returned home for dinner.

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Upon seeing the four pieces of bread on the plate on the table, he assumed the housekeeper made them. He casually picked one up and, after finishing it, picked up another. "This bread tastes quite good," he remarked. A proud smile spread across Griselda's face. "Tastes good, doesn't it?"

"Yes. Mom, did you make this?"

"No, it was actually one of our tenants who made it. If you like it, I can ask her to make some more for you later."

"No need."

Stanley was fond of the bread but not to the point of bothering others.

"Don't worry about it. I didn't force her. She's a lovely person, very warm toward me. Remember those sweet potatoes we had last time? They were a gift from her. If only I had a daughter like her."

Stanley slightly furrowed his brows. The tenant must be impatient. Having discovered the identity of my mom, she made a conscious effort to win her favor.

Griselda was lost in her thoughts as she continued to ramble on. "That poor girl, she doesn't have a

mother, and her father is seriously ill. She's juggling work and school at the same time..." Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Stanley thought of Mindy.

Mindy had mentioned that she was from a poor family, with two younger sisters and a brother. She had to leave school at an early age to start working.

He then said, "Being able to afford school and rent a house near it shows that her life isn't too bad, certainly better than many others who are less fortunate than her."

Griselda was rendered speechless. "Why are you so lacking in compassion?"

Stanley replied, "I'm just making a logical analysis."

Griselda swiftly snatched the bread he was holding. "Stop eating."

Stanley was baffled.

Perhaps it was because Allison refused Bertram's visit to apologize, the following day, he called Lenora.

Seeing a call from an unknown number from Jeahron, Lenora assumed it was Jasmine and decided not to answer. She had already blocked Jasmine's number. After hanging up, her phone rang again.

Lenora wanted to block the number but also feared causing unnecessary harm, so she pressed the answer button and remained silent.

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Chapter 397 His Indifference

A male voice, sounding as if he was in his forties or fifties, came from the other end. "Hello?"

It's not Jasmine? Only then did Lenora speak up. "Hello? Who is this?"

"Is this Ms. Lenora Wilkin? I'm Bertram."

Fine. It's not Jasmine but Jasmine's husband. "So, it's Mr. Hoffman. What can I do for you?"

Lenora guessed he must have contacted her because of matters related to Summer.

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Last time, to prevent Summer from falling into the hands of the Winfrey family, Jasmine was willing to drug Lenora.

Judging by how much Jasmine cherished Summer, Lenora wondered if Jasmine would request her to tell the police that she and Summer were just messing around so that Summer wouldn't end up imprisoned.

"Nora, may I address you this way? I've always admired you. After discovering that you are Jasmine's daughter, I've mentioned to her more than once that I hope you can become a part of the Hoffman family. I would treat you as if you were my own daughter." With a tug at the corner of her mouth, Lenora responded, "I appreciate your admiration, Mr. Hoffman."

Unexpectedly, Summer kept making one mistake after another, and her current predicament is truly of her own making. I initially wanted to visit in person with your mom to apologize, but to my surprise, Old Mrs. Fuller said you refused. That's why I decided to call you direct Despite discerning Lenora's lack of interest in becoming more closely acquainted, Bertram still spoke with utmost politeness. After all, Lenora was the Fuller family's daughter-in-law.

"Indeed, I declined. There's no need for you to come and apologize."

"D-Do you not want to see us?"

"If you were just an ordinary elder, I would've certainly treated you with respect. I simply didn't want to see her, whether she came to repent or to beg me to save Summer. It would be better for us to live in peace and not cross paths in the future."

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"Alas. Your mom must've thoroughly hurt you. I told her before that Summer is just her niece, and you are her own daughter. However, she's been acting as if she's be

Chapter 397 His Indifference

looked like top executives, probably entertaining them?

"Oh." Lenora sighed, lowering her gaze. "Perhaps he was too busy to tell me in time."

Since she was returned after being kidnapped, they hadn't seen each other for half a month.

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In the past, Zachary was often swamped with work, and it was not unusual for him to be on business trips for half a month at a time.

Yet this time, his attitude toward her was indeed odd,

"Seeing how busy he is, he probably doesn't have time to prepare anything. So, why don't you surprise him?"

Lenora gave Miranda a call, but she was unaware that Zachary had returned from his business trip.

After hanging up the phone, Miranda was even more puzzled. Had Mr. Fuller gone on a business trip? His secretary didn't come to pack his luggage. After some thought, Lenora decided to meet Zachary in person and see for herself what was really going

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The following morning, Lenora requested a half-day leave from the director and headed straight to Fuller Group.

The receptionist, who had never been replaced, was familiar with Lenora.

When she saw Lenora approaching, she was momentarily taken aback but quickly regained her composure. "Ms. Wilkin?"

"Is Zachary around? I'm here to see him."

The receptionist's eyes flickered for a moment. "Y-Yes. I'm sorry, but do you have an appointment?"

Sensing that something was amiss, Lenora immediately dialed Miles' number.

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Stay Away 398

Chapter 398 Lying To Me

After picking up the phone, Miles asked, "Ms. Wilkin? What can I assist you with?"

Lenora said, "I came to see Zachary. Could you come down to meet me?"

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"Oh. Ms. Wilkin, Mr. Fuller is not in the office right now. Perhaps you could come back another day?"

A flicker of surprise flashed in Lenora's eyes. The receptionist clearly told me Zachary was at the office.

"Is that so? I'll be busy these past few days and won't be able to come again. I brought something for him. Could you come down to get it and pass it on to him?" Lenora said.

"All right. Please wait a moment."

Approximately five minutes had passed when Miles emerged from the elevator. He glanced around before approaching Lenora. "Ms. Wilkin, do you have something to deliver to Mr. Fuller?" "Here." Lenora pointed to her chest.

""What?"

"Me."

Miles was rendered speechless.

"Take me up there. If he's not around, I'll wait."

"But Mr. Fuller won't be returning to the office today."

"Where would he go if not back to the office?"

"I-I don't know either..."

"Enough with the nonsense. Take me up there," Lenora said, her voice laced with anger. He's hesitant and stammering. It's obvious something's going on.

"Um..."

Without uttering a word, Lenora swiftly snatched the employee card Miles was holding. She then strode to the turnstile, swiped it, and marched in, promptly pressing the elevator button. "Hey, Ms. Wilkin, wait for me!" Coming to his senses, Miles quickly caught up.

Regrettably, he was a step too late. The elevator doors had already closed, and it had begun its ascent. He pressed the elevator button, only for the adjacent elevator to descend. He was so frustrated that he stomped his foot on the spot.

The elevator doors slid open with a chime. Lenora stepped out confidently, striding across the floor. Under the watchful eyes of the secretaries, she headed straight for the chairman's office.,

The door to the chairman's office wasn't locked, clearly indicating that someone was inside.

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Chapter 398 Lying To Me

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Lenora pushed the door open without hesitation, but the sight that greeted her left her frozen in her

tracks.

Inside the office, apart from Zachary, there was also a woman. She was seated in Zachary's chair, her hand on the mouse, her gaze fixed on the computer screen.

Zachary stood behind the woman,

bending slightly at the waist. With one hand resting on her shoulder

while the other holding the woman's hand on the mouse, he leaned

into

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speak to her as if they were

discussing something on the

screen

together. Their posture suggested a close intimacy.

It was unclear what Zachary had said, but it provoked laughter between the two as they exchanged glances. The woman then lifted her head and planted a gentle kiss on Zachary's cheek.

Upon witnessing that scene, Lenora's mind went blank, leaving her stunned for several seconds.

Had the man standing before her not undeniably been Zachary, she might have even doubted if she had come to the wrong place.

Over this period, she could sense Zachary's affection for her.

Yet, what was happening now?

Upon hearing the sound of the door o

Stay Away 399

Chapter 399 Deceived Again

As if he had heard a joke, Zachary arched his brow. "Lying to you? Why would I need to deceive you? What do you have that's worth my deception? Lenora, do you really think you're that important?"

"Are you dealing with some kind of hardship?"

"What troubles could I possibly have? Lenora, haven't you come to terms with the reality that I've never loved you? I didn't love you when you came to the Fuller family, I didn't love you when I married you, so what makes you think I would start loving you now?" Lenora shook her head, eager to prove something. "Since our divorce, when I began my travels, you've been following me. You helped me retrieve my wallet, and in Archulea, you even " [Search the \(f\)indNOVEL.net website](#) to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Chuckling, Zachary interrupted her, "The bet started from that moment. Otherwise, given your intense hatred for me back then, repeatedly driving me away, if I truly liked you, I would've kept my distance. Instead, I disregarded your wishes and kept pestering you simply because I wanted to win the bet."

Back then, Lenora was truly annoyed by his relentless pursuit.

Yet, it now became proof of his love for her.

"But didn't you say that Susanna deceived you, that the kidnapping was a hoax, and she was the one you've always claimed to be the main culprit behind my father's murder?" Lenora argued.

"Only in this way could I minimize the impact of the mistakes I made in our marriage. It would lessen your hostility toward me until you might be willing to reconcile with me."

Lenora moved her lips. "Was every step within your calculations?"

"It was pretty much like that. Do you know why I could always find you when you were traveling abroad? It's because I placed a tracker on you. Even this time when you were kidnapped, I knew your location through the tracker from the very start. However, I deliberately delayed, allowing the lookout to discover the police when you were trying to bribe the kidnapper with money. That was because only when you were in despair, and I came to rescue you, could you truly appreciate me and depend on me..."

I see. So, it turns out that my worries, fears, dread, and the hardships I had endured were all part of his scheme.

Tears welled up in Lenora's eyes. Lips pursed, she spoke in a nasal voice. "After you returned from Australia, you said you had Susanna committed to a mental hospital. The time I saw her in the hospital, she looked particularly haggard..." That didn't look fake.

"I was just pulling your leg," Zachary said mockingly. "At that time, Susanna was sick and happened to visit me at the hospital when you ran into us. I was afraid you'd find out, so I made up that story. When you later saw her at the restaurant, the truth was already slipping out. But I claimed I had my reasons and asked her to play along with Miles in a little charade, and you actually believed it."

Tears instantly filled her eyes.

His words had long since left her heart riddled with wounds.

Lenora wore a blank expression. She forced her eyes open, struggling to keep her tears from falling. A hint of a sarcastic smile tugged at the corner of her lips. "I remember now. I saw her with Director Ladley at the restaurant, behaving intimately. Also, Mr. Marlow stayed over at her place—"

"Silence!" Zachary barked, his eyes piercingly fixed on her. "You're not allowed to slander Susanna! Seeing that you're at a disadvantage, you actually resort to tarnishing Susanna's reputation with such tactics. Lenora, you truly are despicable!" He took a step forward, lifting his hand to hold her chin, his voice dripping with scorn. "Do you know why I never went all the way those few times we were intimate? That was because the moment I touched you, I felt disgusted! There's no way I would betray Susanna because of you. However, you really are quite desperate and promiscuous. Even when I forced you, you managed to become so wet—"

Slap!

The sharp smack of a slap echoed throughout the office.

Lenora suppressed the bitterness in her heart, looking at Zachary as if he were a stranger. She took a deep breath, straining to keep her eyes wide open. "Zachary, is everything you've said true? Have you never lied to me?"

"Of course." Zachary lightly touched his bruised left cheek and scoffed. "I've long grown tired of your pretentious act in front of Grandpa and Grandma, acting as if you're above everyone else. Out of respect for them, I won't retaliate for this slap. If you know what's good for you, you'd better leave immediately."

Once, Lenora perceived Zachary as Susanna's lapdog, who would eagerly crawl over at a mere flick of Susanna's fingers.

Reflecting on it now, she realized she was no different than Zachary's lapdog. As long as he showed her a bit of kindness, she would quickly forget her pain and eagerly declare her loyalty to him.

At that moment, when Zachary told her to leave, she had no choice but to go either.

Lenora lowered her head, tugging at the corner of her lips to reveal a hint of a bitter smile. "I got it. I understand, I truly do..."

She spoke continuously, her voice gradually becoming softer, increasingly shaky, subtly laced with a choked-up tone.

Her heart ached so much it was almost unbearable to breathe.

Lenora sniffled, taking a deep breath to steady herself, swallowing the bitterness that filled her mouth. "I'm sorry for taking up your time, Mr. Fuller."

She took two steps back, then turned around and left.

As she approached the door, Zachary's voice echoed from behind her once more. "You know what to say to Grandma, don't you?"

"You don't have to worry about that, Mr. Fuller." Lenora closed her eyes, silent tears slipping from their corners.

She pushed open the door to the chairman's office, only to see Miles standing guard at the entrance, a look of trepidation etched across his face.

As Lenora departed with tears on her face, a flicker of guilt flashed in the depths of Miles' eyes.

Miles stretched his neck to watch Lenora enter the elevator. As soon as the elevator doors closed, he pushed open the office door. "Mr. Fuller." Zachary swallowed hard, his gaze dropping, a picture of solemnity. Gone was his previous demeanor of cold sarcasm. "She's gone?" he asked. "She left." Miles hesitated for a couple of seconds. "It seemed like Ms. Wilkin was crying earlier..."

Zachary's body stiffened, his hanging hand clenched into a fist so tight that his knuckles turned white.

It was only by exerting all his strength to restrain himself that he managed not to chase after her and pull her into his embrace. It's better for her to cry now than to fall into a dangerous situation. I wish for her to be well.

After exiting Fuller Group, a cool breeze brushed against Lenora's face.

She paused on the steps, her gaze unfocused as she stared blankly ahead. Tears blurred her vision, and a hollow, aching feeling consumed her chest. So, he's always been fond of Susanna. It turns out that everything he had done for me. during this period was all an act. I was the only one who took everything seriously. I mustered my courage, let down my guard, and approached him with sincerity, only to allow him to stab me ruthlessly in the back. How ridiculous. I've been deceived by Zachary once again. I promised myself not to believe him anymore. I'm really the biggest fool in this world, having been deceived by the same person twice.

Lenora wanted to leave, to completely distance herself from this place and to forget Zachary.

Lost in thought, she aimlessly moved forward and hailed a cab.

"Miss, where are you going?" Seeing Lenora silently shedding tears and not speaking, the driver looked at her sympathetically and called out again, asking, "Miss?"

"Drive me to the riverbank," Lenora replied.

The driver glanced at her in surprise, advising, "Miss, life is full of ups and downs. You should try to take things in stride. Look at you; you're still so young-"

"I wasn't contemplating taking my life. I just want to find a place to be alone for a while."

"Ah... Okay."

Stay Away 400

Chapter 400 Not Know Her Place

Lenora sat on the steps by the railing, gazing absentmindedly at the majestic river shimmering in the sunlight, unable to hold back the tears that kept falling.

Zachary had dealt a blow so fierce and unexpected that it felt as if her heart was shattering in pain.

She had never imagined that to be the case. A bet. How laughable. He's right. When I first arrived at the Fuller family, he didn't like me. Even when we got married, he didn't like me. So, why would I think that he would start liking me now? I was delusional, yearning for someone who didn't belong to me. I didn't know my place. How could Zachary possibly like me?

She could still recall Zachary's scrutinizing gaze when she first arrived at the Fuller residence, his aloof and superior response when she greeted him, and that piece of cake he had condescendingly given her.

He had always looked down on her, and he could never possibly fall for her.

Lenora had finally come to understand this at that moment.

Her teenage love, embellished by her subconscious, was like an illusion of bubbles in the sunlight. It shattered with a single touch and dissipated with the wind.

Just like that, Lenora spent the entire morning seated by the riverside.

The wind had long since dried her tears, leaving the skin on her face taut and her heart numb.

However, a call from her assistant served as a reminder that she had to return to the film set for shooting in the afternoon.

She only had the morning to nurse her sorrows.

The Earth continued to spin, and life had to go on.

No one was incapable of living without someone else.

Lenora quietly reassured herself. What does it matter if Zachary doesn't love me? There's no way I would die for him. Since I'm alive, I'll have to make the most of the days to come.

Lenora took a deep breath, pushing down the bitterness in her heart, and returned to the set.

When the makeup artist noticed her red and swollen eyes, she was angered to the point of gritting her teeth. The makeup artist immediately fetched an ice pack to provide

Lenora with cold compression. The weather was warming up, quickly transitioning into summer, yet the moment the rigid ice pack made contact with Lenora's skin, she inhaled sharply.

"Feeling cold?" the makeup artist asked.

"Yes," Lenora replied truthfully.

"That's to be expected."

Lenora gave an awkward smile.

After a while, Lenora's red and swollen eyelids finally subsided a bit. Coupled with the heavy makeup needed for the camera, it was no longer noticeable.

The afternoon was filled with the scenes between Lenora and the antagonist, a flashback of their shared past. It was a memory of a young Melody resisting the villain, only to fail and face severe punishment.

The longer the filming went on, the quicker Lenora immersed herself in the character.

Even though her mood was off that day, it didn't affect the filming.

Instead, the director watched the scenes unfold through the lens as she clashed with the villain. Her eyes, filled with unshed tears, and her shoulders, trembling with excitement, were captured in every shot. The final image of Lenora, alone and desolate in the water dungeon, was heartbreakingly poignant. Her expressions were filled with emotion, and the director couldn't help but heap praises on her. Search the website to access chapters of novels early and in the highest quality.

Under Lenora's portrayal, Melody was far more than just a simple, mindless antagonist. She was as real as flesh and blood, a cunning little vixen who, despite inciting frustration, also invoked a sense of pity.

The director couldn't help but praise his own discernment to Kyle, who was standing next to him.

Kyle paid a visit and joined Tyler in front of the monitor. He nodded approvingly and said, "This Lenora truly has some talent. If I were to mentor her, she might just reach new heights."

"Hey, what are you implying? Are you suggesting that I'm not capable?"

"I didn't mean that." Kyle laughed it off, all the while thinking to himself. The leading characters you've created are so off-kilter. Once the show airs, it's bound to be a disaster.

However, he refrained from saying much.

Fantasy dramas had always been a

hotbed for capital investment, with their lavish costumes and props, intriguing character identities, and plotlines filled with numerous power-ups. As long as the acting wasn't notably poor, such dramas could usually generate some buzz. However, modern idol dramas were a different story. Viewers, putting themselves in the characters' shoes, were more discerning and could quickly spot illogical plot points and flaws in acting. Recently, the dramas that had exploded in popularity were all ancient fantasy dramas. On the other hand, modern dramas either got heavily criticized or barely made

a splash.

This fantasy drama, directed by Tyler, was essentially an investment by the financiers to promote the male lead.

After reading through the script, Kyle found nothing particularly impressive about the character designs for the male and female leads. The female lead, in particular, was an ingrate. On the other hand, Melody's character was extremely eye-catching. After Susanna's incident, the role of Marianne in the play Kyle was recently planning had still not been finalized.

Kyle felt that he could let Lenora give it a try.

That night, upon hearing the sound of the door, Sophia turned her head to glance at Lenora, her eyebrows raising in surprise. "You're back? Tyrant Fuller didn't keep you?"

Lenora lowered her gaze, nonchalantly tossing her bag onto the couch. She calmly poured herself a glass of water and said, "Soph, let's not mention him anymore in the future."

"What's wrong?" Sophia's expression shifted as she sat up straight. "What has Tyrant Fuller done this time?"

Lenora sat down next to Sophia,

holding the latter close. She then recounted the events of the day. "I went to the company to see him today and found him with Susanna. He told me Susanna was the,

he

had always been in love with he

only reason he got close and

entangled with me was because of a bet..."

Lenora only confided in Sophia regarding that matter.

If it had been anyone else, Lenora would never have said these things, as it was utterly humiliating.

She had allowed herself to be hurt by Zachary, a man who had been involved with another woman during their marriage, twice.

Upon recovering, she forgot the pain, and not only did she forgive him, but she also wanted to reconcile with him.

In the end, he didn't like her at all, and her wish to reconcile was nothing more than wishful thinking.

That was simply too embarrassing.

It was as if a simp who knew full well they were just a backup, yet they continued to simp and ended up failing as anticipated.

Hence, Lenora was truly too ashamed to talk about it openly.

As Lenora spoke, Sophia's anger surged relentlessly, her teeth clenched in fury. "D*mn it, that Fuller is absolutely insufferable. How could he be so heartless? He even started betting during the trip. That's insane."

Sophia thought. Back then, when

Lenora had just lost her child, she

was on the brink of depression

during her confinement period. Moreover, that was also his child, yet he still had the mood to make a bet with Susanna, continuing to hurt Lenora. Had he ever considered what would happen if Lenora's depression worsened? Or could it be that he didn't care about Lenora's health and life? It's probably the latter. When Lenora was initially with Connor, Zachary disregarded Lenora's wishes entirely and schemed against Connor. Clearly, he had never respected Lenora, nor had

he ever liked her. He was only interested in winning his bet. In pursuit of his own goals, he truly stopped at nothing. Not too long ago, Lenora was kidnapped and sold off. In a twisted attempt to earn her most profound gratitude, he had actually allowed Lenora to be taken! Had it not been for Lenora pushing Fabian off the bed, causing him to hit his head, Fabian would have succeeded. Zachary is just too inhumane. How could Lenora

possibly outmaneuver someone like

him?

Sophia held Lenora tenderly, comforting her, "Nora, you should see it clearly now. A man like him is worth your tears."

"You're right. I understand," Lenora said.

Logically, she understood that Zachary was far from a good man. Yet, deep down, she still felt a sense of melancholy and sadness.

However, she had faith in herself, confident that she could quickly pull herself together.

She was no longer the same Lenora who once regarded Zachary as her goal and motivation.

Even without Zachary, she would still continue to live her life well.

Ten days later, Lenora finished filming the final scene, marking the end of filming.

She had already given the director a heads-up not to prepare a wrap-up party.

The staff presented her with a bouquet of flowers, and Lenora took a group photo with the director and the rest of the crew. With that, her journey with the film crew had come to an end.

However, when Lenora was shooting her final scene, Kyle was also present.

Considering the issue with Gary, Kyle was afraid that Lenora might harbor resentment toward his film crew. He felt that it would be more sincere if he came in person.

After he congratulated Lenora on finishing her project, he asked, "Ms. Wilkin, do you have any availability coming up?"

