

Crazy Love 351

Chapter 351

At that moment, Eason chose honesty and expressed his willingness to make amends.

The initial expression on Dr. Thompson's face was one of disapproval, but it quickly changed to a more gentle and understanding look.

She gave Eason a meaningful look. "What's your name?"

Eason answered her without any hesitation.

Dr. Thompson noted it down, then instructed Eason, "Wait here. I need to have a chat with Emma."

"Chat?" Eason commented, "She seems totally lost in her own world. Communication might be tough."

"I know what I'm doing. Dr. Thompson assured, settling beside Emma.

Emma was fixated on the TV, showing no extra reaction.

Dr. Thompson, unperturbed, gently called out, "Emma."

No response from Emma, but Dr. Thompson continued regardless, "I saw Eason. He's really annoying."

Emma's brow twitched slightly, a noticeable reaction.

Dr. Thompson, clearly pleased, went on, "The thought of him trying to woo you is ridiculous. It's like a frog trying to become a prince – way out of his league. To me, he's like a bug in the gutter, meant to stay there, never even thinking of climbing

out. He's also like..."

Dr. Thompson went on and on, disparaging Eason in every way possible.

Eason, on the sidelines, felt a sense of frustration as he heard the words that put him down.

Eason thought to himself, Though Emma didn't like me, I couldn't be that bad, right?

'But since it was for treatment, even if it meant getting beaten up, I would accept it.

'After all, I was the cause of this mess.'

As Dr. Thompson's words grew harsher, Emma's frown deepened.

"Eason is such a terrible person that hell itself would have to create an exclusive level just for him. A place beyond the worst, where he'd be doomed to endure endless torment."

Dr. Thompson was enjoying her rant.

Emma struggled to speak, "That's not it."

Her complexion was noticeably pale, and her voice raspy from strain, yet the words she uttered came out with remarkable

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Chanty

te that not the car? By Thempam asbest with a hint of pretense Aren't you bothered by his constant pursuit of your

Ante a pause, Emma widsputed. I don't deserve it"

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De Tomane pyebwa alightly furrowed an alus continued to probe However, Emme remained silent, offering no further

hot the answer she wanted

I thougon neost a hand with anything? Fason asked, a hint of nervousness in his voice.

plied coolly. "Yes"

Just tell me what to do Fanny maid without bonitationi

"No and hold bec Dr. Thompson instructed.

ason was puzzled

Raising an eyebrow De Thompson challenged, "What's the matter? Didn't you say you would fully cooperate?"

Lason hurriedly explained. "Of course, I'm willing to help, but she hates me so much, Won't this backfire?"

Who said she hates you? De Thompson replied calmly.

In fact Emma was clearly too fond of his Dr. Thompson thought.

Bot Fason was still uncertain

“Am I the psychologist here, or are you?” Dr. Thompson frowned, “If you want to help, follow my lead.”

Left with no choice, Lason hesitantly sat down next to Emma.

The TV show transitioned from one to another.

Emma was still sitting quietly, watching intently.

Eason reached out, then pulled back.

He did this several times, unable to make up his mind.

Dr. Thompson gave him a threatening look

Eason hesitated briefly, then, with a determined resolve, he finally embraced Emma.

Join Chatroom

He was worried she might kick him away, given how much she seemed to dislike him.

However, Emma just trembled slightly without any extreme reaction.

Dr. Thompson’s lips curled into a subtle smile, a sign she had guessed correctly.

Seeing that they were a couple truly in love, she decided to give them a little push today.

“Next, give her a kiss,” Dr. Thompson instructed.

Eason panicked. He looked at Dr. Thompson, "Won't I get slapped for this?"

"Why don't you try and find out?" Dr. Thompson said calmly.

Eason was speechless.

If he hadn't met Dr. Thompson for the first time today, he would think they had some old grudge.

"Hurry up," Dr. Thompson urged.

Eason gazed at Emma, quiet and fragile in his embrace, like a delicate flower bent in the wind. Overcome with emotion, he gently kissed her cheek.

Emma still had no reaction. Her condition hadn't improved, but it hadn't worsened either.

Dr. Thompson had everything figured out.

She said, "Eason, come with me."

"Sure." Eason quickly let go of Emma and followed Dr. Thompson.

Dr. Thompson adjusted her glasses, giving him a significant look. "It's all on you to help Emma now."

Eason felt overwhelmed, "By doing what we just did?"

Eason thought, "That wasn't helping. That was clearly taking advantage."

“Pretty much,” Dr. Thompson replied calmly. “For the next few days, I’ll assess Emma’s condition daily. Until I’m sure she’s recovered, you’ll move in here and stay with her constantly. Whenever you have a moment, hold her, kiss her, and whisper sweet nothings to her.”

Eason was shocked!

“Is this really treatment?”

He thought Dr. Thompson might be a fraud.

Ignoring him, Dr. Thompson turned and wrote a note for Eason, “If you can’t think of sweet nothings, just read what’s on here.”

Eason picked up the note and instantly felt a chill.

These words were a bit too cheesy.

“If you really want to help Emma, do as I say: Dr. Thompson said coolly. “If not, if you see her as a burden, you can leave

now.”

Eason frowned.

“Emma’s condition started because of me. How could I leave now?”

Eason pursed his lips, “Are you sure this will work?”

“You should know I’m a professional psychologist,” Dr. Thompson said coolly. “If you don’t believe me, I can show you credentials.”

She actually pulled out her medical certificate.

Seeing her title, Eason realized that despite her youth, she was already a renowned chief physician.

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*Please trust my expertise and follow my instructions,” Dr. Thompson earnestly looked at Eason. “We both want Emma to get better soon,”

Eason pursed his lips and finally said, “Okay, I trust you.”

Dr. Thompson then showed a smile.

Eason glanced at the dazed Emma and asked one last question, “What about sleeping at night?”

Dr. Thompson raised an eyebrow and said calmly, “Stay close.”

Eason felt choked up, “Well, I understand.”

After giving some more instructions, Dr. Thompson left.

In the room, only Eason and Emma remained.

Remembering the words “stay close that Dr. Thompson had gritted out, Eason’s feelings were complicated.

After hesitating, he still sat beside Emma and then held her in his arms.

On TV, the shows were still playing.

Emma rested in Eason's arms with a calmness and grace, reminiscent of a serene portrait come to life.

Chapter 352

Three days flew by in a blink.

Eason had solidly stayed at Emma's house, accompanying her for the entire three days.

Over the last three days, he was always by Emma's side, often whispering endearments so sugary they could be straight out of a romance novel.

Although Eason hadn't noticed any significant improvement in Emma's condition, Dr. Thompson observed substantial progress during her visit.

With continued perseverance for another ten days or so, there was a high chance that Emma would wake closed-off state.

up from her

After bidding farewell to Dr. Thompson, Eason glanced at Emma who was behaving exceptionally well, and Eason couldn't help but feel a sense of exasperation.

The current Emma was completely closed off in her own world.

On rare occasions, she would quietly glance at him, but quickly turn her head away, continuing to be silent in her own world.

This version of Emma left Eason somewhat at a loss and increasingly filled with guilt.

Eason thought, 'If it hadn't been for me, perhaps Emma's condition would never have reached this point.'

After standing quietly for a moment, Eason let out a resigned sigh. He spoke softly, "Emma, it's time for us to brush our teeth and wash up."

Emma showed no response.

Eason then took her hand and led her to the bathroom, carefully helping her brush her teeth and wash her face.

Eason meticulously wiped her face, his eyes gradually softening.

Actually, taking care of Emma wasn't as torturous as he had imagined.

She just tilted her face up, letting him cover her face with a warm towel.

She was so obedient, like some kind of angel fallen to earth.

The only thing that made Eason uncomfortable was that such a cute and obedient girl had no spark in her eyes.

Eason couldn't help but ask inwardly, "Is depression really that terrifying?"

He gave an answer inside himself, 'Yes, it really is.'

To take care of Emma, Eason thoroughly researched various information about depression.

Emma's silence and inactivity indicated a very severe condition.

In such a state, every minute and every second, she harbored severe suicidal tendencies.

On the first day of his care, he briefly left to take a phone call.

When he came back, Emma was already holding a pair of scissors, hovering them over her wrist.

Eason was startled and immediately hid all sharp objects away.

And from then on, he never let Emma out of his sight again.

Dr. Thompson was always there to help, except during bath times.

Even while sleeping, Eason clung tightly to Emma, fearing she might suddenly leave.

At first, Eason felt extremely uncomfortable with such intimacy.

But after three days, it changed.

He naturally began to see Emma as his responsibility. Whatever he did, his first thought was always to take care of her.

After washing Emma's face, Eason patted her head, "Time to sleep."

Emma obediently let Eason lead her.

In bed, Emma instinctively snuggled into Eason's arms and comfortably closed her eyes.

Eason was used to it. He patted her back, whispering sweet nothings, while handling business on his phone.

That's when his phone lit up.

[Eason, where have you been? I haven't seen you at home. Tomorrow's my birthday – are you seriously not planning on coming back for it?]

It was a message from Penny.

Eason paused for a moment.

Eason got into deep thoughts, Tomorrow was indeed Penny's birthday.

"I had remembered it before.

'However, these past few days, I had been completely absorbed in caring for Emma and had momentarily forgotten.'

ling torn

Eason glanced at Emma in his arms, feeling torn.

He thought, I definitely had to go back for Penny's birthday.

'But I couldn't just leave Emma alone here.'

Looking at Emma's delicate profile, Eason made up his mind.

He replied, I'll definitely come back for your birthday, but I might bring someone with me.]

At the Nicholas' Residence, Penny had been waiting eagerly for Enson's reply, phone in hand.

When the screen went dark, she would light it up again.

And as it darkened once more, she'd light it up again.

Her eyes never left the chat box, afraid to miss any message from Enson.

Finally, Eason's message arrived.

Penny thought, 'He will

ly come back for my birthday

Penny hadn't even started feeling happy when she saw the next line.

He might bring someone with him?'

Penny felt a sudden jolt in her heart, an ominous premonition creeping in.

She suppressed the palpitations, her fingers gliding over the phone's keyboard.

[Bringing someone? Who is it? Is it a friend of yours?]

Eason's response was swift this time.

[You know her. It's Emma.]

Emma!"

Penny felt dizzy and disoriented.

She thought, 'Was Eason just making a token a
that day?

"After that, Eason and Emma wouldn't interact much.

"But now, Eason said he's bringing Emma to my birthday party?"

Penny felt like she was losing her mind.

She forced herself to calm down and then made a direct call.

Eason quickly declined the call, not picking up.

[Eason?] Penny's heart raced inexplicably.

[Not convenient right now. Let's meet tomorrow.] Eason sent another text..

'Not convenient,"

Penny stared at the words.

She thought to herself, "Why text back but not take a call?

'Unless someone was with him.

'At this hour, who could be with him?

'Could it be...

'Emma?

'Eason is with Emma right now?'

Penny's mind went blank.

'Eason is serious about Emma?

'He's fallen for Emma?

'Why, though?

'What's so special about Emma, apart from a decent face?

'What does she have to deserve Eason's affection, a woman with nothing to her name?

'If those two actually end up together, I'd be the one who orchestrated it all, wouldn't I?

Penny felt like she was about to pass out.

[I'm off to bed, no more talk] Eason sent another message.

Staring at his brief message, Penny's mind raced with plenty of possibilities.

Each one was enough to drive her insane.

She bit her lower lip so hard, almost drawing blood, but she didn't let go.

'No, I couldn't let this happen.

"I had been waiting for Eason for so many years.

'Eason had to be mine.

'Always mine.'

The next day, Eason patiently helped Emma with her morning routine and changed her into fresh clothes.

Then, he said to Emma, "It's Penny's birthday today, and I need to celebrate with her."

Emma stared at him blankly as if she didn't understand

Eason sighed, "I'm worried about leaving you alone at home. How about I take you with me?"

Emma neither nodded nor shook her head, just looked at him.

Her expression tugged at Eason's heartstrings, a mix of pity and affection

He stroked her hair, "I know you don't like crowds. We'll go now, meet Penny, and then I take you home. We won't stay for the party, okay?"

Emma didn't respond.

Eason took her hand, earnestly saying, “Don’t worry. I’ll always protect you”

His words were firm, like a vow

Chapter 353

That morning, Eason brought Emma to the Nicholas’ Residence.

He had informed his family in advance, so Judith and Penny were waiting at home.

Upon seeing Eason and Emma arrive, a smile couldn’t help but spread across Judith’s face.

It seemed Eason was finally settling down.

She even felt like she could already envision a future surrounded by grandchildren.

“Emma, come, sit here,” Judith warmly invited.

Eason, aware of Emma’s fear of strangers, subtly intercepted Judith’s gaze and then led Emma to sit to the side.

Judith, observing Eason’s carefulness, smiled even wider.

She found joy in her son’s happiness. Seeing him content in his marriage brought her the greatest pleasure.

“Penny, this is the birthday gift I’ve prepared for you,” Eason said, taking out a meticulously wrapped gift box.

However, Penny didn’t reach out to take it.

Suppressing her tumultuous emotions, she said softly. "Eason, give it to me at my party tonight."

Eason felt a tinge of guilt but explained, "Sorry, I've got an urgent business matter tonight and might not make it to your party. So, I'm giving you your gift now."

Penny's hand tightened instantly.

Penny thought, 'Business matter?'

'Was it really a business matter?'

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She looked at the silent Emma, resentment nearly spilling over.

"What was so special about Emma?"

"In such a short time, she had ensnared Eason to the point where he was neglecting me.

Penny's heart was in turmoil, but she managed a strained smile, "Come on, Eason, can't you postpone it? I really want you

there."

Eason softened a bit at Penny's appearance but knew better that taking Emma out was one thing while taking her to a party was another.

He thought to himself, 'With Emma's current state, even a slightly larger crowd could frighten her.

"Not to mention, it's quite a lively party."

“Sorry, but this time, it’s a no-go,” Eason said, his mind made up.

“I had been to Penny’s birthday bashes more times than I could count and knew there would be plenty more.

‘But the situation with Emma was urgent.

‘It’s a matter of life and death.

‘I couldn’t risk Emma’s health just to attend Penny’s party.

“It just wasn’t in my principles.’

Penny pursed her lips and turned to Emma, “So, Emma, are you coming tonight?”

Emma didn’t respond, but Eason quickly interjected, “She’s tied up too.”

Pain stabbed at Penny’s heart.

‘It hadn’t been long, but Eason was already so protective of someone else.’’

Penny couldn’t hold back. She asked with a forced smile, “What’s going on? I thought Emma worked for Susan’s company. But when I stopped by Storm Group recently, Emma was nowhere to be found. Susan mentioned she was on leave. So, what’s someone who’s not even coming to work so busy with?”

Emma seemed disconnected, not really listening to the conversation.

However, Eason frowned, looking at Penny, “Emma’s just dealing with some stuff.”

“And what might that stuff be?” Penny pressed, her tone aggressive.

Eason blocked her view, replying, “Penny, it’s her personal matter. You don’t need the details.”

Eason was clearly getting annoyed.

Penny bit her lip and said apologetically, “Forget I mentioned it. It’s okay if you don’t want to come to my party. I get it, I’m just an outsider to you, with no family connections.”

Penny lost control of her emotions, her words becoming harsher.

Judith sensed the tension and quickly said, “Penny, you know Eason well. He must have a real issue to miss this. How about I make him prepare some extra gifts for you? How does that sound?”

“It could be dozens of gifts, for all I care,” Eason added.

Penny thought, ‘Gifts? Was that what I really wanted?’

But Penny realized she might have gone too far.

She managed a weak smile, “No need. I was being unreasonable earlier. You may go and take care of your stuff, Eason.”

Penny’s reaction made Eason uncomfortable, but given Emma’s situation, he had no choice but to let Penny down this

time.

After sitting for a while, Eason left with Emma.

At the doorway, there was a threshold.

Eason helped Emma over it, gently reminding her to watch her step.

He showed a level of care and gentleness as if he were handling something incredibly fragile and precious.

Penny watched, barely containing the jealousy brewing in her heart.

She's burning with jealousy seeing Eason being all sweet to Emma.

"What's wrong. Penny?" Judith noticed Penny's off-color and couldn't help but ask.

"It's nothing." Penny forced a smile. "I just think that Eason is being a bit too nice to Emma."

Judith laughed, "That's a good thing."

Penny said to Judith, "Mom, think about it. It's only been a few days and Emma's already got Eason eating out of her hand. She walked in and didn't even bother to talk to us. That's her way of flaunting Eason's affection, to intimidate us. Once she's really in with the family, I bet she won't show you any respect as her mother-in-law."

Judith didn't see it that way. She casually said, "Penny, are you overthinking? Emma is shy by nature. It's understandable she doesn't talk much. As for respect, I don't live with them. As long as they're happy, that's all that matters."

Judith appeared blissfully ignorant. Penny bit her lip, unsure what to say.

"Penny, forget about your brother. The party tonight is almost ready. Do you want to check it out?" Judith said excitedly.

“No, Mom, up to you.” Penny managed another forced smile.

Right now, her mind wasn't on the party.

All she wanted to know was how far Emma and Eason had progressed.

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The evening party was grand, and Judith put a lot of effort into it.

But Penny's heart wasn't in it. Her gaze constantly drifted to the door. Seeing Susan arrive, she quickly went to greet her.

“Susan,” Penny looked at Susan with eager eyes.

“Happy birthday, Susan said, smiling as she presented a gift.

Penny took it absent-mindedly and couldn't wait to ask, “Susan, Emma works for you, right?”

“Yes,” Susan replied.

“Is there any information about Emma at the company?” Penny asked. “Eason seems to be with her. I want to know more

about her.”

Penny felt that her request was just a minor one, especially when weighed against the significant sacrifice she had made. for Susan her own leg.

But Susan refused. She said softly, “Sorry, employee information is confidential.”

“I won’t tell anyone,” Penny pleaded.

“It’s really not possible,” Susan refused again.

Penny clenched her fists, a shadow crossing her eyes.

Penny thought, I had sacrificed so much for Susan.

‘But Susan wouldn’t even do me this small favor.

‘Did she really see me as a sister?

‘Or as a friend?

‘I was blind to have given

an even a bit of my kindness.

‘Alright, if Susan wasn’t willing to spill the beans about Emma’s situation, I would take matters into my own hands.

‘I always had this hunch that there was a massive secret lurking behind Emma.

“And that secret would be Emma’s Achilles’ heel.’

Chapter 354

Alexander and Judith always taught Penny not to misuse her power.

Penny, in her efforts to fit in with the Nicholas family, had always been obedient and well-behaved. But this time, Penny just couldn't hold back any longer.

She secretly exercised some of her influence, painstakingly gathering information about a person named Emma. The file on Emma was extensive, but Penny focused only on the parts that interested her.

As she delved into the information, her eyes suddenly sparkled with revelation.

Suddenly, Penny's mind was buzzing with a flurry of thoughts.

'Unbelievable! So that was it!

'Did Eason know about Emma's situation?

'How could he possibly know!

'Emma would never share such things with Eason.

'If I showed these documents to Eason, would he still choose to be with Emma?'

Thinking about this, Penny was overtaken by a rush of excitement, trembling with the implications. She took a deep breath, trying to calm herself down.

Then, Penny compiled the crucial information and anonymously sent it to Eason's email.

Penny was certain that after reading this, Eason would be furious.

This would naturally lead to a split between him and Emma.

Penny waited from dawn till dusk, and then from nightfall to the next day.

But Eason never came home.

“Was he still with Emma?”

“Didn't he care about this at all?”

‘No, that couldn't be.

‘Eason must have been too busy to check his email.

‘Maybe | needed to be more patient.

However, Penny was growing restless. She sent a trivial email from her own account and then messaged Eason: [Eason, | sent you something really fun. Check your email.]

Eason, having just lulled Emma to sleep, saw Penny's message.

Casually, he opened his email, which he hadn't logged into for days.

He first opened an email from Penny.

There were some jokes Penny had found online.

Eason raised an eyebrow, feeling a bit off.

‘Penny seemed strange.

‘She wasn't the type to share such lame jokes.

'Even if she did want to share, she could have just sent me messages on WhatsApp. could have just sent me messages on WhatsApp.

'Why make me check my email?

Eason pondered for a moment.

He closed Penny's email and began sifting through his inbox.

Soon, he stumbled upon an anonymous email.

Eason opened it.

At first glance, he furrowed his brows slightly.

The email was filled with information about Emma.

Apart from her severe depression, which he already knew, it detailed the reasons behind it. Emma had dated a senior in college.

But, that guy heartlessly dumped her.

Soon after, Emma's mental state deteriorated, leading to depression.

The email described in detail how much Emma loved that guy, and her selfless devotion to him.. As Eason read, a sense of discomfort grew inside him.

It was clear that Emma's love was one-sided,

The guy, however, was indifferent and even mocked her after breaking up.

His demeaning and mocking words were a significant factor in her breakdown. 2/5

Eason glanced at the sleeping Emma.

Somehow, he felt a twinge of pain and anger.

'Emma didn't do anything wrong. She just had a normal relationship, but ended up being unfairly dragged through the mud The email even included a photo of that guy.

Eason studied the face intently, committing every detail to memory.

He vowed never to let him cross paths with this guy.

Just then, another message from Penny popped up: [Eason, did you see the jokes? Fun, right?] Eason stared at the message, lost in a deep silence.

'Penny deliberately prompted me to check my email.

"On scanning my inbox, | stumbled upon an intriguing email.

"Was this merely a coincidence?

'Or something else?

"Did the email come from Penny herself?

"If yes, this meant Penny had been secretly digging into Emma's background. "Why would she do such a thing?

“What right did she have to do such a thing?”

“And more importantly, what was her motive?”

In Eason’s mind, Penny had always been a sweet and adorable younger sister. However, this incident led him to question her intentions.

[Eason?] Penny sent another tentative message.

Narrowing his eyes, Eason replied, | saw them, pretty funny.]

Penny anxiously stared at her phone, waiting for Eason’s next words.

But after that message, Eason went silent.

Penny was frantic.

‘Did he actually see that email?’

“Was he aware that Emma not only suffered from depression but had also been passionately in love with another man? “If Eason knew all this, he couldn’t possibly remain so calm.

“Could it be he hadn’t seen it yet?”

Penny was troubled.

‘If | reminded him again, would it be too obvious?’

'But what if Eason never saw it?'

Torn, she finally sent a probing message: [Eason, am I the only one who sends you such silly emails? Do you get others like this in your inbox?]

'This would surely prompt Eason to check his other emails, leading him to discover the crucial one. Eason squinted his eyes.

Initially, he wasn't sure who the anonymous sender was.

However, Penny's question made it crystal clear.

Deep down, Eason felt a tinge of disappointment.

"What was Penny up to?"

'Snooping into someone's private affairs, she cleverly led me to see for myself.

Was this the same innocent and kind-hearted sister I remembered?

Eason pursed his lips.

He didn't confront Penny. Instead, he replied, [I don't think so. I've been swamped lately, no time to check my emails.] He hoped Penny would get the message: enough is enough!

Penny was stunned by Eason's response.

1 had sent all the information, but Eason just wouldn't look at it.

"If I pushed any further, it would be too obvious.

'The email issue had to be let go.'

Penny bit her lip, a flash of coldness in her eyes.

'No, I couldn't let go of the information I had worked so hard to uncover.'

A vicious idea formed in Penny's mind.

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"No, | couldn't let go of the information | had worked so hard to uncover." A vicious idea formed in Penny's mind.

'It might be a bit much.

'But then, why did Emma have to foolishly set her sights on Eason? 'Emma, you've brought this on yourself!

Penny sprang into action.

She had everything planned out.

Now, she just waited for Emma and Eason to leave the house.

Using all her connections, Penny quickly found out where Emma lived. According to her investigation, Eason had indeed been spending time with Emma.

They were not just together; they were living together.

Penny even heard that they hadn't left the house for several days. A resentful glint appeared in Penny's eyes.

'How could a woman like Emma be worthy of Eason?

'So, no matter how extreme my actions, I was doing it for Eason's sake!

'For Eason, I was willing to do anything and to pay any price.

Chapter 355

With this belief firmly in mind, Penny had her people keep an eye on Eason and Emma's whereabouts while she orchestrated her plan.

'This time, I was determined to expose Emma's true nature to Eason.'

On that day, Dr. Thompson made yet another visit to check on Emma.

“How’s Emma doing. Dr. Thompson?” Eason asked hesitantly, “I feel like she hasn’t changed much from before.”

Dr. Thompson replied calmly, “No change is the best improvement we could hope for right now.”

Eason looked at her, not quite understanding.

Dr. Thompson sighed and explained, “You might not realize, but Emma is in a catatonic state right now, a severe manifestation of depression. People like her have lost all will to live. This means she could harm herself or even attempt suicide at any moment. But look at her these past few days. She might not have improved, but she hasn’t been harming herself frequently either. That’s already a significant achievement.”

Eason began to understand, but he still asked, “So, what should we do now?”

He had put everything aside to be with Emma during these days.

But he had his own life to live, and he knew he couldn’t keep this up indefinitely.

Dr. Thompson understood this and after a moment’s thought, she suggested decisively, “Try taking Emma out.”

“Take Emma out?” Eason sounded nervous.

Dr. Thompson nodded affirmatively, “Emma’s lack of improvement is because she’s completely immersed in her own world. So, we need to pull her out and let her see the real world.”

“Won’t that backfire?” Eason frowned.

“We don’t need to rush her. Take it step by step. For example, start by taking her to less crowded places. If she adapts, gradually take her to places with more people. Doing it slowly like this, we won’t risk causing irreversible damage,” Dr. Thompson advised.

Trusting the professional, Eason hesitated for a moment before agreeing.

The next day, he took Emma out.

He had carefully planned their route. Today, he intended to take Emma to a nearby park. The park was large, with people scattered across various areas, making it sparsely populated and ideal for the first stage of her treatment.

As soon as Eason and Emma stepped out, Penny’s people reported back to her.

Penny was invigorated and immediately had her people follow them discreetly.

Once she confirmed Eason and Emma’s destination, she began to make her arrangements.

At the park, Eason held Emma’s hand as they walked quietly along the lake.

Across the lake, they occasionally saw a few people enjoying themselves.

Emma just kept her head down without much reaction.

“Watch out for the branch,” Eason said.

Emma effortlessly stepped over the branch.

Eason’s gaze softened slightly as he watched her.

There was something irresistibly sweet and endearing about Emma at that moment.

Sometimes, Eason even wondered if continuing on like this wouldn't be so bad.

A gentle breeze rustled through.

The day was exceptionally clear and bright.

0017

aves with i

As the birds chirped around her, Emma became acutely aware of her surroundings. She raised her gaze, locking eyes with a bird perched high in the tree. A subtle smile began to form at the corners of her mouth, almost imperceptible.

Eason noticed this change.

A wave of happiness surged within him.

He kept thinking. It had been days since Emma showed any emotion, and now, she was smiling.

“Could this mean she was truly getting better?”

“Did it prove that Dr. Thompson's approach was working?”

Hope flickered in Eason's heart.

‘Maybe, if they continued this way, step by step, Emma would fully recover?’

Just as Eason was basking in this hopeful moment, a surprised voice called out, “Emma, what are you doing here?”

Eason turned sharply.

His eyes narrowed in shock.

The speaker was a man.

Decently handsome, yet he exuded an annoying, greasy vibe.

But that wasn't what mattered.

What mattered was that Eason recognized the guy from Emma's files.

This was the jerk who had abandoned Emma.

“Let's go, Emma,” Eason said, suppressing the urge to confront the man. He took Emma's hand, ready to leave.

He knew all too well.

Emma was like a tightly wound string, ready to snap at the slightest touch.

And this man was definitely the one who could break her.

“Hey, why the rush to leave?” The guy approached briskly, grinning as he spoke. ‘Long time no see, Emma. Don't you want to catch up a bit?’”

A chill flashed in Eason's eyes. He wasn't in the mood to talk and tried to leave with Emma.

But Emma seemed frozen, unable to move.

Eason's eyes narrowed sharply.

The guy grinned, "See, Emma doesn't want to leave. After all, she once loved me so much. Who knows, maybe she still

does.

"Shut up," Eason glared at the guy, trying to forcefully lead Emma away.

"Eason," Emma suddenly spoke, her gaze fixed on him, calling out his name.

Eason barely had time to be happy about Emma speaking for the first time in days. Anxiously, he said, "Emma, can we talk about this once we get home, please?"

Emma shook her head.

"Are you her current boyfriend?" the man grinned. "If she doesn't want to leave, no need to force her."

Eason clenched his teeth, holding back his urge to punch the man, considering how it might affect Emma.

Emma gently freed her hand from Eason's.

Then, facing the man, she asked, "Jeremy Black, what are you doing here?"

Jeremy Black, thinking himself suave, smiled warmly, "I came to get back together with you."

Hearing "Get back together", Eason felt an inexplicable anxiety.

Having read up on Emma, he knew well that Jeremy Black was nothing but a scoundrel.

But he also knew that Emma loved this man deeply.

Now, with Jeremy talking about getting back together, could Emma really be foolish enough to consider it?

Emma looked steadily at Jeremy "No You came here for me, but not to get back together"

Jeremy was taken aback by her calm response but quickly grinned Emma, you're wrong this time I really do want to get back together. After all rare to find one who would spend an entire day making bagels just for me"

Emma calmly replied. "But the bagels I made ended in the trash"

Jeremy kept smiling "That's because they weren't tasty was just pushing you to do better. Other than your cooking you're pretty great. Like that time you waited for me all night in the cold, it made me proud"

Emma stared at him "That night, you never planned to come. You were just betting with someone to see how long w

Jeremy continued, "I was testing you, and you did pretty well"

As Jeremy spoke, Eason couldn't hold back any longer

He stepped forward and punched Jeremy in the face

Chapter 356 Jeremy was momentarily stunned, instinctively trying to resist.

Eason, with his mastery of professional fighting skills, acted with fierce resolve. Jeremy's attempts to fight back were useless, only serving to intensify the onslaught.

Eason cleverly managed to hurt Jeremy badly without leaving any clear marks.

Realizing he couldn't fight back, Jeremy shouted, "Emma, are you just going to let him bully me like this?" Emma lowered her gaze.

After a while, she stepped forward and gently tugged at Eason.

Eason stopped, feeling a slight sting in his heart, and asked, "Are you still going to protect him?"

Seizing the opportunity, Jeremy scrambled to his feet. He was somewhat scared of Eason, instinctively wanting to flee. But remembering the huge sum of money at stake, he stayed.

Despite years apart, Jeremy was confident in his ability to manipulate Emma. For him, the money was easy pickings.

Jeremy, with a slick grin, said to Emma, "You know, the guy you're with now seems kind of rough. He's not the one for you. Why not give us another shot? We're not getting any younger. Plus, there's a pretty good chance I'd marry you if we got back together. Isn't that what you've always wanted?"

Jeremy spoke with an air of granting Emma a favor.

Eason's fists itched to strike again.

But he saw Emma and restrained himself.

Eason thought, 'Emma's world turned dark because of her love for this man, leading her into depression. "How much did she really love him?'

Eason didn't dare ponder too deeply.

Thinking about it brought an inexplicable pain in his heart.

Eason thought, 'My pain stemmed from sympathy for Emma.

'As for other emotions, I didn't dare to contemplate.'

"Emma, you have a minute to think it over," Jeremy stated, rising to his full height with a newfound assertiveness in his voice.

Emma trembled slightly all over.

Fear was clearly etched on her face.

Long-buried memories surged crazily.

It was always like this when she dated Jeremy.

He had a way of using strong language to push her into doing things.

"Think it over. This is your one shot, and if you let it slip, it's gone for good. Honestly, who else would even consider marrying someone as shy and plain as you, if not for me?" Jeremy pressed on, making his point clear.

Emma's expression showed she was in even more pain. Yeah, that was it. Whenever she hesitated or refused, Jeremy would relentlessly belittle her.

Jeremy made her feel like she was the worst person in the world, convincing her that nobody else could ever care for someone as worthless as she believed herself to be, except for him.

Emma, who was inherently introverted and reserved, gradually became completely submissive to Jeremy after being influenced by his manipulation over time.

Except f

for the last occasion, where Jeremy subtly suggested taking things further, she firmly declined multiple times. idn't get v

When Jeremy realized he couldn't get what he wanted, he callously abandoned her.

During their breakup, he used some of the most vicious language imaginable, launching a barrage of personal attacks against Emma.

Emma had devoted her heart entirely to Jeremy and her refusal to have sex with Jeremy was a matter of personal principle. Yet Jeremy, over such a trivial matter, didn't hesitate to assault her with the most venomous words.

Afterward, he even spread harmful rumors about Emma. Whenever she tried to defend herself, her lack of eloquence left her at a disadvantage against Jeremy's sharp tongue.

For most, the four years of college are filled with fond memories.

But for Emma, they were overshadowed by darkness.

Seeing Emma's painful expression brought a smug smile to Jeremy's face.

This was his way of exerting control over women.

Jeremy always held the thoughts, 'Men who always try to please and coddle women are essentially trashy.

The key to controlling women lies in undermining and demeaning them.

Enuma was exactly like that, firmly under my control.

After all, she had even developed severe depression for me. How much she must love me! Because of this, | had plenty to boast about to other men.

'A woman became depressed just because she couldn't have me.

It was a testament to my incredible charm.

Over the years since | had left Emma, | had dated several women.

Chapter 357

Emma was furiously venting all her emotions.

In fact, Dr. Thompson knew about Jeremy

After all, doctors should know the whole story to treat their patients.

But after hearing this story, Dr. Thompson subconsciously assumed that Emma was just excessively in love with Jeremy. She thought that Emma's breakdown and subsequent depression were due to being abandoned by him.

She always approached Emma's mental health from this aspect.

But only Emma knew the truth.

'That wasn't the case.

'I didn't love Jeremy anymore.

'I didn't love him ever since he abandoned me.

'I didn't love him ever since he started spreading rumors and slandering me.

'I didn't love him at all.

'I feel depressed because everyone around me keeps saying I'm wrong. I'm abandoned because I deserve it.'"

due to Ex

Jeremy explained that their breakup was due to Emma's infidelity and her expensive habits. She was seeing multiple men and often asked him for money, which strained his finances beyond sustainability. This combination of unfaithfulness and financial pressure led to the end of their relationship.

However, Jeremy's proof consisted of some doctored chat screenshots. In these messages, she seemed desperate for money from Jeremy and even appeared to encourage him to be open to the idea of her being with other men.

These chat logs caused a huge scandal.

Emma tried to explain, insisting they were all fake.

Despite her efforts, she was met with disbelief and indifference.

Countless people mocked and ridiculed her, both to her face and behind her back.

During that time, wherever she went, she was met with scorn.

No one believed her.

Everyone believed the false images Jeremy had crafted.

Amidst such rumors, Emma was pushed into darkness.

She genuinely started to believe, "Maybe, it was all my fault.

If I hadn't made a mistake, why would everyone blame me?

"Some people might say I was born cursed.'

Dr. Thompson, not quite understanding her situation, kept urging her to let go of Jeremy.

But it was Eason who got it right.

He told her, "Emma, it's not your fault."

God knows how much those words, "It's not your fault," meant to her.

Emma cried her heart out as if releasing years of pent-up hurt and pain.

Eason's heart ached as he held her even tighter.

After a while, Emma slowly wiped her tears and flashed Eason a radiant smile, saying, "Thank you."

Her smile was so dazzling that Eason was momentarily captivated.

Jeremy, though sensing he was losing control of the situation, remembered someone's instructions and approached, attempting to touch Emma's shoulder.

Emma whirled around and, without hesitation, slapped him hard.

Fiercely, she said, "Get lost!"

Jeremy, completely taken aback, blurted out, "Have you lost your mind?"

He thought to himself, 'Emma was as timid and shy, never raising her voice, let alone getting physical.

'But this time, she really slapped me!'

Emma's voice was tinged with casual indifference as she remarked, "After all these years, what really separates me from being crazy?"

Jeremy paused, then laughed it off, "Well, well. Considering you went crazy over me, I'll forgive that slap."

Jeremy was as shameless as ever.

The old Emma would have run away from such shamelessness, hurting herself in the process.

But now, she had the courage to face it.

Looking at Jeremy, she sarcastically said, "You know, Jeremy, all these years, I've been thinking about what I would say if I saw you again."

Jeremy smiled, generously offering, "Go ahead, express your feelings."

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Jeremy expecting a seatin

was no fail for you. I'm thankful you dumped me. To

her words. "What are you saying, Emma? You were

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and You Jeremy? Do you really think you stand a chance after

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Imma thought to herset Berlore was timid and weak and was unace to face reality, so I chose to run away.

Butelity was nerve without options

Tee you ally gong to sue me? You wouldnt care Jeremy exclamec cudy Emma, if you keep this up, I’ll really get angry wil verter with you”

back

Jerry’s top #yerent seemed unery dicuous

moment nedejas

1 mens led out soondy laugh and calmy said “Just be ready to receive a letter from my lawyer.”

She couldnt stand the sift of Jeremy anymore and turned to leave

Jeremy tried to grab her

Eason stepped in to stop Jeremy

Fasol never saw it coming when Emma suddenly went off the rails.

But, without a doubt, he felt an extraordinary sense of satisfaction.

Iason spoke sternly, “If you dare touch Emma again, I’ll break your hand.”

Lasoris voice and demeanor were chilling, clearly not joking.

Jeremy trembled slightly, not daring to touch Emma, but shouted, "Emma, think it over. A worthless woman like you, only I would want you. Don't be fooled by how nice your boyfriend seems. Ask him, does he want to marry you? He's just playing with you. Forget about the past, and I'll lower myself to marry you."

Hearing this, Emma burst into laughter.

As she laughed, tears welled up in her eyes.

Emma couldn't believe how naive she had been to fall for a guy like that.

She calmed down and then eyed Jeremy's outfit. "Is your entire get-up even worth a little? It's been years since we left school. How's life treating you? Are you pulling in a nice salary a month yet?"

"Never underestimate me," Jeremy shot back, his irritation evident. "I just got a raise last month. Now, I'm making a pretty decent salary."

Besides, if he could win over Emma, he would get a huge sum of money.

Emma chuckled, "Oh, you wouldn't believe how much I raked in from those rights I sold. Millions of dollars, no less. My project proposals are a hot commodity, and my annual income is beyond your wildest dreams. So, tell me, who's the one who doesn't quite measure up?"

early wealthy.

Emma didn't like to use money to pressure people, as she didn't see herself as particularly

But at that moment, seeing Jeremy's incredulous expression, she felt an unprecedented sense of satisfaction.

“What?” Jeremy stared at Emma. “How could you possibly make that much money? Emma, you must be lying.”

Emma looked at Jeremy, smiled disdainfully, and then said, “Eason, let’s go.”

“Okay,” Eason replied softly.

The two of them left as if no one else was there.

Leaving behind was Jeremy, his complexion a tumultuous blend of green and crimson.

Jeremy stood alone, his face a tumultuous mix of embarrassment and anger.

After all, the woman who had hired him had only promised him one hundred thousand dollars.

But Emma was already worth millions?

If he could win over Emma, wouldn’t he be set for life?

Jeremy watched Emma’s retreating figure, his expression suddenly turning eager.

He thought to himself, “I didn’t believe that Emma truly disliked me anymore.

“It seemed like Emma was just holding a grudge because of something that happened years ago.

‘But what did that matter?

‘After all, women just need a bit of sweet talk, and they’ll come back, right?’

Fueled by a surge of adrenaline, Emma quickly made her way home with Eason in tow

Even after closing the door, she couldn't shake off the surreal feeling.

She thought for a while, Was I really the one who just stood up for myself?

"Have I always had this fearlessness and this bravery within me?"

*All these changes, I realize, are because of the man standing before me:

She stole a glance at Eason and instinctively lowered her gaze.

Facing Jeremy, she could muster up the courage to resist, but with Eason, she reverted to her timid and introverted self.

"Thank... thank you for today," she stammered nervously.

Looking at her, Eason said gently, "You were really brave just now."

Emma's head dipped even lower. "Was I too harsh? I... Im not usually like this."

Eason couldn't help but pat her head gently.

Emma looked up at him, a hint of grievance in her eyes.

"If a few harsh words from you are overdoing it, what does my direct intervention make me?" Eason remarked

Stunned, Emma stared at him, and then, unexpectedly, she burst into laughter.

Seeing her laugh, Eason couldn't help but smile too.

The gloominess of the past few days seemed to dissipate with that laughter.

After a while, Emma whispered, "Eason, thank you for these past few days."

She felt like her past self had been living in chaos

Now, provoked by Jeremy, she had snapped back to reality

The experiences of the past few days flooded her mind

She remembered Eason's meticulous care, his occasional sweet nothings, and the warmth of his embrace

She felt her cheeks flush with warmth.

"Have you finally come around? Eason asked.

"I've never been as clear-headed as I am at this moment," Emma replied.

She thought, In the past, it was as if a veil was clouding my vision, so everything seemed to be shrouded in grey

'But now, it's like I was forcefully pulled out of hell

For the first time, I can see the world in its true colors.

'It's vibrant

And for all this, I have Eason to thank

She looked at him with gratitude. "Thank you so much. I've been a real inconvenience to you these past few days, haven't I? But from now on, I'll take care of myself"

She recalled how Eason had been juggling taking care of her and his overnight work obligations. It had been a hectic time

for him

Now, freed from the burden of caring for her, he could finally return to his normal life.

As Emma voiced these thoughts, Eason felt an uncomfortable twinge in his heart

He wondered if she was trying to push him away.

"Does she feel no attachment to me at all?" he thought.

But then again, his care for Emma had always been out of a sense of duty

Wasn't it better for both of them if Emma didn't have feelings for him?

50

why did he feel so irked about it?

Pushing these strange feelings aside, Eason replied calmly. "You do seem better, but we should wait for Dr. Thompson's assessment. I've already messaged her. Ill stay with you until she arrives"

Emma hesitated. She knew Eason's kind heart and guessed that he wouldn't leave until he was sure she was okay

So, she nodded in agreement.

Dr. Thompson arrived soon after.

She was amazed by Emma's condition

For a patient with depression who had reached a near catatonic stage, the odds of improvement were slim

Yet, in just one night, she was talking and even showing expressions. What significant progress!

Dr. Thompson, intrigued by the changes in Emma, eagerly took her aside for a private conversation

Under Dr. Thompson's guidance, Emma shared everything that had happened that day

Dr. Thompson listened intently, occasionally jotting down some notes

"Dr., I... I feel really good now," Emma said nervously. "Am I better?"

Dr. Thompson shook her head. "It's not that simple."

She handed Emma a questionnaire with 20 questions to assess her mental state.

Emma filled it out carefully.

After evaluating Emma's answers and considering her behavior during their talk, Dr. Thompson reached an astonishing

conclusion.

Although Emma was still far from being in a normal state, compared to other depression patients, she had made a huge leap forward, and in the right direction.

"Dr. Thompson?" Emma looked at her expectantly.

Dr. Thompson returned to the present moment with a smile, assuring her, "You've made remarkable progress. But it's not time to stop taking your medicine just yet. I'm going to prescribe some new ones for you. Make sure you take them as directed. I'll check back in a week to see how you're doing."

"Alright." Emma sighed with relief, a hint of joy flickering in her eyes.

I really am getting better,' she thought happily.

Watching her like this, Dr. Thompson couldn't help but smile and say, "It seems that the power of love is indeed tremendous."

Emma wondered, 'The power of love?

She blushed slightly, stammering, "No... don't joke around, Dr. Thompson."

Dr. Thompson looked at her, surprised. "What? Even now, you haven't accepted him?"

Emma looked down, her voice tinged with uncertainty. "I just can't do that to him," she confessed. "You don't understand. He's such a good guy, someone who deserves much better than me."

“Emma, you’re truly remarkable,” Dr. Thompson said with kindness. “You were incredibly resourceful even during your toughest times. Now, as you’re getting better, the sky’s the limit for what you can achieve and who you can become. Remember, being worthy of someone isn’t about deserving them. Eason was there for you in your darkest hour. As you’re healing, there’s no reason for him to turn away now. You know, he’s already come a long way for you. Maybe it’s time for you to make your move toward him.”

“Is that really true?” Emma thought

She looked up at Dr. Thompson, somewhat dazed.

Dr. Thompson smiled but didn’t continue the topic. She said softly, “Alright, I’ll leave now. See you

As soon as the doctor left the room, Eason stood up.

in a week.”

Dr. Thompson winked at him and encouraged him. “Go for it.”

Then she left.

Then only Eason and Emma were left in the room.

The two of them kept silent for a long time.

Finally, Eason broke the silence, asking, “What did Dr. Thompson say?”

Emma responded with a slight nod, “I’m doing much better now. She advised me to continue taking the medicine and scheduled a follow-up appointment for next week”

Emma was really getting better.

Eason felt happy for her, yet there was a hint of melancholy in his heart.

He thought to himself, 'If it hadn't been for such extreme circumstances, Emma and I wouldn't have had such inseparable moments.

"Now that she no longer needs my care, are we going to return to being distant like before?"

Emma looked up and confidently said, "I've got this under control now. You can go ahead and do your own thing."

Eason opened his mouth, wanting to say something, but in the end, he didn't speak.

After a while, he softly agreed. "Alright. Take good care of yourself."

Then he left.

Emma watched his retreating figure, finding herself lost in thought for a long time.

She pondered, 'Maybe what Dr. Thompson said was right.

'The things Eason has done for me are already more than enough.

'Perhaps, it's time for me to muster up the courage and take that step forward.'

Chapter 359

The next day, Emma reported to Susan to formally conclude her leave before returning to work.

After several days apart, Susan was surprised to see Emma again.

She knew some of Emma's conditions and was aware that Eason had been helping her recover lately. But she didn't expect the treatment to be so effective.

as still her

Emma was still her shy and introverted self, but her eyes sparkled with an unusual vitality.

She was naturally beautiful.

With that added spark, her attractiveness seemed to reach a new level.

"Ms. Miller, I've caused some delays at work these past few days, Emma said with a hint of guilt.

Susan quickly reassured, "Don't worry. You had everything covered before you left. The Planning Department's been ticking along just fine, so there haven't been any hold-ups because of your absence."

After saying this, Susan's eyes softened, and she warmly said, "Emma, welcome back." Emma felt a warmth in her heart and softly replied, "Thank you."

Although Susan mentioned it wasn't a big deal, Emma couldn't afford to take it easy. After greeting Susan, she immediately plunged into her hectic workload.

It took Emma a day to get a handle on her work.

She wanted to work overtime, but Susan finally convinced her to call it a day.

Emma agreed, but still took a pile of documents home to work on.

Emma had called for a ride in advance and was waiting.

Suddenly, a voice filled with enthusiasm rang

out.

“Emma, I’ve finally found you,” said Jeremy, emerging with a bouquet of flowers.

Emma instinctively stepped back, then looked at Jeremy warily, “What are you doing here?”

Jeremy seemed oblivious to Emma’s caution, and with deep affection, said, “Emma, it used to be you waiting for me. How about we switch roles, and | wait for you?”

Saying this, he confidently extended the flowers, expecting Emma to be overjoyed.

But Emma stepped back further.

you're

She frowned and said, “We've been over for a long time! Please leave now!”

“Emma,” Jeremy took a step forward, I know till angry with me. I’ve realized my mistake. Can’t we start over? Wouldn't that be nice?”

Jeremy moved to grab Emma.

Emma retreated in a panic.

It's peak commuting time now, and the streets are teeming with foot traffic at the Intersection.

Their situation quickly drew the attention of many onlookers.

Jeremy, noticing the curious glances, not only didn't feel embarrassed but knelt down in front of Emma. He loudly said, "Emma, I was wrong. Please forgive me. I promise to treat you well and never hurt you again." imma.come

"Emma, come back to me. I know we still have feelings for each other. What difficulty can't we face together if there's love?" Jeremy was good-looking and pretending to be deeply in love.

Some bystanders were indeed fooled by his act.

Some advised, "Young lady, the guy has swallowed his pride. Just go back to him."

"Yeah, he's kneeling. He must really love you."

"Although a girl should be reserved, don't go too far. You might lose such a good boyfriend."

"Yeah, where would you find such a great guy?"

The crowd began to voice their opinions.

Asmirk of triumph appeared in Jeremy's eyes.

He even reached out to pull Emma back, "Emma, let's make up."

Emma tried to dodge.

But the bystanders, thinking they were doing a good deed, started chanting.

“Get back together! Get back together!”

These people shouted what they believed to be kind words.

Emma’s face grew paler.

Though she had tried to become braver, this scene was eerily similar to her college days...

She felt an indescribable despair and loudly said, “He’s not my boyfriend. We've broken up.”

Jeremy quickly said, “Emma, | know that’s just something you said in the heat of the moment. Don’t worry, I’ll always be here waiting for you.”

“What a nice guy. Girl, stop being stubborn.”

“Yeah, yeah.”

The noisy chatter resumed.

At that moment, Emma felt a splitting headache.

She covered her head and screamed, wanting to leave. The onlookers were confused.

Jeremy, sensing an opportunity, quickly stood up and gently took hold of Emma’s arm. He raised his voice to address the crowd, “| apologize, everyone. My girlfriend is dealing with some mental health issues. I’m going to take her home now. Thanks for all your support.”

Mental health issues?

The crowd looked at Emma with strange expressions.

Some stepped back.

Some looked at her with pity.

Some praised Jeremy, "She's mentally ill, and you haven't given up on her. You're such a good man."
"That's what I should do," Jeremy said humbly, attempting to take Emma away.

'Let go of me!' Emma screamed hysterically, struggling.

The situation only reinforced the belief that she was mentally unwell. Onlookers viewed Jeremy with increased sympathy, while their glances toward Emma seemed to convey a sense of disapproval. They appeared to silently criticize her for not appreciating Jeremy's steadfast support, despite her struggles with mental health.

Emma wanted to shout out loud.

'It's not true. It's not like that.'

But she knew better that even if she did, it wouldn't make any difference. A look of despair appeared in Emma's eyes.

Emma thought, 'Did I just escape one nightmare to stumble into another? Jeremy firmly held onto Emma, a glint of triumph in his eyes.'

Jeremy thought to himself, 'Since Emma was being so ungrateful, I had no choice but to be forceful.'

I intended to whisk her away to a hotel, making her truly my own in every sense.

'In this scenario, I had the perfect opportunity to fulfill my covert plan

and secure the pro

Additionally, by manipulating Emma into a relationship, | could gain access to her million dollar inheritance.

'It was such a perfect plan.

Jeremy was happily calculating his gains in his mind. Suddenly, the sound of police sirens filled the air. Several police cars surrounded them.

Jeremy was stunned.

'What's happening?

"What brought the cops here?"

"Are they here for me?"

"No, that's impossible."

Hope flickered in Emma's eyes.

The police car doors opened, and the officers got out. Emma's eyes widened, seeing an unexpected figure. Eason, he had come too!"

has

Eason strode over with a stoic demeanor, and gently embraced Emma

Jeremy fell backward, screaming, "Police, did you see that? Someone's assaulting me, arrest him!" But the police officers walked up to Jeremy

The lead officer coolly said, "Jeremy Black, you need to come with us to the station."

Jeremy was dumbfounded, "Arrest me? You've got the wrong guy! It's Eason who assaulted someone

Eason looked at him with a look of disgust and said ee) never (1)

S ead nunaors, id ered anyone, or coerced someone

into an abortion that led to a death. And | definitely didn't swindle anyone out of their money and run off Jeremy's face turned pale, speechless

Everything Eason mentioned was things he had done

Over the years, he had caused trouble for more than just Emma

Jeremy thought in a pan. Tason hall actually managed to dig up all these incidents

This time was truly at that was all over

Chapter 360

"No way, I couldn't just be taken away like that."

When Jeremy saw Emma, his eyes lit up.

Desperately, he pleaded with Emma, "Emma, help me out. Say something for me. I know you still care about me. You wouldn't want to see me go to jail. Emma, trust me, once this is over, I'll marry you right away. That's been your dream, hasn't it?"

Jeremy was grasping at straws, babbling incoherently.

Emma's eyes flickered slightly, yet she walked toward Jeremy.

Overjoyed, Jeremy exclaimed, "Emma, you really do..."

Before he could finish his sentence, Emma raised her hand and delivered a slap, her face devoid of any emotion.

Jeremy was dumbfounded.

In disbelief, he looked at Emma, "You... you hit me?"

Seeing his reaction, Emma felt an unprecedented sense of satisfaction.

With a detached tone, she said, "You've had that slap coming for a long time, Jeremy. You're paying for your own mistakes now. Let's just leave it at this – we're done seeing each other."

With that, Emma turned and walked away.

Eason glanced at Jeremy and then quickly followed Emma.

Jeremy, still reluctant to give up, wanted to shout out something, but the police shoved him into the patrol car.

On the street, Emma kept walking.

She walked so fast and so purposefully as if walking was the most important thing in the world to her.

Eason silently followed her, saying nothing.

They walked all the way to the riverbank before Emma finally stopped.

Eason stood beside her.

Beyond the railing, below, the river rolled on relentlessly.

Emma quietly watched for a while.

It felt like all the darkness, fear, and helplessness of the past were being washed away with the river.

After a long moment, Emma turned to Eason and said. "There's something I've told you several times before. But now, want to say it again."

A bright light shone in Emma's eyes as she spoke. "Eason, thank you"

Truh, thank you.

never thought that Jeremy would actually face punishment.

also never imagined that the past could really be left behind.

This time. I knew Jeremy would definitely face the consequences he deserved.

finally let go completely

"I've also said it several times already. No thanks needed," Eason remarked.

Emma blinked with a hint of shyness and asked, "Are you really sure you're into me?"

Eason paused for a moment.

Looking at Emma's slightly flushed face, he felt a stir in his heart,

He thought to himself, I'm not entirely sure whether I like Emma or not.

But Emma... she's definitely someone special to me.

Seeing her so vulnerable, I feel this strong urge to take care of her. The idea of her in any pain is unbearable. I want to give her the best of everything, all for the reward of her smile.

Is this what liking someone is like?

I just don't know."

Emma didn't wait for Eason's answer. She mustered up her courage, a bit shyly, "If... if you still like me, maybe we could.... give it a try?"

Her voice grew softer, almost inaudible at the end.

"You mean..." Eason doubted he heard her right

Emma refused to repeat herself, blushing, "Just think about it."

With that, she quickly slipped away.

Eason watched her leave, feeling a strange emotion stirring within him.

He thought, I am not sure what liking someone is like.

“But I am certain that I don’t want to leave Emma’s life just like that.”

Chapter 360

He kept thinking. ‘Last night, it was the first night in days I slept alone.

‘I thought I’d be happy to let go of a burden.

“But in reality, I tossed and turned, unable to sleep all night.’

I couldn’t help but worry if Emma brushed her teeth and washed her face properly.

Would s

‘Would she be scared of sleeping alone?

“Would her illness suddenly come back?

These emotions, wave after wave, flooded my heart all night.

The next day, I couldn’t wait to see Emma.

‘But I couldn’t find an excuse to meet her.

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'Thinking back to her saying she would sue Jeremy, I mobilized all my resources, investigated Jeremy, and reported him to the police.

'I thought to myself that once Jeremy got arrested, I'd use that as an excuse to meet Emma.

'But who would have thought when I followed the cops to Jeremy, I couldn't believe Jeremy still dared to harass Emma.?

'At that moment of rage, I couldn't even pinpoint why I was so furious.

'I wasn't someone who liked to resort to violence, but something about Jeremy just made me want to punch him every time. I saw him.

'After the rage subsided, I felt an indescribable sense of relief.

'I was relieved that I got there in time.

'I was relieved that I stopped Jeremy.

'I was relieved that I didn't let Emma fall into despair alone.

'Just when Emma had suggested we give it a try, I was thinking that if Emma and I parted ways, who would be there for her when she faced challenges? Who would comfort her if she became emotionally unstable again? Who would be there to hold her if her illness recurred?"

Eason thought a lot.

As he thought, he found his answer.

Regardless of whether his feelings for Emma were love or not, there was no doubt he couldn't let her go.

Eason reached for his phone, wanting to call Emma and tell her he also thought they should really give it a try.

Just then, his phone rang first.

Eason answered the call.

It was the police.

Initially, Eason remained composed, but as moments passed, a wave of growing anger began to simmer in his eyes, subtly at first, then unmistakably intense.

Half an hour later, at the police station, the officer, upon seeing Eason, promptly showed him Jeremy's confession.

"Mr. Nicholas Jeremy confessed to his crimes. But he also revealed something else. He said, in this harassment case against Emma, he was just an accomplice, not the mastermind."

"He's lying," Eason said with a frosty tone.

The cop replied. "But he has no reason to lie. He confessed to more severe crimes before. This minor harassment case doesn't even meet the criteria for a criminal offense. There's no reason for him to lie about this."

Eason understood this, and so he looked gloomy.

Eason thought, 'So, Jeremy showing up at the park that day wasn't a coincidence, but an inevitability.'

He continued to think, 'Indeed, for so many years, Emma hadn't seen Jeremy.'

“What made Jeremy show up out of the blue that day?”

Eason, preoccupied with Emma’s mental state, had overlooked this crucial detail.

Taking a deep breath, Eason asked, “Who’s the mastermind?”

The police shook their heads, “He doesn’t know. The person contacted him over the phone.”

The police kept saying. “It sounded like a girl. She offered him one hundred thousand dollars to seduce Emma. Jeremy initially didn’t believe such luck could fall into his lap, but she transferred a twenty-thousand-dollar deposit. That got his belief and eagerness to act.”

“The investigation confirms that twenty thousand dollars was indeed deposited into Jeremy’s bank account a few days

ago

“However, tracing the transaction led to a dead end in a Swiss account, making further tracking impossible.”

the

“The mastermind remains a mystery, and it won’t be easy to uncover them.”

The police detailed everything thoroughly.

Eason’s pupils dilated sharply.

“Mr. Nicholas, did you think of something?” the officer asked urgently. “If you have any leads, please share them with us.”

Eason pursed his lips, and after a long pause, he said, "Sorry, I have no leads. I'm just shocked"

"Yeah. Such a cautious person won't be easily exposed Anyway, Mr. Nicholas, think it over once you're home. Recall there's anyone you suspect. Let us know immediately if you come up with any guesses

Eason nodded and then left the police station

Seated in his car, he was noticeably tense and his expression was as solemn as that of st

His mind, however, churned with tumultuous thoughts

I remembered how Penny had suddenly messaged me that night, urging me to check my email

That's when I learned about Emma's past and Jeremy's existence.

And the very next day, Jeremy actually showed up

In hindsight, Jeremy's appearance turned out to be a blessing

"If it weren't for his unintentional provocation, Emma's emotional breakthrough wouldn't have happened softly

But the person behind the scenes wasn't benevolent

Eason reflected on the events of that day, realizing that any slight misstep could have been fatal for Emma, potentially pushing her over the edge into a life-threatening darkness

Someone was out to harm Emma

'But who could it be?

Emma, due to her illness, had been reclusive over the years. She'd hardly met anyone, let alone offended someone to such

a vindictive extent

I was reluctant to even consider it

'But I had to admit

The one pulling Jeremy's strings could very likely be Penny

Penny was the one who dug up all that information

And Jeremy? Penny brought him into the picture too

"What on earth was she up to?"

What could Emma have possibly done to deserve such a twisted plot from her?

Eason massaged his forehead lost in thought. After a moment of deep contemplation, he inhaled sharply and cast Penny

Penny was ecstatic when she got the call from Eason.

"Eason, you finally..." Her voice was brimming with excitement.

"Penny," Eason cut her off sharply. "Where are you?"

"I'm out shopping with friends," Penny responded cheerfully.

"Come home. I need to see you," Eason stated.

With that, Eason hung up.

Holding her phone, Penny's cheeks flushed.

Penny thought, 'Eason had called me, wanting to meet me.

"Could it be that he felt the same way about me?'

Shopping was the last thing on Penny's mind then. She ditched her friends and rushed home as fast as she could.

In the living room, Eason was lounging on the couch, his face showing no emotion.

"Eason," Penny approached, attempting to take his hand.

Eason swiftly avoided her touch. "Sit across from me."

His tone was brusque, leaving Penny confused and concerned.

Looking at Penny's innocent expression, Eason felt a moment of hesitation in his heart.

Eason thought, 'Could I have been wrong about everything?'

'I didn't want to believe it.

'My beloved sister, whom I had cherished for years, was a person with two faces!

'However, even if I didn't want to believe it, I had to get to the bottom of it'

Eason steeled himself and said with a stern tone, "Sit down."

Penny, not understanding what was happening, obediently sat down.

Eason looked into her eyes and said deliberately, "Emma and I are officially together now."

Penny's head shot up, a storm of emotions flashing in her eyes.

Eason continued, "And you know, I think she's amazing. We might even tie the knot soon. Penny, you're about to have a

sister-in-law."

'Marriage?

'Sister-in-law?'

Penny felt like a thousand screams were echoing in her mind, on a never-ending loop.

She forced herself to calm down and managed a faint smile. "Eason, getting married is great and all, but you've known Emma for such a short time. Do you really know her?"

"We'll get

connect.”

to know each other along the way,” Eason said nonchalantly. “I plan to make it official first, then take our time to

“How can you even think that?” Penny couldn’t hold back anymore and shouted in a high-pitched voice.

Eason’s heart sank with a wave of disappointment at Penny’s reaction.

He asked calmly, “Why not?”

“She... she...” Penny was frantic

Penny wanted to reveal everything she knew.

“But how could I explain my knowledge of all this?

“Aren’t you happy for me?” Eason said with a smile. “That’s good. Soon you’ll be celebrating my big day.”

Every word from Eason felt like a stab in Penny’s heart.

Finally, she blurted out, “Eason! Emma is deceiving you! She’s deeply depressed and still in love with her ex! She’s not right for you.”

Eason squinted his eyes.

‘So, Penny was the one who sent those reports.’”

But he kept his composure and said, "I know about the depression. I'm willing to help her through it. As for her ex, I believe that's all in the past now."

"What past? She's so in love with the guy that she falls into depression. How can that just be history?" Penny argued desperately.

Eason said with conviction, "I don't buy it. I even ran into that ex of hers when I was out with Emma. She looked like she had moved on."

"How could that be?" Penny panicked. "She's just pretending to not care to deceive you. Eason, Jeremy himself said that Emma did crazy things for him back then, like..."

Penny tried everything to persuade Eason.

But Eason's eyes gradually darkened.

He looked intently at Penny. "Jeremy told you?"

"Yeah, he... Penny, oblivious, continued.

Then, suddenly realizing something and seeing the look on Eason's face, she became terrified.

Eason said slowly, "How do you know what Jeremy said? You've spoken to him. It was you who orchestrated his," appearance before Emma."