

Ex Convict 1011

Chapter 1011

Elise Dean was taken away by the bailiffs while Grace was left stunned.

‘Does Elise Dean’s confession have anything to do with Brian?’

Lawyer Carter seemed to be deep in thought.

When Grace and Lawyer Carter got to the court entrance, they saw a Maserati parked in front of the court. Brian got out and looked up at Grace.

Lawyer Carter tapped Grace on the shoulder and said, “Thank Mr. Hart for me. Without him, this case wouldn’t have been so easy.”

With that, Lawyer Carter walked down the steps, greeted Brian, and left.

Grace was still standing on the steps, looking down at Brian.

Brian, with his chin slightly tilted back, looked at Grace as well.

Some of the people who came out of the court seemed to notice this and looked in their direction.

Grace took a deep breath and walked down the steps toward Brian. Although Brian might not be a celebrity, he was easily

She did not want to be surrounded by onlookers along with.

Brian.

“Congratulations on winning the case today,” said Brian.

Grace was stunned. ‘He congratulated me on winning the case without even asking about it. Sure enough... He has something to do with Elise Dean’s confession.

“I didn’t win it. Lawyer Carter did,” said Grace.

Brian smiled. “It’s all the same. You won, right?”

“Did you get Elise Dean to confess?” she asked.

He raised his eyebrows slightly. “Did Elise Dean say that?”

“Yeah.”

“It’s a piece of cake,” he said as if it was something simple.

Grace had no idea what Brian did to get Elise Dean to confess. After all, this confession had ruined Elise Dean’s reputation and she would never be able to return to the entertainment industry.

“Thank you anyway,” said Grace.

"If you want to thank me, then come with me," said Brian.

"Where are we going?" she asked.

"You'll see," he said.

It was only when Grace followed Brian there did she realize it was a small clinic. A sign at the clinic's door spelled out 'Russell's Orthopedics'.

'An orthopedic clinic?'

Grace was thinking about it when Brian said, "Come, it may seem like a small clinic, but Dr. Russell inherited his ability to treat bones from his family. He just doesn't like the system and social interaction in regular hospitals, so he opened a small clinic by himself."

"Why did you bring me here?" asked Grace.

"I want Dr. Russell to check your hands," said Brian as he held

Grace's hands.

Her fingers were somewhat deformed. Especially since her fingers were thin, so the deformed parts looked more obvious.

"You must've injured your hands before. I notice you have a hard time writing or picking up food with chopsticks."

Grace was surprised that Brian would notice such minor details.

Chapter 1012

"No thanks. It's an old illness. Jason has also taken me to see a

specialist," said Grace as she pulled back her hand. The doctor had made it clear that the optimal treatment period for her fingers had long passed.

Some of the medicine she took afterward was just to ease the pain she felt when the weather was cold and humid.

"You're already here anyway. Just let Dr. Russell have a look. Dr. Russell doesn't see patients easily," said Brian as he dragged Grace into the small clinic.

Grace could only see a deserted clinic. An old man in a white

coat and a scruffy white beard was sitting in a chair. On the wall in front of him was a 32-inch TV, playing a cheesy sad romance TV series that was a hit these days.

Grace had heard her colleagues talking about the TV series in the office. It was said to be a real tear-jerker.

The old man was watching attentively with a serious.

expression on his face, almost as if he was watching a documentary show.

“Dr. Russell, is it possible that Aunty has been a fan of this TV series recently?” asked Brian.

your company make some less cheesy dramas? My wife has been binge-watching it every night and forces me to watch it with her. I even have to tell her what I learned afterward.”

How could he watch such a cheesy drama? Therefore... he

could not tell her his thoughts afterward. His wife started to lose her temper. She even involved his lack of concentration in watching TV with her into their relationship.

If he did not concentrate on watching TV with her and inserted himself into the story, he was not treating their marriage and relationship seriously.

An old man like him could only watch such a cheesy drama

just so he could ‘discuss’ it with his wife at night.

“Hart Group isn’t producing this show,” Brian said.

Dr. Russell choked and said in a snarl, “What are you doing here today? You even brought a woman. Don’t you know I like

peace and quiet?”

Brian said, “You opened an orthopedic clinic. Of course, I brought someone to have their bones checked. She injured

her hands before. They’re now not that flexible when she

writes, holds chopsticks, and so on. Don’t you claim to be the best orthopedic doctor in Emerald City? Let’s see if you can

cure this!”

“Claim? I am the best.” When it came to his major, Dr. Russell changed his demeanor immediately and asked Grace to sit

in the chair. “Show me your hands!”

Grace reached out her hands. Dr. Russell looked at Grace’s

hands carefully, and his face grew grave. “Have you had all your fingers broken before?”

Grace answered, “Yes.” She had thought this was the ultimate

pain, but she realized there was more pain waiting for her

later in prison.

Brian was stunned when he heard this.

'She had... all her fingers broken?' He only thought her hands. were injured in some way, but he never expected them to be

so badly injured.

"Did your nails grow out afterward? Were they pulled out before as well?" asked Dr. Russell.

"Yeah," Grace said again, a little surprised that Dr. Russell noticed it.

Chapter 1013

It seemed that Dr. Russell was indeed as capable as Brian said!

Her replies of "yes" were imprinted in Brian's heart, and it seemed to be setting off waves.

'What else has she suffered? Her nails were pulled out, and her fingers were broken... Who did these?' He even felt the urge to kill!

With a grave face, Dr. Russell felt every bone of Grace's fingers. After a long while, he said, "Come, let's take an X-ray. I need to see how your fingers are doing."

Then, Grace saw a screening isolation room that did not match the small clinic at all.

When they finished taking the X-ray, Dr. Russell examined the film carefully and was deep in thought for a long time. He said

to Grace, "You didn't get proper treatment after you injured your fingers. You've missed the golden period of treatment."

"I know," said Grace. The specialist Jason found for her also said the same thing.

Dr. Russell said, "Your fingers probably hurt whenever it gets cold and humid. It must be difficult for you to complete certain.

Grace was shocked. "Can they be cured?"

"If you follow the hospital's treatment, it may only help you relieve the pain during the cold and humid weather at best. However, if I were to treat you, I can improve your fingers'

flexibility. At least your fingers will be able to move normally when doing some daily activities like writing and holding chopsticks. However, the process might be more painful and we can't use anesthesia. You can think about it."

Grace did not expect to be able to receive further treatment for her fingers. She thought her hands would be like that forever. "It's alright, I can live with the pain," she said. Perhaps the best thing about her three years in prison was that she had become more tolerant of pain.

"That's great. Then you can come here every seven days. You can decide when to come next time, and I'll prepare the tools," said Dr. Russell.

"How much does the treatment cost?" asked Grace.

Dr. Russell gave Brian a strange look. "What's the matter? What's the relationship between this girl and you? You're not dating? Is she going to pay for it herself?"

"We're not dating, but I'm pursuing her," Brian said graciously.

Dr. Russell was surprised. "I never expected you to have such a day as well." Then, he looked at Grace and said, "Brian brought

you here, so it's free."

"No, I still have to pay for the treatment." Grace insisted. If the treatment was too expensive, she might have to save up some money for it.

Brian looked at Grace and said nothing more.

Dr. Russell offered a price of 300 dollars for each treatment, and she had to come eight times to complete a course of

treatment. It was only after that he would decide on the next course depending on the results.

Grace was relieved that she could afford the treatment for now.

As they walked out of the clinic and back to Brian's car, Grace said, "Thank you for bringing me here today. I didn't have much hope of healing these hands."

Chapter 1014

"Don't mention it. I just brought you here. If Dr. Russell said they can be cured, then they will." As Brian drove around, he asked casually, "When did you injure your hands?"

"It's been almost four years," replied Grace.

'Almost 4 years... It must have been when she was in prison. Then, Brian asked again, "Did you injure them in prison?"

Grace was silent and did not reply, but the expression on her face gave him the answer.

"Who did it? Who hurt you this way?" There was a trace of anger in Brian's voice. 'Who on earth treated her so cruelly?"

He knew she was imprisoned before, but he had never given much thought to what she went through in there.

Only now did he realize that she had suffered such pain.

Grace said lightly, "It doesn't matter anymore."

"Who was it?" Brian asked again.

"What's the point even if I told you? Can I make them suffer all the pain I've suffered?"

anyone who mistreated her suffer the same way she did.

Grace stared at Brian in astonishment.

As the car stopped at a traffic light, Brian turned his head and looked at Grace earnestly. "I mean it. If you want the people who hurt you to suffer the same way you did, then I can help. you. Whoever it is, I'll stand up for you."

'He's serious! The look in his eyes and the tone of his voice is telling me that he means it.

Grace somehow felt the tip of her nose grow a little sore. She seemed to imagine the little boy lying on her back, saying, "... I'm actually very strong. I'll protect you after we get off the hill. I'll make sure those who bullied you dare not bully you again."

She pursed her somewhat dry lips before saying, "No thanks.

It's all over now,"

Lily and Sean represented the Atkinson and Stevens families.

respectively.

Although these two families were not as powerful as the Hart family, it would not be easy to deal with them.

Besides, she did not want to owe him any favors! She did not want their relationship to get any more complicated.

Brian only pursed his lips and said no more.

As the car pulled up to a restaurant, he said, "Let's have dinner here today. You treated me last time, so I'll treat you today."

The restaurant was an old and famous restaurant in Emerald City. It was not a luxurious restaurant, but its decor was elegant,

When the food was served, Grace saw that Brian had ordered pancakes-a Emerald City specialty.

She stared at the pancakes and could not help thinking of the time when they were hungry on the hill. He had said, "I'll take you to try some pancakes. The pancakes in Emerald City are delicious."

Back then, she was living in the town with her grandmother, and Emerald City was unfamiliar to her.

Brian's voice rang out. "What's the matter? Why do you keep staring at the pancakes? Their pancakes are good. They're delicious and one of the specialties of this restaurant. No other restaurant can make them. I've always loved their pancakes since I was a kid."

Grace murmured, "I've had it before. It does... taste good."

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Back then, she had no memory of him or the promises they made during their childhood.

Grace picked up a piece of pancake and began to eat. 'I'm just having dinner with Bryn today!

Just like their promise, she had come to Emerald City and he was treating her to lots of delicious food!

At night, a Maserati pulled up slowly and stopped in the neighborhood, Grace got out of the car. She had only taken two steps when Brian's voice came from behind her.

"Wait!" He caught up with a takeaway box in his hand and handed it to Grace. "These are the pancakes we had earlier. I saw you enjoying them, so I asked the restaurant to pack up another portion."

Grace pursed her lips slightly before taking it. "Thank you." She could not refuse because they were pancakes.

It was like... how she could not reject Bryn when they were little and were fulfilling their promise.

When she took the takeaway box, his hand grabbed her

Her body shivered. "It's all over now."

He murmured, "If only I had known you earlier, then perhaps you wouldn't have suffered all this."

For the first time, he felt so sorry for a woman! He even wanted to take her place and suffer for her.

Her case had been nothing more than gossip to him back then. If the deceased was not Jason's fiancée, the eldest daughter of the Atkinson family, he might not have had any impression at all.

How could he have known that the woman who was

sentenced to three years in prison for this case would be the woman he loved most in the future?

If he had known, then he would make every effort to protect her from suffering any grievance and torture.

Grace stared blankly at Brian. In fact... he and she had known each other for a long time. It was just that she had forgotten. him.

If she had remembered his words before the accident, he would have helped her...

He would help her because he was Bryn-the Bryn who had been through thick and thin with her.

"Thanks..." she muttered. 'I'm sorry I'm keeping the truth from and not telling you that I'm the little girl you've been looking for.'

She could not reciprocate his feelings just as he wanted!

In a black car nearby, Terrence could only feel the air pressure inside dropping precipitously, making him feel breathless.

He peered warily through the rear-view mirror at his boss in the back seat.

'Master Reed's looking out at the scene. Although he's not showing any expression on his face, the aura he's exuding is

simply terrifying!"

Terrence could not help groaning in his mind.

'Speaking of which, Master Reed has been waiting for Grace to come back every day recently, but he doesn't get out

of the car to meet Grace. Sometimes, he even stays in the neighborhood until midnight. I have no idea what Master Reed is thinking!

Chapter 1016

'These few days, Grace had been coming home alone, so it was alright. However, Young Master Hart sent Grace home today and now... Young Master Hart's holding Grace's hands as they're looking at each other, just like a couple!'

Terrence just hoped Brian and Grace would separate as soon as possible. 'If they keep on hanging around like this, who knows what Master Reed would do?!'

Grace walked to her rental house with a box of pancakes in her hand. She took out the keys from her bag and opened the door. Just as she was about to push the door open and walk in, another hand beat her to the door and pushed it open.

Grace was taken aback and turned around immediately, only to see Jason standing behind her.

"When did you come?" she asked in confusion.

He was wearing a thin light-colored sweater and a pair of black trousers. With his handsome face, he looked just like Prince Charming. However, his face was dark and there was restraint, struggle, and... rage in his eyes.

It gave her an almost instinctive sense of crisis.

It was as if he was dangerous right now, and she might get hurt if she made a mistake!

"What's the matter? Won't you invite me in?" His cold voice rang slowly.

"It's late now..." She wanted to refuse, but he approached her.

Grace subconsciously stepped back while Jason approached her until they both walked into the house. He then shut the

door behind him.

Bang!

With the sound of the door closing, the house immediately became quiet.

Grace took a deep breath. "Can I help you?"

Jason gazed at the takeaway box in her hands. "Brian gave this to you, didn't he? Were you with him today?"

Grace was shocked and realized he had probably seen Brian walking her to the door.

"Did you have dinner together?" he asked, inching closer to her.

Step by step, she retreated until her back was against the wall. There was no more space behind her.

His hands rested against the space on the wall on both sides of her body. He lowered his head, and his normally bright and charismatic eyes were now dark. "Have you fallen for Brian?"

She bit her lip slightly. "No, alright? I want to go to bed now."

She raised her hand to push him away, but the next moment, he grabbed her hands. His fingertips caressed her hands as he muttered, "You didn't reject him when he touched you. Why did you let him hold your hands if you haven't fallen for him?"

'Why... Because it's Bryn, because... At that moment, she could.

not help but wonder if her life would have been different if she

had not lost that memory or if she had remembered that part

of her childhood before the car accident.

"Just because I haven't fallen for him doesn't mean he can't hold my hands. It's just like how you're also holding my hands

when I have no interest in you," retorted Grace.

His expression immediately changed. A moment later, he dragged her into the bathroom.

"Jason, what are you trying to do?" cried Grace as she struggled.

He turned on the tap on the sink, water immediately gushing out.

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He put her hands under the tap and took the soap to wash her hands with. He washed her hands over and over again as

if to rinse off all the traces, smell, and temperature Brian had left on her hands...

Grace tried to withdraw her hands from Jason's grasp but it was to no avail.

She had no idea how many times he had washed her hands.

They began to ache. "Jason, stop it. What do you want?"

He turned off the tap, picked up the towel nearby, and dried her hands carefully. "Don't let Brian touch your hands again."

He could not bear the thought of what he had seen earlier. His body seemed to have been filled with jealousy.

He was afraid that she would fall in love with Brian!

"Stop saying things that will irritate me," he said.

Grace was stunned for a moment before laughing. "Should I still be in love with you even after we've broken up?"

He stopped what he was doing and raised his eyes to meet her calm, almond-shaped eyes. unperturbed calm instead.

However, the calmer she was, the more uneasy he felt.

Her lips parted slowly, and her gentle breeze-like voice was as calm as her eyes. "Jason, since we've broken up, I won't fall for you, love you, nor do anything for you. If they irritate you, then it's probably hard for me to keep you from getting angry."

His thin lips tightened into a line while his eyes remained fixed on her.

She continued, "If you want to continue this brother and sister. game, so be it. However, I won't have any feelings for you anymore, and one day, I will truly forget about you."

His heart immediately sank. "Truly... forget about me?"

Just hearing her words made his heart feel as if it had exploded.

"How could she have no feelings for me? How could she forget me? How could she do it so easily while I... can't!"

Jason lowered his head and kissed Grace forcefully.

Only this time, she did not struggle as before. She let him kiss her, and... gave him no response.

It was as if she was silently telling him that she had no feelings for him anymore.

It was only a matter of time until she truly forgot about him!

He kissed her, but it felt like he was kissing an empty shell.

- When the kiss was over, his heart grew more restless than

ever!

“You must have feelings for me! Don’t forget me!” He pulled her hard into his arms as if that was the only way to ease his

nervousness.

“Don’t you think it’s funny that you want me to have feelings and not to forget about you when we’ve broken up?”

Grace scoffed.

for

you

He stiffened. After a moment, he lowered his head slowly while his ink-like eyes stared at her. Then, as if he had made up his mind, he said, “What if... we never broke up?”

Chapter 1018

She looked at the person in front of her in confusion. “What does he mean?”

“If you don’t love me and want to forget me because we broke up, then... let’s get back together and return to how we were,” he said.

He was not the kind of man to change his decision upon making his mind, but this time, he went back on his word. It

was like a slap in the face, and it was all just because of her!

It was because her not loving him and wanting to forget him were so unbearable to him.

Grace laughed. She laughed so hard that her nose was sore and she could hardly hold back her tears.

‘He casually wanted to break up on the same day of my birthday and knocked me down from heaven to hell.

'Now, he's talking about getting back together and returning to how we were before... How we were before? How can I ever

go back to being the same like we used to again?"

"What's the matter? Are you going to love me again now?" she asked.

'I thought I could easily do it, but in the end, she was the one who did it easily!'

"What if I still love you? Can you love me again?" he asked

hoarsely. He loved her. Therefore, his life, joys, and sorrows.

could all be handed over to her hands.

These days, he finally understood that he had been doomed

to never escape the moment he fell in love with her.

His struggles had all been in vain.

However, he heard her saying, "Jason, I can never fall in love with you again.""

For a moment, his blood felt as if it had frozen!

Brian looked at the investigation report his men sent to his phone. Grace would have been surprised if she was there because it was the medical record of all the injuries she suffered in prison.

Brian's face grew colder and colder as he read the pages.

The pain she had suffered was for worse than he imagined.

Furthermore, the wounds on her fingers were caused by Lily and Sean!

He could not imagine how she must have felt when she suffered such pain.

He had always looked on coldly at many people and things, but he could not look on coldly when it came to her.

"Lily... Sean..." Brian muttered the two names. 'I'll get payback for everything Grace has suffered!

"Young Master, Miss Lindsay is here. She said she has something important to talk to you about," reported the butler as he entered the study.

Brian put away his phone and ordered softly, "Tell her to wait for me in the living room. I'll be there in a minute."

"Yes," answered the butler as he withdrew from the study.

Brian raised his hand and touched his heart.

It was... hurting for the woman who had suffered so much in prison.

Chapter 1019

The injustice of her imprisonment and the sufferings she endured in prison would have destroyed any ordinary person's spirit and will.

However, she was still holding on, working hard for her survival and future.

Even though her life had been derailed by a miscarriage of justice, she was starting over.

The woman seemed weak and delicate but was far more tenacious than ordinary people.

She reminded him of the little girl from his childhood... Sometimes, he could not help thinking that if only that little girl had been her instead of Stella!

Finding Stella only made him realize that sometimes, imagination was different from reality.

People changed.

The little girl was once full of a sense of justice and a desire to see justice done, but now, Stella only wanted to live a life of luxury.

However, it did not matter. Since Stella was his savior, he

Brian got up. He walked out of the study and into the living room.

When Stella saw Brian, she immediately said hesitantly, "Brian, I came to see you today because I wanted to tell you something, but... I don't know if I should tell you."

Brian looked at Stella with a cold stare. There was something wrong with the way she was speaking.

To put it bluntly, she wanted to talk about something and this move was just to show that she was doing it for his benefit, not out of malice.

Such a move was of course the oldest trick in the book to

Brian.

Usually, he did not mind if a woman tried some tricks on him. He would only see it as a joke, but... he was disappointed to see Stella do the same.

"Now that you're here, just tell me whatever you have to say," said Brian.

Joy flashed across Stella's face, but then her expression. changed to one of distress.

She pulled out a recorder pen and said, "This is a conversation Grace and I had the other day. I accidentally hit the record button, so I recorded a part of the conversation. I... didn't want to say anything, but I was afraid you might get hurt, so I came

"Really?" Instead of taking the recorder pen, Brian stared at Stella.

Stella got a little guilty and said dryly, "Why don't I... play it for you?"

Without waiting for Brian to answer, she pressed the play button. The conversation she had with Grace was played, but she had edited the recording and deleted all parts that were unfavorable to her..

When Grace's voice could be heard saying "I don't love Brian, and I don't have any ideas about him", Stella observed Brian's expression. She was hoping to see anger or some traces that showed his love for her was turning into hate on his face.

However, she ended up being disappointed as Brian's expression remained the same.

Brian remained unconcerned until the recording ended.

Stella even wanted to play the recording again for him.

"I accidentally recorded it. Brian, as you heard, Grace doesn't love you. I'm worried that you might get hurt, especially now that Grace's life isn't going so well. I'm afraid that she'll only date you to change her life and your feelings would then go to waste," Stella said with an air of concern.

"Just like how your life wasn't going well until I found you, right? Didn't your life change because of me?" said Brian.

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Stella's voice was stuck in her throat as a flash of embarrassment came over her face. She did not know what to say next.

"I... I was..."

Brian said, "Stella, you saved my life, so I have no displeasure in helping you change your life. Grace's the person I love. If she needs me to change her life, I'm more than pleased to do so."

Stella immediately felt a surge of jealousy!

'What's so good about Grace? She even made Brian use such words!'

"She doesn't love you. Doesn't that matter? She said it herself. in the recording!" Stella was eager to grasp this point.

The next moment, Stella suddenly felt suffocated, and there was a chill rising from the soles of her feet. Those phoenix eyes of his were looking at her coldly.

"Stello, I hope you won't use such tricks on me again, got it?" Brian exclaimed coolly.

Stella froze immediately! She only felt as if those cold phoenix

The day before Nelson started kindergarten was the weekend.

Grace and Lina came to Kyla Corbyn's place to give Nelson a gift for getting into kindergarten.

Grace gave him a set of crayons and a sketchbook, while Lina gave him a set of clothes and shoes.

After receiving the gifts, the little one blushed and kissed each of them shyly while saying in a cute child-like voice, "Thank you, Aunty and Aunty Sweeney."

Lina's heart almost melted at his cuteness. "Oh my. If I have a daughter, I want you to be my son-in-law!"

The little one blinked his eyes, not knowing what a son-in-law was, but he seemed to understand what 'having a daughter' meant. He looked at Lina's belly. "Are you having a baby, Aunty Sweeney?"

At his question, Kyla Corbyn and Grace gazed at Lina's stomach.

"You're pregnant?" asked Grace.

Lina's face reddened. "No... No! I was just talking metaphorically. Metaphorically. If I had a daughter..." she

stammered.

'Speaking of which, Hadwin Stephenson and I haven't used any contraception the few times we did the deed. Besides... I didn't seem to have gotten my period this month. Could I be...'"

Lina was instantly stunned and began to wonder whether she was pregnant.

"What's on your mind? Why did you become silent?" asked © Grace.

"Ah!" Lina suddenly came to herself and said hurriedly, "It's nothing. Hehe. I'm just wondering whether Nelson will like my daughter if I do give birth to one."

Kyla Corbyn quipped, "If you do have a daughter, Nelson will adore her very much. I'm just afraid your daughter won't like Nelson!"

"No way. Nelson is so handsome and adorable. I wonder how many little girls will fall in love with him once he starts kindergarten? My daughter will have a lot of competition!"

Lina said with a smile. The more she looked at the little one, the more she adored him.

Kyla Corbyn looked at her son who was rubbing his eyes and was apparently a little sleepy. There was a touch of sadness in

her eyes.

She picked her son up and put him on the bed nearby. It was time for the little one to take a nap.