

Ex Convict 1031

Chapter 1031

“Good.” He was a little relieved to see that she seemed a little better than before.

Heavens knew how he wished he could have taken her place. when he saw her so weak! He wanted to see her full of energy and smiling all the time.

He wanted to do everything he could to protect his Lina.

His large hands continued to rub her stomach carefully, hoping to ease some of the pain.

“By the way, I didn’t get pregnant this time. I’m sorry I got you worried about nothing. Are you sure... you’re not disappointed?” Lina could not help asking.

“I’m not disappointed. I won’t get disappointed whether you’re pregnant or not because I know we’ll have a baby someday. I just...” He paused. “I just stopped freaking out when I knew you weren’t pregnant.”

She was stunned. She did not expect him to use the words ‘freak out, “You freaked out?”

“Yeah, I freaked out. When you were in the bathroom, I was wondering what I should do if you were really pregnant.” He looked up and stared at her. “If you were pregnant, I would

Stephenson family so no rumors can hurt you and you can take good care of the baby...”

It was what he should do and what he wanted to do, but....

“But Lina, if I did that, then you would be involved in the Stephenson family’s war.”

Lina was puzzled.

Hadwin Stephenson stroked her head. If he could, he did not want to tell her these things. However, he did not want her to misunderstand.

“Although I’m in charge of the Stephenson family right now, that doesn’t mean they’ve given up. They’re ready to take me down at any moment. It’s not a big deal if you’re just my girlfriend. However, if you get pregnant and marry me, you’ll be a threat to them!”

Lina blinked her eyes. She learned what was going on with the Stephenson family from all sorts of gossip magazines and the internet, but after he told her this, she realized the internal war of a rich and powerful family in TV dramas was so close to reality and she was also a part of it.

“I want to marry you when I’ve eliminated all the dangers in the Stephenson family,” he said. He just wanted to create a comfortable environment for her and keep her safe.

“Will it be dangerous?” she asked quickly, more worried about his safety.

He smiled gently. “Don’t worry. Even if there’s danger, I have a way to stay undefeated. I can’t be the Stephenson family’s patriarch if I can’t even do that!”

Before this, he wanted to be strong for himself. Now, he wanted to become strong, but it was more for her.

He wanted to better protect her and give her a better future!

Therefore, he could not lose in the Stephenson family’s unfinished war!

“Hadwin Stephenson...” Lina put down the enamel cup and looked at the man she loved seriously.

She was so wrapped in her love life that she forgot to think. That perhaps every step he took in the Stephenson family was as dangerous as dancing on the blade of a knife. He could fall at any moment and be covered in blood.

However, he never told her these things. He just doted on her, loved her, and did his best to satisfy her.

“I know I can’t help you much. I know nothing about business and can’t think of any schemes. I’m only good at drawing and fangirling, but...” His figure was reflected in her round eyes. “I won’t let myself become your burden, and I won’t let you freak out because of me!”

Chapter 1032

He was stunned.

She continued saying, “If... If I really get pregnant someday and the Stephenson family isn’t stable yet, we don’t have to get married. You don’t have to marry me with some grand gesture. I can give birth myself and protect the baby. Just let me have my day once you find it safe!”

Hadwin Stephenson was stunned. “You...”

“I’m not afraid of rumors. They can’t hurt me at all! I want you forever. For better or worse, I want it!”

Her voice was so crisp, and the look in her eyes was so determined.

Hadwin Stephenson immediately held Lina into his arms.

His Lina was stronger and braver than he had imagined. He had belittled her, thinking she needed his protection. It never occurred to him that she could be independent!

"I just realized the woman I fell in love with is so great!" Hadwin Stephenson chuckled and said, "It's great to have fallen in love with you!"

He only wanted to open up a world of possibilities for her so

Grace did not expect Jason to bring her to the mourning hall

in Reed Residence.

It was a mourning hall for Jason's father where his memorial tablet was. Grace had only come here twice.

However... Jason brought her over without saying anything. He just stared at the tablet with his eyes lowered. He was holding her hand so tightly that she could not even leave.

"What on earth did you bring me here for?" she asked.

"Do you remember what you said to me here?" he asked

slowly.

She was stunned as memories of the past recurred to her.

"It's been a long time. I don't remember anymore," she said. Even though this was only a lie, she would eventually forget it

someday!

She would forget everything about him!

"You don't remember?" He chuckled suddenly. It sounded a little harsh in the mourning hall. "But I remember it very well."

Jason said while slowly turning around. His eyes were as dark as the deep night as he stared at her face.

The way he stared at her made her a little uncomfortable, so she turned away and said, "Thank you for the two bodyguards' help, but it's late now and I need to go home! If you want to discuss the past with me, you needn't. I think I made that very clear last time."

However, he merely took her hands in his and pressed them against his cheeks.

She stiffened slightly. Her hands were full of the warmth from his face. His hands were pressing the back of her hand so that

she could not move.

He was forcing her hands, pressing them against his face. If one ignored his hands, it looked like she was holding his face

out of her own will.

Chapter 1033

“You told me here that you’d love me for the rest of your life, that you’d stay with me forever and never leave me,” he murmured while something was burning faintly in his dark eyes.

Grace shuddered. Back then, he had stood in the mourning hall in the middle of the night, filled with a sense of loneliness and vulnerability that made her heart broke.

At that time, she found him here in the middle of the night.

Looking at the way he was, she just wanted to give everything she had to protect him!

If he was insecure, she would do anything to give him a sense of security.

It did not matter if she had to repeatedly say she loved him or acted like she had no memory of her past with Brian during their childhood even if she remembered it.

When one thought about it, she had been... willing to do anything for him.

‘Now... Grace looked at Jason calmly. “So what? Didn’t you say you loved me as well? Then you said that you don’t love me

anymore and want to break up with me. You go back on your words anytime you like.”

“Haven’t you ever heard what’s done cannot be undone?” she asked.

“There’s no such thing! I can take it all back, no matter how hard it is,” he said, rubbing his cheeks against the palm of her hands. “You know what? I was afraid that I’d love you too much and repeat my father’s mistakes. I was afraid that I

wouldn’t be able to control my life...”

His voice rang faintly in the mourning hall. He told her the words he never told anyone and the fears he kept hidden.

Grace was slightly stunned, surprised at what he was saying.

He continued, “However, I realized how much I truly love you

after breaking up. I love you so much I can't live without you. Therefore, Grace, come back to me, will you? I'll give you

whatever you want, even if..."

He paused and looked deeply at her. "Even if you want my life."

He used to find his father's feelings for his mother

unintelligible. He only found it ridiculous. Why would someone lose the will to live because of the betrayal and departure of someone else?

Now, he gradually understood that when one loved someone too much, then once they lost them, life seemed to become meaningless.

Grace could only feel a mixture of emotions. She glanced past him to the tablet with his father's name engraved on it.

"So? You realize you still love me after breaking up and want to get back together again?" Grace suddenly gave a little chuckle, but there was a hint of sarcasm in it. "Jason, I'm not a toy. I'm not a toy you can break up with and get back together

whenever you like!"

His eyes darkened. "You don't want to get back together?"

"No, I don't!" she answered him affirmatively. "You love me, so you want me to be with you again, but what if the tables are turned? If I love you, but you don't love me anymore, will you say yes if I wanted to get back together with you?"

His thin lips were pressed into a tight line.

Looking at him, she said, "No, right? If you didn't love me, then you wouldn't look at me even if I got down on my knees and begged you!"

"No ifs." It took him some time to spat this out.

Chapter 1034

She raised the corner of her lips, and her fingers suddenly moved to caress his eyes and eyebrows.

His eyelashes fluttered but did not move, and the hands he had pressed against the back of her hands slowly loosened.

Little by little, her fingers ran from his eyebrows to his eyes to the bridge of his nose and then to his lips.

His lips were good-looking. His slightly thin lips looked somewhat cold, sexy, and seductive. When his lips curved and

smiled, they easily stirred her heartstrings.

“You said you’re afraid you’ll repeat your father’s mistakes and lose control of your destiny. Can I take it to mean you’re afraid that I’ll betray your feelings just like your mother did to your father?” she spoke softly like a sweet violin, saying the words with no resentment or anger-only the calm after a storm.

However, her calmness made him frown.

She had also been this calm when they were in her rental house the last time. She was so calm that it made him flustered.

“Even when I told you I loved you and wouldn’t leave you, and His brow’s furrowed even more.

“You said you love me and want to be with me, but when you said you’ll give me your life, it’s because you still think that I might betray you... Just like how your mother betrayed your father,” she continued saying.

Struggle flashed across Jason’s eyes. “As long as I... believe you, will you love me and get back together with me?”

Grace said lightly, “What makes you think I’ll love you again even if you’ll believe me? Maybe you believe me now, but you won’t believe me in the future. Besides...”

She took back her hand, her finger gently pointing to her heart. “This used to love you, but not anymore.”

His pupils shrank as his face turned pale instantly.

He said hoarsely, “Then tell me what it’ll take to make you love me again. I’ll do anything you ask me to do.”

As long as she would not be this disappointed, as long as she could love him again!

Grace said calmly, “No way! Jason, you were never a man can afford to love. Even if you believe me now, you still won’t believe me someday. You’ll stop loving me at will again. The only one you believe is yourself!”

His lips quivered. “You don’t believe me?”

She smiled faintly. Her eyelashes lowered slightly, covering the bitterness in her eyes. "Yeah. I don't believe you, so I don't love you."

Their love was ruined beyond recognition, and it could never be the same again!

Grace let out a long breath once she left Reed Residence. When she said those last words, all the expressions on his face seemed to fade away.

He did not prevent her from coming out, but as she got out of the mourning hall, she could not help but look back. She saw how lonely and fragile his back looked as he stood before his father's tablet.

It was as if he was the only one left in this world.

There seemed to be a dull ache in her heart.

She told herself, 'Don't feel sorry for this man. It has never been my right to feel sorry for him! Besides, we're two horizons that shouldn't be crossed!

'It's just going back to square one!'

Chapter 1035

The next day after work, Lina came to see Grace. They found a diner and ordered food.

"Did anything happen between you and Jason yesterday? Did he give you any trouble?" Lina asked with concern.

Grace hesitated a little before saying, "He wants to start over with me."

"What?" Lina was surprised, her eyes widening in surprise. "Start over? Do you mean... getting back together as a couple?"

"Yeah," replied Grace.

Lina immediately gritted her teeth. "Jason... has no shame. at all. He was the one who wanted to break up, and now he wants to get together with you? Isn't this torture?"

Lina was the only one in Emerald City who dared to call Jason shameless.

Grace was amused by her best friend's expression and became less depressed.

"It can be torture," said Grace.

She shook her head. "No, there's no way we can get back together."

Just then, the waiter served their food. Grace lowered her head and began to eat in silence.

Lina's expression had changed from indignation to hesitation. "Grace, have you gotten over Jason?"

Come to think of it, Grace was so sad and distressed when

Jason broke up with her. Could she have gotten over Jason in just a few months?

“Yeah,” Grace replied softly.

“Did Jason give you a hard time?” Lina asked again.

“Not yet,” said Grace.

‘Now... Lina was worried about what would happen next. Even if Grace was unwilling, a man like Jason had many ways to force Grace to date him!

Grace said, “Alright, don’t worry about me! How much more trouble can he give me?”

She had already lost enough, and there was only so much more she could lose.

Grace laughed at the thought. One would become more and more fearless when they lost enough.

It was because there was nothing left to lose!

“If Jason is giving you a hard time, I’ll get Hadwin to come up with some ideas!” said Lina. After all, she did not want to see her best friend suffer.

Speaking of Hadwin Stephenson, as if reminded her of something, Grace said, “By the way, can you ask Hadwin Stephenson for a favor and find out if there was someone behind the three thugs who were sent to the police station yesterday?”

Lina was stunned. “Do you suspect that someone intentionally asked those three people to create trouble?”

“I just suspect it,” said Grace. She was suspicious because she saw the three thugs showing no fear when they walked into the police station. It was as if they were not worried about what would happen next.

Chapter 1036

Lina replied, “Okay, I’ll ask Hadwin to check it out. How’s it going with Kyla? How’s her business?”

“I called her this morning. She said business is slowly picking up, and no one’s bothering her anymore,” said Grace.

“That’s good!” Lina was finally at ease.

After dinner, Lina drove Grace back before she went to Hadwin Stephenson.

“Do you feel better?” In the study, Hadwin Stephenson put down the documents he was reading and went to Lina.

“I’m fine today. It’s not as painful as yesterday,” she said.

He frowned slightly. ‘Does that mean she’s still in pain today?’

“When will the pain go away?” He had never thought about the pain women suffered during their period. Now, he began to worry because of her.

“Don’t worry. Usually, the pain will go away tomorrow,” said

Lina.

“Well... Why don’t I help you rub your tummy again?” he asked.

Therefore, Lina sat on the couch comfortably.

Seeing this, Hadwin Stephenson could not help but smile and ordered the servant to make another cup of brown sugar

ginger tea through the internal landline. Then, he went to Lina and sat down beside her. His long fingers touched her tummy and rubbed it gently.

“You’re good. It’s so comfortable to have you rub my tummy. I should have let you rub it every time I had my period before this,” she said. She spoke of her period without blushing.

Hadwin Stephenson was a little speechless. She was the only one who could make him do such a thing.

“Did you see Grace today?”

She said, “Yeah. You know what? Jason wants to get back together with Grace. Isn’t it shocking?”

However, there was no sign of surprise on Hadwin Stephenson’s face as if he had expected it.

“Aren’t you surprised?” Lina wondered.

“It would’ve happened sooner or later. What’s there to be surprised about?” asked Hadwin Stephenson, After witnessing Jason’s attitude toward Grace, he knew that he still loved Grace.

“How do you know it would’ve happened sooner or later?” Lina wondered.

Hadwin Stephenson gave a faint smile. “Otherwise, how free do you think a man like Jason is to appear in front of Grace all day?” Lina was rendered speechless. She realized she had no good

comeback for that.

“Jason probably had no idea how much he loved Grace when he broke up with her,” said Hadwin Stephenson.

“It’s no use knowing now. Grace doesn’t love him anymore! She never wants to get back together with him again,” said

Lina as she curled her lips.

Hadwin Stephenson mused and said, “I’m afraid it’s not that easy. If Jason was so easy to dismiss, there wouldn’t be any Master Reed in Emerald City!”

Worry suddenly appeared on Lina’s face. “What can we do,

then?"

"We can only take things one step at a time. It's difficult to get involved in others' relationships," he said.

"Anyway, you have to help Grace if Jason bullies her," said Lina,

"Alright, got it!" replied Hadwin Stephenson, Sometimes, he was a little jealous of Grace who was so important in Lina's heart.

"By the way, there's something else. Grace is wondering Please check it out," said Lina.

"No problem," Hadwin Stephenson said immediately.

Just then, Lina suddenly thought of something else. "Well... You seemed to have promised me... that striptease yesterday."

Chapter 1037

She had come to his place yesterday only to see him dance, but her period came and she forgot about it.

Hadwin Stephenson raised his eyebrows slightly. She had not forgotten about it. "Wanna see?"

She immediately nodded non-stop.

"You don't need me to rub your tummy anymore?" he asked.

"You can still rub it after the dance," she said. Her round eyes. looked as if they were full of stars-they were frighteningly.

bright.

Hadwin Stephenson was speechless. He stood up helplessly. It looked like he had to satisfy the girl, after all!

However... "You can only be interested in me, alright?" he asked.

A hint of guilt flashed across her face. After all... There were so many male celebrities waiting for her! However, in response to the burning look in his eyes, she said immediately, "I promise I'm only appreciating them, and with you, I have other ideas..."

He was a little torn between tears and laughter by her words, but as she had hoped he started to pull his collar and dance.

I just want her eyes to fix on me alone!

'As long as she's happy, I'm willing to do anything...

Therefore, the servant was almost horrified by what she saw when she came in with a cup of brown sugar ginger tea.

'Mr. Stephenson... only has a thin shirt left and only one button. is left unbuttoned, exposing his alluring chest.

'On the other hand, Miss Sweeney has two fingers in her mouth and was making a gesture of whistling. Her whistling was stopped by the sound of the door being pushed open.

'Did I... see something I shouldn't have seen?' The servant trembled as she handed the cup of brown sugar ginger tea to Lina.

The moment she got out of the study and closed the door, she faintly heard the people inside saying, "Well... we should lock the door before you start dancing next time."

"Next time?"

"Uh... Your dancing's pretty good. You look so attractive when you dance. I can't feel the pain in my stomach anymore after watching you dance."

"Are you telling me that my dancing helps ease your period cramps?"

"Great minds think alike!"

"Lina..."

The servant closed the door lamely, shutting out all the sound inside.

'It seems that Mr. Stephenson's a different man when he's with Miss Sweeney! He would even.... do a lot of outrageous things!

'Even a servant like me thinks Mr. Stephenson spoils Miss Sweeney!

'How envious!"

Over the weekend, Grace planned to go to Dr. Russell's small clinic for her first hand therapy session. However, she did not expect to see Brian as soon as she left home.

"I heard from Dr. Russell that you're going to his place for treatment today, so I came to pick you up," said Brian as he opened the car door. "Come on. I'll take you there. I want to see Dr. Russell too."

Grace hesitated for a moment before getting into the car.

Chapter 1038

"You and Dr. Russell seem to know each other very well," she

said.

It was surprising that someone like Brian would know an old doctor from a small clinic.

“We’ve known each other for years. I broke my leg when your cousin and I got down from the hill in town. Many doctors said there could be side effects even if it healed. My mother heard about Dr. Russell and brought me to him for treatment,” said

Brian.

Grace was startled. “You broke your leg?”

“Yes. It took me three months to walk,” said Brian.

‘It turns out he had suffered such an injury. Did he injure himself when he fell off the cliff?’

Grace thought to herself. She remembered that after she had pulled him up from the cliff, he seemed unable to walk. She had been muttering about how spoiled he was, but it was because of a broken leg.

However... he never said anything about his leg hurting. He just kept apologizing for dragging her down when she carried him.

He glanced at her as he drove. “Am I supposed to take this as a sign that you care?”

She pursed her lips and kept quiet.

Ignoring her silence, he continued saying, “It hurt. I thought it was the worst pain of my life, but then...”

“Then what?” she asked subconsciously.

“Nothing,” he said lightly.

‘Then I realized that failing to find the little girl was an even greater pain for me!’

It was like he had lost something important! It was as if he would regret it forever if he could not find her!

However, now that he found Stella, he only regretted that she was far from what he expected.

It was probably better to miss than to meet.

They soon arrived at Dr. Russell’s small clinic. Grace and Brian got out of the car and walked into the clinic.

Dr. Russell was all set, He took Grace to one of the treatment rooms and said to her, "I'm going to work on correcting your fingers. The process is going to be a little painful. However, we can't use any anesthetic because once we use anesthetic, your

fingers will lose feeling and I won't be able to determine how much strength I should use to correct them."

"Sure, no problem." Grace nodded and looked at Dr. Russell's of tools that included a variety of needle knives. It made her scalp tingle.

array

Dr. Russell took another look at Brian who was standing beside him. "What's the matter? Are you going to stand here. and watch?"

"..." Before Brian could speak, Grace said, "Mr. Hart, do you mind going out for a moment?"

Brian pursed his thin lips slightly. "Alright, I'll wait outside."

Brian closed the door once he was out of the treatment room.

'Mr. Hart... I'm still Mr. Hart... Brian could not help smiling wryly. Even though he had been trying to get close to her, she still kept her distance from him.

Chapter 1039

'Is it because I've had too many girlfriends? Therefore, she doesn't think I'm serious?"

He remembered how she had scorned him for finding so many substitutes. She said if he really missed someone, it did not matter how many substitutes he found.

'Come to think of it, is this karma?"

No woman had ever been so desirable to him as she was, and she was always in his mind.

Even though he tried to forget her multiple times, he could never do it.

'I'm even willing to fight Jason for her!'

Just as he was thinking about it, a groan of pain came from the treatment room. Brian immediately stood up and pushed

the door open!

In the treatment room, the needle knife in Dr. Russell's hand was poking into the back of Grace's hand, while the woman... For a second, Brian could not take his eyes off her face.

Grace's eyes were closed, her brows were frowning, and her pearly whites were biting her lower lip to stop the cry of pain,

cheeks.

Her other untreated hand was clenched into a fist as if she

was desperately suppressing the pain.

He knew she was in a lot of pain now. Since Dr. Russell said that the treatment process would be painful, it would not

be some minor pain. It might even be beyond what ordinary people could bear.

However, she endured it and remained quiet after the groan

he heard earlier.

It was not that Brian had never seen a woman in pain before. Some films had such scenes, and many actresses performed very well. Some women would even try to get his attention by acting like they were suppressing the pain.

However, never had a woman given him such a shock!

Just as Dr. Russell was about to switch to another needle knife, Brian stepped forward and took Grace's clenched hand, putting it on his wrist.

She seemed to be aware of it and slowly opened her eyes. Those almond-shaped eyes were like the surface of a calm lake. It was as if the pain she was enduring had melted in her

eyes.

Only the sweat and the pallor on her face testified to the pain she was enduring.

"What... are you doing?" she asked slowly with a hint of difficulty and tension in her voice.

"Hold my hand when you're in pain. You'll feel better," he said.

He opened the fingers of her fist little by little and could see the deep nail marks in her palm. If she clenched her fist any harder, she would have injured her palm.

"No, I can do it... myself," said Grace.

However, Brian stubbornly put her hand on his arm.

“Alright, it’s time to start again. Stop moving!” Dr. Russell’s voice rang. Grace stiffened, and the next moment, the sharp pain on the back of her hand that was receiving treatment resurfaced.

She subconsciously clenched her teeth as her free hand almost instinctively grasped Brian’s forearm.

‘Ouch! It hurts so much!’

Grace gritted her teeth and emptied her mind to endure the pain.

It was a habit she had developed in prison, where she would let her mind wander when she suffered inhuman torment. She would imagine that she was just an empty shell. It was as if it would hurt less this way!

Chapter 1040

After some time, she heard Dr. Russell’s voice. “We’re done!”

The sharp tingling on the back of her hand subsided, and Grace breathed a long sigh of relief before opening her eyes.

Brian’s forearm immediately caught her eye.

Grace finally realized she had been grasping his forearm and immediately let go. “I’m sorry!”

“It’s fine. I asked you to grab it in the first place,” said Brian as he withdrew his hand.

Dr. Russell said to Grace, “Alright, come again this time next week. Be careful and don’t touch water for three hours after you get back. Don’t lift anything heavy with your hands either.”

“Okay,” said Grace.

When they left Dr. Russell’s small clinic, Brian said, “I’ll drive you home.”

“I... can take the bus myself,” she said, turning to leave,

He stopped her and said, “Sending you home doesn’t mean you have to promise me anything. You don’t need to avoid me like this.”

“I just don’t want to give you any more trouble.” She pushed his hand away, making him groan with a frown.

She was a little surprised. She had not pushed his arm away with much force! Just then, Grace suddenly stared at Brian’s sleeve.

'He's wearing a white shirt today, but now there's a faint tint of red on his forearm near his wrist, is that...

Grace suddenly thought of something and pulled Brian's sleeve up, exposing the injury on his forearm.

There were obvious scratch marks on his forearm. He was bleeding faintly.

'Is this... because I grabbed on to you just now?' Grace remembered how hard she had grabbed him when the pain was intense.

"I'm... I'm sorry," she apologized again.

"It's nothing you should apologize for. I did it on my own accord. You don't have to feel bad about it," he said, calmly lowering his sleeve. "Besides, it's only a scratch. It's no big deal"

However, the more he downplayed it, the more uncomfortable she felt.

"I'm going to ask Dr Russell if he has any adhesive

back to the small clinic behind her.

Moments later, Grace came running out with an adhesive bandage in her hand.

Standing in front of Brian, she said, "Put your arm out first."

He smiled faintly and held out his right arm as she had asked.

It was only a minor injury, but seeing her so serious put him in a good mood.

It was as if... she cared about him!

Grace lowered her head and carefully rolled up Brian's sleeve. Then, she put the adhesive bandage on his arm. "Don't do that again. I can't control my strength when I'm in pain."

He said, "It was of my free will! It was only through that I could experience how much pain you were suffering. However, I only experienced a small part of it. The pain you suffered during the treatment must have been far greater than this."

He could not bear that pain for her, so suffering the pain with her was probably a good idea.