

Ex Convict 1041

Chapter 1041

Grace looked up into those dark phoenix eyes. The outer corners of those deep, narrow phoenix eyes turned slightly upward. It seemed those eyes could easily seduce people when they were focused on someone.

Somehow Grace's nose felt a bit sore. Maybe because he was Bryn, or maybe because he was suffering the pain with her.

She used to endure the pain alone, but she had someone to suffer with her this time.

"Don't be so nice to me, Brian. It's not worth it," she murmured. 'I can't afford your kindness.

He said, "It's not for you to decide whether it's worth it or not.

It's for me to decide. I think it's worth it even if it hurts!"

She stared at him blankly, and for a moment, it was as if something passed through her heart.

After sending Grace back to her place and watching her disappear from his sight, Brian looked down at the bandage on his right forearm.

"Grace..." he murmured her name. His lips gently kissed the

He never expected to be so attracted to a woman.

He even wanted to cherish the pain she gave him.

"Will you love me?" he asked in a mutter.

He had always been good with women. He could have any women he wanted except for her, who left him in doubt.

'I want her to love me and be with me forever! The idea was growing stronger.

Brian restarted the car and drove off slowly, though he still glanced in the rear-view mirror with a faint glimmer of coldness in his eyes.

When Brian's car finally pulled away, the two men in a nearby black sedan breathed a sigh of relief.

Mr. Reed had ordered them to protect Miss Cummins in secret. Naturally, they had been following Miss Cummins and the crown prince, secretly taking some photos to report to Mr. Reed.

However, they kept feeling that they had been discovered several times during their stalking today.

"Finally, we don't have to follow the crown prince anymore," one of them muttered.

"Yes, it seems the crown prince's more discerning than we

imagined. However, is it alright to send those photos to Master

Reed?" said the other one.

"It should be... fine. We're just following Master Reed's instructions."

"That's true." They looked at each other and said no more.

During the Reed Group's board meeting, everyone heard the president's phone ringing. After the president looked at his

phone, his face immediately darkened and the atmosphere.

in the conference room fell to the freezing point. In an instant, the air was filled with tension.

The senior executives in the meeting could not help looking

at Terrence who was sitting next to the president. They were hoping that Secretary Jackson could give some hints.

Then, they saw Secretary Gao's expression changing as well.

There seemed to be a touch of worry and fear.

People began to wonder what the president had seen on his phone. 'Did one of the company's businesses mess up?

'But I haven't heard of anything yet!'

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Therefore, the senior executives kept guessing as they waited. on pins and needles.

After about ten minutes, Jason finally put down his phone and coldly spat out the words, "Go on!"

The senior executives went on with their meeting in fear. They

were cautious with their words and spoke softly, fearing that

they might accidentally offend the president,

Terrence looked at his boss' gloomy face and groaned in his heart. He saw what Master Reed just saw, but he was more

afraid because of that.

'Why did those two bodyguards send Master Reed photos of Brian and Grace together? Don't they know it'll upset Master

Reed?"

They should send some decent photos if they wanted to!

There was no need to send him photos of Brian and Grace so close together, especially the photo where Grace was holding one of Brian's arms and putting on adhesive bandage on him.

Besides, the photos were taken aesthetically, especially the shot of Grace and Brian looking into each other's eyes. It looked just like a screenshot of a scene from a TV show!

poor photography skills for Grace in the future. Now, he could only pray that Master Reed would not get upset.

Otherwise, Emerald City would probably be sent shaking!

"Grace, it's just as you suspected. Someone was behind the

three thugs!" Lina called Grace and told her what Hadwin Stephenson found out.

Grace was stunned. 'I knew it!'

"Guess who ordered those three men," Lina said with a quip.

"It's either the Weiss family or the Daniels family, but personally, I think it's more likely the Daniels family," said Grace. In her opinion, even if Martin Weiss had a grudge against Kyla Corbyn, he would not use such petty means on

her.

If a man like Martin Weiss wanted to lay a hand on Kyla Corbyn, he would be much more clever and ruthless! Instead,

Paisley Daniels was the most likely to do such a thing.

"How... How did you guess it?" Lina asked in surprise.

Grace thought for a moment and said, "I think Paisley Daniels's pettier."

She had looked through Kyla's case files and learned that Kyla

was imprisoned because she pushed Paisley Daniels down the stairs, causing the woman to suffer from a miscarriage. Kyla was sent to prison for intentional injury.

As for the alleged 'assault, the two supposedly got into an argument on the stairs when Kyla pushed Paisley Daniels

down.

However, the stairway was not very high. According to the injury report submitted by the hospital, Paisley Daniels did not suffer many injuries. She only had a few scratches and bruises on her body. However, she suffered serious consequences such as a miscarriage and permanent infertility!

Besides, Paisley Daniels's attending doctor at the time quit his job after Kyla's case. No one knew about his current

whereabouts.

In Grace's opinion, Paisley Daniels was not clever. However, Martin Weiss still believed Paisley Daniels's words and testified against Kyla in court!

'Did Paisley Daniels do this because of Nelson's custody case?' Grace thought to herself. Instead of going straight home after her phone call with Lina, she went to the place where Kyla Corbyn set up her food stall at night.

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Kyla Corbyn was already busy with work at the food stall. When she saw Grace, she greeted her warmly, "Why are you

here today?"

Grace said, "I'm free this evening, so I thought I'd come and see you. Is anyone still bothering you these days?"

Kyla Corbyn's expression changed slightly. Seeing this, Grace immediately asked, "Someone's still bothering you?"

"It's alright. I reported it to the police afterward, and the police will be patrolling these two nights. However-"

Before Kyla Corbyn could finish talking, a few people who looked like thugs suddenly came to the stall. As soon as they came over, they drove her customers away and ordered a few of the cheapest dishes. Just like that, they filled all the tables.

Kyla Corbyn only had four folding tables, so there were no more empty tables as soon as they appeared.

When a customer wanted to share the table, they would scare them away angrily!

Grace frowned. "Is this... how they bother you?"

anything about them. I'll just set up my stall somewhere else if there's no other way."

'It seems that sending the three thugs to the police station was only a temporary relief!

'Paisley Daniels must have sent these people too!

'We probably have to go to Paisley Daniels if we want to solve this problem once and for all! However, Paisley Daniels isn't in Emerald City... We may not meet Paisley Daniels even if we go

to tMason Swansonty she's in.'

The next day at the office, Grace was still thinking about Kyla Corbyn's issue.

At noon, several colleagues were chatting about the entertainment industry's charity gala this evening, saying that

many celebrities would be attending it.

Grace had heard about it. It was a huge party in the entertainment industry, but it had nothing to do with her. Therefore, she did not pay much attention to it.

Just then, she heard someone mention, "I heard that the president of Weiss Group and his fiancée will attend the charity gala together!"

"It's probably an occasion for them to show off their affection.

for each other. I think I read somewhere online that the man suddenly

left the party where they were supposed to announce their wedding date. It embarrassed the lady greatly."

"These rich and powerful couples all look affectionate with each other, but who knows what goes on behind the scenes? Once, someone said they're on bad terms with each other and they immediately appeared in public to show off their affection."

"Yeah! However, the president of Weiss Group, what's his name... Oh, yes. Martin Weiss's pretty good-looking. He looks just like an idol!"

"He wouldn't be trending otherwise!"

Grace's eyes lit up when she heard a few gossipy female colleagues chatting.

'Martin Weiss and Paisley Daniels are attending the charity gala?

'Charity galas organized by the entertainment industry... Grace thought of Brian. Maybe she could attend the charity gala and meet Martin Weiss and Paisley Daniels if she asked Brian for a favor.

'I try not to bother Brian, but... I have to help with Kyla's issue. Otherwise, Paisley Daniels will keep giving Kyla trouble!

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Brian did not expect Grace to come to him. After all, she always seemed to keep her distance from him.

However, he was somewhat surprised when he knew why she came to him.

"You want to go to the charity gala tonight?" asked Brian.

"Yeah. Can I?" Grace asked eagerly.

Brian said, "Why not? But you have to let me know why you want to attend the gala so suddenly. You're not after some celebrity, are you?"

After all, several top celebrities were attending the charity gala, so the event was attracting a lot of fans.

However, if she was really after some celebrity, he could give her a hand.

People in the entertainment industry would show him some respect.

"I want to meet Martin Weiss and Paisley Daniels. I heard they'll be attending the charity gala tonight," said Grace.

"Meet them?" Doubt flashed across Brian's eyes. "They're

"It's a little personal. It has to do with a friend of mine." Grace stopped short.

"Alright, I'll set it up. Although time is a little tight, we'll make it!" said Brian.

Grace was stunned. 'Time is a little tight? What does that mean?"

Half an hour later, she finally understood what Brian meant when he said time was tight, Brian had someone drive a minivan over, and one of Emerald City's top stylist, Sam, styled her in the car.

"You'll attract a lot of attention if you don't dress up and show up at the charity gala in what you're wearing now," said Brian.

Grace knew that everyone would dress up formally for galas like this. Her casual clothes were out of place. She went to Brian at a last minute's notice, so now she had to get her makeup done in the car as they headed toward the gala's venue.

"You're such a hassle, dragging me here to do someone's makeup! Is this your new girlfriend?" Sam joked. He seemed to know Brian well.

"No," Brian said lightly.

The answer was just as Sam expected. After all, it was not easy to be the crown prince's new girlfriend.

Although she looked pretty good, she was not exactly

stunning. He had also noticed her hands that bore many calluses. The skin on her hands was a bit rougher than other women, and the joints of her fingers were slightly deformed. One could tell she did a lot of rough work.

He was also surprised. He wondered what the crown prince. had to do with the woman in front of him. After all, a woman.

with such hands seemed to have nothing to do with the crown prince.

However, the next thing Brian said made Sam's hand, which was filling in Grace's eyebrow, tremble. It almost ruined her makeup.

Brian said, "She's the one I love."

Sam immediately widened his eyes. He looked at Brian before looking at the woman in front of him. is this... the one the crown prince loves?"

Som remembered how the crown prince confessed in an interview that he had someone he loved, but the woman had not accepted him.

'Therefore... she hasn't accepted the crown prince?

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"You rejected Brian?" asked Som as he looked at Grace in surprise.

Grace immediately felt a little awkward. After all, Brian was right in front of her.

Just as she was struggling to answer, Sam continued to do her makeup, saying, "You're brave. It's the first time I've ever seen

a woman rejecting Brian's advances."

"You seem pleased that I was rejected?" Brian glanced sideways at Sam.

"I haven't seen this before. It's refreshing" Sam grinned. Although he was chatting, he did not stop his movements. at all. When the car arrived at the gala's entrance, Grace's makeup and hairstyle were done!

"I didn't prepare a gown. You said you'd prepare one," said Sam as he looked at Brian.

Brian handed Grace a bag containing the gown. "The gown is in the bag. It should be the right size. Get changed in the car. We'll get off first!"

With that, he asked everyone in the car to get down except for

Groce

Grace opened the bag and looked at the gown inside. Suddenly, her pupils shrank and her eyes seemed to sting a

little.

It was... a purple gown, and the skirt was full of butterflies and flowers made of lace and crystals. This dress was just like

what he told her... when they were little.

He said he would buy her a purple dress with lots of flowers...

Grace's eyes welled. He gave her a dress like this even though.

he did not know the truth.

It was as if he had delivered her the dress he promised as a child.

'Bryn... still gave me a purple dress in the end!'

When Grace finished changing into the gown, Brian was stunned the moment she opened the door and got out of the car.

The dress was originally a gift he wanted to give the little girl when he found her. However, when he found Stella, he did not give it to her.

He had no idea why. Perhaps he thought it would shatter the fantasies he once had if he gave it away. Even though he knew those fantasies were only wishful thinking collected.

When Grace wanted to attend the charity gala and Sam said that he did not have the right gown on hand, he had someone bring over the gown from the closet without thinking twice.

He was willing to let her wear the gift he had never given Stella.

Now, as she stood stunningly before him in the gown, he suddenly felt that his fantasy had come true.

'It's as if... the little girl I've been fantasizing about has appeared in front of me, wearing the purple dress I promised to give her...

'It's so real... So real that I...

He could not help reaching out his hands and embracing the woman in front of him as if he was holding the unforgettable fantasy and longing deep within him!

Grace was shocked but did not push away Brian's embrace. Perhaps it was because his embrace felt wary.

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It was as if he feared the hug would crush her if it was any tighter.

“Sorry...” She heard his voice in her ears. “Grace, can you... let me hold you like this for a while?” he murmured. There was a slight sob to his voice, and it sounded like he was begging her.

At this moment, he sounded almost inferior.

He was the high and mighty crown prince of the entertainment industry. When had he ever begged someone

like this?

Grace felt as though something was blocking her heart. She did not move and stayed quietly in Brian’s arms.

He held her carefully as if he was holding a beautiful dream. She could smell his scent and hear his heartbeat.

After some time, he finally pulled away.

Brian apologized for the second time and said, “Sorry, I was a little impulsive... just now and mistook you... for someone in my imagination.”

“It’s alright,” muttered Grace, knowing who he was referring

1.

‘You’re also the only one I love!’

She stared blankly at him and saw her face reflected in his dark pupils!

It was as if he only had eyes for her!

Grace followed Brian into the charity gala. Although many of the entertainment industry’s top celebrities were in attendance, there were no reporters there.

Reporters from all news outlets and magazines were stopped outside the venue.

Grace was brought here by Brian himself and thus, attracted a lot of attention-especially from people in the entertainment industry.

After all, this was the crown prince. Many women wanted to stand by his side but could only dream of doing so.

They started speculating who Grace was.

Grace looked around, wanting to look for Martin Weiss and Paisley Daniels.

"Don't worry, it's still early. Maybe they're not here yet. They're on the guestlist today, so I expect they'll be here later." Brian

saw

Grace's anxiety and comforted her. "Besides, even if they don't come, I can take you to them tomorrow."

"Thank you," said Grace.

"I'm glad to help you out. This way, I can see you one more time and talk to you a little more. Many a little makes a mickle. Maybe one day, you'll fall in love with me too," he murmured.

"You..." She looked at him in shock. She realized for the first time that perhaps his feelings for her were deeper than she expected!

Just then, Grace was interrupted by a familiar voice. "Grace!"

Grace looked back and saw Lina walking her way with her hand hooked around Hadwin Stephenson's arm!

"Lina, what are you doing here?" Grace looked at her best friend in surprise.

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"I... Hehe. I heard that many celebrities will be attending tonight, so I asked Hadwin to bring me here." Lina laughed dryly. She was embarrassed to tell her that she had 'asked' him by nibbling and kissing Hadwin Stephenson before he finally agreed after sharing one night of passion.

Of course, Hadwin Stephenson made her make a pact before coming. She was not allowed to get too excited when she saw a male celebrity. She was not allowed to approach them for an autograph, and she was not allowed to ask them for a

photo together.

She reluctantly agreed, thinking it was good enough to see them.

However, she did not expect to see her best friend here. What was more, she was with... Lina sized up Brian.

As a fan, she recognized Brian instantly!

The crown prince of the entertainment industry! The man behind so many top celebrities! One could say that as long as the crown prince wanted to make someone famous, even a pig could be famous!

"Grace, what are you doing here? You and this-"

"Someone? Who is it?" Lina asked curiously. 'I remember

Grace isn't much of a fangirl! She's not here to ask someone for an autograph, is she?"

"Paisley Daniels and Martin Weiss," said Grace.

Lina instantly knew it probably had something to do with Kyla Corbyn, so she took Grace aside and asked, "How's it going with Kyla?"

"Paisley Daniels probably sent someone to cause trouble for Kyla again. Kyla can't do business as usual because of this. If Kyla can't have a stable income, it'll be bad for the custody case," said Grace.

Lina said angrily, "Paisley Daniels is so despicable! Why don't I talk to Hadwin and ask him to give Kyla a job?"

"Let's wait until I talk to Paisley Daniels and Martin Weiss. We'll do as you say if it doesn't work out," said Grace.

Once they were done talking about Kyla Corbyn, Lina sized up her best friend. "Speaking of which, you're so beautiful today! You look just as good as those socialites!"

Grace's long, black hair was in an updo, but a few strands were hanging down her cheeks. With her delicate makeup, she looked elegant yet dreamily feminine.

The gown she wore was graceful and elegant, making Lina.

amazed.

"Did Brian... prepare this for you?" asked Lina.

"Yeah," replied Grace.

"What's going on with you and Brian?" asked Lina.

"Well... it's a long story. I'll tell you about it next time," said

Grace.

On the other hand, Hadwin Stephenson was also sizing up Brian. He was surprised that Brian and Grace were attending

the charity gala together.

The way Brian looked at Grace just now... As a man, he knew

what it meant.

'However... Grace still has Jason...

Hadwin Stephenson suddenly felt glad.

Fortunately, he fell in love with Lina, so he was not having much trouble. There would be so much trouble if Brian went against Jason!

"I heard the Hort Group made a lot of boy bands popular this year." Hadwin Stephenson casually found a topic to talk about. Of course, he heard it from Lina,

He only needed to look at the girl's video browsing history every once in a while to know what new popular boy band had emerged recently.

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In particular, most of the boy bands were produced by Hart Group's talent agency.

Lina kept telling him that he was the most handsome and best-looking man, and she was crazy about him. However, she

watched their videos all the time, making him grit his teeth in jealousy.

If he tried to hide her phone from her, she would put on a pitiful look and say that she only had such one hobby she enjoyed in life. When he heard this, he would be embarrassed for having used such forceful means.

Hadwin Stephenson felt that Lina had him by the short hairs!

"I didn't expect you to be interested in these things, President Stephenson," said Brian,

The corners of Hadwin Stephenson's mouth twitched. "I just think there are too many boy bands, but most of them are similar. I hope your company can consider producing more girl groups.

Lina was not interested in women. It would be alright if they produced more girl groups.

Brian raised his eyebrows as if he was surprised to hear

"You seem to care a lot about the entertainment industry, President Stephenson. Do you have a girl group you fancy?"

Before Hadwin Stephenson could speak, Lina's voice rang.

"Hmm? Hadwin, which girl group do you fancy? Why haven't I heard you mention this?"

Hadwin Stephenson had a headache. He did not want to make himself a joke in front of outsiders, so he said, "Didn't you want to meet some celebrities tonight? I saw a few just

now. Do you want me to take you to them?"

"Huh? Who are they?" Lina's eyes lit up immediately. Then, she gestured to Grace that she would see her later and quickly followed Hadwin Stephenson to 'meet' the celebrities.

After all, it was why she attended the charity gala today!

Grace walked over to Brian and said, "You... Uh... Don't have to

worry about me. I can do just fine here by myself.”

Brian said, “It’s alright. I’ll stay here with you. By the way, is your friend a fan?”

“Yeah.” Grace could not help smiling at the mention of Lina.

Brian looked at her smiling face in jealousy. He could see that she was important to her. ‘When will she smile because of me?’

“Will you smile because of me one day?” The words escaped

Brian’s mouth.

“What?” Grace had not wrapped her head around it.

“Nothing.” Brian smiled faintly.

Just then, a figure suddenly came over. “Brian, didn’t you say you wouldn’t attend the gala? Why...”

Halfway through the sentence, Stella realized it was Grace standing next to Brian. The words were immediately stuck in

her throat.

“Grace, why are you here with Brian?” Stella glared at Grace. There was jealousy in her eyes, especially after seeing the purple gown she was wearing.

She had her eye on the gown for a while now and even asked Brian to give it to her, but Brian bought her another purple

dress instead.

Even though the other dress was also expensive, this particular purple gown was still on her mind.

She did not expect Grace to be wearing it today.

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With delicate makeup on, Grace looked just like a socialite

from tMason Swansonty in the gown.

On the other hand, Stella had been working hard on her appearance. She had good makeup artists to do her makeup and style her, but there were still people taunting her for being a country bumpkin behind her back. It was as if there were things that no amount of money could cover up!

‘Why is there such a huge difference? We looked similar when we were little, and sometimes people would even mistake us for twins when we went out! If it hadn’t been for that, I wouldn’t have been able to fool Brian with photos of me as a

child!

'However, I looked less and less like Grace as I grew up! Grace became more and more beautiful while I became more and more common. My eyes aren't as big as Grace's. My nose bridge isn't as straight as Grace's. Even my skin isn't as fair as

hers!'

Stella's hatred grew at the thought.

"Can't I come here with him?" Grace found it funny and asked her cousin.

She looked as if she had robbed her of something. It was as if

Some people would claim the thing they robbed as their own. once they had it for a long time!

Stella was stunned. Out of the corners of her eyes, she caught

a glimpse of Brian's slightly darkened face. She suddenly

shuddered and came back to her senses.

'Grace has gotten her memory back, after all. If I provoke her into telling the truth, I... I have a pretty good idea of how I would respond to make Brian think Grace is lying, but... it's a

lot of trouble!

'Especially now that Brian is in love with Grace!'

Stella smiled lamely and said to Grace, "It's not that. I... I was just surprised. After all, when I mentioned the charity gala to Brian, Brian said he had an important business deal to handle tonight and didn't have time to attend."

Grace was stunned, not realizing that Brian already had plans for the evening.

However, when she asked him to bring her here, he had said yes without any hesitation! Grace felt heavy-hearted.

It seemed as if she was owing him more and more.

"Mr. Hart." Stella's manager came over and said hi to Brian, the man who was supposed to have something to do today. It

Was

because of this that he brought Stella to the gala to meet some people in the entertainment industry.

After all, it was important for an artist to expand their connections.

"Show Stella around," said Brian,

However, Stella approached Brian and made a gesture to take his arm.

Brian leaned slightly to avoid Stella's hand and she failed to take his arm. Stella immediately looked embarrassed.

"Well... Brian, why don't you show me around and meet some people with me? I'll feel better if you accompany me." Stella feigned nervousness.

Grace did not bother to watch Stella pretend and turned her head to look around. She suddenly trembled when she saw the people she wanted to see tonight!

It was Martin Weiss and Paisley Daniels. 'There they are!'

Grace hurriedly said to Brian, "I see the people I'm looking for." Then, she walked in Martin Weiss and Paisley Daniels's direction.

Looking at Grace's back view as she took hurried steps, Brian suddenly felt a sense of loss.

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Stella felt jealous when she saw Brian's eyes chasing Grace's

back. "I wonder what's going on between Grace and Jason? Although they've broken up, I heard they're still in touch with

each other."

The latter part was just an offhand remark by Stella intended to make Brian dislike Grace.

However, once she said so, Brian turned his head and looked at her with a cold, sharp look.

Stella trembled, feeling as though he had seen through her.

"Stella, you should know that Grace is the one I love. I don't want you to talk bad about her in front of me anymore," Brian said coldly.

Stella stammered, "I... I wasn't. I'm just-"

"You just what?" There was no emotion in those dark phoenix eyes. Accompanied with that cold voice, there seemed to be

an invisible pressure that almost suffocated her.

Stella was somewhat startled. Ever since she assumed Grace's identity, Brian's attitude toward her had always been gentle and polite. He would always be tolerant even though she had done something wrong.

However, he was so cold right now!

Suddenly, her mind flashed back to the online comments she previously read about Brian.

'Indifferent, hard-hearted, ruthless... Maybe this is the real him?' The Brian she knew was just an illusion he gave her because he thought she was his savior.

'His gentleness and tolerance are reserved for the little girl who saved him when he was a child! Not for the real me!

'Is his gentle and tolerant side only reserved for Grace now that he has fallen in love with her?'

When the idea crossed Stella's mind, she felt as if her body was getting colder.

Brian said coldly, "Stella, you saved me, so I'll make sure you'll live a good life no matter what happens. It's just that all we have is the friendship we had when we were little."

Stella could only feel her cheeks burning. His words were like a slap in her face. Even though he made it subtle, Stella knew Brian was warning her not to have any funny ideas!

Standing behind Stella, the top manager's eyes twinkled when he heard what Brian said.

'It seems that Young Master Hart has nothing more to do with Stella than their childhood friendship, yet Stella likes to brag about how close she is with Young Master Hart!

Sometimes, the more attention one attracted, the more likely one would hit rock bottom. If she did provoke the crown prince. until there was no affection left, she would probably be back to square one.

The top manager looked at Stella coldly with a mixture of mockery and disdain in his eyes. Even though some people had the opportunity and resources, their vision and limitations doomed them to achieve nothing!