

## Ex Convict 1261

### Chapter 1261

Grace said calmly, "I don't need money, and I'm not getting a divorce. I'm not having the babies for the Reed family. I'm having these three babies for myself."

It was because she wanted to be their mother and have her own

family. She hoped these three little lives could come to the world and experience it! That was why she was risking her life to have these three babies! It was not for anyone else!

Old Master Reed coughed as if he was angered. "Do you think you can stay with him forever? You'll want to leave him one day!"

"I swore in front of his father's tablet that I'll be a good wife, stay by his side forever, and never leave him," said Grace.

Old Master Reed's face was full of mockery. "You'll never leave him. That sounds nice. What a pity. If you knew..."

Just then, the door to the ward was pushed open. A figure quickly rushed in and went to Grace's side a little nervously. "Are you okay?"

Grace was surprised that Jason came over so quickly. "I'm fine."

Her gaze turned to Old Master Reed and she said, "Old Master, I should call you 'Grandpa', but maybe I will only annoy you if I do. I

can tell you that I will never leave him no matter what I find out, much less get a divorce and abort the three babies."

Jason immediately trembled when she said this. He seemed to think of something and looked sharply at Old Master Reed. 'Was...

he about to tell Grace the truth about the case?'

Only the truth of that car accident would make him panic!

"Grandpa, if you said or did some things you shouldn't have said or done, then..." Jason's voice suddenly grew cold. "I'll make sure the Reed family goes down together! I'll keep my word!"

Old Master Reed's half-opened eyes suddenly widened as he glared at his grandson with a ferocious look in his eyes. "If... If..."

Cough... If you dare destroy the Reed family, I won't let you go... for as long as I live..."

Old Master Reed spoke with difficulty. He gasped for breath after only a few words.

The secretary hurried to help Old Master Reed calm down.

Jason said coldly, "Also, don't touch the three babies in Grace's belly. If you dare touch even a single hair of Grace and the three babies, then the Reed family will go heirless!"

Old Master Reed choked and glared at the grandson he had raised by himself. He was indeed cruel and cold-blooded enough to say such threatening words to his own grandfather!

If it was not for this woman named Grace, then his grandson would be the Reed family's perfect heir!

Unfortunately, his grandson's feelings for Grace were too deep. She would become his fetters and weakness if his feelings for her were too deep!

Old Master Reed calmed himself down. "You'll suffer the consequences for caring too much about this woman one day."

Jason pressed his thin lips together and said lightly, "Grandpa, such a thing can never happen again! Otherwise, I'll make the Reed family go down together!"

With that, he took Grace's hand and quickly walked out of the room.

Old Master Reed closed his eyes and murmured, "You'll be sorry for this. You'll be sorry! You'll probably end up like your father! I... won't let a woman destroy the Reed family. No way!"

Jason said nothing on the way back. He slightly lowered his eyes. His dark eyes made people wonder what was on his mind right now.

## Chapter 1262

However, his hand was still clutching Grace's hand, and his grip was getting increasingly tighter. It was when she cried out in pain. that he immediately came back to his senses and quickly let go.

"Does it hurt?"

"It's alright. What was on your mind?" she asked.

His gaze fell on her face. What should he tell her? He had been wondering what she would think of him if his grandfather told her the truth about the accident. Would she still say she would never leave him as firmly as before?

He raised his hand, and his cool fingers touched her cheek. He pressed her face into his arms.

“You said you’ll always stay with me, and if you can’t do that, then I’ll... probably choose to die with you,” he muttered. There was a hint of uneasiness in his hoarse voice.

Grace could only smell Jason’s scent in her nose. What she could hear was not only his voice but also the beating of his heart.

It was unusually intense!

She had not expected him to say such threatening words to Old Master Reed. However, watching him defend her and the babies

made her feel warm.

She seemed to have not experienced this warm feeling for a long time.

“That’s not going to happen because I’m not leaving,” she muttered.

For an instant, he only felt the unease in his heart fading gradually because of what she said.

Perhaps only she could give him peace of mind!

Stella’s birthday party was nothing short of bustling despite her hideous appearance trending online yesterday.

After all, the invitations had already been sent out long ago. While many people in the trending post’s comments section speculated whether Stella and Brian had fallen out, Brian did not clarify anything so everything was still undetermined.

Therefore, those who received the invitation attended. Many were here to see if Brian would come to the party and if Stella had fallen out of favor.

Stella hired a top makeup artist and applied lots of powder to cover up the bruises on her face, but the swelling had not gone down overnight. Even a skilled makeup artist could not make her swollen face look like it was not swollen.

There was nothing Stella could do but clench her teeth in anger at the thought of Grace and Jason.

She was wearing a custom-made purple gown. Since purple was Brian’s favorite color, she would naturally cater to his taste.

The guests Stella invited today were all top celebrities, directors, and owners of film and television companies, making the party a star-filled event that naturally attracted many journalists.

It was what Stella wanted. She wanted to clear her humiliation at her birthday party today and let everyone know that she was the woman Brian cared about!

The guests would deliberately mention Brian and ask if he would be here when they talked to Stella.

Faced with such questions, Stella could only fake a smile and say calmly, "Of course, he will. How could Brian not come to my birthday party? Brian even organized the birthday party today for me."

However, as time went by, Brian never appeared, and Stella's smiling face grew stiffer and stiffer.

## Chapter 1263

It was almost time for the birthday party to start, and the people around her began discussing.

"Hey, could it be that Young Master Hart isn't even planning on coming?"

"She wasn't beaten by the crown prince yesterday, was she?"

"I knew it. How could the crown prince be interested in a woman like that? She's unsophisticated and ugly. She can never be a socialite even no matter how expensive the clothes she wears are."

"I heard that she got Young Master Hart's support because she helped Young Master Hart when she was a child. But a person like her can't become an upper class lady even if she marries a rich man."

People were speaking more and more sarcastically while Stella only grew embarrassed. She immediately took the microphone and told everyone that Brian was busy and might be late. "Here are some clips from the first drama I acted in. Take a look, and I

hope to work with you someday."

Stella stood under the big screen with a smile. She planned to use

her 'acting skills' in the drama to give people who looked down on

her a good slap in the face.

She wanted them to know that she had some acting skills apart from the resources Brian gave her.

Stella smiled as she waited for everyone to praise her.

Sure enough, when the screen lit up, everyone was surprised and

stared intently at the screen.

Stella was proud, thinking the others were amazed by her performance, but Stella's smile froze as soon as the sound played.

"Hey, help me carry those things to the car. I can't carry them myself. Why don't you get into the car first? Sorry for the trouble..." It was her voice! It was what she had said when she tricked Chase Harper to get into her car that day!

Stella immediately turned her head around and stared at the big screen in shock. It was not a clip from her drama. It was a candid

video shot in her car back then!

‘When... was a mini spy camera installed in the car?’

However, Stella had no time to think about it. She only hurriedly shouted, “Hurry... Hurry up and turn it off! Turn the screen off!”

However, the staff operating the machine hurriedly said, “I... I can’t turn it off!” The machine’s buttons suddenly failed, and there was no way to turn it off.

“Then unplug the power source!” Stella said exasperatedly.

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However, the video continued to play on the screen even after they unplugged the power source. In the video, Stella saw herself saying to Chase Harper, “It’s all because you know Grace. Consider yourself unlucky!”

With that, she tore her own clothes off and screamed on purpose. She quickly ran out of the car, leaving Chase Harper behind, looking flustered and with a reddened face.

At this point, anyone could see that Stella had deliberately set up the unfortunate man in the car!

When the video ended, it repeated itself and played from the beginning.

“Tsk tsk. What good acting! No wonder a newcomer can play such an important role in the drama.”

Chapter 1264

“What a scheming b\*tch! I didn’t expect the crown prince to support someone like this.”

“She deliberately set up others. How disgusting! Without this video, wouldn’t the man in the video have been utterly wronged?”

“I heard Stella is suing a man for rape. Could it be this man? Oh my God! Isn’t this an example of a thief crying ‘stop thief’? Stella is the one who should go to jail, no?”

Everyone chimed in. Stella only wished she could smash the screen right away!

‘Who? Who’s trying to sabotage me?’

Just then, there was a sudden commotion at the entrance of the banquet hall. Stella looked up and saw a tall figure walking this way. Who else could it be if not Brian?

Stella had hoped for Brian to come earlier and prove to everyone that they were on good terms!

However, Stella now wished Brian had not come!

Stella hurriedly ran up to Brian and said in a panic, "Brian, don't look... Someone is trying to set me up with this video. It's not true.

They... They used some technology to do this on purpose! Isn't there a lot of advanced technology now?"

Brian looked up, and his phoenix eyes looked at the screen at the front of the hall where the video was playing. The video was not long. It was just over three minutes, but it was long enough for people to understand what was going on.

'So... Chase Harper was really wronged and framed by the woman in front of me! Just because Chase Harper knows Grace!'

Brian could understand the reason why Stella framed Chase Harper without anyone telling him!

He thought of how Grace had told him that she would get justice for Chase Harper, yet he only thought she cared about Chase Harper. He had forgotten that she was a person who was willing to stand up to injustice.

Had it not been for this, she would not have insisted on carrying him down the hill under such difficult circumstances!

Brian said coldly, "Set up? Did they set you up, or did you set others up? Stella, do you think everyone else is stupid?"

His voice was so cold, and a hush fell over the vast hall.

"I... I didn't set anyone up. All this is just someone trying to sabotage me and make you misunderstand me. Brian, you need to believe me!" Stella made a conscious attempt to grab Brian's

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arm, but before her hand could reach him, she was stopped by two bodyguards who were following Brian. Her hands were grabbed by a bodyguard each.

It was as if she was a prisoner!

Stella was shocked. "Brian, what... What are you doing?"

Brian paid no attention to her. His dark phoenix eyes only looked up again to watch the video carefully.

"I made such a huge mistake just because I believed you too much," muttered Brian. Then his gaze fell on Stella. "You should've never made me miss out on Grace. I was stupid, but you deserve to die!"

Stella's heart gave a jolt, and fear surged through her body. "I... I don't know what you're talking about, Brian. You seem to have

a deep misunderstanding about me... Ask them to let go of me.

There are things we can talk about slowly..."

Chapter 1265

However, Brian ignored her and ordered his men, "Take everything valuable off her!"

When he said this, everyone there was shocked.

'Take off? Here?

'Didn't they say Stella saved Young Master Hart's life? They're so close that Young Master Hart gave Stella many resources. He even gave her money and a mansion!'

'Is the crown prince falling out with her?' The crowd wondered what was happening, but no one stood up for Stella.

They only saw someone walking up to Stella and stripping her of all her jewelry and even her gown!

"Don't... Brian, how could you do this to me... I saved you. No matter how wrong I was, you can't humiliate me like this!" shouted Stella as she struggled hard.

However, her struggles were useless. A moment later, all that remained on her were her undergarments.

Stella stood in the hall, looking like a mess while others watched. She only wished she could pass out, but the way Brian's phoenix

eyes stared at her was so scary that she dared not pretend to faint.

She felt she would probably meet a much worse end if she pretended to faint.

"Let the others leave," Brian lightly ordered his men.

"Yes!" the men answered and began to chase out everyone in the banquet hall.

Everyone naturally knew they could no longer watch the show! Even so, they had learned a lot today!

Besides, the crown prince was not leaving any dignity for Stella despite being in front of everyone. Stella was probably a goner! The crown prince's actions were like telling Stella that he had

given her everything she owned, and now, she was going to lose all of it.

Moments later, all that was left in the previously bustling banquet hall were Brian, Stella, and Brian's men.

Stella said with a flushed face, "Brian, you have to make things clear even if you want to do this to me. Is this because of that

video?" Stella still thought Brian was only doing this to her because of the video playing on loop.

"Framing Chase Harper was not the only wrong thing you did!"

Brian stared at the woman in front of him coldly! The ordinary woman only had a high school education and not much

knowledge. She had not even managed to get out of the secluded village before she met him. He never thought he would be so badly deceived by a woman like this!

He had been so miserably deceived this whole time when he thought he was clever!

"Did you... really save me back then?" asked Brian.

Stella immediately shuddered at the question but replied like how she always had, "Of course... It was me. Who else would it be?"

"It was you?" Brian suddenly laughed, but his phoenix eyes turned crimson as he stared at Stella with fierce hatred. "What a fool I was! Why didn't I think of investigating it properly even though I had doubts? Stella, you're amazing. I never expected myself to be fooled by a woman like you one day!"

Chapter 1266

He grabbed the back of Stella's head as he spoke and pressed her hard to the ground.

Stella immediately felt a sharp pain on her forehead. Her head had hit the floor. She tried to lift it, but Brian's hand was pressing firmly

on her head.

"Do you know that your greed has ruined my life? Stella, you deserve to die. You deserve to die!"

"No... Brian... Believe... Believe me. I'm really the one who saved your life when you were a kid... Don't listen to other people's nonsense..." Stella said as she struggled.

Brian suddenly lifted her body again, strangling her neck with his fingers. "Do you think I haven't looked it up? I've looked up everything I needed to. It was never you who saved my life when I was a kid. It was Grace!"

Stella's face instantly turned pale, and she shook like a leaf. The man's eyes were now red, and the hatred in them made her heart

tremble.

'He... figured it out! He knows the truth!' Stella suddenly seemed to understand that no matter how she lied, it would not make a

difference.

This man would never trust her again!

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Her dream of becoming rich was coming to an end! Stella suddenly went hysterical and gave up. "Yes, it wasn't me. It was Grace who saved you, but so what? You're the one who mistook me for her. You're the one who approached me, not the other way around!"

"So you just went along with my mistake and took Grace's identity? How could you do such a thing? How could you let me miss her?" His hatred for her grew stronger!

"Do you know what it means to snag you? No one would give up such a chance! Besides, I'm not the one who made you miss Grace!" Stella said bitterly. She hated Grace and also hated the man in front of her now. Why did this man give her everything only to ruthlessly take it all away from her now?!

"Didn't Grace tell you herself that she was the little girl you had been looking for? You didn't believe her either!"

"I did take her place, but you chose not to believe her!"

"Brian, you missed her! Now, she's married to Jason. Haha, you'll never get her..."

Everything she said made his face look grimmer. He immediately

closed his five fingers around her neck and Stella's voice

suddenly seemed to be stuck in her throat.

Her face turned increasingly red and then bluish. She even stuck out her tongue. It seemed she would stop breathing if he choked her any longer. The others nearby immediately stopped him by saying, "Young Master Hart, there's no need to get your hands dirty for a woman like this!"

Brian loosened his fingers as if he had come back to his senses.

Stella immediately fell to the ground, tears and snot dripping down her face.

Brian haughtily looked down at the woman he found so disgusting and said in an extremely cold voice, "Yeah, there's no need to get my hands dirty for someone like her. I'll let her stay in jail, never to come out again!"

Stella was stunned. She thought she had escaped the bullet and would simply return to her small town with nothing.

'But now... Does Brian want to put me in jail? And keep me in jail for the rest of my life?'

Stella trembled at the thought of this. 'No, I don't want to lose my freedom! I don't want to spend my life in prison!'

"No... Brian, please forgive me. It's all my fault... It's my fault. Forgive me... Don't put me in jail..." She screamed as she struggled to reach Brian but was stopped by the bodyguards

before her hands could touch the leg of his pants.

Chapter 1267

Brian walked out of the lavishly decorated ballroom and did not look back.

He wanted Stella to pay for her actions with the rest of her life!

He would have to live with it for the rest of his life as well!

‘Reaping what he had sown’ was probably the best description!

His happiness in this life was over!

What happened at Stella’s birthday party was trending online that night, including the video that was broadcasted exposing how

she had deliberately framed Chase Harper. There was also a video of Brian coming and ordering people to strip Stella of her clothes.

The rest of the footage was not shown, but it was enough to show

that the woman who had been made a star in the entertainment industry by the crown prince was done for. Prosperity and wealth were all but gone for her.

Then, it was discovered that there was something even worse.

Hart Group sued Stella for obtaining a large amount of money through fraudulent means.

This news seemed to make the public explode.

‘Fraud? Stella defrauded Brian?’

Therefore, many netizens speculated about what had happened and how she defrauded him.

Grace did not have many emotions after reading the news online.

Maybe she was already mentally prepared since explaining everything to Brian.

How could someone like Brian allow others to cheat him?

A photo of Brian at the birthday party was trending online. It was obviously taken by a guest at the party.

In the photo, Brian was thin and wearing a black windbreaker. He seemed to be filled with loneliness, and his handsome face was expressionless.

Grace found Brian unfamiliar when she saw him like this. In her

opinion, though he would give people a sense of indifference and estrangement, he had never carried such a biting chill.

“What’s the matter? Have you fallen into a trance by looking at Brian?” Jason’s voice suddenly rang in Grace’s ears.

She turned her head but did not expect him to bend over with his face close to hers as he looked at her. Her lips unintentionally

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touched his lips when she turned her head

It was just a passing touch, but Grace’s heart skipped a beat. She blushed as she said, “I just happened to... come across the trending post about Stella and him...”

His eyes seemed to grow darker under the lights. “Will you regret it?” he asked abruptly.

“What?” She was momentarily baffled.

“Regret that if you had told him earlier you were the one he was looking for, you might be living a different life now,” muttered Jason.

## Chapter 1268

His soft voice sounded almost gentle and casual, but his eyes were staring at her, not letting any subtle expression on her face slip from his gaze.

Grace pressed her lower lip. “There’s nothing to regret. Since I’ve made my decision, I won’t regret it.”

‘Besides, even though I’ve told him, I still can’t give Brian what he wants. After all, the man I love was...’ Grace’s eyes darkened at

the thought.

She loved him so much back then. What about now? Did she still

have affections for him?

“What’s on your mind?” he asked as his fingers grabbed her jaw suddenly. He did not like the sad and lonely look in her eyes. It was as if there was something he could not grasp.

“Nothing,” said Grace.

“I want to hear the truth,” he said, narrowing his eyes.

She hesitated for a moment before finally saying, “I’m just wondering what kind of feelings I have for you.”

His dark peach blossom eyes narrowed. He stared at her, and

those thin lips of his parted lightly. His voice spoke with a hint of hoarseness, "Then tell me, what kind of feelings do you have for me?"

"I don't know." Grace raised the corners of her lips with self-mockery. "After all, I used to love you. However, too many things happened afterward and it seems that those feelings have been torn apart. I don't know what kind of feelings we'll have for each other. But I'll do my best to be a good wife and mother no matter what."

After a pause, she spoke with a certain longing in her eyes, "If it's possible, I hope... we can be like a family. After all, we have three children now, and I don't want it to look like we're not on good terms in front of them."

She still wanted to give her children a warm home.

Jason pondered. 'Family... But what I want is more than just family.

I want more...'

"What's the matter? Do you only want to be my family?" he suddenly asked ironically.

Grace replied, "Yeah. Can I?"

He stared at her. "So you don't love me anymore, do you?"

She was stunned, not knowing how to answer all of a sudden. 'Do

I not love him anymore? Not... really. After all, I loved him so

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deeply. Even... when he wanted me to love him again after we broke up, I was touched and thought of starting all over again.'

However, after everything that had happened, she did not think that she and he could 'start over'.

"Whether you do or not, we can find out by giving it a try," he said and kissed her on the lips.

Somehow, there was a surge of anger in his heart that quickly spread. Why was he so upset when she said she only wanted to be his family? Her silence now made him even angrier.

Was he angry because she was not denying it?

He was even angry at himself for caring so much about her silence. Why was he so reluctant? What was he expecting?

"Um..." Caught off guard, Grace's eyes widened as she stared at the face close to her.

'He's kissing me?'

The touch on her lips felt so real, but she felt like she was in a trance.

## Chapter 1269

His fingers were holding her jaw tightly, not allowing her to evade him, and his lips were a little cool, which was so different from

hers.

His kiss was also domineering. It was absolutely overbearing, but with a gentleness and longing from before.

Grace could only feel her heart beating faster and faster. At this moment, she somehow did not want to struggle or resist it

anymore.

She slowly closed her eyes and went along with his kiss. What happened in the past suddenly recurred to her. It turned out some feelings were unforgettable even though it had already been a

year.

She told herself to forget about it, but she had not forgotten

anything.

When the kiss was finally over, Grace opened her eyes and stared at the person in front of her.

"Why didn't you resist me?" his voice muttered.

She did not know how to answer him because even she did not

have the answer to it.

"Because you want to be my family, so even if I kiss you or do more intimate things to you, you can put up with it for the sake of the children?" He frowned slightly, and there seemed to be a touch of displeasure in his eyes.

She only married her for the children, but he did not want her to do it all just because of the children.

His fingers caressed her neck as he spoke, and they slowly went down...

She came back to her senses and seized his hand, saying, "You said you wouldn't touch me without my consent!"

He smiled faintly. "I said I wouldn't touch you, but... it's only during your pregnancy. Do you wish that I won't touch you for the rest of your life? Or do you plan for us to be a couple who treat each

other as guests forever?"

She was silent.

His fingers slipped under her clothes, and her body shuddered. Suddenly, that familiar queasy feeling returned.

Almost unconsciously, she pushed him away. She ran into the bathroom and threw up by the sink.

“Blaargh... Blaargh...” The sound of vomiting kept coming from the bathroom.

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Jason stood where he was, staring blankly at the palm of his right hand with her body temperature still on his fingertips...

With a faint hint of self-mockery at the corners of his raised lips, he walked to the bathroom door step by step. He stood quietly as he watched her throw up heavily while bent over the sink.

After some time, Grace was almost done throwing up. She took a breath and gargled. When she looked up, she found Jason. standing by the bathroom door.

“It happened all of a sudden-” She had barely begun speaking when he cut her short.

“Was it because of my touch?” he murmured, walking up to her and looking at her pale face. Those almond-shaped eyes seemed to have grown darker. Her small nose and those pitiful lips... Only

by kissing them could one understand how wonderful they felt.

One would become addicted and obsessed with them.

However, why did he seem to be the only one addicted to it? Why

was he still so easily influenced by her and could even go out of control?

Chapter 1270

He raised his hand, and his fingertips gently brushed against her lips, wiping away the remaining water droplets from the gargling. “But it doesn’t matter if you hate it! We’re husband and wife. It’s only normal and natural for us to touch each other, isn’t it? Even if you’re unwilling, are you going to endure it for the sake of the children?”

With that, he turned to leave as though he had no intention of listening to her answer. “Alright, it’s getting late. Go to bed. I have some things to take care of in the study.”

However, before he could take another step, a pair of slender arms suddenly wrapped around him from behind. “I don’t hate it,” said Grace as she pretty much buried her face in Jason’s broad back. “It’s just morning sickness. I have no way to control it. But at least I didn’t hate the kiss earlier.”

He suddenly stiffened as if he had not expected her to say such a thing.

After a pause, she continued saying, “Perhaps there are certain things that are natural between a married couple, but if we have no affection for each other and if it’s only to satisfy desire, then how will we be different from wild animals? At least, I think that

kind of... intimacy between a married couple requires some affection... I don't want to do it for the kids, and I don't think you'd

want me to either, am I right?"

She knew he was proud. He was Emerald City's Master Reed. The wealth and power he had in his hands were enough to make him

proud.

How could a man like that have a woman reluctantly do something like that with him for the sake of someone else? That would probably be tantamount to an insult to him.

He slowly turned around and looked at the woman in front of him. Those almond-shaped eyes were so clear. It was as if all her thoughts and ideas were displayed in front of him without the slightest concealment.

He said, "Then what kind of feelings are needed for you to do it? Love? Do you think I have to love you and vice versa for you to do

it?"

She was silent.

"Grace, are you going to love me again?" asked Jason.

At that moment, her heart was suddenly beating very fast.

After Jason left, Grace gently touched the space where her heart was and found that it was still beating wildly.

'Am I... going to love this man again? For the rest of my life? If we have to be tied together, can I still love him?"

If she had thought they would always be two horizons, now they were probably too intertwined to be separate horizons.

In the study, Jason took out a box from the safe. He gently opened the box and found a brilliant diamond ring in it.

Frozen Heart-the wedding ring he had prepared for her before and designed to her liking. If nothing had happened back then,

the ring would have been on her finger by now.

Jason was lost in thought as he looked at the ring in his hand. He gradually closed his fingers and held the diamond ring tightly, letting the edges and corners of the diamond ring prick his palm.

Grace went to the detention center the next day.

It was because the video of Stella framing Chase Harper had been accidentally exposed at the birthday party, so Stella's original case against Chase Harper was dismissed. Chase Harper was released right away.

Chase Harper looked so haggard when Grace saw him. His chin was covered in stubble, but the way he looked at her was still warm.