

Ex Convict 1451

Chapter 1451

Unable to do anything about her insistence, he eventually agreed.

Therefore, they went to the hospital together.

When they arrived at the hospital, Jason asked the bodyguards who followed them to watch over Grace. He then walked into the ward.

In the ward, the scrawny Old Master Reed was lying on the white hospital bed. A man who used to be so powerful was eventually reaching the end of his life.

Old Master Reed was trying to hold on. When he saw Jason walking in, he trembled and said, "You... You've come..."

"Yes, I'm here," replied Jason.

One could say that he did not have much affection for Old Master Reed. The relationship they shared was more like that of a mentor and a trainee.

The trainee could be gotten rid of at any time, just like a chess piece. If it was useful, it could remain on the chessboard. If it was useless, it would only be discarded like a sacrifice!

"The Reed family is... Is yours now... If you fail... the Reed family, I

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won't let you live in peace..." said Old Master Reed as he gasped with difficulty.

"Is that all you want to tell me?" asked Jason as he stared at Old Master Reed.

Old Master Reed's cloudy eyes moved. "That girl Grace is... outside, isn't she? Ask... Ask her to come in."

Jason's eyes suddenly narrowed. "Don't touch her!"

"I'm afraid I can't touch her... even if I want to. You must have... many of your men outside." After all, Jason was the heir he raised. Old Master Reed could guess what his grandson would do.

Jason pressed his lips together and said nothing. He seemed to be hesitating.

"I just... have a few words... to say to her..." Old Master Reed spoke with more and more difficulty, and his gasping became louder. It seemed that he was making the last struggle at the end of his life.

Jason finally walked out of the ward. Moments later, he took Grace by the hand and walked back inside.

The heavily pregnant Grace looked at Old Master Reed, who was dying, on the hospital bed.

The old man had once struck terror into her heart from being so

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frightfully heartless. However, the old man whom she had been so scared of was now lying so weakly, doing his best to... hold on.

"Grandpa, you're Jay's grandfather and I'm Jay's wife now, so I'll call you Grandpa too. Of course, I can call you 'Old Master' if you don't like it," said Grace.

Old Master Reed seemed not to care about the appellation at all. He only asked, "Do you... love Jason?"

"Yes," she answered without any hesitation.

Jason had been holding Grace's hand since they came in.

"Then... let's make a bet... and see if you... really love Jason that much..." stammered Old Master Reed.

"Bet?" Grace's eyes sparkled with doubt, but then she said, "I don't think I need to make a bet to prove whether I love Jay or not. I love him. I know it, he knows it, and that's enough."

"You know? You... don't know anything... You..."

"Grandpa!" Jason suddenly interrupted Old Master Reed. "I love Grace. She's the only woman I'll ever love, and as long as I'm in charge, she'll be the only mistress of the Reed family. There won't be another woman!"

Chapter 1452

He seemed to be telling Old Master Reed of his determination to love Grace.

Old Master Reed glared at his only grandson. After a while, he slowly closed his eyes as if he was tired. With his dry and hoarse throat, he murmured, "Men of the Reed family... never... end well when they love a woman too much. You... might not end well... if you... continue being like this..."

Old Master Reed's voice grew weaker and weaker until his mouth stopped making any sound. The heartbeat line on the monitor nearby became a straight line.

Grace felt a pang in her heart. She knew Old Master Reed was gone.

A life ended right in front of her eyes, and it terrified her. An elderly who was Jay's family no longer existed in this world. It all seemed a little unreal.

Jason held Grace's hand tightly. He held it tighter and tighter until a cry of surprise sounded in his ears. He suddenly came to his senses and quickly let go.

"Does it hurt?" He took her hand nervously and saw that it was faintly red as a result of him holding it too tight.

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She said, "I'm alright. Your grandfather..."

"Yeah, he's gone," he murmured.

Although his expression was still indifferent and did not seem to resemble the grieving faces of ordinary people who had just lost a loved one, she knew that he was sad.

Old Master Reed was his family, after all. He was even the only one who had accompanied him for so many years after his father's death.

Jason turned around and half-closed his eyes. He looked at Old Master Reed who was lying on the hospital bed quietly as if he was tired and sleeping.

Grace quietly accompanied Jason. This time, she held his hand firmly.

Old Master Reed's funeral was set for three days later, and the body was first placed in an ice coffin. It was set up in the Reed family's mourning hall.

However, unlike normal practices, Jason did not receive outsiders to come to the hall to mourn.

For him, the mourning hall was a place where no outsiders were allowed.

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This mourning hall was his father's resting place, and now, his grandfather's.

In the past two days, Jason had pushed all his work away and spent almost 24 hours in the mourning hall.

Grace also went to the mourning hall several times, and each time, she only saw Jason standing by the ice coffin. He was dressed in white.

She had also advised him several times to get some rest, and he always answered her gently, "I know. I'll take care of my health. Don't worry."

However, how could she be at ease? She no longer felt as safe as before when she was lying in bed alone at night.

It was as if unconsciously, she had grown used to having him sleep next to her and seeing him as soon as she opened her eyes.

"Is Jay still at the mourning hall?" Grace asked the butler.

"Yes, Young Master is still at the mourning hall with Old Master Reed," the butler replied.

Grace then asked the butler to prepare some desserts. She took them and went over to the mourning hall.

Chapter 1453

The mourning hall was brightly lit up. The candle had to be lit for three days and they had to keep the incense burning.

Grace walked into the mourning hall and only saw Jason standing inside with the light falling on him, intertwining with the shadows. He was looking at Old Master Reed who was lying in the ice coffin, wearing graveclothes. Jason's handsome face was expressionless.

"Jay," Grace called out.

Only then did he seem to come back to his senses. He turned to look at her. "Didn't I tell you that you don't have to come here as much? I can take care of things here."

"I came because I wanted to see you," said Grace as she approached Jason, raising her hand to touch his face.

It was already early January, and the weather was getting colder and colder. However, the mourning hall did not have a heater. Therefore, although it was indoors, it was still cold.

It was colder here, especially at night.

"Are you going to stay here tonight?" she asked.

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He muttered, "Since he brought me up, I'll still do what I have to do. Tomorrow is the old master's funeral and it'll be crowded. You don't need to come since it's inconvenient for you with your current state."

Grace said, "I'm not going to deliver the babies yet, and it's not too inconvenient for me to come for Grandpa's funeral. I'll come tomorrow. I'll let you know if I don't feel well."

Jason pressed his thin lips together a little. "Grandpa wasn't kind to you. Why do you—"

Grace said, "There's no particular reason. It's because he was your grandfather and your family. So even if he didn't like me and didn't really accept me even till the end, I still want to see him off."

'There's no other reason. It's only because Old Master Reed raised Jay!'

Jason gently held Grace's hand. "Don't worry about what Grandpa said in the end. He was just... Just..."

"I know. He didn't believe that someone being so deeply in love will do them any good. Because of what happened with your great-grandfather and your great-grandmother as well as your father, he... was afraid that you'd end up in an unfortunate

situation too," said Grace.

When he first took her to the Reed family's old manor, she had been deeply impressed by the story he told her about the long

blood-stained sword.

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When she learned that it was the story of his great-grandfather and great-grandmother, the shock remained in her heart until

now.

His great-grandmother had killed his great-grandfather and raised his grandfather in the old manor by herself.

Grace could almost imagine that growing up in such an environment, Old Master Reed probably had no expectations for love but only fear.

Maybe... Old Master Reed had never loved anyone his whole life.

"Come to think of it, Grandpa was probably worried about you that he said that on his deathbed," said Grace.

"Really? Was he... worried about me?" He seemed to sneer. Out of the corners of his eyes, he glanced at Old Master Reed who was in the ice coffin. Then, he slowly looked down and rested his head gently on Grace's shoulder.

"You were the only family he had left. He still had familial affection for you."

"But he cares more about the rise and fall of the Reed family than the so-called familial affection," muttered Jason.

"Maybe everyone cares about different things. Just like empires

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Chapter 1454

He must have longed for Old Master Reed to shower him with the affection a grandparent would have for their grandchild. When he returned to the Reed family, Old Master Reed was the only one he could rely on.

Grace muttered, "But I should also thank him for raising you so that I could meet you, Jay. I'll give you the familial affection you want. The kids will give it to you too."

He was a little stunned. A look of surprise glimmered in his eyes. He had never told her this, but she knew... he longed for familial affection.

"You said everyone cares about different things, then what about you? What do you care about most?" he muttered as he took in her scent.

He liked to smell her scent. It made him feel reassured.

"Me?" Grace thought about it for a while and said, "What I care about most is the family I have with you. I care about you and the kids. That's what I care most about!"

"But Grace, I'm greedy. I'm so greedy I'm unwilling to share your concern with anyone else. Even if they're our children, I still hope I'm the one you care about most," muttered Jason.

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Grace blinked. 'Umm... Is he even jealous of the kids?'

"I care about all three children the same way, but I care about you in a different way-in a unique way," said Grace as her hands gently hugged the person in front of her. It was a slightly difficult and awkward movement because her belly was quite large now. However, her embrace made him feel warm amidst the cold.

"Unique?"

"Yes, unique. No one can replace it," said Grace.

"I don't know how to care about you 'the most'. Maybe you and the kids are equally important to me after becoming a mother, but if you want me to care more about you, then I'll care about you a lot more!

"Jay, I'll give you whatever you want as long as I can provide it. I just want you to be happy and smile more."

Her voice was so clear in his ears, and it gently warmed his heart despite the cold air.

She was Grace, his wife, and his 'sis'. She gave him everything he wanted.

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She made him understand the feeling of loving someone and what happiness was.

One would have muddled through life if one never got it. However, upon getting it, one would not want to lose it no matter what.

"I'll be happy! Grace, you only need to know that I'll smile when I have you by my side," Jason hugged Grace back and murmured affectionately.

She made him happy, and he only smiled for her!

Grace attended Old Master's funeral as his granddaughter-in-law.

Although the marriage between Jason and Grace had not been reported by Emerald City's media, some people in Emerald City's high society

Chapter 1455

Now that Old Master Reed had passed away, Grace was officially the mistress of the Reed family!

Besides, it was said that Grace was pregnant with triplets. When the three babies were born, her position as the mistress of the Reed family would probably be more secure.

Therefore, the people who attended Old Master Reed's funeral all treated Grace with respect.

As the deceased's family member, Grace stood beside Jason throughout. The funeral ceremony for a family like the Reed family was naturally more complicated than an ordinary family's.

Jason was afraid that Grace would get exhausted and asked her to sit down and rest, but she still insisted on staying by his side.

"I'm not tired yet. I'll tell you if I am. I wouldn't risk my health," she said, well aware that she was not alone now. She was carrying three babies in her belly!

Just then, the ushers outside the funeral service called out Brian's name. Grace suddenly shuddered and turned her head in the

direction of the entrance.

She only saw a familiar figure in a black suit coming this way.

Speaking of which, she and Brian had not seen each other for months. He was once her childhood friend who had gone through thick and thin with her, but they parted under such circumstances.

Brian attended Old Master Reed's funeral with his parents.

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When Grace looked at him, his eyes also fell on her. There was a flash of pain in his phoenix eyes, and the hands at his sides were clenched slightly.

He missed the person he had been persistently looking for for so many years.

He and she had gotten another chance, but he ruined it with his own hands. She was now the wife of another man, standing by his side while she carried his children.

In the end, he could not be the one to stand by her side!

When the three members of the Hart family walked up to Grace and Jason, Mr. Hart and Madam Hart said some pleasantries and comforting words. Meanwhile, Brian said nothing and just stared at Grace.

After saying their greetings, Mr. Hart and Madam Hart walked to their seats. However, Brian remained standing where he was.

"Brian!" Madam Hart called out in a low voice, afraid that her son

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might do something inappropriate on such an occasion.

Madam Hart also knew about her son's feelings toward Grace. It was a good thing for the Hart family that Grace had not gotten together with her son. After all, in Madam Hart's opinion, Grace was not worthy of the Hart family or her son.

However, he seemed to be a different person these days. He had grown colder and did not seem to be interested in anything. He even spent a lot of time in his studio every day. Therefore, Madam Hart was worried once more.

Once, she had secretly opened the studio door and saw her son inside, looking like he was possessed. He had been crying and laughing while holding a painting of Grace in his arms.

There was a look of sadness on his face that Madam Hart had never seen before!

Madam Hart suddenly thought that maybe it would not have been that bad if Grace had gotten together with her son. She had no idea when her son would move on from his feelings.

At this moment, Brian seemed to not have heard Madam Hart's voice. He just stood where he was and looked at Grace without moving.

Chapter 1456

Brian stared at Grace for so long that some of the guests nearby looked over, muttering while wondering what was going on.

"What's the matter? Brian, do you have something to say?" Jason asked coldly as he grabbed Grace's hand, which was also a deGracation of ownership.

Brian pressed his lips together and walked away without saying anything.

Feeling relieved, Madam Hart quickly pulled Brian over.

Grace was also relieved.

"Don't worry. Nothing will happen." Jason's voice rang in her ears.

Grace was stunned for a moment. She turned to look at the person next to her and heard him say, "It's Old Master Reed's funeral today. If Brian makes a scene at the funeral, then the Hart family and the Reed family will be at loggerheads. Besides..."

He paused and grabbed her hand tighter. "He knows that he has no chance and that nothing will come of it even if he tries to do something."

Old Master Reed's funeral proceeded smoothly. The heavily

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pregnant Grace persisted until Old Master Reed was buried. Then, she sat down and rested in the rest area set up outside the Reed family's cemetery.

The three babies in her belly seemed to know that it was a solemn day today. Besides the necessary fetal movement, they did not cause her any discomfort. They were well-behaved today.

Grace gently caressed her belly and told the babies about her day out of habit.

Suddenly, she sensed the bodyguards around her moving. She looked up and saw Brian standing not far away from her. He was being stopped by two bodyguards.

"Is there a problem?" Grace asked slowly.

Brian looked at the person in front of him. The scene of her looking down and speaking to the babies in her belly was imprinted into his mind.

It was a side of her he had never seen before. She would probably be a good mother when the children were born.

He was late at every step after being late just once!

He had met her earlier than Jason, and he knew she was the one

he wanted in his life sooner than the other man! However, with so many missteps, fate seemed to be ridiculing him.

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"How are you?" asked Brian.

"I'm doing very well," Grace replied without hesitation.

Brian's eyes twinkled a little. "You'll never end up regretting marrying Jason, will you?"

As if somewhat amused, Grace asked, "Why should I regret it? Jay and I are doing really well. We have three children on the way."

"Even if he..." However, before Brian could finish, another voice rang out and it was accompanied by rapid footsteps...

"Grace, I know the Stevens family and I did you wrong. But let the Stevens family off!" Sean said quickly as he rushed forward. Of course, he was also stopped by the bodyguards.

Chapter 1457

Grace was stunned. The Stevens family was not invited to the funeral today. It must have taken a lot of effort for Sean to come here.

Then, Zoe came limping over and said angrily, "Grace, you wouldn't have been the mistress of the Reed family if my brother hadn't broken up with you. You-"

"Shut up!" Sean quickly stopped his sister, fearing she might say something inappropriate. "Hurry and apologize to Grace!"

Sean said to Grace, "Grace, I'm sorry. My sister doesn't know any better. Be the bigger person and don't bother quarreling with her. The Stevens family has wronged you so many times, and I can apologize however you want. I only beg you to let the Stevens family off!"

Grace's eyes flashed with confusion. She then recalled what Jason had done to the Atkinson family previously. 'In other words, Jay might be dealing with the Atkinson family and the Stevens family at the same time. Is that why Sean is putting on such a show now?'

"I've been feeling guilty all these years, especially after I found out you were wronged. I felt sorry for you even more. If I had found out the truth for you, you wouldn't have suffered so much."

Sean looked remorseful and sad as he spoke.

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However, Grace just looked at him coldly. Sean's eyes were moist at the moment. Many women would feel sorry to see such a sad expression on Sean's handsome face.

At this moment, she remembered how he had stood beside Lily, coldly looking on as her fingernails were pulled out one by one. He had even ruthlessly stepped on the back of her blood-stained hand, saying the thing he regretted the most was dating her!

People would only find it hypocritical when a man like that showed remorse and sadness.

Her silence embarrassed Sean and made Zoe complain, "Grace, what do you mean by acting like this? My brother has already apologized to you. What more do you want?"

Grace was suddenly amused by Zoe. 'Does this heiress think that the whole world revolves around her?'

Grace said coldly, "Do I have to accept the apology just because he said he's sorry? If an apology can solve everything, how about I ask someone to break your other leg and then I'll apologize afterward?"

Zoe looked at the bodyguards guarding Grace and was instantly terrified. She already had one broken leg. If her other leg broke

too...

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"What... What do you want, then?" Zoe's voice trailed off noticeably.

"Even your brother said that the Stevens family has done me wrong. Since they did me wrong, why should I be magnanimous and write off what had happened in the past?" said Grace.

The Stevens siblings were stunned, not knowing what to say all of a sudden.

"Sean, you've come to the wrong person. Since you did it back then, you must bear the consequences now!" said Grace. Then, she told the bodyguards beside her, "I don't want to see these two anymore."

"Okay," the bodyguards replied and began to bring the Stevens siblings away by force.

Sean looked as if he had been defeated, and his face appeared exhausted. The Grace in front of him was no longer the Grace he remembered!

If he had relented and spoken with a nicer attitude back then, she would have yielded and given in to him even if they were in a dispute.

However, she only looked at him with indifference and disgust

Chapter 1458

Zoe said indignantly, "You only broke a few fingers and spent three years in prison, but you're asking the Stevens family to pay with years of hard work!"

She had always looked down on Grace. Even though Grace was now the mistress of the Reed family, she still subconsciously regarded Grace as a regular citizen who was not good enough for the Stevens family.

However, a loud slap rang out before Grace could speak. Zoe was knocked off her feet and almost fell to the ground.

“Even one of her fingers is worth more than the entire Stevens family! Who is the Stevens family compared to my wife?” A cold male voice rang out. The way Jason looked at the Stevens siblings was ice-cold and spine-chilling, hitting them straight in the hearts!

Zoe grabbed her cheek, shocked by the chill in Jason’s eyes.

was as if she was only an ant in his eyes. She probably would not be able to speak again if she spoke one more word.

Zoe was terrified of Jason. No matter how good-looking he was, she felt nothing but fear.

She became silent and cowered behind Sean.

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Sean could only bite the bullet and say, “Master Reed, the Stevens family has always respected you. Please be the bigger person and spare us.”

Jason glanced lightly at Sean, saying, “But the Stevens family and the Atkinson family didn’t spare my wife back then, so why should I spare you?”

Sean’s face turned red. “That... That was... all the Atkinson family’s idea. The Stevens family is actually... innocent.”

“How innocent are you? The Stevens family acquired many small and medium-sized enterprises in Emerald City with the Atkinson family’s help. Your assets have at least doubled these years because of the Atkinson family’s help. Sean, how dare you mention the word ‘innocent’?”

Jason’s sarcasm was like a hard slap in Sean’s face.

Jason said coldly, “The Stevens family will now pay whatever you took back then with interest. It seems that the Stevens family has put in a lot of effort to get you two here today, but... whoever helps you today is an enemy of the Reed family.”

Sean’s face immediately turned from red to white when Jason said this.

This not only meant that whoever helped the Stevens family today

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would suffer in the future, but it also served as a deterrent to the others!

If word got out, no one would dare to help the Stevens family anymore.

Jason was really trying to wipe out the Stevens family! The Stevens family was finished!

In a daze, Sean looked at Grace who was standing beside Jason. Who could have imagined that the woman he thought he could discard at any time... had now become the one who could

determine the Stevens family’s fate?!

If he had not abandoned Grace that way and had been willing to find out the truth of the case for her, the Stevens family would not be reduced to such a situation now even if they got into some trouble!

Sean was extremely regretful.

However, as if he had lost interest in the Stevens siblings, Jason turned to Grace and said, "Everything here is almost done. Let's go home and get a good rest."

"Okay," replied Grace.

However, Brian subconsciously stood in their way when they passed by him.

Jason frowned. "Brian, what's the matter? Do you really want to make a scene today?"

Chapter 1459

Brian pressed his thin lips together tightly, but his phoenix eyes were just looking at Grace. "If you find out one day that Jason isn't who you think he is and can't bear to stay with him, will you... let me take care of you?"

There was a slight quiver in his voice, which showed that it was not easy for him to say that. He had mustered up almost all his courage to say that!

Maybe it was his... only chance!

He almost held his breath after saying that, and the hands at his sides trembled imperceptibly.

He nervously waited for her answer.

Grace was stunned for a moment and then felt Jason's hand tightening around her hand.

'Is Jay... feeling uneasy again?' Grace squeezed Jason's hand and said to Brian, "No, and there's no way whatever you just said will happen. I just want to be with Jay now and in the future as well!"

Her affirmation made Brian's eyes flash with disappointment. His nervous heart seemed to empty all of a sudden, and he smiled wryly.

'What was I expecting?"

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"Jay, let's go." This time, it was Grace who took the initiative to drag Jason away.

The group of bodyguards followed them and filed out.

Brian stood there, stunned. Even though Grace had already

gotten in the car and was no longer in sight, he still stood there motionless with dark currents in his eyes.

After Grace and Jason got in the car, she suddenly touched his face. "Why do you look so pale?"

Jason shuddered suddenly as if he had been surprised. After a moment, he said upon coming back to his senses, "Do I look pale?"

"Yeah, it's like you're facing a lot of trouble. What's the matter? Is Grandpa's death going to cause trouble for Reed Group?" asked Grace. After all, she rarely saw the gloomy, sad look that had just appeared on his face.

"There's nothing to worry about. Don't overthink it," said Jason. However, out of the corners of his eyes, he kept glancing out of the window vaguely... Brian was standing not far away, looking at them!

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Grace felt sleepy when she and Jason got back to Reed Residence. After all, she was already seven months along and was a little tired after the funeral today.

After a simple meal, Grace lay down in bed and went to sleep.

She had closed her eyes, so she did not see that the way Jason was looking at her was full of intense sorrow and fear.

Moments later, he pulled out his phone and sent a message...

When Grace woke up, Jason was not in the room. She got up, briefly washed up, and checked the time.

Her nap was shorter than expected. She had only slept for about an hour.

'Where's Jay? Could he be downstairs?'

Chapter 1460

When Grace came to the stairway, she happened to see Jason's figure. However, she also saw Brian!

'What is... Brian doing here?'

Just as Grace was about to go downstairs, she heard Brian say, "I didn't expect Grace's case to have something to do with you."

Grace instantly stopped in her tracks. The words she just heard made her breathing constrict.

'What does Brian mean... by that? Jay has something to do with my case? Hasn't my case with the car accident been closed? Haven't they found the real perpetrator?'

"What's the matter? Is that what you wanted to talk about?" Jason's voice rang out faintly as if he was nonchalant.

Brian continued saying, "That Dexter Rios was just a pawn. You knew who it was who wanted to hurt Grace, but you kept turning a blind eye to it. Why? Was it just for the minor benefits you'd get from the Atkinson family? You ruined Grace's whole life!"

Jason's eyes darkened. "It seems that Old Master Reed had indeed kept something up his sleeve. Did you learn all this from him?"

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"Someone just sent me an anonymous email with all the files of Grace's case attached, as well as the tunneling between the Reed family and the Atkinson family after the case!

"It must be because of the Reed family and the Atkinson family's joint development project in the West, Wanjia City. If the truth

of the car accident were exposed, it would have been an

inconcealable scandal for the Atkinson family and would also cause great losses to the Reed family.

"It was a joint development project, and the interest was 50% in proportion to the investment. But after Grace's imprisonment, the Atkinson family transferred 20% of their interest to Reed Group. Why was that?"

Brian had clearly done some research and spoke aggressively.

Jason's original nonchalant expression turned gloomy. His dark eyes stared at the person in front of him.

"What is your purpose in coming here to talk about this?"

"Let me just ask you, are you really going to give Grace justice?" Brian asked grimly.

"I'm giving Grace justice right now," said Jason.

Brian suddenly sneered. "Your so-called justice is just to destroy

the Atkinson family and the Stevens family, but the real

perpetrator is still unpunished. Grace doesn't even know that the real perpetrator was Lily, the Atkinson family's second heiress and Sean's fiancée!"

Jason's eyes turned darker while Grace, who was at the stairway on the second floor, froze when she heard the name Lily.

'Lily was... the real perpetrator?

'Lily, the woman who kept going on about getting revenge for her sister, Jennifer, in prison? And Jay... knew about it? He knew from the beginning that Lily was the real perpetrator?'