

Ex Convict 1491

Chapter 1491

A frightened and stammering voice sounded from the other end of the line. "We... went to Young Madam's room. Huang Qian and the caregiver had passed out in the room, and Young Madam was nowhere to be seen. There's no surveillance camera... in the bedroom, but the surveillance cameras outside show that Young Madam never left the bedroom. Also, there was a lingering smell of knockout drops... in the bedroom."

"Find her! Find Young Madam even if you have to turn the whole house upside down!" said Jason as he threw the phone back to Terrence. He stared at Secretary Wang as if he were about to kill him. He used a hand to grab the older man by the hair as he pushed him against the wall.

"Speak, what have you done with Grace? I'll kill you if anything happens to her!" With a thump, Secretary Wang's head hit the wall hard.

However, Secretary Wang laughed. "Young Master, I won't tell you even if you kill me. You'll know when the time comes!"

"Speak!" Jason aggressively slammed Secretary Wang's head against the wall. At the moment, all he could think about was Grace.

Horrified, Terrence looked at his boss who had intense rage on his

2/3 face. To Master Reed, Grace was someone nobody could touch!

If this went on, Secretary Wang's life would probably end here!

Thinking of this, Terrence quickly said, "Master Reed, why don't you take Secretary Wang back to Reed Residence first? Secretary Wang must know something else. If you really cause him to... get hospitalized, I'm afraid we won't be able to get anything out of him then."

Terrence tried to be tactful.

His words slightly calmed Jason down.

"Take him with us to Reed Residence!" With that said, Jason dropped Secretary Wang and quickly walked out.

Terrence hurriedly asked two bodyguards to pick up Secretary Wang and followed after Jason.

Back in Reed Residence, Jason rushed straight to the bedroom where trained hounds were barking at the bottom of his bed.

"Move the bed!" said Jason.

Everyone immediately caught sight of a secret passage when the bed was lifted away.

Jason's face paled instantly. He... had no idea that there was such an opening in the bedroom.

‘What’s with this opening? Has it always been here?’

Security guards had begun to investigate the opening that led to a tunnel.

After Secretary Wang was brought to the room, a satisfied smile appeared on his face. ‘Everything’s going well!’

Jason suddenly grabbed Secretary Wang’s collar and said, “Did you know there’s a secret passage here?”

“Yes, Old Master told me about it. He built this residence, so naturally, the most detailed construction blueprints were also in his hands. He also got them to retain the secret passage,” said Secretary Wang.

Jason had roughly figured out what was going on without needing Secretary Wang to say it out.

Secretary Wang had shown up on purpose to lure him out, and once he went out, someone else took the opportunity to pass through this secret passage and take Grace away!

Old Master Reed had probably planned it before his

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Jason clenched his teeth.

Old Master Reed was the one who raised him, so he naturally knew him best. The old master knew he was suspicious by nature and would be uneasy whenever Grace was involved. Therefore, he ordered Secretary Wang to disappear for some time before appearing again.

This way, Jason would want to see Secretary Wang in person as he would only feel at ease after personally questioning him!

‘Even when Grandpa’s dead, he still wants to do this to me?’

‘How is Grandpa going to bet whether I’ll give up my life for a woman?’

‘Nothing must happen to... Grace!’

When Grace woke up, she was in a car with one hand firmly bound to the steering wheel while the other was bound to the handbrake.

The car was parked on the cliff. The back of it was hanging off the cliff, leaving only the front on land. Things looked extremely

dangerous. The entire car might just fall off the cliff with the slightest movement inside the car or an external force.

The sea was right below the cliff!

Grace’s body stiffened. She was too afraid to move.

In front of her was a phone, and Lily was looking right at her!

They were both on a video call.

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“Grace, you’re awake!” Lily smiled darkly. “Speaking of which, I didn’t expect that the person I used to trample on could one day become the Reed family’s mistress.”

“Lily, what are you trying to do?” said Grace as she tried hard to suppress her unease and fear.

All she remembered was that she had been in the bedroom when she suddenly felt a little dizzy, so she decided to lie down and

rest.

Then, she woke up like this!

‘So it was not sleepiness but something else? Was I... kidnapped by Lily?’

‘But how? How did Lily get me out of Reed Residence when Jay has arranged so many bodyguards to protect me and enhanced the security?’

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A series of questions flashed through Grace’s mind, but now was not the time to think about them. She should be thinking about how to get out of this situation.

Lily answered Grace through the video call, “I want to see what will happen to you! Grace, since you were the one who got me into such a mess, it’s not going to end well for you either.”

“Why don’t we see how much Jason loves you and whether he’ll give up his life for you?”

“Also, there are bombs all around your car. If anyone rushes over to save you, they’ll not only get blown up but you and the three babies in your belly will also be blown into the sea.”

Every word Lily said made Grace’s heart sink.

Lily was trying to kill her!

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Grace calmed herself down and said to Lily, “If you let me go, I’ll forget everything that has happened between us. I can also ask Jay to let you go and help the Atkinson family go through this crisis.”

What she had to do now was try and tempt Lily with these conditions to make her hesitate. Only in this way could she create more opportunities to escape.

It was just that no matter how good Grace’s offers were, Lily did not seem to care. “Grace, I just want to know if Jason is willing to risk his life for you! This man didn’t even shed a tear when my sister died! Don’t you want to know how far he’ll go for you?”

Lily’s eyes burst with hatred as she spoke.

She hated Grace! How did she, the Atkinson family’s second heiress, turn out like this just because of a nobody like Grace?

She had stolen Sean from Grace back then. She thought Sean would love her deeply, but he abandoned her just like he did Grace!

'I'm Lily, the goddess in the hearts of thousands of men! How can I be less than Grace? Jason will also discard Grace and sacrifice her. I'm sure of it!'

Besides, if she did as that man surnamed Wang told her, she would receive enough money for her to live happily abroad!

Just then, several black cars drove over one after another.

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Grace saw many people getting out of the cars, and Jason was among them.

Jason also saw Grace and the current state of the car she was in. His face instantly paled as he rushed toward her.

"Don't come over! There are bombs around the car. They'll explode!" cried out Grace, stopping Jason from running over.

Jason's steps came to a sudden halt, and so did those following him.

Grace momentarily breathed a sigh of relief and looked at the men standing just a dozen meters away from her.

She did not expect this to happen in only a few hours.

She was lucky that the car windows were not rolled up, so her voice could still be heard.

"Grace, don't be afraid, I... I'll get you out of here!" Jason said with a pale face, his hands trembling slightly at his sides. At this

moment, he seemed more afraid than Grace.

3/3 Grace could not help feeling assured. She believed that he would be able to save her. She and the children would be safe!

"Lily brought me here! My hands are tied to the steering wheel and handbrake. I can't move. Lily is on a video call with me on the phone..." Grace quickly explained her current situation to Jason.

Grace could sense that Lily was now a little abnormal. It was impossible to persuade Lily to disarm the bombs and let Grace go through video call.

Frowning, Jason suddenly grabbed Secretary Wang, whom the bodyguards had carried out of the car. "You got Lily onboard?"

Secretary Wang smiled. "Yes, you and Grace have made her so miserable. Of course, she's bent on getting back at you."

Jason pondered for a moment and instructed his subordinates, "Call the police and ask them to send over their bomb specialists."

Secretary Wang smiled and said, "It's no use. It's too late. The bombs around the car would've already exploded when the experts arrive. Of course, if you don't want Grace to be blown up or fall into the sea, you can choose to save her life."

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Using his mouth, Secretary Wang signaled in the direction of Grace's car that was about 20 meters away. He said, "There's a device over there. It's the device that can defuse these bombs. But only your fingerprint can disarm the device, Young Master."

As Secretary Wang spoke, the smile on his bruised face became more obvious.

Jason naturally would not believe that everything was so simple!

Secretary Wang would not have gone to so much trouble if saving Grace was going to be so simple.

"Spit everything out at once! Don't test my patience. I have no time to waste here with you!" snapped Jason.

With Grace's current situation, the longer they delay it, the more dangerous it would be!

"It's just that after you disarm those bombs, the device will detonate itself at the same time. In other words, you'll save Grace but kill yourself at the same time!"

Secretary Wang's voice was not low as he deliberately tried to let Grace hear him.

Sure enough, when Grace heard this, her heart suddenly sank. She felt chills all over her body.

She did not expect that her survival would be on the condition that Jay sacrificed his life.

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'Why... Why would this person devise such a plan? If he just wanted me to die, wouldn't it be easier if he had asked Lily to do it when I was unconscious?'

The next moment, Secretary Wang gave Grace the answer. "Old Master set this up so that you can think clearly about whether it's worth risking your life for this woman. You can find another one even if this woman is gone. If you like her looks, you can find one who looks the same as her. It's no big deal."

After all, with all the advances in plastic surgery, it was possible to recreate a face even if Jason could not find another woman who looked like Grace.

Grace never expected that the real person behind this was Old Master Reed!

She knew that the old master had never liked her being with Jay. Even after she got pregnant, the old master still did not accept her. Even so, she never thought that the old master would hate her

to such an extent that he would make such a bet.

It was to bet whether Jay would kill himself for her!

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“By the way, may I remind you, Young Master, that the bombs’ triggers are sensitive and will automatically go off when there are five or more people nearby. We probably only have 15 minutes left before the explosion. Young Master, you need to quickly make a decision! Otherwise, when the time comes, the bombs buried all around the car will automatically explode even if no one steps on them!”

Everyone was surprised when he said that, and Jason’s face was even grimmer.

‘15 minutes! Only 15 minutes? And it’s unclear whether what Secretary Wang is saying is true or false.’

It was Terrence who was the first to calm down. He quickly asked one of the bodyguards who had been in the special forces to check whether disarming the bombs would also make the device itself detonate, just as Secretary Wang said.

After a brief review, the man concluded, “Yes, the other side will explode immediately after one side deactivates the bombs.”

Secretary Wang added with a smile, “Although the explosion will create a strong impact, Grace won’t fall into the sea and can save herself if she steps on the accelerator and drives ahead the moment of the explosion. However, Young Master won’t survive the explosion.”

Jason’s face was dark, and he said nothing.

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However, Grace now understood why one of her hands was tied to the handbrake and the other to the steering wheel.

One to live and one to die. No matter what she chose, there was no ideal outcome!

No one knew how many bombs were buried in front of her car.

There was no time even if Jason wanted to investigate it carefully. Moreover, if someone accidentally triggered the bomb and caused an explosion, that would be the worst-case scenario!

‘Is there really no chance of survival?’ Grace kept racking her brain.

She was still on the video call with Lily through the phone in front of her. She heard what was being said and smiled as she spoke, “Well, isn’t that interesting? Grace, what do you think Jason will do? He’ll just leave you to die and have you become a sacrifice!”

Grace was in no mood to pay attention to Lily. All her attention was on Jason.

At the moment, Jason was also looking at Grace. There seemed to be some determination in his black eyes.

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Suddenly, Grace seemed to realize something and shouted, “Jay, no! There must be another way!”

However, Jason had already taken out his phone and turned on the recording function. "I, Jason, will leave all the fortune in my name to my wife, Grace, after my death! This message is an expression of my true wishes." With that, he threw his phone to Terrence.

Terrence caught the phone and froze.

'Is Master Reed... exchanging his life for Grace's? He even... recorded his last words!

'But... if Master Reed dies, then...' Terrence dared not continue thinking.

Secretary Wang also seemed a little startled. He looked at Jason, asking, "Young Master, are you really going to use your life to save that woman?"

Jason said, "Didn't Grandpa want to bet with me? Now, he'll know if he's lost or won."

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Secretary Wang said after a moment of silence, "There's a recording from Old Master on the device. You can hear it by

pressing the green button."

Jason did not speak but walked toward the device that would trigger the explosion.

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Terrence shouted at Secretary Wang, "What are you thinking? Master Reed is Old Master's grandson! How could Old Master have wanted Master Reed dead? Is there another solution? Hurry up and speak!"

Secretary Wang said with a half-smile, "There's no other way. So what if Jason is his grandson? Old Master doesn't care about all these."

Terrence instantly became speechless. Indeed, Old Master was not someone who attached great importance to family. There was very little family affection between Master Reed and Old Master Reed.

'Did the old master want to bet that Master Reed's affection for Grace isn't that deep?'

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However, Old Master Reed was wrong. Master Reed was willing to risk his life for Grace!

Jason could see the countdown timer when he reached the device. There were only eight minutes left.

Grace said, "Jay, no! Let's think of another way. Old Master Reed wouldn't have bet on something this simple! Didn't Old Master Reed care about the Reed family the most? If you're gone, the Reed family will be destroyed too! Old Master Reed wouldn't allow that to happen!"

"Grace, don't be afraid. I said I would save you!" Jason said and pressed the green button.

Instantly, Old Master Reed's voice rang out.

"Jason, my... Ahem, Ahem... My grandson. It seems that you're going to save Grace with your life. But you'll realize that this woman isn't worth saving at all! To deactivate the bombs, you need to use your thumbprint to do it and once you have your thumbprint on it, you have to hold it down until it's time for the

bombs to go off. But at the same time, the device will explode and you'll be killed."

Old Master Reed's voice drifted into the air and made everyone who heard it feel a chill rising in their hearts.

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The man who was once the most powerful figure in Emerald City was being cold-blooded to his grandson after his death.

"However, you can walk away at any time between pressing the disarm button with your thumb. But if the disarm fails, the bombs on the other side will go off. Why don't we see how much... Ahem, ahem... See how much you love this woman and... whether this woman is worth your life..."

Old Master's recording ended here, and there was only silence left.

Grace could only feel her body trembling. How could Old Master... be so cruel to his grandson?!

Why... Why?

'Does Jason have to die to save me?'

"Jay, don't press it. Let's think of something else!" shouted Grace.

Terrence had also rushed to Jason's side. "Master Reed, don't be impulsive."

"I'm calm!" said Jason, looking at Grace in the car about 20 meters away. "Grace, put your foot on the gas pedal. Just press on the gas pedal and rush forward once the place explodes, okay?"

Grace sobbed. "Jay, listen to me. I don't want you to save me this way. There must be another way!"

“There may be other ways, but it’s too late now,” said Jason. The clock was ticking.

There were only three minutes left. They could not do a lot in three minutes!

Jason crouched down and pressed his thumb on the device, which showed that he was ready to risk his life.

Grace opened her mouth to ask Jason to leave, but all the words seemed stuck in her throat.

Even though he was crouching, his eyes were still looking at her as if he wanted to imprint every inch of her into his heart.

At that moment, she knew that he had made up his mind. He was determined to trade his life for hers!

He would not leave no matter how much she convinced him!

“Grace, I’m sorry I put you through so much pain and dragged you into this danger. You don’t have to feel guilty about anything. Just take it as compensation for what I did to you. It doesn’t matter whether you forgive me anymore.” He just wanted her to live.

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Grace’s tears came streaming out. She had forgiven him! In fact, she had already forgiven him long ago!

As soon as his thumb pressed down on the device, the timer displayed the time and it started counting down.

Grace knew that this countdown was for an explosion. Right now, there was only two minutes left.

Did she only have two minutes left with Jay?

In these two minutes, Jay could still change his mind! Jay could leave!

“Terrence, get someone to pull Jay away!” Grace took a deep breath and ordered Terrence.

Terrence was stunned for a moment. If he pulled Master Reed away... it meant that the bombs buried in front of Grace’s car would explode immediately!

“Whoever dares to pull me away, I’ll have their whole family buried alongside me. I mean what I say. Whoever dares, come and try!” Jason coldly voiced out.

After what he said, the people around remained motionless out of

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fear, while Terrence was left in a difficult position!

“Terrence, you can leave. There’s no need to stay by my side,” Jason said and then moved his gaze toward Grace, “Grace, I’m doing this out of my own volition. I’m doing it willingly.”

Willingly? However, she did not want him to die!

Suddenly, an idea came to Grace’s mind. Actually, this problem could be solved. She had another choice. She looked at her hand that was tied to the handbrake and came to a decision.

“My babies, I’m sorry... Mommy is being selfish. “Grace lowered her head and muttered, her gaze moving toward her bulging belly. “I want some company... but Mommy loves Daddy a lot. And I don’t want Daddy to die.”

Grace took a deep breath, her fingers clutching onto the handbrake tightly. She faced Jason and said, “Jay, it’s enough. What you’ve done for me, it’s enough! Jason’s eyes widened as he realized something. He shouted loudly, “Grace, no! I don’t give you permission to do so, you hear me?!”

Grace’s hand had already pulled on the handbrake forcefully at that moment.

The next moment, the car went in reverse. More of the car was slowly suspended in the air with the car tilting backward.

“I forgive you, but it’s not because of our children.” Grace looked at the handsome yet pale face. On his face, there was terror, panic, and pain!

He was the man she loved the most!

“So, please keep living!”

The next moment, she could feel the whole car slipping downward. Through the front windscreen, she could see the azure sky.

She was selfish, so selfish to the point she was using the lives of three children in exchange for Jay’s. However... Even though she knew it was selfish, she still did it! She had picked that man up from the streets, but after that, he gave her a home.

She knew that for a period in the future, he would be depressed.

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At this moment, she wished that he loved her less. This way, he would be less sad as well.

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If she could, she wanted to live till they were gray and old with him. She wanted to watch the three children be born into this world. Yet, that day would never come.

Once, she had said she would never leave his side. If he did not leave her, she would not leave either.

Today, she went back on her promise.

The moment she released the handbrake, she had flashbacks of the conversation she had with Old Master Reed. She had wanted to bet with the old master to see how much she loved Jay.

The bet made was not only between Jay and the old master but she was also involved.

The old master wanted to bet if she would give her life for Jay.

Thus, this was how she ended up with one hand tied to the handbrake so that they could see what decision she would make.

All Grace heard was Jason's final shouts, and then, everything became painful as intense ocean water gushed into her mouth

and nose. It was slowly making her suffocate...

"Grace! Grace! "Jasonn rushed toward the cliff. He wanted to jump into the ocean together with Grace's car.

Terrence tightly gripped Jason, fearing that Jason would do something stupid. The other bodyguards rushed over as well to

hold him back.

"Let go of me, I want to save Grace! Let go of me!" Jason wildly shouted with red eyes.

"Master Reed, there's no way Young Madam can be saved. She fell in with the car. If you jump, you'll lose your life as well. Young Madam wants you to keep living!" Terrence said.

Jason froze. Keep living... without her? What more was his life worth now?

At this moment, the voice recording function from the device that defused the bombs sounded another recording. It was Old Master Reed's voice. "Jay... I don't know what the end result was, whether it was

the woman not being worth the sacrifice, or... this woman watched you be bombed to death for the sake of her own survival.”

Jason lifelessly turned around and looked toward the device.

Old Master Reed’s voice continued, “No matter which it was, it would end the same. The woman would die. Once the countdown

finished, the bombs would explode unless that woman pulled down on the handbrake. That was the only way to defuse it.”

Everyone was stunned after hearing what the old master said.

It was just as what had transpired. Grace, along with the car, had fallen into the ocean.

It meant that from the start, the old master had never intended to let Grace get out of this alive.

Jason went into a state of rage and shouted, “Arghhh!” He had gone mad from anger.

Terrence and the rest tried to hold him down.

Secretary Wang, who was nearby, had a complicated look on his face after witnessing everything.

Old Master Reed... Even though he had miscalculated, the bombs did not explode! The old master lost the bet, and Grace indeed loved the young master. She had willingly given her life for him.

The old master had never trusted a woman his whole life, but if he was witnessing all of this, what would he think?

The old master set this up before his death as he wanted Grace dead. He merely hoped that with such a set-up, Jason could see the woman cravenly cling to life while fearing death.

This way, even if Grace died, the young master would not feel as sad.

However, Grace’s actions were unexpected.

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However... Maybe Grace knew that this was the only way she could live... It was just that she did not know if she could manage to survive in the end.

A gleam of light flashed in Secretary Wang's eyes. He recalled what the old master had instructed him to do before she died.

"If that Grace woman really tosses her life away for Jay, then... let her live. But, she isn't suited to stay by Jason's side. The head of the Reed family cannot have any weaknesses."

"If he can't have any weaknesses, her death would be a good thing, wouldn't it?"

Even so, the old master did not give any reply to his question.

The old master had still decided to give Grace a chance at life, but she could only live if she chose to fall into the ocean.

At this moment, in a small house two kilometers away from the incident, Lily was in a state of disbelief. She smashed her phone on the floor. On her beautiful face, there was an unbelievable look of twisted jealousy.

How did Grace end up meeting such a man! Jason was willing to die for Grace!

Why? Why?

Jason had been so cold to her sister. Even when she died, Jason had not shown a hint of pity!

However, for Grace, Jason was willing to go to such great lengths!

What put her into a state of even more disbelief was that Grace chose death!

Grace was dead?! Why did she not feel at peace?! Had she not been wishing that Grace would be dead?

Even though Grace was dead, she had this feeling that she could never compete with her.

It was because of the way she sacrificed herself for a man, which was something Lily could never do.

Due to the chaos of the whole situation, Jason was like a madman. Terrence had phoned the police and arranged for people to perform a search and rescue for Grace. At the same time, he was trying to forcibly send Jason to the hospital.

After settling everything, he noticed that Secretary Wang was missing too. In regards to when he disappeared, it was unclear.

However, Terrence was swamped by all that had happened. He had no energy to deal with Secretary Wang.

He never thought that Secretary Wang would appear in an unlicensed clinic.

At a clinic like this, the doctor only cared about curing the patient and did not care about their allegiances, or if they had any ID. Thus, the people here were mostly people from the criminal

underworld.

The wounds they treated were mostly gunshot or blade wounds.

At this moment, the doctor faced a patient, who was a pregnant woman with broken bones everywhere. She was close to death.

Her pregnant belly looked bigger than a usual pregnancy.

The pregnant woman was no longer conscious, but she was still breathing.

“You really are lucky.” Secretary Wang looked at the unconscious Grace and said. He did what the old master had told him to and arranged for people to be under the cliff to reduce the impact of the car crashing into the ocean.

Once the car fell into the water, there would immediately be someone to rescue Grace out of the car.

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“Save her and the three children in her belly,” Secretary Wang said.

“But... I don’t dare to make a guarantee now based on her current situation!” the doctor said with a sullen face.

“You’re the best unlicensed doctor for outpatients in Emerald City. I’ve seen your records at your previous hospital. You were in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department for years. A small stomach surgery wouldn’t be hard for you,” Secretary Wang said.

He always diligently did his work, hence he had done his research as well.

“The surgery isn’t hard, but the mother and children may not survive,” the doctor said.

“If you can’t save them, then your clinic will probably cease to exist in this huge city by tomorrow.” Secretary Wang laughed coldly.

The car was pulled up from the ocean, but there was no one inside.

The police and the Reed family, as well as many other organizations, had searched through an area of the ocean but they did not find anything.

Grace had disappeared without a trace, and the so-called ‘golden 72 hours’ had long passed. It could be said that it was impossible for her to have survived.

However, what made Terrence even more worried was that Young master Reed was close to a mental breakdown. Who knew when he would completely collapse? If that happened, God knew what would happen?

At this time, Terrence looked at Jason who was standing at the edge of the boat. These days, Young master Reed had not left the boat at all. He ate and lived on the boat. He risked it all to find Grace, even if it was just her corpse.

Even so, Terrence thought that the situation could be worse. At least now... Grace's corpse could not be found. If not, he was afraid Young master Reed would go insane after seeing it.

Grace had saved Young master Reed's life, but she might have ruined his mental state at the same time.

"Young master Reed, it's late. Please rest. You haven't slept for three days and three nights," Terrence said. He did not know how this man had the determination to stay awake for so long.

"I'm not tired, I don't need to rest," Jason said with a croaky voice,

and his gaze stayed on the pitch-black ocean surface. "Tell me, where's Grace?"

Terrence did not know how to reply.

"Is Grace cold right now? But I'm unable to even warm her hands," Jason said with his body edging closer to the surface of the ocean.

At this moment, Terrence realized that his boss was about to leap into the ocean!

"Young master Reed!" He acted out of reflex and held him. "Madam has yet to be found, please don't act rashly!"

"Rashly?" Jason suddenly smiled. "Tell me, why... did she make such a decision? All this while, she loved the children in her belly dearly, did she not? At first, she was willing to bet with her life just to save those children! Why... Why did you choose to fall into the ocean?"

Under the night sky, Jason's croaky voice sounded very clear.

Terrence had a heavy heart. He had never seen Young master Reed like this before. He also would never have thought Grace would make such a decision.