

Ex Convict 1731

Chapter 1731

"Hello again, Miss Jackson," Hadwin Stephenson said indifferently.

Katherine Jackson took a deep breath. "You figured I'd come to you, didn't you?"

"There's no one else you can turn to, is there?" asked Hadwin Stephenson.

Katherine Jackson gritted her teeth in hatred. "I'm here to make a deal. I want to sell the rest of the Jackson family's assets to you at

a reasonable price."

Hadwin Stephenson sneered. "What's the matter? I've already allocated a sum of money to the Jackson family as agreed. Miss Jackson, are you trying to leave me to clean up the Jackson family's mess after failing to make a comeback?"

"Just tell me if you'll buy them. It's a good opportunity for you to expand the Stephenson family's business. It'll do you no harm if you buy over the Jackson family's assets."

"I can choose to buy or not buy them. Even if I don't, I still have ways to expand the Stephenson family's business. The Jackson family will probably end up in bankruptcy then," said Hadwin

Stephenson.

No matter how much Katherine Jackson hated it, she knew what Hadwin Stephenson said was true. "I can remove the blood curse

on you. Otherwise, you can never be with Lina. If you buy the Jackson family's assets at the price I offer, I'll help you remove the blood curse!"

She knew Hadwin Stephenson was just waiting for her to say that.

Sure enough, Hadwin Stephenson looked at her and said with his thin lips, "It's a deal!"

How generous. He did not even bargain with her.

Katherine Jackson was relieved but also filled with disappointment.

Hadwin Stephenson agreed. He went through so much trouble to set all of this up, waiting for her to offer him this so he could be with Lina.

Hadwin Stephenson was a terrible man. He calculated every step he took and was meticulous.

Katherine Jackson did not even have to ask Hadwin Stephenson if he was afraid of her going back on her word and refusing to get

rid of the blood curse for him.

Hadwin Stephenson would not allow her to go back on her word!

'How wonderful it would be... if he had fallen in love with me?' The idea had crossed her mind more than once.

If a man like him had fallen in love with her, he would shelter her from whatever danger there was and do anything for her.

Unfortunately, the one he loved was Lina!

"But Hadwin Stephenson, it's highly risky to remove the blood curse. No one can guarantee that there won't be mishaps. Is it worth it to do this for Lina? As far as I know, she's seeing a man called Anthony Sherman right now," said Katherine Jackson.

Hadwin Stephenson's face darkened. "It has nothing to do with you! Katherine Jackson, just do what you have to do!"

'Why wouldn't it be worth it to do it for Lina? She means

everything to me. If I can never be with her, how is it different from death?'

Grace stepped into Dr. Russell's clinic again but did not expect to see Brian here.

Brian was chatting with Dr. Russell in the clinic but froze and stared blankly at Grace when she walked in.

Grace was also stunned when she saw Brian. A moment later, she said, "I'm sorry to disturb you. I think I'd better come another day."

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With that, she turned to leave, yet Brian lunged forward and stopped Grace. "Wait! You're not disturbing us, and there's no need to be in such a hurry to avoid me."

After a pause, Brian said, "You must be here to see Dr. Russell about your hands. How have they been these years? Are they alright? Do they still ache?"

There was unconcealable concern in his voice.

"Mr. Hart, thank you for your concern, but I want to talk to Dr. Russell alone about the condition of my hands," said Grace. She was also rejecting Brian's concern by saying that.

Brian paled slightly before saying with a sad smile, "Okay, stay here. I'll leave."

He walked out of the consulting room as he spoke.

Dr. Russell looked at Grace and said, "Lil Cummins, Brian is just concerned about you. He thought a lot about you during the five years you were gone. He always talks about you when he's here."

They were also talking about her earlier.

Grace said, "Dr. Russell, I'm Jason's wife now. The more he's

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concerned about me, the more troublesome it is for both of us."

Dr. Russell sighed. "I don't know when he'll get over it either. Enough about that. Let's look at your hands. We suspended your treatment back then because you were pregnant. Look at how long we've put it on hold. Your hands must have hurt a lot over the years."

Grace smiled ruefully.

Dr. Russell looked grim after taking Grace's X-ray and doing a few more tests in the clinic.

"What's the matter? Is there a problem?" asked Grace.

"I told you at the beginning of the treatment that stopping treatment before its completion will only aggravate your injuries. You've come to me again after stopping treatment for so many years. I can only say that it'll be very difficult to cure your hands. Your hands will be crippled in three years, at most."

"Crippled?" Grace trembled. Her face seemed shocked, but she was not afraid.

"What's the matter? Do you think there's a cure for your hands?" asked Dr. Russell.

Grace shook her head. "Dr. Russell, you're the expert in this. Since you've said so, then I think it's very likely that they're going to be crippled. And... you indeed warned me of the possible

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Grace was silent. It meant she was betting on three years!

"So when can we start?" she asked.

"Have you thought it through?" Dr. Russell somewhat admired Grace's decisiveness.

"Yes. It's better to undergo treatment now than wait three years till I become crippled," she said.

"I need some time. After all, I need to prepare some things." Dr. Russell pondered for a moment and then said, "I'll let you know when I'm ready."

"Okay," Grace answered readily.

"And I'll give you something for the pain. Your hands must have ached many times this year," said Dr. Russell.

Grace nodded. After she filled her prescription and came out of

Dr. Russell's clinic, she was stunned. Brian was standing face to face with another man, who had his back to Grace. However, she knew who it was even without looking at his face.

Her footsteps seemed to attract the attention of the two men. Brian spotted her first.

Jason: turned around and looked at her with faint joy in his dark eyes before walking over to her. "Are you done with the consultation for your hands?"

"Yeah, Dr. Russell needs to prepare some things for the treatment. He'll let me know when he's ready," Grace said casually, not wanting Jason to worry.

"Then, let's go home first," said Jason as he held Grace's hand naturally.

Brian did not say a word. Just as they were passing by, he suddenly said, "Jason, can you trust someone completely? If you can't, perhaps you'll both have problems sooner or later even without my intervention!"

Jason stopped and glanced at Brian coldly. "Of course, I trust Grace. Don't worry about it."

As he said this, he squeezed Grace's hand tighter and took her to the car.

When the car slowly drove away from Brian's sight, Brian had a sarcastic look on his face. Jason, you were born suspicious... Can you really trust Grace? 'If you trust her, you wouldn't have warned me not to go after Grace anymore.

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"By the way, why did you suddenly come to the clinic today?"

she asked. After all, she never told him she was seeing Dr. Russell today.

Jason said, "I heard from the driver that you were at the clinic, so I thought of coming over to have a look. I wanted to go in and accompany you, but you came out sooner than I expected. I'll accompany you when you go for treatment next time."

"No, it's just treatment, and it's probably going to be frequent. It'll disturb your work," Grace said quickly.

Jason's eyelashes quivered slightly. Out of the corners of his eyes, he glanced at Grace and replied, "Okay."

When the car arrived at Reed Residence's entrance, Grace got down and walked inside. Jason did not immediately turn and drive away but remained in the same spot.

Jason raised his hand and pulled on his hair irritably. He recalled the confrontation with Brian at the clinic's entrance.

"Jason, why on earth did Grace fall into the sea? Even if you've lost your memory, someone must have told you the truth! No one would tell me what happened when I asked. Can't you tell me?"

"Brian, why should I tell you what happened between Grace and me?"

"After Grace found out that her car accident had something to do with you, she fell into the sea. Are these two things related?"

'Are they related... I'd like to know that myself! Terrence and the butler told me the same thing- Secretary Wang instructed Lily to kidnap Grace to the seaside. Then, Grace accidentally fell into the sea.

'But is that really what happened?

'If not, what could the truth be?'

Jason took out his phone. After hesitating for a moment, he made a call. "It's me. Let's proceed with hypnosis treatment and recover my memory as planned."

Lina had dry-cleaned the clothes she wore when she left Hadwin Stephenson's mansion that day and went to Stephenson Group's office building in Emerald City, intending to return them to Hadwin Stephenson.

She went to the reception desk and explained her intention. She

thought she would have to go through a lot of trouble to meet Hadwin Stephenson, but as soon as the receptionist heard that she was here to return the clothes, they spoke respectfully and

warmly without asking for her name. "You must be Miss Lina. President Stephenson said you can go see him right away!"

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The receptionist led Lina to the elevator and helped her press the floor number as they spoke, "The president's office is on the 32nd floor. You'll be led to President Stephenson's office when you arrive on the floor!"

Lina did not expect Hadwin Stephenson to have told his employees about her arrival. When she reached the 32nd floor, there was already someone waiting at the doors.

"Hello, Miss Sweeney. I'm President Stephenson's secretary. Please come with me," they said.

Lina followed the secretary to Hadwin Stephenson's office door. After gently knocking on the door twice, the secretary twisted the doorknob and said to Lina, "Miss Sweeney, please enter."

"I can go in?" asked Lina. After all, although the secretary had knocked on the door twice, there was no response from Hadwin Stephenson.

"The president said you can enter at any time," the secretary said.

Lina pressed her red lips together and went in.

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The secretary gently closed the office door, speculating that this woman would probably be the mistress of Stephenson Group someday.

After all, even when he was dating the heiress of the Jackson family, he had never once allowed Miss Jackson to enter his office as he wished.

Besides... the secretary had also seen the news about the president and Miss Sweeney! All the employees could see that this woman held a different place in their boss' heart.

Lina walked into the office, only to see Hadwin Stephenson lying on the couch. He was covered with a thin blanket and seemed to be resting.

She instantly wondered if she should breathe a sigh of relief.

'He's asleep. At least I don't have to talk to him. I'll just leave the clothes here. It'll still count as me returning them myself!'

She gently put the clothes in her hand on the coffee table and was about to leave, but her eyes could not help falling on him.

He was sleeping. His beautiful eyes were closed, and his long shadows cast shadows.

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She still remembered how she had liked to gently poke and touch his face when he slept beside her. She had said that she was taking advantage of him.

She would even do silly poses and take photos with him while he was asleep and laugh at them afterward.

'Our past... was wonderful. It was like the best dream.

'But we all have to wake up from our dreams, don't we?

'Even if those eyes are looking at me. Looking... at me?'

Lina instantly came to her senses. She realized Hadwin Stephenson had already opened his eyes. What was even more embarrassing was that her fingers had somehow reached over to touch his cheek. She was pinching him.

'Gosh, that's why we should get rid of bad habits!'

Lina wanted to withdraw her hand, but Hadwin Stephenson seized it first. "Are you going to harass me even when I'm asleep?"

"No... No..." Her face went red instantly. "I just wanted to return the clothes from last time. They... They've been dry-cleaned, and because I used to do that when you were asleep, so... Uh... It's just a habit of mine... Uh, no..."

Lina only thought she had made things worse. She did not even know what she was talking about anymore.

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Hadwin Stephenson sat up and raised his long arm, pulling Lina into his arms. "So you've kept that habit all these years, have you?"

"Hadwin Stephenson, let go of me!" Lina struggled.

However, her strength was nothing to him. He held her tighter instead.

"Lina, I've always been your habit, haven't I? No matter how many years have passed, those habits are still there," muttered Hadwin Stephenson as he buried his face in Lina's neck, taking in her scent.

"You're my habit too. I can't get rid of you after so many years."

It seemed that only by holding her like this and taking in her scent could he stop feeling lonely and be at ease.

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Lina's heart trembled, feeling as though she was about to be bewitched by his voice. His embrace was so tight that he seemed to be trembling...

"I'm gonna slap you if you don't let go!" She bit her lip and made a threatening remark

Ate suddenly chuckled and lifted his handsome face, which was instantly so close to her. "You can do it if you want."

She froze and stared blankly at the face that was right in front of her the co slap him just by raising her hand but she could not

#wwf the feeling of the time she slapped him still lingered on

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Instead of answering her question, he said, "I'm not afraid of suffering. What I fear most in life is not being able to be with you. Do you... understand?"

Lina took a deep breath and said sternly, "You wouldn't have broken up with me if what you fear most is not being able to be with me. Hadwin Stephenson, what you fear most is losing the wealth and power you've worked so hard to gain."

His eyes darkened, and his face seemed to grow paler. "How can I protect you if I don't have all this wealth and power? Lina, you just don't understand how important these are!"

Without them, Hadwin Stephenson would be just a nobody whom people could trample on. How could he protect her if he could not even protect himself?

"Protect me?" Lina smiled bitterly. "Did you break up with me when I was lying in the hospital bed to protect me?"

"I-" He opened his mouth, but she quickly cut him short.

"If the breakup was supposed to protect me, then I'd rather you not protect me! If love needs to be protected by power and wealth, then it's too fragile!" She was not afraid of death but of being casually abandoned after loving someone deeply!

"Lina, you know nothing!" said Hadwin Stephenson.

Lina said, "Yes, I don't know you, but you don't know me either,

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Hadwin Stephenson. I've brought the clothes here. You don't need to return my clothes to me anymore. Just throw them away somewhere. They're worthless anyway. As for the future..."

She paused and gazed at him. "You're now the president of the Stephenson family, and there's no threat to the status of the Stephenson family anymore. You can find another suitable woman. You don't have to pay an ordinary woman like me any more attention, and I'll also find someone who can live a peaceful life with me."

"Stop it!" Hadwin Stephenson suddenly raised his hand and covered Lina's mouth. His hand with distinct joints quivered. "Lina, I told you to give me time. I'll prove that my feelings for you have never changed. I've done everything just to be with you!"

Lina pulled down his hand. "But I can't afford to give you time. Hadwin Stephenson, I don't want to be with you anymore."

With that said, she pushed him away forcefully, got up, and quickly left the office.

He sat on the couch as his hands shook and his teeth clenched, trying to suppress the pain in his body!

Blood curse!

Chapter 1737

It was another price he had to pay so that Katherine Jackson would save Lina. He had no idea where Katherine Jackson got it, but she got an insect he had never seen before. It fed on Lina's blood and Katherine Jackson had him swallow the insect.

“Hadwin Stephenson, this is a blood curse. It’s extremely sensitive to the smell of the owner’s blood. From now on, the blood curse will cause your body excruciating pain once you have any physical contact with Lina. You can never be with her!”

Katherine Jackson had told him.

He thought he had no chance to be with Lina. He thought all he could do was punish those who had hurt her and make them pay the price.

However, he later found out that the blood curse would not last forever. It was possible to get rid of it!

However, things like blood curses had always been obscure. Few people knew about them, so it was naturally difficult to find

someone to lift them.

Therefore, he needed to set Katherine Jackson up so she would offer to get rid of the blood curse for him!

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Once the blood curse on him was lifted, he could stop suffering whenever he touched her and could truly be with her.

She would never know how painful it was when he was in the car with her that night.

Every hug and kiss had hurt him as if reminding him not to approach and touch her.

However, he was willing to bear the pain... to be with her.

Even if the pain was excruciating, he willingly endured it.

It had hurt again earlier, but his heart kept telling him over and over that this was the last time it would hurt. Once he got rid of the blood curse, he would not feel this pain again!

He could hug her as much as he used to and... never leave her!

“Lina...” Hadwin Stephenson looked down at his still trembling hands. “I just want you to give me a little more time, just... a little more time...”

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As it was still early, Grace went to Reed group after site-surveying for her law firm in the afternoon.

Terrence was stunned to see Grace. “Young master Reed’s... not in the office right now.”

3/3 “Is he out for work? I wait for him in the office, then,” said Crace as she walked toward Jason’s office, not noticing Terence’s hesitant eyes

The empty office seemed spacious

Grace walked up to Jason's desk. She had only taken a casual glance but spotted a photo. This photo... Grace pulled it out

It was a photo of a middle-aged foreign man in his 40s. Grace would not know who it was if it were an ordinary foreign man, but

she knew him!

It was... Dr. Joseph! He was an internationally renowned expert on memory therapy and had treated many patients with amnesia.

Chapter 1738

When she lost her memory, she had looked up a lot of information. on recovering one's memory, so she naturally learned about Dr. Joseph.

However, he was always abroad and it was difficult to make an appointment with him. Since she had a daughter to raise at that time, she could not fly abroad to seek specialized treatment with the doctor. Hence, she did not give it a second thought.

Now, the doctor's photo was in the files on Jay's desk. 'Could it be...'

Grace shuddered and reached out to take over the stack of information with the photo. She opened it to see some of Dr. Joseph's case analyses and his recent schedule.

According to the schedule, Dr. Joseph had arrived in Emerald City the day before yesterday!

'Is Dr. Joseph in Emerald City'?

Grace's eyes widened in surprise at the information in her hands. Speculation flashed through her mind.

Just then, someone knocked on the office door. Terrence opened

the door and came in awkwardly.

2/4 Before Terrence could speak, Grace asked, "What's going on with Dr. Joseph? Is Jay going to let Dr. Joseph restore his memory?"

Terrence froze. After seeing the information Grace was holding, he said, "Young Madam, Young master Reed is with Dr. Joseph now. Dr. Joseph will hypnotize Young master Reed to restore his memory!"

Grace froze and immediately rushed up to Terrence. "Where are they right now?"

"They're at..."

Terrence had not even told her the address when Grace dragged Terrence out of the office. She spoke while walking, "Take me there right away!"

Terrence responded.

In the car, Grace asked, "Why didn't you say something earlier?"

"Young master Reed didn't want me to tell you about it, lest you worry," said Terrence. He had already committed a cardinal sin by telling her about it and even bringing her to Young master Reed.

Grace pressed her red lips together. Regaining those memories was too risky for Jay.

Jay's memory loss was not caused by brain stimulation but by

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hypnosis that Secretary Wang got someone to do. It was not easy

to recover his memory, but Dr. Joseph was now using hypnosis to restore his memory.

'If Jay can't take it...' She was afraid to think about it.

"Did you try to talk him out of it? Besides, it won't be good to recover his memories like that!" said Grace.

Terrence smiled ruefully. 'Who am I to talk him out of it?'

"No one can persuade Young master Reed once he makes up his mind, but..." Terrence paused and glanced at Grace. "Perhaps you're an exception, Young Madam."

'Perhaps only Young Madam's the only one who could talk Young master Reed out of it!'

Dr. Joseph was going to hypnotize Jason in one of the Reed family's private mansions. Although Grace had heard about it from Jason, she had never visited this mansion.

When they tried to enter, the mansion's security guards stopped Grace. "This is private territory. No one is allowed to enter!"

Terrence hurriedly said, "This is Young master Reed's wife, Mrs. Reed. Young Madam is here to see him!"

The security guard knew Terrence and was surprised. However, he still looked hesitant. "But Young master Reed said no one is

Chapter 1739

The security guard hesitated but still insisted and said, "Sorry, Young Madam. If we let you in, we won't be able to give Young master Reed an explanation!"

"I'll explain it to him, so you don't have to. I can assure you that nothing will happen to you!"

No matter how Grace persuaded them, the security guards still refused and the mansion's iron gates continued to block their way.

Grace was anxious. She was getting more worried and anxious with every passing minute and second!

The situation with Jay's memory loss made it unsuitable for him to undergo hypnosis treatment. If they rashly hypnotized him, he would only... break down!

"Open the gates! Open the gates now! None of you will be let off the hook if anything happens in there!" Grace threatened, but the security guards still would not do anything!

If this went on, she would not be able to get in even after a few hours! Grace frowned. She had tried calling Jay on her way here, but his phone was turned off.

She made up her mind and went straight back to the car. However, she got into the driver's seat this time.

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She... had not driven a car in years, even in the five years she lost her memory. She would feel scared whenever she held the steering wheel.

She never understood why before this. However, she understood after recovering her memory!

The accident and the subsequent fall into the sea had made her scared to drive.

However, she was going to enter the mansion one way or another!

Jay, Jay!

She wanted to know how he was doing. She was afraid that if she just foolishly waited outside, she would regret it for the rest of her life!

Grace took a deep breath, turned the car key, and started the car.

Terrence immediately understood what Grace was trying to do when he saw this. He quickly said to the security guard, "Hurry! Hurry and open the gates! Young Madam's going to crash into the gates with the car!"

"What?" The security guards seemed dumbfounded. They thought Terrence was joking at first but panicked when they saw Grace driving toward the iron gates.

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"Open the gates! Do you know how important Young Madam is to Young master Reed? If anything happens to her, forget about your jobs, everyone here will probably be dead meat!"

One of the security guards hurriedly took out the remote control and pressed the button to open the iron gates.

Grace drove into the mansion right as the iron gates opened. When she pulled up to the main house, her limbs felt weak and her palms were covered with cold sweat.

She almost staggered out of the car and ran into the mansion.

Terrence also came running over and followed Grace inside.

There was no one in sight, and everything seemed quiet.

"Do you know which room Jay is in?" Grace asked in a panic.

Terrence shook his head. "We can only search one room at a time if there's no other way!"

Just as he finished speaking, there was suddenly a roar of pain from inside one of the rooms.

Grace shuddered. This sound was... "Jay!"

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She rushed in the direction of the sound, and Terrence followed.

The roars kept sounding out at intervals. It sounded as though Jason was desperately trying to hold himself back but it was just too painful!

When Grace and Terrence rushed to the room where the voice came from, they heard the voice of a middle-aged man that rang alongside the roars. "Mr. Reed, please calm down. Calm down. Everything you see has already happened..."

When Grace rushed into the room, she saw Jason lying on a white recliner with Dr. Joseph beside him.

Jason was still in a hypnotic state. His eyes were closed, but something was wrong. His hands seemed to be desperately trying to grasp something. He looked like he wanted to get up, and he was biting on his lower lip till the flesh had split. A stream of red

blood trickled down.

"Jay, what's going on?" Grace asked in a panic. As he had learned about hypnosis due to her own memory loss, she knew that regular hypnosis sessions would not cause this sort of pain.

"Terrence, what are you doing here?" asked Dr. Joseph.

"What on earth is going on with Jay? Stop the hypnosis and wake him up!" Grace said with concern.

Dr. Joseph said, "We can only wait for Mr. Reed to calm down. If we stop the hypnosis halfway, it'll only do more damage to his mental health! Who on earth hypnotized Mr. Reed? His amnesia was caused by hypnosis, and the person who hypnotized him-"

Just then, Jason, who was on the recliner, suddenly roared. "No!" He tore off all the cables that were attached to him and the recliner flipped over because of his motion.

Jason fell to the floor, and Grace rushed over to help him. However, he pushed her away, and her body hit the cabinet nearby.

'Ouch!'

Grace felt some pain in her waist. Terrence and Dr. Joseph were knocked to the floor by Jason as well. Jason was strangling Dr. Joseph with his fingers, making him almost out of breath.

"Why... Why..." Jason's eyes were still closed, and he seemed to have fallen into a mad state.

Dr. Joseph struggled desperately, but it seemed useless.

Terrence tried to get up to stop him but it was to no avail.

Swallowing the pain, Grace rushed forward and said, "Jay, wake up, wake up! Stop strangling him. You'll kill Dr. Joseph!"

However, no matter how loudly she shouted, he did not seem to hear her and his fingers did not loosen.

Seeing Dr. Joseph's face turning purple and his tongue sticking out, Grace reached out and grabbed Jason's hands. "Jay, let go. Let go! If you don't let go, you'll..."

Before she could finish, Jason suddenly let go of Dr. Joseph and grabbed her hand that was trying to pry his fingers away just now.

Grace felt a sharp pain in her hand. It seemed to make her experience once again how her finger bones were crushed back then.

'Ouch!'

Grace almost fainted from the pain. She heard Jason's hoarse voice in her ear. "Why did you leave? Why... You promised me that you'd never... leave. Why..."

'Jay... Jay...'

She opened her eyes in difficulty, and his handsome face was in front of her. However, it was contorted with pain.