## Ex Convict 1911

## Chapter 1911

The atmosphere immediately changed. Even the air seemed to be filled with tension.

The mercenaries' expressions changed as well. They tried to rush forward to subdue Katherine Jackson. After all, they had to rely on Grace to keep their lives and get the money.

However, Katherine Jackson would not let them get close to her. She dragged Grace to the edge of the rooftop. "I'll slash her if anyone comes near. The worst thing is her losing her life. It's not bad of a deal if I can have the mistress of the Reed family die with me. I just don't know if Emerald City's Young master Reed can give up his wife!"

Jason looked at Katherine Jackson coldly, his face seemingly covered with frost. He walked toward Katherine Jackson step by step. "Then you can try and see if I'm willing to give her up."

Katherine Jackson was a little flustered as she watched Jason approach her. "Don't come over. I won't go easy on her if you

come over!"

As Katherine Jackson finished speaking, the dagger in her hand left a bloody streak across Grace's neck.

Grace let out a low cry of pain as blood trickled down her neck to the hem of her shirt.

Jason's expression only changed slightly. It was just that the hands dangling at his sides were clenched tighter and tighter, revealing his current mood. "At this point in time, you should be thinking of how to negotiate with me instead of dragging her to die with you. Katherine Jackson, I can let you leave with these people, give you a car, and let you leave Emerald City, but... you can't cause any more harm to my wife."

Jason told her his conditions, and his cold voice was like the devil's temptation.

"It seems that Grace is really important to you, Young master Reed," said Katherine Jackson.

"She's my wife. I must protect her, of course," Jason said nonchalantly as if everything he was doing right now was just because of his obligations as a husband. He seemed to be silently letting Katherine Jackson understand that it was

useless to threaten him with Grace.

"Is that so? Let's see how you plan to protect Grace, Young master Reed!" said Katherine Jackson as the dagger cut Grace's neck again.

The first cut on her slender neck had not stopped bleeding when there was a second cut. The wounds bled non-stop!

Jason frowned. "Katherine Jackson, you're looking for trouble. You can never leave Emerald City if you dare hurt her again!"

"Haha. Jason, I don't believe you'll let me leave Emerald City. Besides, now that the Jackson family has turned out like

this, what does it matter even if I can escape Emerald City?

I'd rather do something great than spend the rest of my

life being a loser!" A sinister smile flashed across Katherine

Jackson's face. "Won't it be breaking news if I die with the mistress of the Reed family?"

Jason's expression turned ghastly. Katherine Jackson had

Most her mind. He could lure normal people with various

conditions, but he could not do the same with someone

insane.

Lina shouted to Katherine Jackson, "Isn't it me you want to deal with? Let Grace go. Keep me hostage if you want to!

Grace has nothing to do with our feud!"

Katherine Jackson sneered at Lina. "If Hadwin Stephenson

were here, I would hold you hostage, but Jason is the one here

now!"

As she spoke, she dug her nails into the wound on Grace's

neck. Intense pain instantly swept Grace.

Chapter 1912

The pain of having your wound clawed like this was far worse than being cut with the dagger.

Grace clenched her teeth desperately to endure the pain. She did not want the enemy to feel smug because of her pain and the people who cared about her to get upset over this.

However, the more she endured, the harder Katherine Jackson dug her fingernails into her wounds with her free hand.

"Grace, aren't you smug? Aren't you trying to stand up for your best friend? Do you see the price of your actions now?" Katherine Jackson asked viciously.

Grace kept breaking out in a cold sweat, her face ghastly pale from the pain and all the bleeding.

Lina was already in tears when she saw the state her best friend was in. "Katherine Jackson, Grace is innocent! As you said, she was just helping me. I'm the one you're after, so go after me. You can torture me all you want, but stop doing that

to Grace..."

Lina's pain only made Katherine Jackson laugh. "If you want me to let her go, sure. Jump off the building and we'll call it

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even. I'll let her go if you do that!"

Lina's body trembled as her eyes seemed to contain some determination. "You..."

"Lina, don't listen to her..." Grace said with difficulty. Every word she said would bring her unimaginable pain. "Lina... if you do... what she says, I'll never forgive you, and... I'll never forgive myself. Besides... do you really think... she'll let me go... after you jump?"

Lina's tears poured out more violently. She hated herself for being so weak.

'It's me. It's all my fault. I misunderstood Hadwin and refused to give him my trust. Now, I caused my friend to suffer!

"Lina... Don't cry..." Grace caught her breath and said with difficulty. Then, she turned to say to Katherine Jackson, "Katherine Jackson... You don't have any real friends, do you...

Ashamed with anger, Katherine Jackson snapped. "Shut up! One more word from you and I'll cut your windpipe so that you can never speak again."

"Katherine Jackson, you're asking for trouble!" shouted Jason with a solemn face.

"Yes, I am. What's the matter? Does this break your heart?

How about this? Since Lina refuses to jump off the building to save Grace, let's see how far you can go for Grace."

Jason narrowed his eyes, waiting for Katherine Jackson's next move. Grace suddenly had a premonition.

Her heart sank when she heard what Katherine Jackson said. It verified her premonition.

"I want you to take off all your clothes and show your men their boss' body. Hahaha, they all say that Emerald City's Young master Reed is known for his good looks. It seems that not just many of Emerald City's socialites are in love with you but some men too."

Katherine Jackson changed her tone and said, "I wonder if

you're going to keep or kill these subordinates after they see

you naked when this is over, Young master Reed? After all, their existence will remind you of the humiliation you suffered today!"

Her words were biting, driving Jason and his subordinates into

the corner.

Chapter 1913

Grace realized that Katherine Jackson seemed unusual. It seemed that she had no intention of escaping and was abandoning herself to despair. However, she might actually be looking for another chance to escape.

Jason looked at Katherine Jackson coldly. "Take off my

clothes?"

"Yes, take off your clothes and don't leave a single piece of clothing. After you take off your clothes, take a selfie and post it online. If you get more than 10,000 likes in a minute, maybe I'll let Grace go!"

It was pure humiliation! She was playing Jason like a monkey!

"Jay, no!" Grace said as she fought back the pain from the

continued blood loss.

However, Jason had already raised his hands and started to unbutton his shirt. One, two... He continued to unbutton them until he pulled the shirt off to reveal the thin undershirt

underneath.

There was silence as if nothing else could be heard except for the sound of the helicopters' propellers overhead and the

movement of air.

Jason's subordinates looked at their boss as he took off his shirt. He was beginning to unbuckle the belt around his waist.

"Jay, stop... Stop it! She's just... just fooling you... She's not really..." Grace said with difficulty.

Jason's belt was now off.

"We won't know if it's true until Young master Reed does what

I ask of him. Grace, I envy you. Look, Jason is willing to go so far for you!" Katherine Jackson said grimly with undisguised jealousy in her voice.

Why would a man like Jason go this far for Grace? Few men

could bear the indignity of being naked in front of their

subordinates.

Jason was so powerful too!

Katherine Jackson was feeling smug. Now that tMason

Swansonty's most powerful and wealthy man had to obey her

orders, it was as if she already had tMason Swansonty under

her feet.

However, she felt sad at the same time. Why was Jason and Hadwin Stephenson willing to humiliate themselves for

women, yet she could not even find a man who loved her that

much?

At that moment, Katherine Jackson looked at Jason and fell into a trance. Jason pulled out the belt around his pants at that instance and whipped it at Katherine Jackson's hand that was holding the dagger.

Katherine Jackson noticed that something was wrong

but it was too late for her to react. The dagger in her hand immediately fell to the ground, and Grace took the opportunity to use all her strength to knock Katherine Jackson

away.

"Don't think you can escape. Nobody can escape..." yelled Katherine Jackson as she reached for her pocket. However, there was a muffled groan in the next moment and Katherine Jackson fell to the ground. On her back, blood began to rapidly spread, staining her clothes.

One of the five helicopters that had been circling overhead had its door opened...

Chapter 1914

A man in a police uniform had his sniper rifle aimed at Katherine Jackson, looking to be on guard. If the first shot did not take her down, he would shoot again.

However... Katherine Jackson was probably not going to make it. Grace looked at Katherine Jackson as she twitched on the ground. Her expression changed slightly when she saw a device rolling out of Katherine Jackson's pocket.

It seemed like a remote control with a countdown on it. It was

counting down. Eight... Seven... Six...

'It's a timer!

'Did Katherine Jackson press the button while it was in her pocket just now?

'What exactly is this device?' Grace had a bad feeling, but Katherine Jackson could not speak right now. After twitching a few times, she stopped moving as if announcing the passing

of her life.

Just then, Jason lunged forward and grabbed Grace's arm. "Come on. I'll send you to the hospital!"

He bent over to pick her up as he spoke.

"Jay, this..." Grace barely finished speaking when suddenly, there was an explosion. The building instantly began to shake.

It was a bomb!

Grace froze, finally understanding what the device that rolled out of Katherine Jackson's pocket was! It was the device that set off the bomb!

"Everybody, get out of here!" ordered Jason.

The people who worked for Jason were skilled. They had already started looking for the most suitable escape route.

The helicopters hovering in the sky also scrambled to lower their rope ladders. They could bring some people away from the explosion site.

As the explosions continued, parts of the abandoned building began to crack. It would collapse at any time.

Jason hugged Grace as she tried to steady herself.

"Lina! Hurry and let Lina board the helicopter!" Grace shouted. Her best friend was pregnant. The safest way to get out of here was by taking the helicopter!

"Don't worry, someone will bring Lina to the helicopter!" said Jason.

Sure enough, as he finished speaking, two people came to Lina's side and helped her climb up the rope ladder the helicopter had put down.

Watching her best friend climb up as she held onto the rope ladder, Grace felt a little calmer now.

"Let's go too," Jason said as he quickly tore the cloth from her sleeve to help her apply pressure on the wound on her neck, fearing that she would bleed more. "Don't worry about anything. Just hold onto the rope ladder. Slowly climb up until you get into the cabin, okay?"

As he spoke, he picked her up in his arms and headed for the

nearest rope ladder.

Grace leaned against Jason's chest. His upper body was currently naked. The wind on the rooftop was especially cold, and the skin on his chest was freezing.

Chapter 1915

However, she was unusually at ease because he was here!

As long as he was around, it seemed that she had nothing to worry about.

Grace muttered, "Jay, you saved me again. If Katherine Jackson... wasn't distracted just now, you... wouldn't have seriously stripped naked, would you?"

She could not help asking the question even though every word she said caused her pain due to the wounds on her neck.

He fixed his dark eyes on her. "What if I say that was exactly what I was planning? If she wasn't distracted, I would've continued taking off my clothes. As long as your life was in her hands and I couldn't find the opportunity to do anything, then even if she told me to lie down like a dog, I would do it!"

Grace looked at Jason with her eyes full of shock. Would such a proud man go that far for her?

"What's the matter? Don't you believe me? Don't you believe I

would go that far?" he asked.

She shook her head with difficulty. "No... No..."

"It doesn't matter whether you believe it. I would do anything to save you, but what about you? If I got into danger one day, would you do anything to save me too?" he said, but he seemed to be talking to himself.

He did not intend to wait for her answer at all. He carried her to the bottom of the rope ladder, carefully placed her on the ground where there were a lot of cracks now. He told her to get on her feet before pulling the rope ladder over.

Just then, there was another huge explosion.

Grace and Jason's bodies shook. The cracks on the rooftop floor beneath them were getting bigger and bigger. The whole building was in danger.

With another explosion, the ground beneath Grace's feet collapsed and her body instantly started to fall. However, another hand grabbed her hand firmly and stopped her from falling.

'It's... Jay's hand! He caught me!'

Grace struggled to raise her head, only to see Jason grabbing her hand tightly with one hand and pulling the helicopter's rope ladder with the other. He was exerting his strength to pull her up.

However, the cracks on the rooftop floor beneath his feet were

also spreading. They would collapse at any moment.

The explosions continued. A bigger and bigger expanse of the rooftop floor around them collapsed.

On this rooftop that would collapse at any time, he could not find a force-bearing point at all. It was impossible to pull her up with one hand.

Grace knew this very well! The only way was for him to grab her with both hands!

However, he was holding onto the rope ladder with his other hand. If he let go of it, they would both fall together!

All of a sudden, all sorts of images flashed across Grace's mind. The conclusion she came to was... "Jay, remember to bring up Mick, Jasper, and Mason well. Mason... needs more patience from you... Also, tell them that I've gone somewhere very far and that it'll be a long time before I come back. When they're older, tell them... the truth..."

Grace struggled to speak as crimson blood-soaked the cloth around her neck. The blood dripped down the fabric.

Jason suddenly turned pale, and he snapped. "Stop it, Grace! I'm telling you to stop! I'll get you out of here!"

'It's almost she's giving her last wishes! She can't leave me!'

This was everything Jason was thinking about.

Chapter 1916

Though she wanted to betray him and flee from him, and though she married him and said she loved him, it was just for the children. Though he would never matter the most to her, these... were nothing compared to her death.

He suddenly could endure all the rest a little more. The only thing he could not stand was her leaving! It did not matter how she left.

Grace smiled bitterly. She wished she could find another way as well, but in this situation, she... did not have the strength to climb up the rope ladder, and there was no way he could use one arm to pull her up.

Perhaps life was always about making decisions, just like how she chose to fall into the sea. That was a decision too.

He heard another explosion, and he started sinking because the cracks were rapidly spreading to his side.

"Young master Reed, your side is collapsing!" someone shouted anxiously at the helicopter door.

Grace knew she was only a burden at the moment. He could

have quickly climbed the rope ladder and left if not for her.

"Jay, climb up... the rope ladder. It... It's okay... I... I know you love me, everything... You just have no choice!" she stammered. The thought of what would happen to her did not

cross her mind at the time. All she wanted was for him to be

safe and sound.

"That's enough. Stop it. I want you to stop saying that!" Jason's

expression turned more and more ghastly with sweat pouring out of his forehead. He desperately tried to concentrate and

come up with a way for both of them to escape. However, the more he concentrated, the more intense the pain in his head

was!

It was so painful that he could hardly think, and scenes he had never seen before kept recurring to him.

It was Grace sitting in a car, but half of the vehicle was hanging over the cliff. He could only look but not take a step

closer.

'What the hell is this?' He recognized that cliff. It was the cliff

where Grace had fallen into the sea.

'Is this when Grace left me? But why is it so different from

what I remember?

'No... No more! No more of these!'

He kept shouting to himself, but the scenes kept recurring to him.

... He recorded his last words on the phone. If he died, all his assets would go to Grace.

... He went to the device and tried to disarm it, but Old master Reed had played him. The old man made him choose between two options.

He wanted to give his life so she could live, but... she used the

time she had left and made the choice for him.

She pulled down the handbrake, and the car backed up

as he watched it crash into the sea with her. Her last words

were... for him to keep living and that... she loved him!

"Ah..." Jason let out a roar of pain. His eyes had now turned

scarlet.

His head... was still in pain. The pain became more and more severe. Scenes kept flooding his mind, and he was losing his grip on her hand because of the pain.

"Grace... hold... Hold on tight to me... Don't let go... We... We'll find a way..." Jason said through the pain as every word

seemed to be squeezed through his teeth.

Chapter 1917

Grace watched Jason in pain. He even knocked his head against the cracked ground as if to distract himself from what was going on in his head.

However, instead of tightening her hold on Jason's hand as he told her to, Grace loosened her grip. Her slender wrist slowly slid from his fingers.

"Grace, no!" Jason shouted frantically. Tears had covered his face at some point.

His tears ran down his cheeks, dripping onto her face.

Drip! Drip!

It was so warm it made her feel it was okay and she would not regret it even if she sacrificed everything for this man.

It was because no one in the world loved her the way he did.

In the same way... "Jay, I'm sorry... I hurt you, but I'm also the woman who loves you most... Stay alive. Live... a good life..."

She loved him so much that she would make the same choice

if she had to do it again!

When there was another explosion, Grace closed her eyes and smiled. She hoped the last thing she would leave Jay was her smile, and she also did not want Jay to see the sadness in her

eyes.

She could feel her wrist almost slipping out of his fingertips. Maybe she would fall just like how she had fallen into the sea

one or two seconds later.

However, she was not going to have the same luck this time.

She took five years to return to his side, hoping she could stay with him a little longer and spend more time with him!

She could give her all to this man.

Now, she just wanted him to live the rest of his life well. Perhaps... she should not have come back at all. She should not have restored his memory and let him fall in love with her. That way, he would not have suffered...

Grace waited for her body to fall and for the pain to overcome

her.

However, the next moment, a hand gripped her arm and she heard his voice shouting, "Grace, how could you... How could you do this again? If you're gone, how can I live..."

Grace suddenly opened her eyes and looked at Jason's hands in disbelief. Both his hands were grabbing onto her arm, which meant he had let go of the helicopter's rope ladder!

If the ground beneath him collapsed, both of them would die!

"What... are you doing? Do you realize that you're killing-"

"So what? I don't care. I didn't catch you last time and could only watch you fall into the sea... But not again. I'll hold your

hand..."

He would not let go even if they would fall to their demise

together!

Chapter 1918

A series of explosions rocked Emerald City.

The explosions caused the collapse of half an abandoned building as well as varying degrees of damage to surrounding

buildings.

The emergency evacuation of people from nearby buildings with the cooperation of several departments went straight to the top of the trending list online.

As the incident developed, many rubbernecking netizens instantly focused more on the incident when they realized that Jason and his wife were also involved.

However, the Reed family and the police were suppressing all

information.

All they knew was that the culprit Katherine Jackson was already dead, and the mercenaries who helped Katherine Jackson commit the crime were all in detention awaiting

prosecution.

Grace was lying on the operating table. All the hustle and bustle outside was far away from her. She found it surreal. It was as if she was in a dream.

'Am I... really alive?

'Jay and I are alive and well. We didn't die! We survived!'

She still shuddered at the thought of their final escape. Jay's men had gone straight down the rope ladder, tied the rope to Jay, and quickly pulled them into the helicopter.

His hand held hers the entire time, never letting go.

If he had let go, she would have fallen straight down.

When she got to the helicopter, she saw many bloodstains on Jay's body, presumably caused by the collapse of all the

rubble.

Besides, his upper body was bare at the time. His body was pressed against the rough, cracked floor that was full of rubble. When he used all his might to grip her hand, his flesh was directly brushing against the ground and rubble. One could imagine how painful it must have been.

However, all he did was reach out to press her neck that was still oozing blood. "Grace, I'm not going to let anything. happen to you. We'll go to the hospital right now. You're going to be okay!"

His face was stained with tears, while his eyes were scarlet.

With all the bloodstains, it was clear to anyone else that he was the one severely hurt.

She opened her mouth to say something, but he said, "Don't talk. I'll tell you anything you want to know when we get to the hospital and the doctor has stopped the bleeding!"

The helicopter soon arrived at the hospital. Even though Jason was covered in injuries, he held Grace tightly and ran to the operating room which they had already booked.

When Grace was pushed into the operating room, the last thing she saw was Jason's disheveled figure and his pale but dirty face.

He was Emerald City's high and mighty Young master Reed. When had he ever been so disheveled?

However, as far as she could recall, all the times he was this disheveled were all because of her.

"Mrs. Reed, we're going to anesthetize you now, then we're going to perform an emergency operation on your neck. Blink twice if you agree," the doctor said to Grace in the operating

room.

It was because Grace could not speak at this moment.

Grace blinked twice, then the anesthesiologist prepared the

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injection and slowly injected the solution into her body.

Chapter 1919

As she was losing consciousness, her last thought was... 'I wonder how Jay is doing. Is he badly hurt? By the time I wake up from surgery, I should be able to see Jay, right?"

'There are so many things I want to ask him, and there are so many things that I want to say to him...

While Grace was undergoing surgery, Lina was also undergoing various examinations, especially since she still had a baby in her belly. Some examinations could not be done, so those had to be judged by relying on the doctor's experience.

Lina has never been so nervous. She did not care about her injuries. She was just afraid that her baby would leave her.

"Doctor, is my baby... okay? I'll do anything to keep the baby!" Lina said anxiously when she saw that the doctor was frowning.

"You're having signs of a miscarriage..."

When Lina heard the word 'miscarriage, her hands and feet went cold. "Miscarriage? Am I... going to lose the baby?"

Tears welled up in her eyes.

'This is my and Hadwin's baby! How could I lose the baby?'

Lina felt even more upset when she thought of the truth Katherine Jackson had told her earlier.

She would never forgive herself if she lost the baby!

"You're only having some signs. You need to rest. Don't get out of bed except for trips to the bathroom. I'll prescribe some medicine for you." The doctor comforted her.

Lina quickly said, "Okay, okay, I'll stay in bed! Will I be able to keep the baby then?"

"It shouldn't be too big of a problem. Just try to stop yourself from crying. It's bad for your health and the baby," the doctor

said.

Lina hurriedly struggled to contain her tears when she heard

that.

She would do anything as long as the baby in her belly was

safe and sound!

Mr. Sweeney and Mrs. Sweeney rushed over after they learned that their daughter was saved and got her whereabouts from the police. They were relieved to know that their daughter and the baby in her belly were okay.

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"Mom, I'm fine, but Grace was kidnapped by Katherine Jackson. She got injured on her neck because of me. She even almost fell to her death. I need to know how she's doing," said Lina. Thinking of everything her best friend had done for her, Lina felt guilty for dragging her into such danger.

Mrs. Sweeney comforted her daughter, saying, "With Jason. taking care of her, Grace will have the best doctors treating her. But we really owe it to Grace this time. If it hadn't been for her, you might've gotten..."

Mrs. Sweeney could hardly imagine it. They had learned some information from the police, so they knew how dangerous the situation was earlier.

They were grateful that their daughter was alive now.

"That Katherine Jackson is a real pest. She made Hadwin Stephenson have a change of heart and break up with you. You have nothing to do with Hadwin Stephenson now, yet she still refused to let you go! The police said she's dead. That's what she deserves!" Mr. Sweeney snapped.

"Dad, Hadwin... never had a change of heart! He has never done me wrong!" Lina choked out the words. If it was not for the fact that crying would be bad for the baby in her belly, she

would have been in tears by now.

4/4

"What nonsense are you talking about? He never had a change of heart? If he hadn't, why are you pregnant and lying alone in a hospital while he's enjoying himself back in his city?" Mr. Sweeney yelled.

Chapter 1920

Lina quickly said, "No, that's not true! I was stupid. I'm the dumbest person in the world. Hadwin broke up with me to save me, not to get the Stephenson family! It took him five years to regain control of his life before he came to look for me, but I didn't believe anything he told me. He even had a

blood curse on him!"

Lina hated how stubborn she was. She still loved Hadwin Stephenson but was held back by fear of being hurt.

Even the last time she got to his mansion, she believed that he and Katherine Jackson were still together and that he was only fooling around with her just because she saw Katherine Jackson coming out of his mansion. She did not even ask him for confirmation!

'Why couldn't I give him a little more trust? Why did I cling to the idea that he had little affection for me?'

"Blood curse? What blood curse?" Mr. Sweeney and Mrs. Sweeney said with puzzled faces.

When Lina told her parents what Katherine Jackson had said to her on the rooftop, Mr. Sweeney and Mrs. Sweeney were stunned for quite some time. After a long while, Mr. Sweeney

heaved a long sigh. "It seems that we've misunderstood!"

"Hadwin has done so much for you." Mrs. Sweeney also sighed. Who would have thought that the man she thought was unfaithful and had failed her daughter loved her so much?

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"Mom, Dad, I... I want to see Hadwin after I get discharged from the hospital. I want to apologize to him and try to see if he still wants the baby and me." Lina hesitated a little when she got to the last half of what she had to say.

'Will Hadwin... still want me after that falling out? Will he ever forgive me?'

There was not even a shred of confidence in her heart.

After all, she had said she would not regret it when they had

fallen out earlier, and his cold disappointed eyes seemed to be

etched in her mind.

"Why won't he want you? The baby in your belly is his own flesh and blood!" Mr. Sweeney said immediately.

Lina says bitterly, "Even... Even if he no longer has feelings for me, everything was my own doing."

Mrs. Sweeney comforted her daughter, saying, "Alright, hold your thoughts on that. What matters most now is for you to

stay in bed so you won't have a miscarriage. If you're in good health after you're discharged from the hospital, we'll accompany you to see Hadwin Stephenson!"

Lina also knew that what mattered most now was for her to do everything possible to avoid getting miscarrying.

"Oh, speaking of which, the baby has had a tough life. You've been in the hospital several times when you're only more than three months pregnant," Mrs. Sweeney said emotionally.

Lina gently stroked her pregnant belly that was still not obvious. The baby managed to survive again and again. She only hoped that the baby would not go through so many hurdles after this and have a smooth future ahead.

After surviving a disaster, Lina soon fell asleep. Even so, her hands continued to rest on her belly although she was

sleeping. It was as if inside her belly was her precious treasure

and she would do anything to keep it.

When Grace opened her eyes again, she saw a white ceiling as well as a doctor and nurses clad in white.

"Mrs. Reed, you're awake," the doctor said.