

Ex Convict 1991

Chapter 1991

It was a tall man with a somewhat cold and feminine face. He gave William a strange sense of familiarity as if he had seen the man's face somewhere before.

He was too young to know that the sense of familiarity was due to his own resemblance to the man in front of him.

"You're William and you're five years old this year. Your mother is Lily, right?" the man asked.

William looked at him warily. "Who are you?"

"I'm from the Barlow family of Deer City, Philip Barlow," the man said.

Anyone else would probably be surprised to hear this name.

Philip Barlow and the Barlow family were well-known in Deer City. The Barlow family's status in Deer City was tantamount to the Reed family's status in Emerald City.

However, for a child such as William, he did not understand the weight of those words. His eyes were still full of caution.

"What do you want to do? Are you... Are you going to tell the other kids in kindergarten that my mother was a criminal?"

That was the greatest threat to him.

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maliciously when they found out that he was the son of a criminal. He just did not want Jasper to fight others for him.

Seeing her getting hurt from fighting made him feel worse than if he were to get himself hurt!

"I'm not that bored to tell other kids such a thing. I just want to tell you that I'm your biological father. I came to Emerald City to take you away," Philip Barlow told him his reason for coming here.

William looked at the man before him with shock. His young voice asked the question in disbelief,

"You're my... daddy?"

"Yes," Philip Barlow answered affirmatively.

“But why are you my daddy? Mommy never said my daddy’s name is Philip Barlow,” he said. His mother also said the man called Sean was his father.

However, the man was not his father. His mother had lied when she said they were father and son.

“It has been medically certified. If you still don’t believe me, I can take you to Emerald City’s hospital to have another test.” Philip Barlow tried to speak in a way that kids his age could understand.

William was silent. Although he did not know what this test was, he believed... in the hospital! should be true. Is he... really my daddy?’

“Although you’re living in the Reed family’s house, you’re just relying on their charity. Not to mention your mother had hurt the Reed family’s mistress, Grace, many times. Your life in the Reed family’s house must be hard. Follow me back to the Barlow family. I can let you live the same life as the heirs of the Reed family. No one will dare criticize you over there, let alone disrespect you.”

What Philip Barlow said sounded like a fantasy to William. Confusion flickered in his eyes.

Philip Barlow chuckled, which slightly relieved some of the sternness on his face. “What’s the matter? Don’t believe me?

In Deer City, the Barlow family isn’t inferior to the Reed family. Once you’re in Deer City, you’ll naturally be the young master of the Barlow family! Come back to Deer City with me. I’ll take care of everything. You can have anything you want.”

Philip Barlow said as he reached out one hand to his son.

This child would be his only child. He would take good care of him and nurture him.

However, the little one unexpectedly did not put his hand in his. The expression on his face was obviously one of... rejection!

Yes, rejection!

like William, but it did not work the way he expected.

Philip Barlow said, “Don’t you want to return to Deer City with me? Once you’re in Deer City, you’ll have a bunch of people waiting on you. You can have the best piano, the best teachers, and any toy you want.”

Chapter 1992

'But... Jasper won't be there,' William thought to himself. Then, he said to Philip Barlow, "Even if you're my daddy, I don't want to go back to Deer City with you!"

Philip Barlow raised his eyebrow slightly. "You don't want to go back to Deer City?"

"Yes, I don't want to," he replied with his childish voice.

"Why do you want to stay here? As far as I know, many people here call you a criminal's son. You're in an awkward place at the Reed family's house. What's so good about this place? When you get back to Deer City, you'll be the young master of the Barlow family, whom everyone respects. Maybe you're still young and don't know how important the Barlow family is, but you'll definitely regret it if you don't go back with me."

"I'm not going back," William said again.

'The young master of the Barlow family... Is it someone like Mick Reed? The maids dare not say no to Mick Reed and are respectful. They would give Mick Reed whatever he wanted.

'But... Deer City...! He had no idea how far away Deer City was, but not being in the same city as Jasper made him feel so far away.

The person who was rejecting him now was his only son.

"Why? I want to know why you don't want to go back to Deer City with me," he asked.

However, William pressed his tiny lips tightly together, unwilling to talk.

Another tiny figure flashed through Philip Barlow's mind and he asked, "Is it because of Jasper Reed?" According to his investigation a few days ago, Jasper was the closest to his son in the Reed family.

His son had met Jasper in a music exhibition and they got to know each other. Jasper and his son both had great talent in piano.

William's eyes suddenly widened. He was still a child, after all. Even though he was more precocious than his peers, he was not very good at concealing his emotions.

The surprise and alarm in his eyes said it all.

Philip Barlow smiled. "Is it really because of Jasper Reed? Are you reluctant to leave that girl? If you like the company of little girls who can play the piano well, I'll get you plenty of them when you get back to Deer City."

'But none of those playmates are Jasper!' William quietly thought to himself. Then, he met Philip Barlow's eyes again.

stay in Emerald City. I don't want to go to Deer City with you. aunt Cummins said I... I can always stay with the Reed family."

As he was still a child, Grace's promise was the biggest thing he could rely on.

Philip Barlow stared at his son, and a look of annoyance flashed through his eyes. "aunt Cummins? Grace? It seems the Reed family has tamed you after having you stay with them for a while! Your mother's dead, so I'm your guardian. Grace is nobody. She's not related to you. I'm taking you back to Deer City, and there's no stopping me!"

William's tiny body instantly tensed like a frightened kitten. He stared at his father without saying a word, but there was a clear sense of resistance all over him.

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Chapter 1993

Philip Barlow stared at his son. Moments later, he said slowly, "In that case, I won't force you. But you'll want to go back to Deer City and the Barlow family sooner or later!"

William pressed his tiny lips tightly together, still staying silent.

Philip Barlow pulled out a piece of paper and wrote a phone number on it. "If you ever want to follow me back to Deer City, call me. Remember my words, you'll have everything you want in Deer City. In Emerald City, you'll always be the son of a penniless criminal who relies on someone else's charity!"

The little boy's body became stiffer and stiffer while one of his small hands clenched the small note with the number.

Philip Barlow said nothing else and turned to walk out of the room.

Soon, a kindergarten teacher walked in and took William back

to the classroom. They made him lie down on his nap bed as if nothing had happened. Only the note in William's tiny hand reminded him of what had just happened.

When Philip Barlow walked out of the kindergarten, he saw another car parked next to his. A figure came down from it. It was Jason, the toughest man in Emerald City!

dawned upon him.

Well, William now lived in the Reed family's house. Although he was careful not to alarm anyone when he investigated William, Jason was not an ordinary person.

"I've heard a lot about you, Mr. Barlow. But we never had a chance to meet. I didn't expect to see you here. I wonder what you're doing at this kindergarten. Does the Barlow family have children in this kindergarten too?" said Jason.

As soon as Philip Barlow said this, he knew that Jason probably already knew about everything.

Therefore, he stopped pretending. "But I do have a son here.

Thank you for taking care of my son William all this while, Mr.

Reed.”

The two men looked at each other.

“Taking care of him is nothing. My daughter is fond of William, but I wonder what you have to do with Lily, Mr. Barlow. Now that Lily has died in prison, what are you doing in Emerald City, Mr. Barlow?”

Jason was straightforward.

Philip Barlow was indeed not someone to be looked down upon, and Lily had brought her death upon herself. However, it did have something to do with the Reed family and Grace. If

failed to distinguish right from wrong and wanted to get revenge for Lily, it would probably cause a lot of trouble.

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Smart people like Philip Barlow knew what Jason meant. “I only came to Emerald City to take William away. As for Lily, I’ll stay out of her feud with the Reed family. Besides, she’s dead now. I don’t have to do anything for her.”

He spoke ruthlessly. Philip Barlow did not even remember the face of the woman he once had a fling with, and most of his impression of her was based on his investigations afterward.

He was not that stupid to make himself an enemy of the Reed family for a dead woman.

Moreover, he had no feelings for Lily. He might not even have investigated that night so many years ago and wondered if he had a child had it not been impossible for him to have children now.

However, it was surprising that a woman like Lily would give birth to the child. That was considered to be the one good thing Lily had done.

Chapter 1994

If Lily were still alive and made him take on the Reed family, perhaps he would have agreed.

“So when are you going to bring William back to Deer City, Mr. Barlow?” asked Jason.

“I’m afraid not now. The little one wishes to stay with the Reed family for a while longer. When he wants to go back to Deer City with me, I’ll come and take him back. As for William’s living expenses, I’ll send you a check shortly,” said Philip Barlow.

Jason raised his eyebrows. Since he wanted to pay for his son, there was no reason for him to say no.

After the conversation, the two men got back into their respective cars, which drove off in opposite directions.

Grace was shocked when Jason told her about this that night.

“What? William is Philip Barlow’s son? Are you sure?” The Barlow family of Deer City was influential in the country. However, according to various gossip news, it was a family with intense internal strife.

Philip Barlow was currently the head of the Barlow family and a famous bachelor in Deer City. He was 35 years old but never

2/3 Jason said, “Philip Barlow admitted today that William is his son. He probably did a DNA test. But it seems that William doesn’t want to leave with him, so he said he’ll take William back to Deer City when he wants to leave.””

Grace froze and speculated, saying, “Is William unwilling to go because of Jasper?”

After all, the two children were very close. Jasper always went to William’s room to sleep every night. She would always find her daughter in William’s room when she went to look for her in the morning.

Jason said with a half-smile, “Maybe. But he’ll leave the Reed family and return to Deer City one day.”

“That’s true. After all, Philip Barlow is his biological father. They’re father and son. The Barlow family is his real family,” said Grace.

Jason shook his head. “William will leave the Barlow family not because of the father and son bond or family, but because he’ll find that he’ll never get what he wants if he doesn’t return to the Barlow family.”

Grace could not help laughing. “What does he want? What can a child want? It can only be toys, food, or maybe more friends. But William doesn’t seem to be the type to like to make friends.”

Jason only laughed and said nothing. Men like Philip Barlow

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probably be worried about keeping their son in someone else’s home. It would not be long before he did something to make William understand the cruelty of reality.

However, if the boy did go back to Deer City, Jasper would be losing a toy.

While Jasper’s interest in William had not seemed to fade, Jason still did not want to keep him around his daughter. After all, William’s mother was Lily.

He would make William leave the Reed family in a few years even if the Barlow family never came for him.

‘But... the Barlow family... If the child returns to the Barlow family, what will happen in the future? What about Jasper?’

Jason secretly laughed at himself for overthinking. Even if the child could become the heir of the Barlow family in the future and hold authority in the Barlow family, he would not let the boy hurt his daughter.

Chapter 1995

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Lina had specialists responsible for her pregnancy check-ups, and Hadwin Stephenson would also accompany her.

Mr. Sweeney and Mrs. Sweeney were also arranged to stay in Hadwin Stephenson's private mansion. No reporters were disturbing them, but it was just to avoid unnecessary trouble. They would have video calls with their daughter every day.

Today, Hadwin Stephenson accompanied Lina to the hospital. Hadwin Stephenson waited outside while Lina had her examinations in the ultrasound room. A female nurse accompanied Lina inside.

The baby was doing okay, and Lina was relieved. However, when she walked out of the ultrasound room, she saw a woman standing in the VIP lounge outside.

She was obviously talking to Hadwin Stephenson.

As soon as Hadwin Stephenson saw Lina come out, he went over and asked, "Are you done with the check-up? What did the doctor say?"

"Everything's alright," said Lina. Then, her eyes fell on the unfamiliar woman.

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It was a beautiful woman with delicate makeup and high-end clothes. She was fashionable and looked just like the socialites in tMason Swansonty.

What she said also confirmed Lina's speculation.

"You must be Lina. I'm Monica Keller from the Tang family and also the CEO of Keller Group." Although she was introducing herself, her eyes that were fixed on Lina showed disdain.

She seemed to be filled with a sense of superiority. It was as if Lina was only an ant by her feet.

Her gaze made Lina uncomfortable. "I'm Lina, the woman Hadwin loves most and also the mother of the Stephenson family's future heir."

Lina snapped back.

Disgust flickered in Monica Keller's eyes. She did not expect Lina to say such a thing so shamelessly. She wondered how an ordinary woman with no family background like Lina could make Hadwin Stephenson announce the Stephenson family's future heir in public.

"I'd like to talk to Hadwin alone. Please don't disturb us,"

Monica Keller said to Lina with her sense of superiority.

Before Lina could speak, Hadwin Stephenson spoke first, "I don't think I have anything to say to you, Miss Keller." With that

said, he

prepared to leave with Lina.

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Monica Keller's voice suddenly rang out. "Hadwin Stephenson, you're going to lose tomorrow's board meeting if you leave

now!"

Hadwin Stephenson stopped in his tracks, turned around, and looked at her coldly. "It seems that the Tang family is involved too. I wonder how many shares you have?"

"A lot." Monica Keller raised her chin. "I can forget about what happened. If you get together with me, I can tell my dad to keep your position in Stephenson Group."

Hadwin Stephenson pursed his thin lips slightly as his eyes darkened. Lina, who was standing next to him, suddenly stiffened as she recalled what had happened that year.

Katherine Jackson had also used these methods to force Hadwin. However, she now knew that Hadwin made that choice back then not to get power and status but to save her life.

Chapter 1996

Similarly, Monica Keller was forcing Hadwin to choose again.

If... If Hadwin did choose Monica Keller, she figured she would not blame him. After all, Hadwin had done a lot for her.

"Looks like you're trying to be the next Katherine Jackson." Hadwin Stephenson suddenly smiled. "Have you forgotten. what happened to Katherine Jackson?"

Monica Keller's expression instantly changed, and she said,

"I'm not as stupid as she. She lost the entire Jackson family."

"You're even stupider than she is," Hadwin Stephenson said lazily as his eyes grew increasingly colder. "Since the Tang

family has the nerve to conspire against me, you should be prepared to fall. Perhaps this day next year, the Tang family will no longer exist in J City!"

"You..." Monica Keller's expression instantly contorted.

"Hadwin Stephenson, you're too conceited."

Hadwin Stephenson ignored her and left with Lina.

Once they got into the car, Lina asked Hadwin Stephenson, "Are you confident about tomorrow?"

He looked at her and said. "We won't know who wins until the

She bit her lip slightly. "Then... what happens if you lose?"

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"I'll be kicked out of the board and have to leave the company. My shares will be diluted, and I might end up with no money and no power. When that happens..."

"When that happens, I'll take care of you!" Lina said quickly. However, she realized she had spoken foolishly as soon as she finished speaking. Even if Hadwin Stephenson lost tomorrow, his assets far exceeded those of ordinary people. He would not need her to take care of him.

"You'll take care of me?" He raised his eyebrow and laughed.

Her face went red. "I... I'm joking!"

He said, "I don't think it's a joke. If I lose tomorrow, then you'll take care of me. Of course, if I win tomorrow, then I'll take care of you. I'll take care of you for a lifetime!"

His deep dark eyes were full of adoration. Lina looked at Hadwin Stephenson and could not help smiling. The worry in her heart seemed to gradually disperse. "Okay! Then I hope you'll take care of me for a lifetime!"

Stephenson Group's board meeting naturally attracted a lot of attention.

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At the board meeting, Emily Flowers and the Tang family joined hands as expected. Combined with several major shareholders and the shares they had, their portion was already five percent higher than Hadwin Stephenson's. Hadwin Stephenson would lose if there were no unexpected surprises.

Monica Keller said smugly to Hadwin Stephenson, "I told you you would lose today. You had the best chance yesterday, but you didn't grasp it."

– "Really?" Hadwin Stephenson smiled. "I think the Tang family had better stay neutral."

"What's the matter? Are you pleading for mercy?" Monica Keller said arrogantly. She thought to herself, 'So what if he's stubborn? Isn't he still pleading for mercy in the end?'

Hadwin Stephenson said nothing but turned on the LCD

screen in the meeting room. He had the secretary connect it to the computer. A piece of breaking news about the Tang family immediately caught everyone's attention.

Chapter 1997

The Tang family was found to be cutting corners in a property development project. Relevant authorities in tMason Swansonty had decided to investigate the matter thoroughly.

This property development project was the Tang family's key project in the past two years. Since tMason Swansonty authorities wanted a thorough investigation, it was necessary to stop work.

Since they had to stop working, the pre-sale a month later would also have to be suspended.

Even after the rectification, it was unclear how sales would fare.

If sales were bad, fund recovery would be slower than expected and the entire Keller Group might be dragged down by the chain reaction.

The expressions of the Tang family changed, and Monica Keller was shocked. She had no idea about this.

At the board meeting, everyone's phones were turned off and not brought into the meeting room. Hence, Monica Keller could not even make a phone call to find out what was going

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can get a slice of the cake but whether you'll be destroyed entirely," Hadwin Stephenson said nonchalantly as if everything was in his anticipation.

For a moment, Monica Keller could sort of understand how Katherine Jackson had felt.

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This man could unexpectedly corner you into doing what he wanted you to do.

"Even if they have to sell, I can buy the Tang family's shares," said Emily Flowers.

Hadwin Stephenson glanced at his mother. "Mom, I'm afraid you can't take those shares with the money you have, or are you going to keep on giving the Tang family empty promises and buy those shares in installments?"

"You..." Emily Flowers glared at her son fiercely. "Okay, then let's bid for it and see who the Tang family is willing to sell to."

"I never said anything about bidding against you! If the Tang family wants to buy my shares, then the price is up to me. If the Tang family doesn't want to sell, it doesn't matter either. The Tang family can just keep holding on to their shares," said Hadwin Stephenson as he took out a statement of agreement.

Emily Flowers frowned. "What's this?"

"It's a joint multi-party agreement between me and some

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shareholders of Stephenson Group to freeze their shares and set up a holding company. The holding company's shares have exceeded 51%, so you and the Tang family don't stand a chance!" said Hadwin Stephenson.

Emily Flowers instantly jumped out of her chair and glared at her son in shock.

He was the son she had high hopes for. She had changed her fate with this child but never expected him to cause her

downfall!

When her son brought down the Jackson family, she found that her son's scheming mind was far beyond her imagination.

However, she thought that her partnership and the Tang family would be enough to defeat her son. After all, it was more realistic to have power in your own hands than in others.

However... she now had no chance to turn the tables.

With a sullen look on her face, Emily Flowers turned around to leave the meeting room. She had no reason to stay here any

longer.

Just when she nearly reached the door, Hadwin Stephenson's old voice came from behind. "By the way, my dear mother, the meeting will be over in a short while. I still have some things to discuss with you. Why don't you wait for me outside?"

Flowers looked embarrassed as she stomped her heels

Chapter 1998

Monica Keller and the rest of Keller Group also sat in their chairs with pale faces. The meeting was now a struggle for them.

Hadwin Stephenson gained a complete victory in this battle.

After the meeting, in the president's office of Stephenson Group, Hadwin Stephenson looked at his mother and said with a straight face, 'I'll arrange a plane for you to go abroad tomorrow. You'll stay abroad for a few years before coming back.'

Emily Flowers sneered. "I won't go abroad. What's the matter? Are you going to lock me up again? You're going to lock up your own mother? Locking people up is illegal, you know. Aren't you afraid I'll sue you if you do that? It'll be another scandal."

Hadwin Stephenson said indifferently, "I'm not planning on locking you up. I can only tell you all the shares you have in your hands will become a waste if you refuse to go abroad. As for your real estate, they might be under your name, but

you're not the one who paid for them. I have a way to take them back. The longer you stay here, the more assets you'll

lose."

Emily Flowers's expression changed. "Do you really want to go

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"Since when have I not let you off the hook? I just don't want you to be with a woman like Lina. What is it about her that's good enough for you?"

"So you forced Anthony Sherman to post something and make

it go viral. How are you not forcing me when you're treating Lina like that?" said Hadwin Stephenson as he approached Emily Flowers.

Emily Flowers staggered back a step, her face turning pale. Her eyes were full of shock.

Hadwin Stephenson suddenly chuckled. "What's the matter? Are you surprised how I found out? You paid Anthony Sherman a sum of money not to return to the country for a year, so you thought everything was perfect, didn't you?"

Emily Flowers was so shocked that she could not say a word. It turned out her son already knew everything.

"So you see, I'm already showing mercy by letting you go abroad. If you're still in J City after tomorrow, I'll assume that you want to go against me and I won't show mercy anymore," Hadwin Stephenson said grimly as if it was the last warning.

Emily Flowers trembled and suddenly snapped. "You're doing all this for Lina, aren't you? Why are you doing this to me for her? Who is she to have you do this for her? I'm the one who gave birth to you and raised you. Who is this woman to have

you act like this?"

"Just because she has always only thought of me as just Hadwin Stephenson. I'm just Hadwin Stephenson to her, not the heir of the Stephenson family or the head of the Stephenson family. She would... never use me!" replied Hadwin Stephenson.

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If he had never met Lina, he would never know that someone would love him so purely.

"She won't use you? When did you become so naive? She came to you after getting pregnant. She's just trying to use the baby to get to the top. I know what a woman like her is thinking. You're just a tool for her to get to the top!" Emily Flowers said sarcastically.

However, Hadwin Stephenson only looked at her coldly, not in the least affected by what she said. "So you'll never be someone like her. I love her. She's more important to me than my own life. If you're still going to go after her, then I don't

mind killing my own mother!"

Emily Flowers was stunned as she felt chills rising up her spine.

Chapter 1999

The dark eyes similar to hers were full of seriousness, which made her understand that these were not empty threats!

"That's all I have to say, so you'd better go abroad soon. Maybe our bond as mother and son will last a little longer." Hadwin Stephenson left after finishing.

Emily Flowers's legs felt weak, and she fell to the ground. Her body still trembled faintly.

Lina waited for Hadwin Stephenson in Stephenson Residence. As soon as she saw Hadwin Stephenson return, she

immediately approached him and asked with concern, "How was the board meeting today?"

"Nothing happened. Everything's as usual," said Hadwin Stephenson.

"Does that mean you won?" She felt a thrill of surprise.

He said, "You can say that. Put on a coat. I'm taking you out later..."

"Out?"

"To see Anthony Sherman," said Hadwin Stephenson.

Sherman. His hair looked like it had not been washed in days. as it was greasy. The clothes he wore were wrinkly, and he

looked so much thinner.

The person in front of her was different from the Anthony Sherman in her memory. The smart man now looked dejected.

After seeing Lina, a bitter smile appeared on Anthony Sherman's face. "Lina, I'm sorry," he said hoarsely.

"Why did you post such a thing? Why didn't you explain when people pointed fingers at me?" asked Lina. She had so many questions she wanted to ask him. She even thought of hitting and kicking him to vent her anger if she ever saw him again.

However, when she did meet him, she thought that the perpetrator looked worse than the victim.

"I had to do it," said Anthony Sherman.

"Is it because Hadwin's mother paid you?" asked Lina. Hadwin had told her on their way here that the culprit behind Anthony

Sherman's incident was his mother.

Lina knew how much Emily Flowers disliked her, so she was

not too surprised. However, she was afraid that Hadwin Stephenson would feel remorseful, so she kept comforting him

on their way here.

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"I don't know who paid me, but they also gave me a plane ticket,"

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said Anthony Sherman,

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Lina said coldly, "I thought we were friends and that you were an honest man. I never thought money could buy you off so easily and make you say something so horrible! How much money did you take, then? I want to know how much your slander costs!"

"Eight million dollars," Anthony Sherman said bitterly as he felt a pang of discomfort in his heart. He liked the woman before him. He even thought maybe his life could return to the right track if he married her. Perhaps he would have something to look forward to, but...

Chapter 2000

"I'm sorry!" said Anthony Sherman.

Lina was silent. Eight million dollars was more than the average person could earn in a lifetime. It was a good price to see through someone's heart.

"Lina, Anthony Sherman is right in front of you. What do you want me to do with him?" Hadwin Stephenson's voice rang in her ears. "Shall we ruin his reputation or put him in jail? Even though his post didn't name anyone, eight million dollars is enough to sentence him. Or do you want him to suffer other kinds of punishment? Tell me and I'll do it."

He could be a sharp sword that would go after anyone who had hurt her.

Anthony Sherman's face turned gloomy as if he had expected it.

Lina looked at Anthony Sherman quietly. After a long while, she said, "You saved my baby and me once. When I had a car accident, you were the first to run over and send me to the hospital. I remember your kindness, so I'll just repay that with this. From now on, we're even! And we're no longer friends!"

Anthony Sherman's lips quivered as if he wanted to say something, but he said nothing in the end.

2/3 things to be even, then so be it." With that said, he ordered the bodyguard guarding Anthony Sherman nearby, "You don't have to guard here any longer. Mr. Stephenson is a free man now."

With that said, he took Lina's hand and said, "Let's go."

Lina nodded and turned to leave.

"Lina!" Anthony Sherman eventually cried out in a heavy voice. "I won't hurt you anymore."

Lina did not reply but followed Hadwin Stephenson back to the car.

Lina was silent all the way. She looked down at her bulging belly in a trance.

That night, Anthony Sherman posted a clarification stating that someone paid him eight million dollars to frame Lina.

He would donate all the money to charity. He also stated that while he did get to know Ling through a blind date, they had always been friends. Nothing beyond friendship had ever happened between them.

He felt deeply sorry to his former friend.

It was not a long post, and the comments below it were full of various criticisms. Of course, some people also speculated about the identity of the person who paid him eight million

When Lina saw the post, she could not help asking Hadwin Stephenson, "Did you make him post this?"

"No, he posted it himself. Of course, the police would've released a statement in a few days even if he hadn't," said Hadwin Stephenson.

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"What?" Lina froze. "But... But didn't we say to make it even?"

Hadwin Stephenson smiled faintly. "You made it even with him, but I didn't plan to make it even with the people who have framed you. It seems he's not that bad after all."

Lina said hesitantly, "Then are you..."