

Ex Convict 2191

Chapter 2191

Jasper bit her lips as her wet almond-shaped eyes were fixed on him. "William... Will you... Will you come back with us?" She was discouraged as she spoke because he had a good life here. He had many people waiting on him, and he had his grandparents and father. It was a far cry from when he was at her home.

He must prefer it here. He would not go back with her.

"Back? Go back where? This is William's home!" Chelsea, William's grandmother, immediately spoke up as she was afraid that the little girl would take her baby grandson away!

Charlie Barlow also said, "You must be Jasper. William was at your house for a while, but he has returned to his own home now, so he can't go back to Emerald City with you."

However, Jasper seemed not to hear them as her almond-shaped eyes were still looking straight at William. A moment later, she heard him say, "I'm sorry. I'm... not going back with you."

Her eyes instantly turned red as she looked down.

She knew he... would not go back with her.

"I... know you have grandparents and parents now, so you... won't go back with me. I know that... but... I'm still sad. I want to

sleep and play the piano with you. And I want to tell you so many stories."

However, come to think about it, she would have refused to leave her parents and brothers too.

She understood it, but she still felt upset.

"Don't cry. William has found his own home. You should be happy for him," said Grace as she cradled her daughter in her arms and wiped the tears from her daughter's eyes.

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Jasper pouted, but she was not happy at all. The thought of not being able to see William every day upset her.

Grace turned her head and looked at William. "William, you were wronged when you were with the Reed family. I'm very sorry about that. I'm sorry."

William shook his head. "aunt Cummins, you don't have to apologize." He knew that aunt Cummins had been helping him look for evidence. Many people believed that he was a naughty child, but aunt Cummins was willing to ask him what had happened instead of believing right away that he did it.

"Alright, it's very late now. Let's go home first," said Grace before taking her daughter's hand. Jason took their son's hand, and the four left the Barlow family's living room.

However, Jasper looked at William reluctantly before leaving.

William looked blankly at Jasper as she left. Then, he looked

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down at the chocolate, apology card, and... the doll he found in the storeroom.

"I told you, how could our grandson have pushed someone down the stairs? Fortunately, the truth is out now. But they caused all this ruckus tonight just to apologize. I wonder how the Reed family educates their children!" mumbled Chelsea. She was about to hug her precious grandson when William suddenly ran outside.

"Hey, William, where are you going?" Chelsea immediately shouted and ran out. Charlie Barlow and several servants followed them.

Philip Barlow stood in the same spot with a slight smile on his lips. He was not worried that his son would want to return to the Reed family.

After all, William carried the blood of the Barlow family. Since he had something he wanted, he knew the price he needed to

pay.

William ran and caught up with the Reed family at the gate of the Barlow family's house.

William called out, "Jasper, I... I don't blame you! I want to be your best friend, a better friend than anyone else. It's just that... I... I can't leave my present home."

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It was only because by staying here could he stand beside her with his head held high and not be outdone by anyone.

He did not want to be looked down upon again and hear people say things like how he did not deserve to be the Little Young Lady's friend.

Jasper looked blankly at William. When she heard that he wanted to be best friends with her, her dejected expression was finally replaced with a smile.

She quickly ran up to him. "Then... Then let's be best friends forever. Come and see me often, and I'll come and see you

often!"

"Okay!" he replied.

"This doll..." Her eyes fell on the doll he was still holding in his right hand. She now recognized it as the doll she had given him. "Think of the doll as me, and let her sleep with you every day."

"Okay," he answered again.

"Also, you have to finish the chocolates I gave you today. They're very delicious!" she said. It was a pity she could not eat them with him.

“Okay.”

When he answered ‘okay’ for the third time, she was finally satisfied. She did not look as sad as before.

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Jasper suddenly hugged William and gave him a big kiss on the cheek with a smack. “I’ll miss you every day after I get back. You must miss me every day too! We’re best friends forever.”

The four members of the Reed family left, but William stood still, feeling his cheek burn after being kissed.

He... would miss her every day. He would miss her very much!

“Alright, come on. Let’s get inside. It’s so late now. You should have gone to bed long ago,” said Chelsea as she held her grandson’s hand.

William looked down at the doll in his hand. Then, he said solemnly to Chelsea, “Grandma, don’t throw away my doll again. I don’t want anyone to touch it.”

It was as if the doll was a treasure of great importance to him, so no one could touch it.

Jason and Grace lectured the little ones after taking them back to the hotel.

After all, the two children had caused such a ruckus. Jason would have gone to the head of Deer City’s police department if Philip Barlow had called a little later.

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“Why did you run out to find William? You could’ve just told us you wanted to see William!” said Grace.

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“We were afraid that William wouldn’t want to see us. In that case, we wouldn’t be able to see him, but we’d get to see him if we sneaked into the Barlow family’s house,” Jasper said persuasively.

Grace rubbed her temples. She had no idea how to refute her daughter’s nonsense for a moment.

“Anyway, you can’t do that anymore. You’re still young. What if you had run into bad people...” Grace began lecturing the children about what might have happened to them.

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Mick Reed wanted to say that they had made preparations, but Jasper tugged at his sleeve, hinting at him not to talk.

It was because their mother would only nag more if he said something. She would lecture them so much that there was no way for them to argue back.

Mick Reed obediently kept his mouth shut.

After a long lecture, Grace asked, "Do you know what you did wrong this time?"

The two of them nodded hurriedly.

"Will it happen again?"

The two shook their heads in unison.

Grace was glad that her children were obedient.

Jason glanced at his son and said, "Mick, since you like hacking into security systems so much, hack into the security system at home and find out if there are any more loopholes once we get back. If you can't find them, you can't touch the computer for a month."

Mick Reed immediately looked as if he had been struck by lightning.

He had hacked into the security system at home many times since he was little. He had detected all the loopholes long ago. How could he find more?

In other words, he could not touch the computer for a month.

It was the ultimate punishment for him!

Jasper looked at her brother sympathetically. However, she could not do anything to help him.

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"As for Jasper..." Jason's eyes fell on his daughter. "You've already cried so badly today. If you do a thing like that again, I'll have you write a self-reflection report, got it?"

Jasper blinked and quickly nodded her little head.

Grace was dumbstruck. "That's it?"

"What else?" asked Jason as he looked at his daughter's almond-shaped eyes that were swollen from crying. He only wished his eyes were the ones swollen instead of his daughter's. "Alright, I'll tell you a story before you sleep."

"What about Brother?" asked Jasper Reed.

"Your brother doesn't like bedtime stories. He'll fall asleep on his own," said Jason.

Grace looked at her husband's double standards and was suddenly between laughter and tears.

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Mick Reed's face scrunched up. "Though... I don't like Daddy telling me bedtime stories very much, why wasn't his punishment for me a self-reflection report? I'd rather write a self-reflection report for an entire month than go a month without touching the computer!"

The next day on the plane, both brother and sister looked unhappy.

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Mick Reed was upset when he thought about not being able to touch the computer for a month.

Like a chatter bug, Jasper kept asking Grace when she could come to Deer City to see William again and whether she could stay for a few more days next time.

“Sure, I can bring you to Deer City for a few days during the school holidays so you can meet William. Besides, you can video call William every day. Didn’t he promise to be your best friend forever?” said Grace.

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Jasper finally seemed happier after hearing that.

Jason said, “Do you like William that much? How about this? Why don’t I find you another kid who can play the piano very well? Maybe even someone who plays the piano better than William? That way, you can play the piano with your new friend every day and not miss William that much.”

“But the other kid won’t be William. Even if you ask another kid to play the piano with me, I’ll still miss William!” said Jasper Reed.

“Don’t you like William because he plays the piano well?” asked Jason.

Jasper blinked, tilted her head, and thought for a long time before saying, “I’m not sure either. I just like William, and William likes me very much. He’ll miss me very much.”

Jason smiled and did not pursue the topic. ‘Like... Perhaps my daughter isn’t very clear about what she means by that word.’

However, at least the two children had separated. He would find another sensible child to take William’s place.

Children were fickle. Perhaps Jasper would not bother to come to Deer City after several school holidays.

After all, William was not the right person for Jasper!

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However, outside the airport, William watched the plane rise in the sky and fly away into the distance. He lost sight of it in a moment.

“Why didn’t you show up in front of Jasper to see her off in person? Is watching the plane good enough?” asked Philip Barlow as he looked at his son.

William looked down and only said, “Let’s go back.”

Philip Barlow returned to the car with his son. “Won’t you regret not following Jasper back to Emerald City?”

William’s similar dark eyes looked up at him. “You, Grandpa, and Grandma wouldn’t have let me go to Emerald City, no?”

"You're right." Philip Barlow smiled. His son was indeed not a fool. "Even if you want to return to the Reed family's house, we won't let you go. You're now a member of the Barlow family, so you should live with us."

Without saying more, William took a chocolate from his pocket, unwrapped it, and put it in his mouth.

It was one of the chocolates Jasper gave him yesterday. It was sweet and delicious.

However... he wanted more than chocolates and dolls from

Jasper... It was only possible by staying with the Barlow family!

After returning to Emerald City, Grace first went to Kyla to tell her about William and that she had informed William of the truth.

Kyla said, "When William comes back to Emerald City to visit Jasper, Nelson and I want to apologize and thank him in person. Nelson would've been hurt if it weren't for William. I heard Lina say that the police found out what had happened yesterday. A servant's child climbed up the tree to shoot a bird with an air gun but missed and the bullet shot toward the mansion. The window was open, so the bullet shot straight inside."

Kyla still shuddered at the thought that the outcome might have been different if William had been a second later in pushing her son out of danger.

Grace froze. "They found out so soon? Fortunately, the person behind it is just a child of a servant who was playing with air guns. At least it's not someone with ulterior motives."

After all, Lina was injected with poison when she gave birth, so Grace was afraid that the culprit behind this air gun bullet incident was the same person who wanted to hurt Lina.

Kyla understood what Grace was afraid of as well, so she said, "Yes, it's just an accident. I wonder if Hadwin Stephenson found out who wanted to hurt Lina, Lina's lucky to have had a narrow escape."

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"Hadwin Stephenson should be able to find out who did it." Grace's eyes fell on Kyla's belly. "You're pregnant, and running a store is hard. Why don't I find someone to help you out? You can take over the store again when your body recovers after you give birth to your baby."

"No thanks, I'm doing okay. And I recently stopped having morning sickness. The baby's rather obedient and doesn't give me much trouble. My mom can still help me out. If we face any trouble, I'll definitely ask for your help. Don't worry."

Kyla said with a smile.

All Grace could say was, "Call me if you need anything."

"Okay," answered Kyla.

After leaving Kyla's place, Grace went to see Lina. She wanted to ask whether they had found any clues regarding the poison injection. However, she was shocked when she reached Lina and Hadwin Stephenson's mansion.

“What... What is he doing here?” Grace looked in shock at the little boy sitting on the couch while holding Tina Stephenson.

It was the little boy from the mysterious Hunter family. They had put in a lot of effort trying to find him but it was to no avail. They eventually had to use fake news to lure the child out.

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After the incident at the hospital where the child made a deal to marry Tina when she came of age, Grace thought she would only meet the child again in about 20 years. Unexpectedly, the child appeared again so soon, and he appeared in Lina’s mansion.

“He was here the other day. This is his second visit,” said Lina. Just then, the maid had already prepared the milk. The little boy took it and fed Tina Stephenson naturally.

Grace froze a little. ‘Does this kid... come here a lot?’

“Do the grown-ups in your family know you’re here?” Grace could not help asking the little boy.

“Yes. They said I need to come over to bond with my future bride since I’ve chosen one. That’s why I’m here,” the boy said solemnly.

Grace almost choked. ‘A seven or eight-year-old child is bonding with a baby who was born less than a month ago?’

However, it seemed that there was nothing wrong with it.

“Why do you want to marry Tina?” Grace asked in confusion. After all, she thought that such a young child might not know much about love.

“Because I want to be with Tina forever. But my mother-in-law says we can only be together forever if we get married,” the little boy said.

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The word ‘mother-in-law’ made Grace choke again.

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Lina immediately said, “Hey, didn’t I tell you not to call me your mother-in-law? It makes me feel old. You can call me Aunt Lina first. You can call me your mother-in-law once you and Tina get married!”

With that said, Lina also gave the little boy a ‘kind and friendly’ smile.

“You still look old even if I call you Aunt Lina,” the little boy said rudely

Lina’s expression crumbled. ‘What a snarky future son-in-law.’ All she was satisfied with this son-in-law was his good looks and how well he treated her daughter. He was so nice that he was like a nanny.

“Call me Aunt! Do you hear me?” The words were almost squeezed out of Lina’s teeth, and the ‘kind and friendly’ smile became ‘hideous’.

The little boy was smart. After considering it, he finally called out for the baby’s sake, “Aunt Lina.”

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"Good boy!" Lina replied with a smile. Sure enough, the words 'Aunt Lina' were more pleasant to the cars.

Grace continued to ask curiously, "Why do you want to be with Tina? You seem to have said you wanted to be with Tina when Aunt Lina was pregnant with her, right?"

Shaking his head, the little boy said, "I can't tell you!"

'He can't tell me?' Curiosity flashed across Grace's eyes. In other words, there must be a reason for this but it was a secret.

In conclusion, there was no way a seven or eight-year-old child could fall in love with a baby at first sight!

"Do you have superpowers?" Grace asked again.

The little boy blinked, clearly puzzled.

"Why were you so sure Aunt Lina was carrying a girl when you first saw her? And why could your blood save Aunt Lina and wake her up?" asked Grace.

"Yeah, why?" Lina also widened her eyes and looked at the child in front of her in curiosity.

She was so amazed the last time he came to see Tina that she forgot to ask all these questions.

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"I just thought it was a baby girl," the little boy said as if this instinct was perfectly normal. "Also, Aunt Lina was poisoned, so my blood could wake her."

"Huh?" Grace and Lina froze.

"Because my blood is more toxic," the little boy answered.

"What? More toxic?" Lina was startled and almost bounced up from her chair.

"Yes, my blood is quite like the layman's poison. Of course, fighting poison with poison could wake you up," the little boy said.

"Then... I don't have any more strange poisons in my body, do I? No, when... When I was discharged from the hospital, why didn't my test results say I still had toxins in my body?" mumbled Lina.

"You don't have any toxins in your body now." The little boy would not say any more than that.

Lina suddenly thought of something and said, "Well... if your blood is really toxic, you have to be careful. Don't go near Tina when... you're wounded. What if Tina comes into contact with your blood? She... She's still a baby. She doesn't have any immunity."

Lina began to worry about her daughter who was still being held by the little boy.

Tina Stephenson had just finished drinking the milk in the bottle. The little boy put Tina Stephenson up and burped her with his little hands. He seemed experienced.

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"My blood won't be a problem for Tina because she's different," the little boy said.

When Lina and Grace asked how she was different, the little boy refused to speak again.

In short, the little boy was mysterious. It was as if he had many mysteries surrounding him, but he had been very nice to Tina Stephenson thus far.

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"By the way, what's your name?" asked Grace.

"Chandler Hunter." The boy did not hide it from her.

Tina Stephenson enjoyed being burped and fell asleep soon after.

The little boy reluctantly returned Tina Stephenson to the maid, got up, and said, "Well, goodbye."

"Are you going home alone? Shall I take you home?" asked

Grace.

Lina said, "That's not necessary. Someone will pick him up. Don't worry, he's very important to his family!" Last time, she tried to send him back, but she saw a row of cars parked at the gate. They were there just to... pick up the heir of the Hunter family!

There was probably a row of cars parked outside her house by now.

After Chandler Hunter left, Grace asked Lina, "By the way, have you found out who's the culprit behind the toxin injection?"

"Hadwin said he found some clues. He just has to make sure, said Lina.

"Where is he? Is he out today?" Speaking of Hadwin

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Stephenson, Grace just remembered she had not seen Hadwin Stephenson even though she had arrived for quite some time. Today was a weekend, and Hadwin Stephenson would usually be at home with Lina.

"He had to go out of the country for business. He'll be back tomorrow or the day after," said Lina.

At this moment, Hadwin Stephenson, who the two people were talking about, walked up to an old castle. The old castle's security guard was Asian, and he knew him. As soon as he saw him, he respectfully opened the door and said to him, "Mr. Stephenson."

"Where's Old Madam?" Hadwin Stephenson asked with a straight face.

"Old Madam has gone to a party and may not be back for a while," the security guard said.

Hadwin Stephenson walked into the old castle. He sat on the couch in front of the fireplace and looked blankly at the fireplace.

This was previously his home where he and his mother lived together.

Back then in front of the old castle's fireplace, his father had wanted to bring him back to the Stephenson family. His mother hugged him tightly and said to his father with tears in her eyes, "This is my son. I have nothing left but him. He's everything to me!"

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At that time, he thought that he was everything to his mother, but he and his mother obviously had different understandings of the word 'everything'.

It was probably destined that the mother and son got to where they were now.

Hadwin Stephenson slowly closed his eyes and waited quietly.

Sometime later, footsteps were heard. Just then, a female voice rang out. "What's the matter? Have you found time to visit your mother? I thought you had forgotten your mother after getting a wife!"

The sarcastic voice belonged to Emily Flowers.

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Hadwin Stephenson slowly opened his eyes, got up, and looked at his mother.

Emily Flowers was all dressed up as she still wanted to leave the best impression of herself on others even when abroad.

As long as his mother did not hurt Lina, he could satisfy everything she wanted. He could let her live a good life, keep a toyboy, or even indulge in a life of luxury.

However, it seemed that his mother was always constantly testing his bottom line no matter how he tried to satisfy her.

Hadwin Stephenson's icy gaze made the remaining sarcastic words Emily Flowers wanted to say get stuck in her throat.

"Why... are you looking at me like that?" Emily Flowers felt a sudden unease.

'Does my son's sudden visit here mean... No, no. I did it so carefully that no one would find out about it. Even if they did find something, they wouldn't be able to trace it back to me.'

"I thought you and I could live in peace by letting you stay here, and I could take care of you until you died. But it seems I was too naive," Hadwin Stephenson said indifferently.

His calm voice sounded as if it was void of any feelings.

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“Did you think I’d live a good life after you sent me abroad?” Emily Flowers suddenly sneered. “You humiliated me for a woman. I gave birth to you and put up with all kinds of hardships to raise you. Is this how you treat me? Do you think you’re filial just because you gave me some money?”

“Yeah, money alone isn’t enough for you. You want more than money. You want power and have others listen to you, do whatever you want, and shower you with flattery. You spent half your life groveling, so you can’t wait to let everyone know that you’re living a better life than anyone else. And you can now easily deal with those who once looked down on you, right?” said Hadwin Stephenson.

Emily Flowers asked in reply, “What’s wrong with that? I finally made you the patriarch of the Stephenson family. I deserve all these, but what about you? You sent me here just because of a woman!”

Hadwin Stephenson said, “Yes, just because of a woman, but this woman matters more than my life! I told you not to lay a finger on her, but you did it anyway, didn’t you?”

Emily Flowers’s heart leaped. “What do you mean by that?”

“Do I need to speak more bluntly? Didn’t you single-handedly cause Lina’s difficult labor? You almost made me lose my wife and my daughter. You nearly made my life a living hell, and my own mother was the one who caused all this!” said Hadwin Stephenson.

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When all the evidence he had pointed to his mother, he only felt an unspeakable sadness.

“Mom, do you see me as your son? Or have I always just been a pawn to you? My feelings don’t matter to you, huh? All you want is a son you can manipulate, right? You knew that if something happened to Lina, I wouldn’t be in the mood to do anything else. Then you’d be able to come back and take control of the Stephenson family. I’m nothing but a puppet to you.”

Hadwin Stephenson uttered Emily Flowers’s original plan.

Emily Flowers’s expression finally changed. Her son must have found enough evidence to implicate her to say that.

“You made me do all this! I wouldn’t have done it if you hadn’t forced me here!” Emily Flowers said with a ghastly expression.

Hadwin Stephenson said, “I never forced you. You ask for too much. You’re too greedy! I thought of letting you live in peace for the rest of your life since you’re my mother, but now...”

“Now what? Are you going to send your only mother to prison?”

Chapter 2199

Emily Flowers looked at her son mockingly and said, “If I go to prison, I won’t be the only one humiliated but the Stephenson family and Stephenson Group will be too. Stephenson Group’s stocks will plummet, and the shareholders will suffer heavy losses. Do you think you can stay as president?”

Emily Flowers had thought of a way out for herself in such a short period of time.

"You can only let this go. From now on, I'll live my days here, while you can live yours back in Stephenson Residence!" said Emily Flowers.

Hadwin Stephenson smiled faintly. "Yes, you'll live your life here, but you can never leave this place!"

Emily Flowers froze. "What do you mean? Are you going to lock me up in here? Are you going to lock up your own mother?"

"You can call it 'locking up'. You'll spend the rest of your life in this old castle. Someone will take care of you, but you can forget about the life of luxury you want," said Hadwin Stephenson.

Emily Flowers immediately said furiously, "What right do you have to lock me up? I can leave whenever I want, and I'm not letting you lock me up!"

"Then details of the crime you committed will be sent to the

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police as soon as you set foot outside this old castle. Even though you're in a foreign country, we can resort to extradition. In that case, you'll have to spend the rest of your life in prison. You can choose between these two options," said Hadwin Stephenson.

Emily Flowers's face was full of disbelief. "No... No, you won't do that. It'll do you and the company no good. It'll even make the company suffer huge losses. You and the Stephenson family will be humiliated!"

Hadwin Stephenson said firmly, "I will do so! I'm not only the patriarch of the Stephenson family but also Lina's husband and the father of my daughter. I should get justice for them! If you don't believe me, you can try stepping out of the old castle and see whether I keep my word!"

There was no hesitation in his cold voice, and there was no emotion in his eyes as he looked at her.

It was as if his affection for her had been exhausted after the many incidents.

Emily Flowers felt a chill rising on her back. It was fear. She was afraid of her own son.

He was giving her the impression that he would... keep his word!

"No... You won't..." she muttered, not knowing whom she was trying to persuade.

Hadwin Stephenson just stared at Emily Flowers coldly. "You're staying here for the rest of your life. I'll come and collect your

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dead body in the future, but if you ever step out of her, I'll have to collect your corpse from prison."

With that said, Hadwin Stephenson left without hesitation.

Emily Flowers shouted, "I'm your mother! I'm your mother! Are you going to do this to your mother... How could you?"

However, Hadwin Stephenson did not stop no matter how she shouted!

In his opinion, his mother had died long ago when she would rather destroy his happiness for money and power. She was dead to him...

For some reason, Lina's heart beat violently all of a sudden. She had a nagging feeling in her heart.

After thinking about it, she texted Hadwin Stephenson.

Lina: [How are things over there? When are you coming home?]

Her phone soon rang. It was a call from Hadwin Stephenson.

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