

Ex Convict 2651

Chapter 2651

"Well? Is it good?" Brian asked.

Valda Theller nodded. She had drunk cocktails before, but they were all made by bartenders from small bars. The glass today felt different.

"I feel like I've been drinking bad cocktails before this," said Valda Theller.

"If you like it, you can order more later," said Brian.

"Can I order yours later?" she asked. The cocktail he was drinking looked beautiful and delicious.

"Mine?" Brian raised his eyebrows slightly. "My drink is a little strong. I'm worried it's too strong for you."

"I'm a pretty good drinker," said Valda Theller.

"Is that so? Okay, then," said Brian as he called the waiter over and ordered another cocktail just like his.

They drank and chatted. Perhaps because she had alcohol, Valda Theller was slightly more open than usual. The topics of their conversation became more casual too.

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Just then, a voice suddenly rang out beside them.

"How about you buy me a drink?" The coquettish voice was suggestive.

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Valda Theller looked up to see a woman in a tight dress and heavy makeup. She pulled out the chair next to Brian and sat down seductively. It was obvious that the woman had said that to Brian.

Valda Theller blinked and looked at Brian. 'Do they know each other?'

However, what Brian said next dispelled her confusion.

"I'm not interested in buying strangers drinks." The indifferent tone was as estranged as usual.

"I'll buy you a drink, then." The woman smiled seductively. "I'm much better than this woman. Why drink with someone like her? Be with me. I'll make you happy..."

The woman said as she lifted her fingers with a black manicure and reached for Brian's hand that was holding the glass...

It took a few seconds for Valda Theller to realize that the woman was referring to her.

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'I'm not that bad, am I?

'Also, is this woman trying to seduce Brian? I think a girlfriend should fight back when someone's trying to seduce her boyfriend!'

However, Brian had smashed the glass he was holding on the back of the woman's hand before Valda Theller could do anything.

"Ah!" The woman let out a wail of pain that was soon drowned out by the loud music in the bar.

"I have no interest in letting a woman like you touch me. F*ck off if you're smart. Or you're gonna leave both your hands here today," Brian said coldly.

The icy tone and solemnness in those phoenix eyes made the woman break into a cold sweat.

"Do you know I am? If you touch me, you-"

"Do I need to know who you are? No one can save you if I really want to cut off your hands!" As he spoke, he pressed the glass harder, and the woman gave another painful wail. She stopped being stubborn and quickly got up.

"I... I'll go now!" the woman pleaded with a face full of pain.

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Valda Theller was still a little dazed. What started as flirting became something else in the end.

Brian was ruthless and murderous at that moment. Even as an onlooker, she had cold sweat breaking out on her palms and

was terrified.

It was as if the glass in his hand would have broken the bones of that woman's hand at any moment.

"What's the matter? Scared?" The elegant voice suddenly rang out.

Valda Theller finally came to her senses. Brian had become his normal self again. It was as if his behavior earlier was only her illusion.

She said honestly, "A little. You felt like a different person just now."

"I don't like women casually touching me," Brian said with a hint of disgust in his voice.

Valda Theller frowned. 'In that case, I...

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As if reading her mind, he said, "You're an exception. You're my girlfriend now. You can hold my hand and hug me. It would be strange if you don't do that."

'In other words, I can't touch him anymore when I'm no longer his girlfriend!' Valda Theller thought to herself.

"Would you have crippled the woman's hands if she didn't leave?" she asked.

"What do you think?" he asked instead of replying to her question.

'Okay, maybe he really would have!' Valda Theller thought to herself.

After drinking another cocktail, Valda Theller got up and went to the washroom. However, when she walked out after she was done, she met the woman Brian had scared away in the corridor.

The difference was that several men were standing beside the woman.

"Brother De, this is the woman who embarrassed me. You

gotta get justice for me!” the woman said.

The man named Brother De was holding the woman, looking as if he owned the place. “Someone like her embarrassed

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you? Tell me what you want me to do to her!”

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The woman stared at Valda Theller, her eyes full of malice. “I’ll take both of her hands.” Her hand still hurt. Since she almost lost her hands earlier, she wanted the woman who watched earlier to suffer something worse!

Valda Theller finally understood what it meant by ‘unexpected disaster’

“Hey, I don’t think I have any beef with you, do I?” she said as she glared at her.

“Weren’t you smug when you enjoyed the show just now? Now, it’s my turn to watch,” the woman said. Apparently, the woman hated Valda Theller more instead of Brian.

Valda Theller frowned. She was alone now, and there were several of them. She looked over, and someone was blocking the front of the corridor. It was obvious that they were one of them.

Those who had come out of the washroom behind her retreated back into the washroom after seeing what was going on. It was obvious that they did not want trouble.

It was impossible to get out of that corridor now. Perhaps she would not even make it through. The only way she could save herself now was probably...

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Valda Theller suddenly turned around and rushed back into the washroom.

Those people froze slightly before immediately following her.

Valda Theller rushed into the female washroom while shouting for help. Then, she pushed the doors of the cubicles.

When she pushed open the door of a vacant cubicle, she instantly went inside and closed the door behind her. She pressed her back against the door at the same time.

Thump! Thump!

The sound of kicks against the door sounded, and Valda Theller felt as though her insides were about to be crushed. She was just glad that the materials the bar used in the construction of this place were good enough and the door

was strong.

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She quickly whipped out her phone and dialed 110.

Thump! Thump! Thump!

The kicks on the door got louder and louder as if it might break at any moment.

At the same time, a man's gruff growling was heard.

"You dead b*tch, open the door. Do you think you can get away today?"

"I'm going to make you pay. I'm not only going to break your hands but also your legs. Let's see if you can run!"

She soon got through to 110, and the operator's voice sounded. Valda Theller quickly asked for the police.

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Just then, the man's gruff voice came again. "What's the matter? Are you calling the police? I'm telling you, it's pointless even if you are! Let's see if the police will come before I kick down this door!"

He was arrogant, even threatening Valda Theller when she was on the phone.

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Valda Theller heard the door crack. Perhaps it would be

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kicked open soon. Even if she managed to call the police, she probably could not afford to wait for the police to get here.

In a moment of despair, she heard the woman scream and then the man's chaotic shouts, which merged into a cacophony of voices. Then, there was silence.

Valda Theller looked confused, not knowing what had happened outside.

"Hello, are you okay now? Please tell me your current address!" The operator's voice could still be heard from the phone.

"I... I'm at..."

"Valda, are you in there?" Brian's voice came through the door.

"Oh, I... I'm here!" Valda Theller answered hurriedly.

"You can come out now. It's over," said Brian.

Valda Theller looked surprised. 'It's over?' However, she found that the door had been kicked out of shape. She could not open it when she tried.

"I can't... I can't open the door," she said awkwardly, and the

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door had barely enough space at the top and bottom for anyone to get through.

"Then get back as far as you can!" Brian said.

Valda Theller hurriedly obeyed.

There was a bang, and the door was kicked open. Valda Theller looked at Brian in shock. 'He... came to save me. He showed up when I was desperate!

"Hello, hello, are you still there? How are things on your side now?" The operator's voice came anxiously from the phone.

"I'm... alright now," Valda Theller murmured as she ended the call.

"Are you okay? Were you hurt?" Brian asked as he looked at the pale person with fear in her eyes. He could tell that she was in great shock.

"I... I'm fine. I have no... no injuries," Valda Theller stammered as she walked out of the cubicle.

When she walked out, those who had wanted to hurt her were sprawled on the floor and wailing. The woman who had caused the trouble was now on the floor trembling with fear. The expression on her face could not be any ghastlier.

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Valda Theller stared blankly at the scene before her. 'Did Brian... knock down these people?

'But could he knock down that many people on his own?'

"You're... not hurt, are you?" she asked quickly.

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Brian smiled faintly and said, "They can't hurt me. Alright, let's get out of here."

However, after taking two steps, he realized she was still standing in the same spot.

"What's the matter?" He turned to look at her.

She took a deep breath as her dangling hands clenched into fists. "My... My feet are a little weak, so I might walk a little slower."

She had almost used up all her strength trying to walk. She wobbled and was about to stumble after only two steps.

Brian lunged forward, grabbed Valda Theller, and picked her up in his arms.

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She shouted, "Hey! Are... Are you going to carry me out of here?"

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"What else? You might not even make it out in another hour if you go out by yourself," said Brian before striding out of the washroom.

Valda Theller could only feel many people's eyes on them.

On any other day, she would be blushing and feeling embarrassed, but she was still in fear from the incident earlier.

When Brian almost reached the bar entrance, someone stopped him. "What's the matter? Are you just going to leave after beating people up? You can't get out of here so easily today..."

However, the next moment, another man hurried over and slapped the person hard. "What are you talking about? Hurry and apologize to Young Master Hart!"

The person who got slapped was confused. The man who hurried over pressed the man's head and bowed to Brian.

"Young Master Hart, my subordinate doesn't know his manners. Please forgive him, Young Master Hart. Take... Take care. I'll look for you and formally apologize later!"

He looked terrified.

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Brian glared at him coldly and walked out of the bar with Valda Theller in his arms.

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Then, the person who stopped Brian earlier looked uneasily at the man who came afterward. "Boss, who's Young Master Hart?"

His boss had a considerably tough background too, but he seemed apprehensive when facing that Young Master Hart

earlier. The subordinate had never seen him this way.

"That was the crown prince!" the man said worriedly! He wondered if the crown prince would take it out on him for what had happened in his bar today.

"The crown prince?" The subordinate froze. 'The crown prince of the entertainment industry seems to be the only person in Emerald City dubbed the crown prince. Oh, yes. He has the surname Hart too!'

The subordinate could not help sweating profusely at the thought of it. He regretted blocking the crown prince's way and speaking so harshly.

'If Boss hadn't rushed over to stop me, I would have probably...!

"Get the names of everyone who made trouble today. Never let them set foot in the bar again," the boss said.

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"What if they cause more trouble?" the subordinate asked.

"If they cause more trouble, they can forget about staying in Emerald City!" the boss snapped. Forget about Brian, he would not let go of those people who dared cause trouble in his bar.

Brian carried Valda Theller into the passenger seat of his car. "I'll send you home now," he said.

She seemed a little dazed and was still trembling slightly. After a while, she nodded.

Brian said nothing and only drove quietly toward Valda Theller's apartment.

Valda Theller lowered her head as if she was immersed in her thoughts. The scenes of the man kicking the door in the washroom and her being bullied in university overlapped in her mind.

Many people in school thought she was a scheming woman because of what Raymond Bowman said. She was cornered in the washroom, and others released snakes from the cubicle's gap. They even let out several of them at a time. Even though they were not poisonous, they were enough to make her have nightmares.

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She screamed and cried, but it was no use. They still blocked the door, and she could not break the door down no matter what. She did not even know how she survived that period.

It was not until her throat was hoarse and she was exhausted that the door opened. What greeted her were more taunts and cameras taking photos of the ugly state she was in.

Those people stood on the moral high ground as if they were judges, and she was the villain.

However, in her opinion, they were the real villains.

She was an orphan. She experienced the ups and downs of life after her parents died when she was little. She thought she was tough enough, but what she experienced in university gave her a better understanding of the word 'malice'.

Brian drove on and did not stop at the apartment compound's entrance like usual. Instead, he drove into the apartment compound and parked the car at Valda Theller's apartment block.

"Valda, we've arrived," Brian said aloud. He had called out several times for Valda Theller to come to her senses. She looked up blankly at the scene outside the car window before quickly saying, "Thank you for sending me home. Goodbye."

She said as she opened the car door. She got out shakily and walked toward the apartment building.

Brian frowned a little. The way she walked looked like she might

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fall at any time. She seemed to have had quite a shock today.

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Pursing his thin lips, he unbuckled his safety belt, got out of the

car, and hurried to her side. "Let me walk you home." Even he could not explain why he got out.

'Is it because she looks pitiful?

'But I've never been a merciful man. I don't have the slightest compassion. I won't frown even if someone were to die in front of me, but why did she...

'Is it because she's my nominal girlfriend?'

Valda Theller looked blankly at Brian in front of her. Her head told her to reject him. There was no need to trouble him. All she had to do was take an elevator to get home.

However, what she said in the end was... "Thank you." She wanted someone to keep her company. That way, perhaps the fear in her body would lessen.

"Let's go, then," he said. He walked to the elevator with her and pressed the button.

The elevator soon came. The doors opened, and it was empty.

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Valda Theller hesitated slightly before stepping into the elevator.

Brian followed inside and helped Valda Theller press the button for the floor.

Valda Theller stiffened, and her face paled when the elevator doors closed.

"Can... Can I hold your hand?" Valda Theller said with difficulty. She wanted to hold something warm so she could stop recalling the scary scenes of what had happened today as well as back then.

Brian looked at the person in front of him. Her face was pale, while her round eyes looked misty. There was fear and longing in those

dark eyes.

‘What is she longing for? Is she longing to hold my hand?’

Since he fell in love with Grace, he did not like other women touching him. He only touched Valda Theller to put on an act in front of Grace.

However, he did not need to act right now. He could refuse.

Even so, the fear and longing in her eyes reminded him of his childhood when he almost fell off the cliff. His eyes were also full

of fear and longing when he almost fell off the cliff.

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He was scared that he would fall and longed for someone to help him.

Grace had reached out to grab him and saved him.

“Okay,” he said slowly as he stretched his right hand to Valda Theller.

Valda Theller’s trembling hand gripped Brian’s hand as if it were driftwood.

Her fear gradually faded when the warmth of his hand transferred to her body.

The elevator soon stopped, and the doors opened. Valda Theller and Brian came to Valda Theller’s apartment door. She took out the key and opened the door while holding his right hand tightly with her left hand.

“Aren’t you going in?” he asked her as she had been standing at the door.

She bit her lower lip, and her left hand grabbed his right hand a little tighter.

“I’ll stay with you for a while. You need to calm down,” said Brian

as he led Valda Theller into the house.

"I'm sorry. I know my mood's a little off right now. I just... Just..."

she sobbed.

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He added, "You must be afraid. I was careless to have put you through this. It won't happen again."

"It's not your fault. I'm grateful you came to my rescue," Valda Theller said quickly.

3/3

"Why did you call 110 earlier? They probably wouldn't have been able to make it there in time. Wouldn't it have been quicker if you had just called me?" he asked. She would probably have been badly hurt had he not gotten suspicious and rushed to the washroom after hearing that the way to it was blocked.

Valda Theller said awkwardly, "I... I figured if I called you, there would be only one of you while there were so many of them. I'd be dragging you down. So I thought of calling 110. Uh... Of course, I didn't expect you to be so tough. They were no match for you!"

He gazed at her. "But did it ever occur to you that I put you through this? Even if I were to suffer with you, I would've deserved it, no?"

She blinked. "But if we have to get beaten up, it's better for just one of us to get beaten up than two, no?"

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Brian chuckled. 'Is she kind? Or is she stupid?

'But... people like her are rare.'

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"I'll get you some hot water. It'll calm you down," he said and got

1.

"Let me do it," she quickly said.

"You'd better sit down first. Your hand will probably shake and

you'll spill hot water all over," he said.

Valda Theller looked at her slightly trembling hands and did not insist.

Watching Brian walk into the kitchen, Valda Theller smiled wryly and leaned against the couch's armrest.

She thought her nightmare in university was over for her, but it never occurred to her that... it had been in the back of her mind the whole time. She would easily recall the trauma she endured back then when she met similar situations.

She looked blankly at her left hand. She was less frightened the moment she grabbed his hand. It was just like how he showed up and saved her when she was desperate today.

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It turned out that it felt good to have someone save you.

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The apartment was also not as cold as it used to be because of the presence of another person.

As her fear gradually dissipated, the effects of the alcohol she drank before seemed to kick in slowly, making her close her

eyes...

When Brian came out of the kitchen with hot water, he found Valda Theller asleep on the couch.

He set the glass aside and looked at the figure. Her head was tilted, and her body was slightly curled up. Her pale face and slightly messy hair seemed to tell him what she had gone through today.

Brian was silent for a moment before bending down. He gently picked Valda Theller up and walked toward her bedroom.

After carefully laying her on the bed in the bedroom, Brian pulled the thin blanket to cover her. As he was about to turn to leave, stammering murmurs suddenly rang out. "No... I'm scared... I'm scared... Mom and Dad... I... I'm scared... Save me..."

The soft murmurs seemed to carry heavy pain.

He turned his head to see that her eyes were still closed. It was

clear that she was still asleep. However, her face was pale, she was frowning, and her head was shaking side to side from time to

time. She seemed to be trying to shake off a nightmare.

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‘What is she dreaming about? She’s calling for her parents who died when she was very young.’

She was sobbing, looking like a poor little thing who was abandoned.

‘Abandoned?’ Brian’s eyes darkened slightly. He was abandoned too.

He bent over, raised his hand, and gently pressed his palm on Valda Theller’s forehead. His cold voice said indifferently, “You’re okay now. You’re safe now.”

She seemed to hear him in her dream. The uneasiness slowly faded from her face, and her sobs grew quieter.

“You’re okay now... You’re okay...” His voice continued to ring as if to put her to sleep.

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to Valda Theller thought she would not sleep well the whole night after the washroom scare.

1/3

However, she woke up the next morning to a call from her studio assistant. She realized she had been sleeping like a log.

The assistant thought something had happened to her when she did not show up, but it turned out she had just overslept.

Valda Theller quickly got out of bed to wash up after hanging up.

Last night, she only remembered holding Brian’s hand tightly as she entered the house. Then, Brian offered to pour her a glass of

hot water. Later, she was leaning on the couch and was unable to resist the urge to take a nap...

‘Did I fall asleep? And... did Brian carry me to bed?’

Valda Theller’s face immediately reddened at the thought of it. ‘I didn’t do or say anything weird after falling asleep, did I?’

However, she vaguely remembered a soft voice saying something

in her sleep. Then... she slept so soundly... so, so soundly...

Valda Theller looked up at herself in the mirror in front of the sink. In the mirror, her cheeks were red, and her eyes seemed to sparkle

with some longing...

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“Valda, is it hard to pretend to love me?” His voice seemed to ring in her ears again.

Her heart seemed to beat faster.

‘Gosh! Stop thinking about it!’ Valda Theller shook her head. She and Brian were only pretending to date. There was nothing more.

Brian had feelings for someone else, and she knew that very well.

Therefore, she knew better than anyone not to fall for the man. It might be another disaster if she fell for him!

After reaching the studio, Valda Theller and her two assistants sorted out various materials related to Meeting You.

The drama was about to start filming. The director said yesterday that he hoped that she, the original comic artist, could come to the set at a fixed time every week. They could discuss the script as soon as possible if they needed to.

Although they had written the script, it could be changed at any time during filming. The film might be more authentic if she participated in the process.

Valda Theller had no objections to it. She wanted what was best for the film too. Besides, she happened to be free during this period. Her next comic was still in the plot development stage and had not been serialized.

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Once she started serializing the comic, she would not have much spare time.

While Valda Theller was sorting out the materials, her phone suddenly rang. Valda Theller pressed the answer button, and her best friend Camille Strickland’s anxious voice came from the

phone. "Valda, where are you now?"

"The studio," replied Valda Theller.

"Okay, hurry and put on a hat. Leave the studio as

inconspicuously as possible. Ask your assistants to go home too. In short, lock the studio up and don't leave anyone inside," said

Camille Strickland.

"Why? What happened?" Valda Theller asked.

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"Oh, just do what I say. I'm driving over right now. I'll tell you more later!" Camille Strickland said.

Valda Theller quickly stopped the work at hand and asked her assistants to go home first. She left after turning off the computer and locking the studio door.

However, when she got to the entrance of the building, she saw security guards blocking a group of people. These people were holding cameras. Some held video cameras, while others held microphones.

Amidst the cacophony of voices, Valda Theller was instantly dumbfounded when she heard 'Xinyue Studio' and her name.

'Are these people here for me?'

Valda Theller turned around and hurried out of the building through the side entrance. However, she heard someone calling her name from behind before she went far. Immediately, she was surrounded by a group of people.

"You're Miss Theller Xinyue, and your birth name is Valda Theller. You're the author of Meeting You. I heard that you used to be

bullied at school. Is it true?" The question made Valda Theller stiffen.

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"I heard it was because you kept bothering a boy at school and deliberately harmed the girl who approached him. In other words, you're both the victim and the bully, huh?"

"Do you intend to apologize to the people you've bullied?"

"Do you admit to these?"

The cacophony of voices and various questions exploded in Valda Theller's ears. She paled, and her limbs stiffened. It felt like she had returned to school where she was surrounded and verbally abused by the people there.

The cameras pointed at her, and lights flashed before her eyes.

She tried to hide from them but did not know how to.

Just then, Camille Strickland rushed over and grabbed her best friend's shoulder to block the cameras. "Make way. Make way.

We'll explain everything later. Make way..."

Camille Strickland shouted as she pulled Valda Theller out of the circle the reporters had formed. The building's security guards had also come over to help block the reporters. Camille Strickland took Valda Theller to a car parked outside and quickly left the scene.

Valda Theller was still in a daze. 'How did those reporters find out what had happened so many years ago?'

"Those reporters crave chaos. Don't go to the studio for the time

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being. Stay at my place first. We'll wait until this dies down in a few days," Camille Strickland said as she drove.

3/4

"Why did the reporters suddenly mention that year's incident?" Valda Theller was confused. Besides, she was not from the

entertainment industry. Even if she was the comic artist behind the adaptation, she was not famous. Normally, not many people would pay her any attention.

"Your photo with Gloria was posted online. Then, some people found out about what had happened to you at school. It somehow

went viral, and this happened... I called you as soon as I saw the viral post," said Camille Strickland.

However, she was still late.

Valda Theller smiled wryly, not expecting herself to go viral because of this.

It was unknown what else was waiting for her!

On the other hand, Brian looked at the trending post on his phone and instructed his secretary, "Have someone take down all of the trending posts related to Valda Theller and find out who's behind this."

"Yes," the secretary replied immediately. However, they thought, 'Isn't Valda Theller the comic artist of the drama adaptation that President Hart asked me to contact Gloria to star in?'"

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'Did President Hart ask Gloria to star in the film because of Valda Theller?

'If that's the case, what's President Hart's relationship with Valda Theller?'

At the same time, Raymond Bowman was looking at the trending news on his phone as well. His expression was ghastly.

The media mentioned what had happened at school but did not mention his name in the news. However, Valda's name appeared in the trending news.

'Why did they expose this? Who on earth exposed this?

'Only a small number of people bullied and called Valda names in school back then. Most of the students only looked on and had no idea what was going on.

'The person who exposed it is probably among the people who knew what was going on.

'In other words, someone's jealous of Valda's achievements and wants to destroy Valda using this method.

'Who is it? Who on earth is it?'

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Raymond Bowman filtered through the possible list of people in

his head. Just then, his phone rang, and he answered it. He heard

his best friend Chang Mingyu's voice. "Raymond Bowman, have you seen the latest video about Valda Theller online?"

“No. Why?” Raymond Bowman’s uneasiness intensified suddenly.

“There were a lot of reporters at Valda Theller’s studio. They surrounded Valda Theller to interview her,” said Chang Mingyu.

“What?” Raymond Bowman was so shocked that he almost sprang up from his chair.

“I feel sorry for Valda Theller. Why did someone expose the incident that happened years ago? Besides, I think those

reporters are all up to no good. They surrounded Valda Theller,

saying that she was also a bully!” Chang Mingyu was aware of the matter back then and knew that Valda Theller did nothing wrong.

It was all his best friend and another woman’s fault.

Raymond Bowman ended the call gloomily. He found the video Chang Mingyu mentioned on his phone. When he saw the pale Valda Theller surrounded by a group of reporters and being asked malicious questions, he felt a tightness in his chest. His heart felt a sudden pain.

After all these years, she was still affected by the incident.

was all his fault. He was the bully!

His fingers caressed the helpless figure on the screen. “Valda, I

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looked on and did nothing for you back then, but not this time.”

This time, he would protect her!

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Raymond Bowman used his connections and money to get someone to suppress the trending posts, but he was informed that someone had removed them earlier than he did.

They figured that the person who acted earlier than Raymond Bowman must have spent a lot of money to remove the posts so forcefully.

‘Who could it be? Who else would do that for Valda?’

Raymond Bowman thought of Camille Strickland but denied it

immediately. Even though Camille Strickland would want to help Valda Theller, she did not have the ability or money.

‘Could it be someone from the film crew? Valda Theller’s news

would harm the film. Understandably, the producer or the other investors would want to suppress the trending posts.

‘But would they be so quick to spend so much money to protect Valda Theller? After all, no one can spend that much money

so casually. They’d need time to weigh the pros and cons

beforehand.’

Suddenly, the man Valda Theller called her boyfriend flashed through Raymond Bowman’s mind!