

Ex Convict 3081

Chapter 3081

Valda walked over to the sofa in the living room and lovingly hugged her old pillow, then she touched her comic book.

“Are you hungry? I’ll have someone prepare dinner for you. We’ll also have someone clean and set up the new bedroom. Your

clothes and belongings from before are still here, and I’ll have someone move them to the new room,” he said, then instructed

the servants to carry out his orders.

His tenderness now seems to have an added layer of caution.

But the more he acted this way, the heavier it weighed on her mind, and she... didn’t want him to be so careful around her. It only made her more aware that she was different from before.

At that moment, Brian’s phone rang. He saw that it was Camille calling and answered the call.

I heard Camille’s urgent voice coming from my phone, “Are you currently with Valda?”

“Right,” Brian said.

“Can you let Valda take the call? I want to talk to her,” Camille said.

Brian glanced at Valda, who was still looking down, and handed her the phone. “It’s Camille’s call. She probably couldn’t reach you, so she called my phone.”

Valda suddenly realized that her phone was still at Camille’s house.

Taking the phone, she heard Camille’s urgent voice on the other end. “Valda, I’m sorry I had to tell you about your return today. But if I didn’t, I was afraid someone might get hurt.”

Camille briefly explained what happened at the restaurant and added, “You and Brian haven’t seen each other for a year. You should talk and sort things out. You can talk about anything and everything.”

"Okay, I understand," Valda said.

After the call ended, Valda handed the phone back to Brian and noticed the torn cloth wrapped around his right wrist.

It was only then that she realized that the cloth was a remnant of her clothes that they found after she was washed away by the water. Brian had kept it wrapped around his wrist for a year, treasuring it.

Today, he even got angry and lost his temper when the cloth was accidentally stained with a drink.

"What's wrong?" Brian asked, following her gaze to the bandage

wrapped around his wrist. Then he seemed to remember

something and said, "Did Camille tell you about what happened in the restaurant?"

"Uh-huh," Valda nodded. "Actually, it's just a piece of torn cloth, there's no need to..."

"Even if it's just scraps of cloth, they were left by you. It took me a lot of effort to find them, and I don't want them to be dirtied by anyone," said Brian.

Valda raised her hand with mixed feelings and slowly untied the piece of cloth wrapped around Brian's wrist under his gaze. "Don't wear it again in the future. I... have already come back."

She doesn't want this piece of torn cloth to become something that holds him back. She hopes he can move on from the past and not lose control or go crazy because of something she did.

Brian stared fixedly at Valda and murmured, "Yes, you've come back." Back to his side.

She instinctively wanted to avoid starting a conversation and to avoid his gaze. She felt that if she kept staring at him, she would fall for him again and might not be able to say what she wanted to say.

But his fingers held onto her chin, forcing her face to be directly in front of him.

Chapter 3082

"Valda, please don't avoid me. If you hate me or blame me for not protecting you, you can hit me or curse me, but please don't avoid me. Don't refuse to look at me," Brian said. Compared to his usual indifferent and cold tone, he sounded urgent and pleading.

Her eyes met his, and she pursed her lips slightly before saying, "Brian, I don't blame you, hate you, or even think about blaming you. When I chose to let Jasmine into the basket, it was my own decision, and no one forced me to do it! And the words I said to you before I was swept away by the water were all sincere, so you don't need to feel guilty about me."

A hint of pain flashed in his eyes. The last words she said to him echoed in his mind countless times over the past year. But every time he thought about it, it only added to his pain.

“Valda, you said before that I would definitely meet the person I truly fall in love with! But have you ever thought that I have actually met that person a long time ago?” he said, as his hand gently caressed her cheek. “In fact, I have already met that person, but I was unaware of it and foolishly denied it all this time.”

He took a deep breath and passionately opened his lips, “Valda, I love you. I’ve actually fallen in love with you a long time ago, and I won’t love anyone else in the future!”

Valda’s body suddenly trembled, and her round eyes widened in surprise as she looked at him.

Her shocked expression made the corners of his lips lift slightly. “What, does the fact that I love you surprise you?”

He spoke and lowered his head, his forehead touching hers. His warm breath sprayed onto her face. “Actually, I should have said this to you a long time ago. I said it too late, making you wait for this sentence, waiting for so long.”

Even just a little bit more, he would have missed the chance to say this to her.

Fortunately, God finally showed him mercy and let her survive, returning her to his side and giving him the chance to say these

words!

Valda’s body stiffened. Although this was the sentence she had always wanted to hear, at this moment, listening to it, she felt an indescribable sadness in her heart.

I never imagined that one day, when she heard these words, she would feel this way.

He never thought that when he said these words to her, one of her legs was already lame and could never be cured again.

“Brian, thank you for saying those words to me.” Even though

they were just words of sympathy and pity, at least he gave her a satisfactory ending.

Valda thought to herself, “This way, even if we separate in the future, she will have fewer regrets.”

“Valda, I...” Brian wanted to say something more, but Valda took a step back and interrupted him, saying, “I’m tired, I want to rest first.”

Brian looked at her with a sad expression, but he knew he had to respect her wishes.

Valda walked away without looking back, leaving Brian standing there alone.

He sighed and turned to leave, feeling disappointed and unsure of what to do next.

As he walked away, he couldn't help but wonder if he had lost.

Valda forever.

Brian was taken aback, feeling that her current reaction was somewhat different from what he had previously imagined.

He had thought of many possible reactions she might have, but he never imagined she would be so calm, as if what he had just

said was just an ordinary thing.

Chapter 3083

Just as she was about to turn around, Brian suddenly grabbed Valda's hand and said, "Valda, I was serious just now. I love you, really love you. Besides you, I can never love anyone else in the future."

Valda stared at the person in front of her, then looked at the hand he was holding, feeling a sour sensation in her nose.

"I know you were serious just now, so I really appreciate you for saying these words to me. It meant a lot to me and made me feel satisfied. But Brian..." She paused, trying to make her expression look normal. "You don't need to say anything about not being able to love anyone else in the future except for me. You will definitely meet a good woman in the future, and I will bless you, really."

His pupils suddenly shrank, and he looked at her in shock. After a while, he hoarsely asked, "Do you think that what I said just now...wasn't true?"

"I... want it to be real. I want to believe those words are true. So... please don't make me say things I don't want to say, okay?" Valda murmured.

Upon hearing this, Brian's heart sank.

So, she didn't actually take these as his sincere words. "Do you

think that I said these things to you because of guilt or self-blame?" he asked.

Valda remained silent.

But her expression had already given him the answer.

Brian took a deep breath and placed his hand on Valda's shoulder. He said solemnly, "Valda, listen to me carefully. I, Brian, will never

fall in love with someone out of guilt or self-blame. Moreover, I

promised you before that I will never lie to you again. There will be no more lies between us!"

She was stunned, he... loves her? Does he really love her?

But even though he spoke those words, Grace didn't feel reassured in her heart.

Her leg, and the decision she made back then... "Brian, do you really think that you're only saying these things because of guilt and self-blame?" Valda murmured, "Because I saved Jasmine, you transferred the guilt and self-blame you had towards Grace onto me, and because my leg was disabled, your guilt and self-blame became even deeper. That's why... you pity me and are willing to say that you love me."

Brian's expression was pained as he listened to Valda's words. He knew that what she said was true. He had been carrying the guilt and self-blame for so long that it had become a part of him.

"I'm sorry, Valda," Brian said, his voice filled with regret. "I never meant to hurt you. I just... I didn't know how to deal with my own feelings."

Valda looked at Brian, her eyes filled with understanding. "I know," she said softly. "But you need to let go of the past, Brian. You can't keep carrying this burden forever."

Brian nodded, his eyes filled with determination. "You're right," he said. "I need to let go of the past and move on. And I want to do it with you, Valda. Will you be by my side?"

Valda smiled, her heart filled with warmth. "Of course," she said. "I'll always be by your side."

"No, I said it's not true!" he exclaimed urgently.

"Really?" She bit her lip and clenched her teeth. "Even when I was healthy, you didn't fall in love with me. Now that I'm disabled, your claim to love me. It seems even more unreal. Brian, I know you're a responsible person, and I think you're trying to make up for something. But it's okay, everything that happened before was my own choice, and it had nothing to do with you. You don't need to feel guilty or responsible for me."

Brian suddenly felt a sense of weakness.

It seems like the person in front of him has gotten stuck in a dead end, convinced that he feels sorry for her out of sympathy and guilt. What can he do to make her understand that it's not the

"I...I want to rest, is that okay?" She said, feeling a bit uncomfortable and avoiding eye contact.

After a moment of silence, he said, "Okay, I'll take you to your

room.” He wanted to carry her, but she insisted on walking slowly by herself.

Chapter 3084

“I... just have a limp in my leg, I can still walk on my own. I... can walk by myself!” she said, not wanting to become more dependent on others.

She now needs to be more independent and strong than before.

“I know you can walk, I just want to make it easier for you,” Brian explained.

“But this kind of ease can’t last forever. No one can carry another person forever, so people must learn to be independent, especially... someone like me,” Valda said.

“Why not?” he argued. “I can carry you forever, Valda. If you don’t want to be independent, it’s okay to never be independent. I can be your support.” He said urgently.

He felt like there was a gap between them that kept growing.

And her voice echoed in his ears – “But Brian, I want to be independent. I don’t want to rely on you anymore!”

In an instant, he felt like an insurmountable chasm had opened up between them!

Brian stood at the bathroom door, feeling complicated. The sound

of running water came from inside, Valda was taking a shower.

Before today, he thought that when she reappeared in front of him. one day, he would be extremely happy and they would be happy together.

But he didn’t expect it to be like this.

He loved her, but she didn’t believe it!

He thought the biggest obstacle between them was his inability to fall in love with her, but now he knows that the biggest obstacle is

her lack of belief.

When Valda hobbled out of the bathroom with her crutches, Brian approached her and said, "I'll have the bathroom renovated to make it more convenient for you."

"No need, I... don't plan on staying here for long," Valda said. "I still want to go back to my own apartment."

Brian frowned, "Don't you want to live with me?"

Valda pursed her lips, "I still want to go back to my own apartment. That way, I'll feel more comfortable."

"Are you uncomfortable with me?" Brian asked.

She lowered her head gently and whispered softly, "We've been apart for a year, longer than we were together. I think I'll be more

comfortable alone."

His thin lips almost straightened into a line. At this moment, every word she said was like a sharp sword, cutting into his heart and causing him pain. "Then who will take care of you?" he asked.

"I don't need anyone to take care of me. I can take care of myself. I... I'm just lame, not incapable of taking care of myself!" A hint of embarrassment flashed across her face.

"I didn't mean it that way, I'm just worried that it might be inconvenient for you to live alone," he explained.

"Don't worry, I've done it before... I came to Emerald City by hitchhiking alone and stayed in a hotel for several days, and everything was fine," said Valda.

Brian suddenly froze, his dark eyes fixed on Valda. "You've been staying alone in the hotel for several days?"

Valda suddenly realized that she had let slip, and immediately bit her lip with her teeth, a look of confusion flashing across her face.

Chapter 3085

He stared at her and said, "So, you actually returned to Emerald City a long time ago, but you have been unwilling to meet me, right?"

Her teeth clenched tighter against her lips, and the anxiety on her face only made his heart ache more.

Her current appearance is as if she is clearly telling him that she is afraid of him and wants to avoid him!

But what is she afraid of? What does she need to hide from?

For these days, all he could think of was her. He was determined to find her and tried his best to search for her through his connections in cities outside of Emerald City, but strangely, he didn't search for her in Emerald City.

He never imagined that one day she would appear in Emerald City and avoid him like this, staying in a small hotel instead of meeting

him face to face.

He thought that she had just returned to Emerald City and went to see Camille first.

But unexpectedly, she returned to Emerald City much earlier than he had anticipated.

Suddenly, he felt that his desperate search and inner torment, even his love, seemed like a joke.

"Valda, if you really don't want to see me, you don't have to resort to being homeless. Just tell me and that's enough!" Brian suddenly laughed bitterly and said, "During the time you were missing, I told myself that if I ever found you, I would do anything to fulfill your wishes, no matter what they were. So... just tell me

and I'll make it happen! I promise!"

His smile made her heart suddenly ache.

She opened her mouth, wanting to say something, but didn't know what to say.

And he, only left with a sentence, "Rest well, I won't disturb you. I will instruct the servant to take care of you." After saying this, he

hurriedly left the room.

Suddenly, Valda was the only person left in this spacious.

bedroom.

She sat on the edge of the bed, looking like a deflated balloon.

Her eyelids drooped lightly, and her gaze fell on her right leg.

How can she stand by his side now, in her current state?

If before, she could shamelessly say that she would try hard to make him fall in love with her, now she can't do it no matter what.

Perhaps she and he were never meant to be in the same world. Now, they just need to return to their own worlds.

"Brian, do you know? When you said you love me today, I was really happy... so happy, so happy..." She murmured, her voice becoming more and more choked up, while tears kept streaming out of her eyes, flowing down her cheeks one after another...

The next day, when Valda woke up, there were already servants waiting outside her room.

The servant said, "Miss Theller, please feel free to give me any orders if you need anything."

Valda hesitated for a moment and asked, "Where is Brian?"

"Mr. Hart left early this morning," the servant said, while also sneakily glancing at Valda.

She has only been working here for about six months, and she has only heard that Mr. Hart is looking for a woman. This woman is Mr. Hart's girlfriend who disappeared due to an accident.

Chapter 3086

The servants talk amongst themselves about how deeply Mr. Hart loves this woman. Everything that belongs to her and remains in the villa is off-limits to others, as Mr. Hart personally cleans and maintains everything to preserve the way it was when she left.

Once, a servant stole some of this woman's clothes with the intention of selling them outside, but Mr. Hart almost beat him to

death.

And there were also servants who saw Mr. Hart in the late night, holding a woman's clothes and crying incessantly.

So, this woman became the legendary woman in the mouths of many servants.

Many people are even saying how lucky this woman is to have caught the eye of a man like Mr. Hart. They believe it's a blessing that others may never experience in their lifetime.

She was also curious about what kind of woman this woman really was.

But now that I've seen her, I'm a bit disappointed because...this woman is just too ordinary. She seems like an average woman, or even worse than many ordinary women.

Because this woman has a limp in one of her legs! She has to walk with the help of a crutch!

"I really don't know what Mr. Hart sees in this woman," the maid wondered to herself.

"Okay, I understand," said Valda, with a hint of self-mockery in her eyes.

So... Brian was really angry, right? That's why he left early in the morning and avoided her.

Valda secretly thought to herself, feeling a complex mix of emotions rising within her heart.

When Camille received a call from her friend and arrived at Brian's

villa, she was stunned when she heard what her friend said. "You...you're moving back to your own apartment?"

"Uh-huh," Valda said.

"Don't you live here anymore?"

"Yes, not staying here."

"Did you have an argument with Brian yesterday?" Camille thought and thought, and this was the only answer she could come up with. But it didn't make sense, after all, Brian had been missing Valda, and Camille had seen it firsthand over the past

year.

Now that Valda is back, Brian wouldn't dare to argue with her, let alone criticize her.

Valda bit her lip slightly and didn't answer.

Camille looks left and right, "Brian, where is he?"

"Valda said, 'He left early in the morning.'"

Camille was speechless, so they really were arguing?!

But she thought for a long time and couldn't figure out how they could have argued. It's impossible!

"What did you and Brian talk about yesterday?"

"It's nothing, really... It's just that he found out that I had actually been in Emerald City for several days now, but I just hadn't shown up in front of him," Valda lowered her head and habitually tugged at the hem of her long dress.

Camille can somewhat guess Brian's feelings. "Okay, he searched for you so hard, but you avoided him by going back to Emerald City. This is partly your responsibility. When he comes back, talk to him and say some kind words. I promise he will be fine. Trust

me.”

“Camille, I want to pack up and leave now. Can you help me move some things later?” Valda said. After all, she had many personal

items, including everyday items and work-related things, that she left in the villa when she first arrived.

Now that we are moving back to the apartment, it’s natural that we will also move these things back.

Camille was startled, “Are you really planning to move back?”

“Mhmm,” she responded.

Chapter 3087

Valda’s expression let Camille know that her friend wasn’t joking or acting impulsively, but was serious.

“Have you discussed it with Brian?” asked Camille.

Valda’s eyelashes fluttered and her eyes drooped slightly. “He said that as long as I tell him directly, it will be enough. I left a note for him in his room and also told the servants in this house to let him know when he returns.”

“But...” Camille looked very troubled.

“Camille, I really want to go back to my own apartment early. If you don’t want to help me move, then I can do it slowly by myself,” said Valda.

“I didn’t say I didn’t want to!” Camille quickly said, looking at her friend with a determined expression, but also with a hint of embarrassment and self-doubt in her eyes. Camille felt sorry for her friend.

Is Valda feeling insecure about her legs? Valda and Brian already had some insecurities when they were together, and now it seems like those insecurities have only gotten worse.

Unfortunately, this kind of inferiority complex cannot be solved

overnight. It can only be gradually overcome in the future through guidance and support.

While helping Valda move her things, Camille secretly called Brian when her friend wasn’t paying attention..

Unfortunately, the phone line was still not connected, which made

Camille feel like she wanted to vomit in frustration.

Yesterday she couldn’t get through to Valda on the phone, but.

today she can’t get through to Brian’s phone.

After almost everything was loaded onto Camille's car, she still couldn't reach Brian on the phone. She left him a message and

then drove away from his villa with her friend.

At this moment, on the other side, Brian is pulling Patrick to drink together.

Patrick looked at his friend who had already consumed two bottles of red wine with a skeptical expression. Apart from the

two months when Brian couldn't find Valda, he used to drink frequently and almost got alcohol poisoning. However, he rarely drinks now, and even when he does, it's only a small amount.

However, at this moment, Brian is drinking alcohol as if he's just pouring water.

"What happened? Did you drink so much alcohol?" Patrick couldn't help but ask. "Why don't you tell me about it? Maybe I

can give you some advice?"

"Valda is back," Brian said, leaving Patrick stunned. "What did you say? Valda is back? Have you seen Valda?"

"Yeah, I saw him," Brian said with a bitter smile, then took another sip of his drink.

"But this doesn't make sense. She's back, so why are you still dragging me here to drink alone?" Patrick said, puzzled. Normally, at a time like this, Brian and Valda should be clinging to each other, not wanting to be apart for even a second, right?

"She didn't want to see me at all. She came back several days ago, but she would rather limp around in a small hotel room alone than appear in front of me. If it weren't for Camille blurting it out. yesterday, she might have avoided me even longer!" Brian said dejectedly.

His longing and searching, in the end, seemed like a joke.

Patrick was even more surprised, "What, you're saying... Valda has a lame leg?"

Chapter 3088

In Brian's eyes, there was a hint of pain. "Her leg is lame. Yesterday, I consulted a specialist to examine her leg. They said that the treatment was delayed, and now the chances of curing it are very slim."

At this point, Brian slammed his glass heavily onto the ground, causing it to shatter into pieces of glass shards. The liquid inside the glass spilled all over the floor.

"Why, why treat her like this! Why does she have to endure such pain? Why isn't the crippled person me instead!" Brian cried out in agony, pounding heavily on the nearby wall. "Why? Why?!"

Patrick was looking at his friend's painful expression, still in a state of extreme shock.

I didn't expect Valda to have a limp.

In the past, when he learned that Valda had given up her chance of survival to save Grace's daughter and chose to be swept away by the water, he greatly admired her bravery and selflessness.

After all, how many people in this world can actually achieve something like this?

Even for people who love each other, when faced with life and

death situations, they may go their separate ways. So how much emotion could Valda have for a child she has only met a few

times?

All I can say is that Valda's decision was driven by her kindness

and her desire to do what's best for Brian.

"So, shouldn't you be staying by her side if that's the case? Have you asked her why she doesn't want to see you? I mean, she loves you, right?" Patrick asked after a while.

"I don't know," Brian said bitterly. "I told her I love her and miss her very much, but she thinks I only said those things out of pity and guilt for her. She doesn't believe me, she doesn't believe..."

Brian suddenly grabbed Patrick and asked, "What should I do to make her believe what I'm saying? Tell me, please..."

Patrick was being pulled by the collar by Brian, almost out of breath. "You...at least calm down first and let me help you think!"

"Think...yes, please help me think..." Brian murmured, then let go of his hand and slumped onto the sofa, picking up another empty glass and drinking from it.

He drank heavily, as if trying to numb the pain with alcohol.

Over the course of the year, Patrick witnessed too many of his friends in pain. He thought that finding Valda would put an end to

all of this.

I didn't expect Valda to come back now, but Brian's pain doesn't seem to have ended.

"Have you ever considered that maybe she's feeling insecure?" said Patrick.

"Inferiority complex?" Brian looked at Patrick in confusion.

"Yeah, it's insecurity," Patrick said. "Valda was originally just an orphan who lost both parents. Over the years, she has been living under the care of others. Even though she has achieved some success in drawing comics, in the end, it's just a small comic, which is a far cry from what you can do."

"I don't care about any of this at all!" Brian growled.

"You may not care, but that doesn't mean she doesn't care. As far as I know, when she's with you, your family has accepted her, but in high society, others have talked behind her back, saying she's trying to climb the social ladder and using other derogatory

words. This is just what I know, how do you know what kind of things she's heard before?"

Brian was stunned, "But she has never told me that."

"With her personality, she naturally wouldn't bother you with these messy things. Although she used to be insecure, at least she could overcome her insecurity for the sake of her feelings for you. But now..."

Chapter 3089

"Are you saying that her feelings for me are now unable to overcome that sense of inferiority?" Brian interjected.

"Valda now has a limp in one leg. Patrick analyzed that her mindset may change due to this and also due to her disappearance, which may have caused some experiences that could affect her mindset."

Brian murmured, "Is it because of insecurity?" Is it because of her insecurity that she doesn't want to believe him when he says he loves her? Is it because of her insecurity that she doesn't want to see him?

But the feeling of inferiority is completely unfamiliar to him, something he has never experienced before, yet it has always been present by her side.

How much about their past relationship does he not know?

After guessing this possibility, all that remained in his heart was more pain... pain for this foolish woman.

Camille helped Valda move all her things back to the apartment.

Fortunately, Brian often cleans the apartment himself, so there is no accumulation of dust or anything like that. Everything is

normal, and now we can skip the step of cleaning the floor.

"Would you like me to stay here with you for a few days?" said Camille.

"I don't need it," Valda said. "Camille, I know you're worried about me and want to take care of me more, but... really, I don't need it.

Even though my leg is injured, I still want to try to be as normal as possible. If you keep trying to take care of me like this, I'll only feel more uncomfortable."

"Sorry, I, I just..."

"I understand," Valda smiled slightly. "You don't need to apologize to me. Everything can be just like before! By the way, now that I'm back, I want to start working hard again and earn money to support myself. As an editor, you wouldn't want to let me go, right?"

"How could that be? I'll help you come up with a work plan so that you can gradually return to your normal work," said Camille.

"Thanks!" said Valda. "Also, over the years, I've saved up some money and I want to buy another apartment of around 90 square meters with two bedrooms and two living rooms. When it's time to look at properties, I may need you to come with me and give me some advice."

"What, you don't live in this house anymore?" Camille asked in surprise.

"This place is a bit small and only has one bedroom. I plan to have my godmother come and live with me in the future, so I want to buy a bigger place. As for this house, I will rent it out in the future and collect some rent." said Valda.

"Godmother?"

"It's the person I told you about who saved my life. She saved me when I was like a vegetable lying there for 10 months. She didn't give up on me and did everything she could to save me, which

allowed me to recover.” Valda said, deeply grateful to Lisa. “If it weren’t for her, I wouldn’t be alive. So later on, I recognized her as my godmother. She has no children and lives alone in the village. This time I came back, I wanted to settle down here first, and then bring her over to live with me.”

Chapter 3090

Camille said, “Okay, then I will definitely accompany you to look at houses and also keep an eye out for any suitable ones. When you bring your godmother to Emerald City, I must thank her for saving my best friend!”

After Camille left, Valda looked at her desk in the living room and the comic tools on it. For her, who hadn’t touched a paintbrush in a year, they had become somewhat unfamiliar.

Even though her hands were intact now after 10 months of being a vegetable, her reactions were probably much worse than before.

Even if she picked up the paintbrush again, it would be much more difficult.

For her, it wasn’t just one leg that was lame, but her whole life.

In the future, she will need to put in more effort than before!

Just as Valda was thinking, the door of the apartment suddenly opened and Brian rushed in.

“Valda, are you really planning to leave me? Is that why you moved all your things from your previous place to mine without even saying a word to me?” Brian rushed to Valda and grabbed her shoulders, questioning her.

Valda frowned slightly and smelled the strong scent of alcohol on him. “Have you been drinking?”

“Yes, I was drinking... I went out for a drink...” he said. That’s why

he didn’t answer Camille’s call. When he and Patrick came out of

the bar, he realized that his phone had somehow turned off. When he turned it back on, he saw Camille’s message.

And upon returning from his trip, all he saw was a note left by her.

“Valda... Did I leave early this morning and make you angry? Is that why you only left me a note and left?” Brian asked with a hint

of drunkenness.

"I'm not mad at you," Valda said. "Brian, as I told you yesterday, I want to come back and live alone. That way, I'll feel more comfortable."

"Do you feel uncomfortable being with me? Weren't you the one who wanted to be with me before?" He said, bending down and bringing his face close to hers.

His breath, smelling of alcohol, sprayed onto her face, and his phoenix-like eyes were filled with nothing but her.

"That was in the past, now..."

"Do you not want to be with me anymore? Is it because I'm not good enough? Or is it because you feel like you don't deserve

me?" Brian asked, his gaze falling on Valda's right leg, which was hidden by her long dress. "Is it because you think you're handicapped and that's why you don't want to be with me. anymore?"

Valda looked down, feeling ashamed and embarrassed. She knew that Brian was right. She had been avoiding him because of her own insecurities about her disability.

"I'm sorry," she said softly. "I know I've been distant lately. It's not because of you. It's because of me. I just feel like I'm not good enough for you."

Brian took her hand and looked into her eyes. "Valda, you are more than enough for me. I love you for who you are, not for what you can or can't do. Please don't push me away because of your own doubts and fears."

Valda felt a weight lifted off her shoulders as she realized that Brian truly loved her for who she was. She smiled and leaned in for a kiss, grateful for his understanding and acceptance.

Suddenly, she felt a wave of embarrassment wash over her. His words directly exposed what she was thinking in her heart.

"So, no matter how many times I say 'I love you', you don't believe me? You don't believe that I truly love you?" He looked at her again, holding her face in his hands, and said in a hoarse voice, "Valda, I love you. What do I have to say or do for you to believe me?"

"Brian, you're drunk. Is your driver downstairs? If not, I can have him come up and help you down." Valda let go of his hand, turned away, and couldn't face him.

Even though a year had passed, Grace still had no resistance towards him.

“Wait for me here, I’ll go down first...” Her voice suddenly stopped, and the rest of her words seemed to be stuck in her throat.

I saw him lower his body and kneel on one knee in front of her.

Valda widened her eyes and only saw Brian’s hand gradually lifting the right side of her long skirt.

He wants to... look at her right leg!

“No! She doesn’t want him to see her ugly right leg again!”