

Ex Convict 3411

Chapter 3411

Veronica was taken aback and finally got a good look at the boy in front of her. He was tall and had a cheerful face. Judging from his school uniform, he was probably a year older than her.

"No need, senior. I'll just go home and apply some red flower oil myself," said Veronica.

"Let's go to the medical room to have a look. It will put my mind at ease. Otherwise, if this small injury turns into a big one later on, it won't be good." The other person insisted.

Veronica hesitated for a moment, but the other person took her hand without hesitation and led her towards the medical room.

"Hmm?" Veronica was taken aback and for a moment, she couldn't quite regain her composure.

So, she followed the other person to the medical room, and the doctor there drew the curtain and examined the injury on her

shoulder.

And that boy stood outside waiting.

"It's okay, just a little bruising. Your bones are fine. Just go back and apply some medicine," said the doctor. "Do you want me to prescribe some medicine for you here?"

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"No need, I have some bruise medicine at home," said Veronica.

The boy breathed a sigh of relief, "Luckily, there's no bone injury. I was worried about it all along."

"You boys, when playing ball, also need to pay attention to your surroundings," said the school doctor.

"Yes, yes, I will definitely pay more attention next time," the boy replied repeatedly.

After a moment, Veronica and the boy walked out of the infirmary.

The boy took the initiative and said, "By the way, my name is Daniel Cross from Class 23 of the second year. What's your name and which class are you in?"

"I..." She hesitated for a moment, then said, "I'm Veronica from Class 2-1."

Daniel paused for a moment, "You're Veronica? I've heard of you."

Veronica's body tensed up. Usually, when she hears something like this, it's not good news. She's well aware of the rumors about

her that circulate around school.

At this thought, Veronica couldn't help but feel a sinking feeling in her heart and a hint of embarrassment on her face. She was about

to leave in a hurry.

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"Hmm?" Daniel quickly asked, "What's wrong? Did I say something wrong?"

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"It's nothing, just that since I've already been to the infirmary and

I'm fine, I want to go back to the classroom first," she said.

"Do you have WhatsApp? Let's add each other on WhatsApp.

We accidentally injured you while playing ball today. If you need

any help in the future, I will definitely help you," the other person

said, taking out their phone and seeming to want to exchange WhatsApp information.

"No, it's okay. I... I don't think we need to exchange WhatsApp. Thank you for bringing me to the clinic, senior. That's it," Veronica

said, lifting her foot and leaving in a hurry.

Daniel stared at Veronica's back as if he was lost in thought.

When Veronica returned to the

classroom, most of her classmates had already packed up and gone home, but Mason was sitting in his seat waiting for her.

His sitting posture is very upright, so much so that one could even use the word "standard" to describe it.

Sometimes, being too "perfect" can give off an impression of being less human. It's like how he always felt out of place in school, unable to blend in with the group like everyone else. He

seemed to live in his own world.

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If anyone could truly enter his world, it would be her.

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At that moment, Mason, who had been sitting in his seat, seemed to sense something and looked up in Veronica's direction.

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Veronica shuddered and walked up to him, saying, "Let's go home."

"Okay," he replied, packing up his backpack.

As he stood up, he also picked up her backpack.

Watching Mason carry two backpacks, Veronica forgot when he started doing this alone, as if he had been doing it since elementary school.

Although she was older than him, she should have taken care of him more, but somehow she ended up being the one taken care of.

The two of them walked to the school gate, where a car was waiting for them.

Although Mason currently lived with the Barlow family, the Reed family sent a car to pick them up and drop them off every day, and if the Barlow family needed a car, they could contact the driver directly.

The car arrived at the Barlow family's neighborhood, which is a luxurious community in Emerald City.

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The Barlow family lives in a 200 square meter house in this neighborhood.

If converted to market price, it would cost at least 30 million or more.

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These were undoubtedly given by the Reed family!

Anyone who knows the Barlow family says they've had a stroke of luck, as they were fortunate enough to adopt the second son of the Reed family who was wandering outside. Now they can live off this parasite.

Parasites... Yes, Veronica sometimes feels that the current lifestyle of the Barlow family is indeed very much like that of parasites.

Although my father claims to have a job, it's really just a business opportunity that he's able to secure thanks to his relationship with the Reed family.

It's not that the father does business, it's just that those people want to please the Reed family through the Barlow family.

And the stepmother, on the other hand, spends her days extravagantly, dressing up beautifully every day, and indulging in shopping or playing cards.

My half-

brother, who has the same father but a different mother, is the same age as Mason. However, he is still in junior high school and always likes to buy various branded items. Moreover, she

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knows that her brother likes to act like a big shot outside and spends money recklessly, often treating classmates to meals and such.

But when at home, especially when facing Mason, she would

put on

a subservient and smiling face. Despite being only 14 years old, she acted this way, sometimes even making Veronica

uncomfortable.

"What's wrong? What are you thinking about?" Mason asked as

he got off the car.

"Not much," she said. "Let's go upstairs, I still have homework to do later."

He pursed his lips and followed her.

As he grew older, he inexplicably became more and more uneasy, feeling as though the distance between him and her was gradually widening.

When the two returned home, the other family members had not yet arrived.

The hired help brought in by the Barlow family was preparing dinner, so Veronica and Mason went to Veronica's room to do their homework, as they usually did.

Just as Veronica was about to take out her homework book from her backpack, her eyebrows furrowed and she let out a small sigh.

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Because the movement involved the shoulder, I suddenly felt pain again.

Although Veronica's unusual behavior was subtle, Mason noticed it.

"What's wrong with your shoulder?" he asked.

"Nothing," she replied.

He frowned, "I don't like it when you always say 'nothing' to me," as if she was shutting him out.

"But I really..."

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Before she could finish her sentence, his hand suddenly lifted and pressed directly on her shoulder.

"Ah!" She couldn't help but cry out in pain.

"Don't move!" he said, and then his hand quickly pulled open the clothes on her shoulder. Suddenly, a red bruise on her skin appeared in his sight.

"What happened to your shoulder?" Mason asked, his handsome face showing a hint of anger.

"Just someone accidentally hit me with a ball while playing soccer, and they apologized. I went to the school clinic and it didn't hurt my bones, just a bruise," Veronica explained.

From childhood, whenever she got hurt, he would always pull apart her clothes to see where she was injured.

When she was a child, she didn't really think much of it. But as she grew up and her body started to develop, this kind of thing became particularly embarrassing for her.

"Okay, Mason, you can let go now and let me pull up my shirt," said Veronica. Even though only a small part of her shoulder was exposed, it made her feel embarrassed and flushed.

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But he didn't let go of her hand. His dark eyes fixed on the swollen spot as he asked, "Does it hurt?"

"It's okay, as long as I apply some medicine later, it will be fine,"

she said.

But in the next moment, her body suddenly stiffened because he had lowered his head and lightly licked the injured area with his tongue.

“Mason!” Veronica almost jumped up, ignoring the pain, and suddenly broke free from his hand. Her face was red as she stared

at him and said, “How could you do this?”

“Is there anything wrong?” he asked calmly, as if what he had just done was completely normal.

“You...you can’t do this!” she said with a red face.

“But in the past, wasn’t it always like this? You told me that if I licked it, it wouldn’t hurt as much,” he said.

Veronica was speechless. But that was when they were kids. Back then, they were all very young, just in the first or second grade of elementary school. But now, they are all high school students.

“That...afterwards, you can’t make such moves towards me again,” Veronica said as she pulled up her shirt to cover her shoulders.

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He approached her, casting a shadow over her.

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Although she is two years older than him, in this past year, he has grown like a weed and shot up in height. Now, even though he is only 14 years old, he is already over 170cm tall, which is a full 10cm taller than her 160cm height. As a result, his approach also gives her a sense of pressure.

“Why can’t I?” he asked.

“Because... we have all grown up now,” she said. “There are differences between boys and girls. I am a girl and you are a boy, so you cannot pull my clothes like this in the future, and you definitely cannot lick my wounds.”

His beautiful eyes were fixed on her as he said, “But for me, there

has never been any difference between men and women. To me, you are like an elder sister, regardless of whether you are a man or a woman. You are the most important person to me.”

She bit her lip slightly and said, “Since...since you think I’m the most important person to you, then you should respect me. In any case, you can’t do this again in the future.”

His thin lips were tightly pressed together, and he didn’t say a word. He just kept staring at her with those beautiful eyes.

Chapter 3414

In the air, there is a tense atmosphere permeating.

Veronica looked down and took out her homework book from her backpack, ready to start doing her homework, when Mason’s voice suddenly spoke up, “So, you don’t want me anymore?”

Veronica’s pen shook abruptly and drew a heavy line on her notebook. “What are you talking about?” she said, looking up.

Just as his face came into her view, her heart couldn’t help but tremble.

At this moment, Mason’s face still lacks expression, but his black eyes carry a hint of fear and worry. The way he looks at her is cautious and careful.

Suddenly, Veronica felt a sharp pain in her heart.

He looks like a child who is deeply afraid of being abandoned.

She was reminded of him when he first arrived at the Barlow

family. At that time, he seemed to be accustomed to being abandoned and indifferent to everything, just curling up alone in a corner.

It was her who took the initiative to hold his hand, and finally

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managed to get him to open up to her.

Once, before he became the second young master of the Reed family, she had already made a promise to herself to protect

her little brother and be good to him for the rest of her life. She wouldn’t let anyone bully him!

2/4

"I never said I don't want you. I'm your older sister, how could I not want you?" said Veronica.

The tension and unease in Mason's gaze faded slightly.

"Why don't you let me take a look at your injury and help relieve your pain? I don't mean any disrespect towards you. You are the most important person to me, how could I not show you respect?"

he said.

Veronica realized that there were some things that she and him couldn't quite communicate about, so she tried to find another way to explain. "Um, you know how when boys and girls grow up, there are some things that they can't do together like they did when they were little? Like when babies take baths together, it doesn't matter if they're boys or girls, but when they get older, they don't take baths together anymore. It's kind of like that. Do you understand?"

She looked at him hopefully, wishing he could understand her meaning.

"So, I just opened your clothes and looked at the injury on your

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shoulder, because as you grow up, it might make you feel uncomfortable, right?" he asked her, staring at her.

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"Yes, it's just uncomfortable," she quickly nodded and said, "Because as we grow up, our body structure changes, so... we still need to be careful about some things."

"Okay, I understand," he responded.

She immediately breathed a sigh of relief. He finally understood, so maybe he will be more careful in their future interactions.

But then, his voice sounded again, "I'll go get you some red flower oil. You need to apply some medicine on your shoulder so that the injury can heal faster."

She was stunned for a moment and before she could react, he had already left the room. After a while, he came back with a

bottle of red flower oil in his hand.

"I can apply it myself," she said, reaching out to take the red flower oil from his hand.

He said, "It's inconvenient for you to clean that spot yourself, let me do it for you."

She paused for a moment, didn't he just say he understood a moment ago? How did things change so quickly...

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But then she froze as he took a scarf directly from her wardrobe, rolled it up, and blindfolded her with it, tying a knot. "This way, you won't feel uncomfortable," he said.

Veronica felt like the remaining words were stuck in her throat, and she didn't know what to say for a moment.

But I guess this can be considered as some progress for him.

Some things can't be resolved all at once, they need to be tackled step by step...

After applying some medicated oil on Veronica's shoulder, Mason suddenly hugged her.

"What's wrong?" His sudden hug caught her off guard.

"Anyway, no matter how old we grow in the future, please don't ever abandon me," he whispered.

Veronica couldn't help but smile and raised her hand to embrace him, saying, "How could that be? I am your sister, no matter how

old we get, I will never abandon you."

"Sister...?"

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His eyelashes trembled slightly, but there was no blood relationship between them!

How long can we hold on without any blood relation?

The next day at school, Veronica ran into Daniel again.

She hesitated for a moment, "You..."

"Here, take this!" said Daniel as he reached into his pocket and pulled out a tube of ointment, then handed it directly to her.

She looked at the other person with some surprise and asked, "What's this?"

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"This ointment is quite effective in treating bruises. You can try it," said Daniel. "Also, I said yesterday that I knew you because I heard that you had once bravely saved a child who fell into the water. Girls like you who dare to jump into the river to save others are rare!"

Veronica was stunned, obviously not expecting that what Daniel had heard was about her.

"Anyway, I'm sorry about yesterday. I hope this ointment will help with your injury!" After saying that, Daniel waved and left.

Veronica held the ointment and looked at Daniel's back as he left, lost in thought.

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Until a voice sounded in her ear, "What are you looking at?"

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Veronica snapped out of her thoughts and said, "Nothing. What did the teacher ask you to do just now?" She looked at Mason standing next to her.

"He asked if I could participate in the class activities for our school's anniversary," said Mason.

"How did you respond?" she asked.

"I'll participate in whatever activities your class participates in," he said.

His response didn't surprise her. It had always been like this since they were young. It seemed like he was just revolving around her.

When she was a child and went to school, he would wait for her at the school gate every day, crouching and watching for her to finish school.

Later, he wanted to go to school with her, so he skipped a grade to study together.

Any activity in school or outside tutoring, he would follow

whatever she does. If she doesn't do it, he won't do it alone.

But people are individuals, and is it really good for him to follow her pace like this?

Although Mason is happy that her father still likes to stick to her

like he did when she was a child, she is also secretly pleased. He always reminds her to hold onto him tightly, because whether the Barlow family will have a good or bad future depends on how long Mason can stay in the Barlow family.

But she hopes that Mason can become more independent, which would be better for him, right?

"You can still participate in the event even if I don't join," she said.

"Why should I participate in an event that you're not attending?" he asked, seeming strangely puzzled.

Chapter 3417

"Veronica, there's another guest here. Hurry up and attend to them!" a classmate shouted.

Veronica saw several boys enter the room, laughing and joking around, and among them was Daniel.

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Daniel saw Veronica and greeted her with a smile, "Hello, nice to see you again. Is your shoulder injury feeling better?"

"It's all good now. Here's the menu. What would you like to eat?" Veronica offered the menu proactively.

A few boys ordered a few bottles of drinks, and Veronica turned around to get the drinks.

One of the boys said, "Hey Daniel, you always used to stare at this classroom before. I wonder what's so interesting about this place that serves only snacks and drinks for afternoon tea."

"What's interesting is not just any afternoon tea, but when our waitress, who happens to be a younger female student, asked Mr.

Cross how his shoulder was as soon as he walked in and we heard it."

Daniel said, "It was from the last time we played ball when your

ball hit her shoulder.”

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“Oh, so it was this junior sister!” someone recalled. “Back then, you accompanied this junior sister to the school clinic, didn’t you?”

“Could it be that you’ve developed feelings while keeping them company?” teased the others.

Daniel gave a slight smile, but did not deny it.

After a moment, Veronica brought drinks and placed them on

the table. She was about to leave when suddenly one of the guys said, “Hey, underclassman, wait a minute. Mr. Cross has

something to say to you.”

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Veronica paused, stopped walking, and turned to look at Daniel.

“No, I didn’t...” Daniel was about to say, but his friend interrupted, “Mr. Cross here wants to ask the junior sister when her shift ends so they can hang out together during the school anniversary.”

“Yeah, when we came here earlier, we saw some classes setting up haunted houses. Later, you can go check them out!”

“By the way, Mr. Cross is brave. You don’t have to be afraid to enter the haunted house with him. He will protect you, little sister!”

Daniel’s face turned slightly red, he stood up and said to Veronica, “Don’t listen to them, but... if you’re free later, do you want to go for a walk together?”

Chapter 3416

“Because some activities that I may enjoy, you may not necessarily enjoy, and some activities that you may enjoy, I may not necessarily enjoy. In this case, we can choose activities that we each like instead of forcing ourselves to participate in activities that one of us likes but the other doesn’t,” she said.

“But if it’s something you like, then I’ll definitely like it too,” he said.

“How is that possible? You can’t possibly like everything I like,” she retorted.

“It’s possible,” he said confidently. “If you like it, then I’ll like it too.”

She bit her lip and didn’t say anything for a moment.

“What’s wrong? Are you upset?” he asked.

She took a deep breath. "Mason, you should have your own likes and dislikes, instead of just liking what I like."

"But I like you, and whatever you like, I'll like too," he said.

She froze, looking at him with a dazed expression. In that moment, she felt that something had become deeply ingrained in his mind and couldn't be shaken.

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"Oh, by the way, what's this?" he suddenly noticed the ointment in her hand.

She instinctively tightened her grip on the ointment.

"It's...something someone else gave me."

"Someone else gave this to you? Let me see," he said, taking the ointment from her hand and carefully examining the label. After a moment, he asked, "They gave this to you to apply on the injury on your shoulder?"

She nodded.

"Who gave it to you?" he asked.

"A kind senior." She said, "Okay, give me the ointment now."

As she spoke, she planned to take the ointment back from his hand.

www.

He had no intention of giving it to her, instead he walked over to the nearby trash can and threw the ointment away.

"Mason!" Veronica looked shocked. She never expected him to throw away the ointment like that. "What are you doing?"

"This ointment is not necessary for you. If you feel that the effectiveness of the red flower oil at home is not sufficient, I can help you find other more useful ointments," he said.

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“No matter if I need this ointment or not, it’s still someone’s kindness. You can’t just throw it away like that!” she said.

“I don’t want you to use things given by other seniors,” he said, with a tone of clear displeasure.

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“Even if you don’t want me to use it, you can’t throw it away,” she said.

“If you’re not going to use it, why keep it?” he asked in return.

She glared at him. “Anyway, you can’t do this kind of thing again in the future.”

He didn’t answer, clearly unwilling to agree.

The two of them stared at each other until another classmate called out to Veronica, and she walked over to the classmate.

As Mason watched Veronica’s back, his eyes gradually darkened.

In the following days, Mason applied medicine to Veronica’s shoulder every day, and each time, he would cover his eyes with a scarf.

Veronica could only let Mason apply the medicine.

Then, it was time for the school’s anniversary celebration. Each class would have a performance for the celebration, and Veronica’s class was doing Alice’s Tea House.

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The classmates have decorated the classroom to look like a small tea room, with tablecloths on the tables and menus displayed.

The menu consists of some snacks and desserts that students love to drink. In the class, students take turns being the waiters, carrying plates and serving guests.

Veronica is also a waitress, while Mason stands at the door as a sign.

After all, Mason's appearance is already a living advertisement, and coupled with his background and family status, he has become a celebrity in the school. So when he stood at the entrance of the classroom, he attracted many people to come in.

Chapter 3418

"Love?" Mason's eyes narrowed slightly, and the hostility emanating from him became even more apparent.

"Yeah, we're interested in your sister, Daniel," the guy next to Daniel joked, nudging him with his elbow and winking suggestively.

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Daniel looked at Mason and said, "Are you Veronica's brother? Hi, my name is Daniel, and I..."

Daniel hadn't finished speaking when Mason interrupted angrily, "She won't date you, so you better give up on her."

Daniel frowned, while his friend couldn't help but say, "Hey, little brother, what do you mean by that? As a younger brother, do you still want to hinder your sister from dating...?"

However, a "bang" sound of a punch immediately silenced the voice.

The speaking boy no longer punched Mason to the ground, and there was a sound of exclamation around.

Upon seeing this, Daniel took a quick step forward and said to Mason, "How could you just hit someone like that?"

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Mason simply said with cold eyes, "Because he said something! didn't want to hear."

"So you can't hit people either!"

"Hit me, so what?"

The boy who was knocked down by Mason is now groaning and holding his stomach, unable to stand up. This shows how powerful Mason's punch was.

A group of men on Daniel's side were clearly angered by Mason's attitude and immediately threw punches at him, causing chaos on the scene.

Daniel initially thought about intervening and trying to stop the fight. He considered that since he had more people on his side and his friends were skilled, he was afraid they might hurt Mason too badly.

However, it was unexpected that Mason alone was able to beat up Daniel's friends so badly that they couldn't fight back. In the end, even Daniel himself was knocked down by Mason.

When Mason's fist landed on him, he realized that he had underestimated this younger student. The way he attacked was at a professional level.

Just as Mason's fist was about to hit Daniel again, Veronica suddenly rushed over and stood directly in front of Daniel to block

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the blow.

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Mason's fist abruptly halted just before it was about to collide with Veronica's, and his dark eyes remained fixed on her.

Veronica gasped for breath and glared at Mason. "Mason, please stop hitting him!"

Mason pursed his thin lips and asked, "Are you protecting him?"

His tone was calm, but there was an indescribable sense of danger in it.

The surroundings were quiet, except for the cries of the few people lying on the ground. No one dared to speak up.

Veronica said, "You shouldn't hit people!"

The two of them locked eyes, and there was a tense feeling in the air. Suddenly, Mason lifted his hand and pulled Veronica towards

the classroom door.

“Hey, Mason, let go... let go!” Veronica shouted, but Mason didn’t loosen his grip.

Veronica stumbled along with Mason out of the classroom.

It wasn’t until the two of them were far away that someone finally spoke up in the classroom.

“Wow, Mason seemed really angry just now!”

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“I’ve never seen Mason get mad at Veronica before!”

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“Don’t you think there’s something strange between them? They don’t seem like siblings at all. If you didn’t know, you’d think Mason was her boyfriend!”

“Didn’t they say that Veronica’s family climbed up the ranks

thanks to Mason and the Reed family? Who knows what they’re really doing behind the scenes, pretending to be siblings.”

Some hurtful words kept coming out of people’s mouths.

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Daniel couldn’t help but furrow his brow.

At that moment, a teacher heard about the fight and rushed over. Upon seeing some people lying on the ground, the teacher immediately approached and asked, “What’s going on? Are you guys okay?”

Daniel gave a bitter smile, “There might be something important.”

“Who did it?” the teacher asked.

“It’s Mason!” a classmate exclaimed.

The teacher was taken aback, and his face immediately turned pale. His gaze towards Daniel and his group was filled with worry.

After all, that is the second son of the Reed family! Getting into a conflict and even fighting with someone, if the Reed family were to retaliate against these students because of this...

It’s easy to imagine the consequences that these students, and even their families, will face.

After seeing the teacher's expression, Daniel suddenly remembered something. Oh right, the boy who fought with them is named Mason.

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The surname Reed...

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He had heard before that the second son of the Reed family was studying in their school as a sophomore.

The Reed family refers to the first wealthy and influential family in Emerald City.

At that time, when he heard this gossip, he didn't think much of it.

After all, even if he was a rich young master, he had no connection with him.

After all, he never intended to curry favor with anyone!

He just didn't expect that the other person turned out to be Veronica's "little brother", and they even had a fight today.

When he thought of the Reed family, Daniel's heart sank.

Veronica was dragged by Jasper to a secluded spot in the school.

"Where are you taking me?" Veronica asked, feeling the pain in her wrist from his grip. "Mason, stop and let's talk!"

His footsteps finally stopped, and he turned to look at her.

She breathed a sigh of relief and said, "Can you please let go of my hand? You're hurting me!"

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He hesitated for a moment, then lowered his head and loosened his grip on her hand. He saw the red marks on her wrist, which he had caused.

"I'm sorry," he murmured, carefully lifting his hand and gently touching the red marks on her wrist.

Veronica said, "You should be apologizing to the people you hit earlier, not me!"

This statement caused his expression to suddenly change. "Do you think it was my fault?" he asked.

"It was your fault. You can't just hit people for no reason," she replied.

"But I didn't like them talking about you dating that guy," he said, his voice sounding muffled and clearly unhappy.

"They were just joking around. It doesn't mean anything," she said.

"What if they weren't joking? What if that guy really wants to date you? Would you agree?" he asked.

"Hmm?" Veronica paused for a moment, she hadn't really thought about this question before.

It seems that from childhood to adulthood, no boy has ever pursued her. During her time in elementary and middle school, he almost completely occupied her time.

Actually, she has thought about what kind of boyfriend she would

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After all, she also reads some novels and watches girl anime, and feels curious and excited about the prince charming who will appear in her life in the future.

But her silence made his brows furrow, and he moved closer to her. "So, do you like that guy?"

Veronica instinctively wanted to step back. Although he was two years younger than her, he was already half a head taller. His sudden approach made her feel inexplicably oppressed.

Her footsteps only took a step back, but his hand had already wrapped around her waist, preventing her from moving back.

"Do you like that person?" he continued to ask, his forehead almost touching hers.

"No matter whether I like that boy or not, you have no right to hit him," she said.

"But I don't like it when you like someone else," he said. The mere thought of her liking someone else made him feel incredibly uncomfortable, as if something was stuck in his chest, making it hard for him to breathe.

Veronica took a deep breath and said, "Mason, even if I fall in love

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with someone else, you will always be my family, my beloved brother. That will never change.”

She thought he was afraid that she would fall in love with someone else and ignore him, so that’s why they fought and she said this.

Her explanation didn’t ease his mind, instead it made him feel even worse.

“Will you fall in love with someone else?” he asked her, staring intently.

In her heart, a sudden unease arose, feeling as though her answer would determine something important.

“I... I will also... um, have a boyfriend in the future, and then get married and have children, and form a family. But... as I said before, no matter what, you are still my family. My feelings for you will not diminish because of this. Mason, you are very important to me!” Veronica said, her lips seeming very dry as she spoke.

His gaze dimmed as if covered by something, “I am important to you, but do you have to fall in love with someone else?”

She paused for a moment, then said, “This...this isn’t a contradiction or conflict. People...people have many different types of emotions. There’s familial love, friendship, and...romantic love. The familial love between us won’t change. Since you came to my house, I’ve already treated you like my own younger

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brother.”

3/3

“Younger brother?”

Before, he never felt anything was wrong when he heard the word “brother”, but now, hearing it from her mouth, it sounded

extremely unpleasant.

“What if I don’t want you to like someone else?” he asked. “Sister A, can you not like someone else? Just like me is enough.”

“This is a different kind of liking, it doesn’t conflict!” she said. “Besides, in the future, the person I like will definitely also like you. Is it not good to have one more person liking you?”

“Not good!” he said almost without thinking.

He doesn’t want her to like anyone else, nor does he want her to date or marry someone else in the future and start a family.

It feels like if that happens, she won’t belong to him exclusively anymore.

In the end, Veronica and Mason’s conversation came to a close without any resolution.