

Ex Convict 3491

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"How did you find your way here?" Veronica asked.

After hesitating for a moment, Mason said, "I just stumbled upon some clues and decided to follow them. I'm sure it won't be long before my people and the police arrive here."

He didn't tell her that he had installed a tracking device in her necklace, it was an instinct that made him avoid telling her the truth.

"Really?" Veronica murmured. Perhaps due to her previously high-strung nerves, she now felt completely exhausted. "I

don't even know how Lionel is doing."

"He's okay now. When I went into the warehouse earlier, I fought the person who was guarding him. He only got a few hits and wasn't seriously injured," said Mason.

"Is he really involved in this kidnapping?" When she and Jasper woke up earlier, the person guarding them said that it was planned by his own brother Lionel.

And at that time, it was indeed Lionel who led them to the private room and even caused them to faint!

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"Everything will be thoroughly investigated by the police," said Mason. "Veronica, I'm glad you're okay."

"But Jasper, she doesn't know how she is now," Veronica said anxiously.

"Jasper should be fine. I ran into her on my way here. She will find a safe place and wait for the Reed family and the police to arrive."

"Is that so? That's good then."

Veronica finally feels a bit relieved at the moment.

He carried her on his back, taking each step steadily. She realized that the boy she used to protect had grown broad

shoulders, and being carried by him felt so secure.

When the two arrived at the foot of the mountain, Veronica

only saw several cars parked not far away, including police cars. Some police officers rushed towards them upon seeing

them.

Are they safe now?

Veronica thought this and at that moment, her body

completely relaxed as if she couldn't hold on any longer, and

she fainted.

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Veronica felt like she had just woken up from a very long

dream. In the dream, she was constantly running in a dark and endless space.

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She didn't know where she was running to or where the finish

line was.

She just kept running, wanting to escape the constant sound of footsteps behind her.

But then, her feet seemed to trip on something and she fell hard to the ground, with someone pinning her down.

A feeling of fear spread through her body.

"No...no..." she shouted desperately, trying to push the person off of her.

Suddenly, her hands were grabbed and a voice whispered in her ear – "Veronica...Veronica..."

"Ahh!" Veronica suddenly opened her eyes to a bright room and a familiar face.

It was...Mason!

She stared at him in shock before realizing that she had just had a nightmare.

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"Veronica, did you have a terrible dream?" Mason asked, tightly holding her hand.

Veronica took a deep breath and said, "I had a dream... I was so scared that I kept running."

"Don't be afraid," he said, lifting his hand to gently wipe away the tears that had welled up in the corners of her eyes.

"Everything is okay now."

"So... what about the kidnappers?" she asked urgently.

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"The kidnappers have all been caught," she said.

"What about Lionel?"

"Mason said, 'He is currently being detained at this police station.'"

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Veronica pursed her lips tightly. Although she knew that Lionel was involved in this matter, even if he was not the mastermind, she couldn't ignore the fact that he was her own brother.

Even though she usually can't stand Lionel and doesn't have any affection for her stepmother, she still doesn't want Lionel to actually commit any serious crimes.

"Don't worry, the police will investigate everything thoroughly," said Mason.

"Okay." Veronica nodded and then looked around the room. "Is this a hospital?"

"Yes, the doctor examined you. Although you have some bruises, they're not serious. You'll stay in the hospital overnight for observation. If everything is okay, you can be discharged

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tomorrow," he said.

"What about Jasper? How is she? Is she also in the hospital now?" she asked again.

"She's in the next ward," Mason said.

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"I want to go see her," Veronica said. She needed to see her with her own eyes to feel at ease.

"It's nighttime now. Maybe she's already asleep. You can go see her tomorrow morning. Besides, she has fewer injuries than you. What could happen?" Mason said.

Veronica then noticed that it was already pitch black outside the window!

"You must be hungry. I'll have someone bring you the prepared porridge," he said and then pressed the bedside

intercom.

After a moment, someone brought over hot porridge and small dishes.

Eight small dishes, paired with the porridge, were refreshing and appetizing.

"The doctor said that if you wake up, it's best to have some light porridge first," he said, carefully helping her up from the

Chapter 3492 hospital bed.

Veronica was about to get out of bed, but the next moment, Mason had already picked her up horizontally.

"Ah!" she exclaimed, "I can walk by myself."

He simply picked her up and placed her on the chair by the table.

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The person holding the porridge left the ward, leaving only Mason and Veronica inside.

He carefully scooped up some porridge and gently blew on it to cool it down before offering it to her lips.

She was a bit dazed until his voice echoed in her ear, "What's wrong, Veronica doesn't like to eat this?" Only then did she come to her senses.

“No.” She quickly replied, opened her mouth, and took a spoonful of porridge. “I can manage on my own.”

“Veronica, your hand seems to be injured, so let me feed your instead,” he said.

“So, your hand...” Her gaze fell on his fair hands.

At this moment, his hands are very clean, which is completely

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different from his bloody hands when he was beating the bandits earlier.

At first, his hands were pulling and suppressing her, making

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her feel unable to resist. But it was also these hands that knocked down the kidnappers and saved her from their grasp.

“What are you looking at my hand for?” Mason asked.

“Are your hands okay? Did they get hurt?” she asked with concern.

“No,” he said. “Is Veronica worried about me getting hurt?”

She nodded.

A smile immediately appeared on his face, innocent and pure like a child.

As she looked at his smiling face, she couldn’t help but freeze. His smile and the way he looked at her made her feel like she was the most precious treasure in the world.

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In the neighboring ward, Jasper is looking at William who stayed in her room. She blinks and says, “I’ve already told you, I’m fine. I can manage on my own at night. You don’t have to stay with me. If anything happens, I can just ring for the nurse.”

“I promised your parents that I would stay here tonight.” said William.

After learning about his kidnapping, the feeling of fear still lingers in her body.

After learning about his accident, he immediately spent over three months traveling to Emerald City. When he finally saw her appear in front of him, he couldn't control himself and rushed over to tightly embrace her.

It seems that only when she is in his arms, he can feel alive again.

"But..." At this moment, a hint of hesitation appeared on Jasper's face.

"What's wrong? Does my staying here with you make you uncomfortable?" William asked.

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Jasper bit his lip slightly and said, "After all, we are of different genders. It might be a bit inconvenient to stay in the same room all night."

As she grows older, she naturally begins to develop a sense of gender differences between men and women.

William raised an eyebrow and looked at Jasper, his gaze making Jasper increasingly uncomfortable. "Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Just thinking, didn't you used to not care about gender differences? Didn't you used to always drag me to your room and even make me sleep with you?" William said.

Jasper's face suddenly turned red, "That...that was years ago, now..."

"What about now?" He leaned in slightly, his face close to hers.

Her face became even redder. Even though she and him were very

familiar with each other, and had been close before, his closeness now made her feel her heart racing.

She "what about now" for a while, but couldn't say the rest of her words.

He helped her continue, "Now that we've grown up?"

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Grown up? She was stunned for a moment, and suddenly her expression became a little sad, "Does growing up mean we can't be like before?"

"There's nothing we can't do, as long as you want to, we can always be like before," William said.

"Really?" Her eyes lit up.

"Yes," he said, "So, Jasper, we've grown up, if there's anything you feel we need to avoid, I can do it according to what you

say. But at the same time, if you want, we can also be like before."

Even more intimate!

He didn't say the last half of the sentence out loud.

"That... that tonight..." she hinted with a meaning.

"Tonight, I promised your parents to keep them company through the night, so I can't go back. But if there's anything you're not used to, just let me know and I'll avoid it," he said.

She muttered, "Actually... I just feel a bit embarrassed if you see me sleeping. What if I drool in my sleep?"

He chuckled, surprised that it was because of this, "You used

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"At that time, I was still young!" she defended.

"Even if I see it, so what? I'll just think it's really cute!" he said.

"Do you really think my drooling while sleeping is cute?" she asked in confusion.

"Mmm, very cute." It was even cute enough to make him want to have her earlier!

Jasper's face blushed again, for some reason she always seemed to blush in front of him tonight.

"Are you going back to Deer Capital tomorrow?" She changed the subject and asked.

"My school gave me a few days off, so I'll be here in Emerald City for a few days, at least to figure out what happened with this kidnapping case." William said, raising his hand and gently stroking the wound on Jasper's wrist.

Her fair skin had many abrasions, which were caused by the kidnappers tying her hands with ropes and her struggling to

break free.

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Although the wounds had been treated with medicine, they still needed to scab over, which would take several more days.

"It's a good thing nothing serious happened this time. Be more careful in the future, even with familiar people, don't let your guard down." William reminded her.

"I know!" She replied. This incident was a lesson for her.

"Does your injury still hurt?" He asked.

"It doesn't hurt much anymore. My injuries are much

lighter than Veronica's, and she almost got caught by those kidnappers..." Thinking of this, Jasper's body trembled.

After she was rescued, she learned from her parents that Veronica had distracted the kidnappers and was caught by them, almost being raped. Fortunately, Mason appeared and saved Veronica from harm.

"Don't be afraid, everything is okay now." He quickly raised his hand and gently stroked her back to comfort her, as he watched her trembling body.

Jasper suddenly reached out and hugged William, burying his face in William's arms.

"What's wrong?" he asked, instinctively embracing her with both arms. "Are you that scared? After this, the Reed family

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will probably assign more people to protect you."

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"When Veronica told me to hide and distract the kidnappers.

herself, I was really scared. I was afraid that something bad would happen to Veronica while I desperately ran down the

mountain to find help and save her. I was afraid that Veronica would end up like Lawrence's parents."

Jasper's voice began to choke up.

When she uttered the name "Lawrence," William's body tensed

Even after so many years have passed, Grace still hasn't forgotten Lawrence.

Once, he thought that with the passage of time, Lawrence would gradually fade away in her heart.

But now it seems that not only has it not been forgotten, but it has become even more profound.

The matter of Lawrence and the Abbott family is like a perpetual pain in her heart. Perhaps only finding Lawrence in

the future can relieve her pain.

But...if we really do find Lawrence...

When this possibility crossed his mind, he suddenly felt afraid.

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Once they find Lawrence, will their relationship remain the same as it is now? Will she belong to him in the future? Or if

Lawrence reappears, will he lose her?

At this moment, he suddenly held her tighter in his arms.

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"William?" she couldn't help but shout. His embrace was too tight, making it hard for her to breathe and causing her bones to ache a little.

"Ah!" He suddenly snapped out of it and quickly withdrew his arm, saying "Sorry!"

"What's wrong with you? You look really pale," she stared at his pale cheeks, then raised her hand and wiped away the thin layer of sweat on his forehead.

Although she was the one who was originally afraid, it seems like he has become the fearful one now.

"Not much, I guess I'm just a bit tired from rushing to Emerald City today," he said.

"Well then, you should rest early. Come on, go to sleep now!" she said.

This was a VIP ward, and even the bed for the night attendant was quite spacious.

Jasper took the initiative to pull William to the bed where the night attendant would sleep, and pushed him onto the bed.

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“Alright, you sleep!”

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William was a bit speechless. “Jasper, you’re the patient!”

“I didn’t get hurt that badly! You sleep first, and when you fall asleep, I’ll go to sleep!” she said.

Looking at her determined eyes, he had no choice but to lie down on the bed.

“Okay, close your eyes and go to sleep,” she said, humming the tune of a lullaby softly.

The gentle melody relaxed his mind.

“Jasper, don’t you still need to find Lawrence?” William suddenly said out of the blue.

Jasper’s body stiffened for a moment, then she lowered her eyelids gently and said, “Um, I... have to find him.” Regardless of whether he is alive or dead, or what he has become, she

wants to find Lawrence and apologize to him!

Even though many people have told her that Lawrence is likely no longer alive and even if he were found, it wouldn’t make much difference, there’s no need to keep worrying about it.

However, this kind of concern has unconsciously become a habit for her.

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“Okay, I will continue to help you search until we find it!”

William said, closing his eyes as if he had fallen asleep.

Jasper’s nose feels a bit sour, and it seems like William always understands her the most. It’s really nice to be able to know William and become friends like this!

If the Abbott family hadn’t had an accident and Lawrence hadn’t gone missing, then Lawrence would have definitely become very good friends with William!

“William, thank you,” Jasper murmured softly. After a while, he returned to his own bed, lay down again, and closed his eyes.

In the hospital room, it became quiet and still. After some time, William, who was lying on the accompanying bed, slowly opened his eyes and turned his head to look at Jasper on the other bed not far away.

He will help her find Lawrence.

Because he knew that Lawrence had become a thorn in her heart, he believed that only by truly finding Lawrence could he

remove this thorn.

Otherwise, her heart will always be thinking of Lawrence!

Even though he's afraid that if Lawrence is still alive and

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appears in front of her, her thoughts of him will turn into romantic feelings, he still wants to take a chance. He wants to bet that he is more important to her than Lawrence, that his years of love for her are much deeper than Lawrence's love for her in less than a year.

He bets that she will fall in love with him in the future!

Therefore, he will help her fulfill this wish and help her find

Lawrence!

The next day, Jasper took the initiative to visit Veronica's hospital room and asked about her condition.

Actually, Mason had also been in Veronica's hospital room yesterday, but she hadn't woken up yet.

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"I'm sorry for dragging you into this," Veronica said.

"It's okay. We were both kidnapped together. If it was just one of us, it would have been even scarier," Jasper said. "But I was useless and you had to protect me and distract the kidnappers. They were after you..."

"It's nothing, luckily Mason arrived in time," said Veronica.

"Yeah, luckily I met Mason!" Mason stuck out his tongue and said, "By the way, are you and I, Mason, okay now?"

Veronica nodded.

Jasper smiled, "In that case, Mason won't be in a bad mood all the time, but... does that mean he's going to stay at your

house?"

Although Mason and Veronica have made up and she is happy about it, she feels a sense of loss in her heart when she thinks about Mason leaving the Reed family to live with the Barlow family.

Veronica was taken aback, she hadn't thought about this question before.

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However, in the end, when she was discharged, Veronica did not return to the Barlow family. Instead, she stayed with the Reed family.

According to Grace, Veronica is the only one who has experienced this kind of thing, and since the case is still unsolved, it's possible that there are still kidnappers out there who haven't been caught.

If the kidnappers seek revenge against Veronica, she will be safer staying with the Reed family.

And Veronica has just been discharged from the hospital, and there are members of the Reed family who can take care of her.

On the Reed family's side, Veronica's room has already been arranged right next to Mason's room. The bedding and other essentials in the room are also brand new.

Looking at this bedroom, Veronica couldn't help but admire the efficiency of the Reed family. From her kidnapping to hospitalization, it only took them a day to set up such a bedroom.

"If there's anything else that needs to be replaced, just let me know," said Grace.

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"I don't need anything else, this is good enough," said Veronica.

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"Then you rest here for a while. If you need anything, I'll have Mason go to the Barlow family and bring it over for you later," Grace added.

"No need, I can go back by myself." Veronica quickly said, "Actually, my injury is not that serious and it doesn't affect my ability to walk. Besides... um, there are some things that are not convenient for Mason to help me carry."

For example... your own underwear!

At this point, Veronica's face blushed slightly.

Grace seemed to have realized something and smiled, saying,

"Okay, let Mason accompany you to get it."

However, it was said that Mason accompanied Veronica to the Barlow family to pick up some of her usual items, but in reality, they were also accompanied by the bodyguard of the Reed family.

When the two returned to the Barlow family's home, there was

no one there. Veronica took some of her personal belongings. and replacement clothes, which were only some close-fitting

clothes. She put them in a drawer under the wardrobe, which

required her to bend down to retrieve them.

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Just as she was about to bend down, a hand was placed on her waist to stop her movement.

"You have injuries on your waist and back, don't bend over. What do you need? I'll help you get it," he said.

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Her face turned red involuntarily. How could she let him help her carry it? "I can do it myself," she said.

But he insisted, saying, "I'll take it."

The two of them stared at each other for a while, and finally

Veronica spoke up again, "You can't take the things inside."

"I know, it's your personal clothing, right?" he said. "I won't look, I can take it with my eyes closed. In a moment, I'll take the clothing out of the drawer, you can take what you need and put it away, and then I'll put the rest back."

After speaking, he didn't wait for her to respond. He closed his eyes and bent down to open the drawer.

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The fair fingers retrieved her clothes from the drawer and placed them in her hands.

Veronica was a bit stunned, then quickly put the clothes into the bag. "Okay, that's enough!"

"Is there nothing to put back?" he asked.

"I...I don't have any more," she said, her face turning slightly.

red.

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He then bent down, closed the drawer, and opened his eyes.

He looked at her slightly blushing face and asked, "Are you blushing because I helped you carry those clothes?"

"Hmm?" She was taken aback, only seeing him gradually. leaning down, his handsome face facing her.

"But Veronica, I always thought that we should be the closest people. When we were young, you always protected me, helped me. bathe, helped me dress, and hugged me to sleep. I could be completely honest with you about everything, but Veronica,

you can't, can you?"

Looking at Mason in front of her, the word "yes" seemed to get

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stuck in her throat, making it difficult to say.

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"Veronica, am I the closest person to you?" he asked softly, his deep black eyes filled with hope.

"Yes." Finally, this word "yes" came out of her mouth.

His lips curled up into a smile that bloomed on his face. "So, I will always be Veronica's closest person, okay? We will always be together."

She pursed her lips. In her heart, he was more than a relative

by blood, he was a loved one.

But forever...how far is forever?

They are slowly growing up and in the future, they will have their own loved ones and families. It's impossible for them to

always be together.

But in the face of his smile, these words became unspeakable.

Maybe he didn't want the smile on his face to disappear.

After organizing their clothes, Veronica and Mason planned to leave, but Archer and Rosalind happened to come back.

As soon as he saw Veronica, he hurriedly approached her and said, "Veronica, your brother has been detained. You need to

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think of a way to rescue him!"

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"Yeah, the police station called and said he's a suspect. They claim that all the kidnappers identified him as the

mastermind. If he's really convicted, what will he do in the future?" Rosalind said with a worried expression on her face.

Yesterday, the couple spent the whole night at the police

station trying to bail out their son, but they couldn't even see him in person.

Kidnapping... especially when one of the victims is Jasper from the Reed family.

Upon realizing this fact, they felt a strong urge to faint. Even though their son can be a bit stubborn and reckless at times, they never expected him to be so audacious and daring!

Veronica looked at her father and stepmother in front of her.

Since she woke up in the hospital yesterday until she was discharged today, she never saw them in the hospital.

Those who care about her are the Reed family, who are actually her relatives! But when they met, they didn't ask how she was injured. Instead, they immediately demanded that

she hand over her brother.

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At this moment, Veronica feels an indescribable chill in her heart.

"Veronica, did you hear me? You must tell the police that Lionel is innocent. You can't let your brother go to jail!" said

Archer.

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"Dad, it was Lionel who called and took us to the private room at the nightclub that night. He also drugged me and Jasper. Do you really think he's innocent?" Veronica looked at Lionel and spoke.

Archer was suddenly speechless and didn't know what to say for a moment.

Rosalind said, "Lionel must have been threatened by

those bad people! No matter what, he couldn't have done something as terrible as kidnapping. Anyway, now that you're safe, you can't let him go to jail!"

The words was said so casually.

Veronica turned her head and looked at her stepmother coldly. "Do you think I'm fine, so you can just pretend nothing happened? Being drugged and tied up in the wilderness is

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nothing? Almost being violated is nothing? Having a gun.

pointed at my head is nothing? Do you think all of these are nothing?"

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Rosalind was left speechless by these questions and could only manage to say, "But...you can still walk and stand, can't

you? Your brother is the one who's been detained and has lost his freedom..."

"Is that enough talking?" a voice interrupted Rosalind's words.

Mason's cold expression made Rosalind and Archer shiver

with fear.

After spending many years together, both of them naturally

knew what kind of personality Mason had. If Mason is really angered at this moment, their son won't be able to come out

of jail.

The two of them chuckled awkwardly. Archer said, "Um...

Mason, your Auntie Rosalind is also worried about Lionel. Actually, she's very worried about Veronica too! She hasn't slept well since last night and has been worried about Veronica's injuries. When she heard that Veronica wasn't seriously injured, she breathed a sigh of relief. We were actually planning to go to the hospital later to see Veronica, but who knew you guys would come here just in time.""

Veronica found these words even more ironic. If her father

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and stepmother were really worried about her, how could they not have come to the hospital yesterday?

Even though they originally planned to go to the hospital

to see her, it was probably just for the sake of her younger brother.

"Mason, let's go," Veronica said softly, lowering her gaze and turning to Mason beside her.

"Okay." He responded and took her hand, intending to pass by the Archer couple.

"Hey, Veronica, where are you going? Are you going back to the hospital?" Archer asked in a hurry.

"I have been discharged from the hospital and will be staying with the Reed family for a while," said Veronica.

"Huh? The Reed family?" Archer looked embarrassed. After all, his son was suspected of kidnapping Jasper from the Reed family. It was natural that they didn't feel comfortable going to the Reed family. If their daughter had to stay with the Reed family, it would be troublesome for them to see her. If they had to ask their daughter to plead for them, it would be even more difficult.

"As for Veronica, Lionel's matter, you have to..." Rosalind's words were cut off halfway by the look Mason gave her.

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Although the other person was just a young boy, his cold and sweeping gaze made one feel a chill running down their spine. It was as if, if she said anything more, not only would her son end up in jail, but she herself would be doomed as well.

Mason left with Veronica, and the Barlow couple stared at the closed elevator doors, looking at each other in confusion.

"What about Lionel... What should we do?" Rosalind said anxiously.

"I don't know, it's because you gave birth to a good son!" Archer said unkindly. At the moment, besides worrying about his son, he was also concerned about the relationship between the Reed family and the Barlow family. If the Reed family really broke ties with the Barlow family, what would happen to his many businesses?

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Downstairs, a car slowly drove out of the community.

Inside the car, Veronica kept her head down, silent and contemplative.

Mason tightly held Veronica's hand.

"What are you thinking about?" After a while, his voice echoed in the car.

"Nothing...I'm not thinking about anything," Veronica murmured.

Mason's gaze deepened slightly. "I thought we were the closest people to each other! Aren't we?"

Veronica hesitated for a moment before saying, "I'm just thinking about Lionel."

"What do you hope will happen to him?" he asked.

"What will happen to him?" Veronica asked in return.

"Now those kidnappers all say he's the mastermind behind the scenes. They were recruited by him online, and even the

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money used to buy weapons was given by Lionel. Once the

charge of being the mastermind is confirmed, even if he's still a minor, the crime won't be taken lightly. It's enough to

sentence him to ten years in prison!" Mason said.

Ten years... Veronica was taken aback. Ten years of

imprisonment, even though Lionel is still young, but ten years, which should have been the golden time for studying, if he really goes to jail, then Lionel's life will be hopeless.

Moreover, based on her understanding of Lionel, even if he

behaves recklessly, he should at least know what is important and what is not. He should know better than to kidnap Jasper, especially when Jasper and she entered the private room together. Lionel should have stopped this plan!

Why still...

"What... How did Lionel respond to this? What did he say in his statement?" Veronica asked.

"I'm not sure," Mason said. "Does Veronica think he could be the mastermind?"

"I don't know," Veronica said. "Mason, I don't want Lionel to be

falsely accused, and I also don't want him to really spend ten years in prison. Can you help him? I think there must be some

hidden truth in all of this."

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Even though she may not like her stepmother, she doesn't

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hold any major grudges against her half-brother Lionel. In fact, it could be said that Lionel has been trying to please her all these years, and even though his efforts may have been calculated, she still has some sibling affection towards him.

Human emotions tend to accumulate little by little over the years.

“Is Veronica feeling sorry for him?” Mason asked in a low voice.

“Hmm?” Veronica was taken aback, then she bit her lip slightly.

“What did he say? He’s still my brother, and we’ve been together for so many years. I believe he doesn’t have the guts to do that!”

“Little brother?” Mason murmured, “So, how much does he weigh in Veronica’s heart?”

Inside the carriage, there was a strange yet dangerous atmosphere. When Veronica looked up, she only saw Mason’s deep black eyes staring at her intensely. In his gaze, there seemed to be a hint of something suspicious.

She paused, wondering if he was going to do it again...

Memories from her childhood flooded her mind – whenever

Lionel tried to please her, he would act strangely and even become possessive, clinging to her and showing signs of

jealousy.

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At one point, he even forbade her from calling Lionel “little brother”!

Is this considered jealousy?

“He’s just my younger brother, but Mason, to me, you’re not only a brother, but also the closest person to me!” said

Veronica.

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Especially after he saved her, this feeling became even more apparent.

Perhaps no one else would dare to face guns and bullets to save her except for him. Because even a slight mistake could

cost him his own life.

Mason's eyes flickered slightly, his brother... is he also a younger brother?

At least he is still her closest person.

But one day, he may not be her brother anymore.

When he truly grows up, will she see him as another half of her life? Will she like him and love him more than?

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"Since Veronica believes he didn't have the guts to do it, I also believe it wasn't him who did it. There may be hidden reasons behind it. When we go back, I'll tell Dad and we can bail him out first," said Mason.

Veronica's eyes lit up at his words. "Do you really believe that?"

"Well, if Veronica believes it, then I naturally believe it too," said Mason. "So Veronica, you can rest assured that Lionel will be fine, and the real mastermind won't escape!"

Veronica breathed a sigh of relief. "Mason, thank you."

Mason stared at her firmly. "You don't need to thank me for someone else's sake."

Veronica pursed her lips, feeling the hand holding hers getting hotter and hotter.

The car arrived at the door of the Reed House, and Mason took Veronica back to the main house. They had dinner with the Reed family, including William, and Veronica was the only non-family member present.

Similarly, the Reed family arranged a guest room for William, who reportedly rushed to Emerald City as soon as he heard about Jasper's accident.

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“Veronica, don’t be shy. If you want anything else to eat, just ask,” Grace said hospitably.

“Thank you, Auntie Grace. I really like all the dishes today, and I will eat more,” Veronica replied.

“Yes, eat more! We should cherish the importance of ‘safety’ after this incident. It’s a rare opportunity for us to sit together and have a meal,” Jasper sighed. This experience made her realize the true meaning of “safety.”

After the meal, Mason accompanied Veronica back to her room.

After being discharged from the hospital and returning to the Barlow family to pick up some things, Veronica was already a bit tired. Mason asked, “Do you want to sleep?”

“Um,” she nodded.

“Then rest early,” he said.

“Okay,” she replied, planning to sleep after he left. However, he stayed in her room and showed no intention of leaving.

For a moment, the two of them stared at each other again.

After a while, Veronica was the first to speak, “Are you... um, not going out?”

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“I’ll leave after you fall asleep,” he replied.

“But what if I can’t sleep?” she asked.

“Then I’ll stay by your side,” he said.

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His expression was like that of a loyal and faithful dog, which left her unsure of what to say.

So, she went to the bathroom, freshened up, changed into her pajamas, and then walked over to the bed.

“Aren’t you going to lie down?” he asked, looking at her.

Well, there was really nothing to be embarrassed about! Veronica thought to herself. He had stayed by her bedside

when she was in the hospital, after all!

Besides, she had slept with him countless times since they were young! Now, he was just sitting by her side, keeping her company until she fell asleep.

Veronica then lifted the covers and lay down on the bed.