

Ex Convict 3671

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"Do you like that girl from earlier?" she asked.

"Not really," he answered nonchalantly.

"So what about the girls you went to the bar and the piano room with? Do you like them?" she continued to ask.

"Not really," he replied.

"If you don't like them, why are you so intimate with them?" she asked.

"Do I have to like them to do that?" he chuckled. "Since they enjoy playing these games, I'm just indulging them."

"Games?" she was shocked. "Do you think this is a game?" She understood what those girls' eyes meant, being a girl herself, at least they had a good impression of him.

Especially the girl he just kissed, the love in her eyes was like it was about to overflow.

"To me, it's just a game," he said with a very certain tone.

"Lawrence, this is not right. This kind of thing should only be done with someone you like. If you don't like those girls, you're giving them the wrong signals, which will only make them sad and upset. Or do you think it doesn't matter if you hurt others?"

she glared at him.

The condemning look made him feel a sour feeling in his heart.

"I told you not to call me Lawrence. I am Roger now. I hope Miss. Reed won't forget this!" Roger said coldly. "Also, do you think only with someone you like can you do this kind of thing? You're so naive to say that. Miss. Reed is really well-protected, still so naive like a child."

"Naive?" She was stunned.

"Isn't it? Only naive people would say that. Those who have truly experienced the cruelty of reality would not think that way," Roger said, approaching Jasper, and suddenly stroking her cheek with one hand.

She wanted to step back in surprise, but his hand had already wrapped around her waist!

"What are you doing?" she asked.

"I just want to tell you that even though I hate you and despise you now, I can still put on a smiling face to kiss you. Even if you want to sleep with me, I can satisfy you!" he said in a frivolous

tone.

"You—" She glared at him, watching as his lips drew closer to hers. Suddenly, she lifted her hand and instinctively covered his lips, preventing him from kissing her.

His lips met the palm of her hand, and his gaze seemed to grow increasingly distant.

"I don't want you to kiss me, and I certainly don't feel any satisfaction from it," Jasper said coldly. "If you think of it so casually, it only makes me feel dirty."

The distant look in his eyes turned instantly cold.

He abruptly released his hand from her waist and pulled her hand away from his lips. "Dirty? Of course, you're the pristine Grand Princess of the Reed family, while I'm just dust in the mud. In your eyes, I'm naturally very dirty. So why do you keep appearing in front of me again and again if I'm so dirty?"

He spoke with intense emotion, and Jasper pursed her lips, feeling that she had misspoken. "I...I just think you shouldn't be so casual..."

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"Casually engaging in physical contact with others?" he sneered. "Only those who haven't been manipulated can easily say such things. Have you ever been forced to the ground, forced to do things you didn't want to do, or even forced to jump into the abyss even though you knew it was a bottomless pit?"

"What do you mean?" She looked puzzled.

The mockery on his face grew stronger. "Of course you haven't. You have no idea how dirty this world can be. No matter how much you struggle, scream, or beg for mercy, it's useless. Others even take pleasure in seeing your pain. The more you struggle, the more you please them..."

As he spoke, his face gradually turned pale, his eyes becoming somewhat confused, and his expression twisted with pain, as if he were trapped in a bad memory.

Jasper stared at him in astonishment. "Law...Ro, Roger, what's wrong with you?"

"You don't know anything, Jasper. You don't know anything at all!" He gasped, speaking as if accusing her, and his body staggered, as if he were about to collapse.

Jasper reached out to try to support him.

away. "Don't touch me. Don't you think I'm dirty? Then don't touch me!"

"If I said something wrong just now, I apologize! But your current situation doesn't look good. Let me take you to the school infirmary," Jasper said.

"No need!" He took a deep breath and suddenly stepped forward, snatching the invitation letter from her hand. "Since you came to see me today to deliver the invitation, I have received it. You don't have to pretend to care about me."

After saying that, he turned around and left unsteadily.

Jasper watched Roger's back and couldn't help but furrow her brows. When he said those words just now, the painful expression on his face didn't seem fake. What happened to him? She thought that being adopted by the wealthy Elliott family and being treated as their heir should have made his life comfortable. But why did he have such a painful expression?

What happened to him in these years?

Many people wanted to attend the Reed family's little princess's birthday party, but this time, the Reed family didn't plan to make it big. They only invited some relatives and friends for a noon celebration at their mansion since it was on a Sunday. Jasmine planned to go to a concert that night.

Kyla, Lina, Amber, and Valda came early in the morning, and

the children followed suit. As usual, the women gathered together, the children played together, and the men had to gather together.

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"By the way, I heard Lawrence has been found?" Hadwin spoke up. His wife was always a big mouth and had the closest relationship with Grace. Therefore, thanks to his wife, everyone knew about Lawrence being found.

"Hmm, it's quite surprising. He was actually adopted by the Elliott family," Jason said.

"Which Elliott family?" Brian asked.

"Not in the country, but overseas. They made their fortune in shipping," Jason replied.

"Oh?" Hadwin pondered thoughtfully. The Stephenson family was the leader in shipping in the country. If it was about shipping, the Stephenson family would naturally know more than others. "Could it be the Elliott family from Yemen?"

There are many wealthy families in Yemen.

"Yes, it's that Elliott family," Jason said.

"He was adopted by that family?" Hadwin asked.

"To be precise, he replaced the original heir of the Elliott family who had passed away," Jason said.

Hadwin frowned. "That Mrs. Elliott from the Elliott family seems to have some mental problems."

"The information I found says she's already better," Jason said.

"Sometimes only the parties involved know whether it's really better or not," Hadwin said lightly. "But Lawrence has been found. Jasper should be happy. It's also considered fulfilling one of her wishes."

"Maybe finding him is just the beginning of trouble," Jason said. "Lawrence now is not the same simple kid as before."

"Are you scared?" Brian asked.

"Not really, but I'm worried he might do something stupid and hurt Jasper," Jason said. In fact, he didn't really care about how Lawrence was doing. He only cared about his daughter. "Speaking of which, Jasper gave him an invitation to her birthday banquet today. He should come. You can take a look at him then."

Everyone present was aware of Lawrence's situation, as all the families had helped in the search for him.

Meanwhile, the women were chatting about William and Jasper.

"Is Jasper really dating William?" Lina, the most gossip-prone, started the topic.

"Yes," Grace replied with a smile.

"It's like a childhood crush that turned into reality," Lina sighed. "I've thought they had something going on since they were kids, like a fairy tale. I wish I had a childhood sweetheart like that!"

"You don't, but your daughter does," Grace teased.

"Well, yeah, now that you mention it, Tina and Chandler are childhood sweethearts too. But who knows if it will turn into love in the future," Lina said, as her daughter was only 13 and still in the innocent stage of love.

Tina was engaged to Chandler since birth, and no one knew what the future held for them.

Chandler had developed feelings for Lina's daughter, but Tina...

Lina worried about what would happen if Tina didn't love Chandler in the future. The thought of how the Stephenson family and the Hunter family would handle it gave her a headache.

"There are other childhood sweethearts too," Kyla said. "Harley and Lornell are also close. Maybe they'll end up like William and Jasper."

Valda smiled. "They do get along well."

"By the way, are Lornell and Chandler coming over today?" Amber asked.

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"They said they'll come over later," Lina replied.

The Hunter family and the Quentin family are both Crypt families, so Lornell has become closer to Chandler.

Sure enough, after some time, two figures walked into the living room of the Reed family.

Chandler, who is 20 years old, is already 185 centimeters tall with long legs. He looks like a hanger, with a sculpted face that exudes the aura of a young man. He gives off a cold and hard feeling.

However, his eyes carry a hint of softness, which softens his cold and hard demeanor.

On the other hand, 12-year-old Lornell is still between childhood and adolescence. Although he is already over 170 centimeters tall, his face still has obvious childishness, with a delicate androgynous beauty.

When these two people walked in, they gave people a sense of beautiful advertising.

When Tina saw Chandler, she immediately bounced over to him and asked, "Hey, you guys are here. Did you bring a gift for Jasmine?"

Chandler smiled slightly and took out the gift, "Here, this is for Jasmine."

"What is it?" Tina asked curiously.

"You'll find out when the gift's owner opens it, won't you?" Chandler said.

Meanwhile, 8-year-old Harley also came over to Lornell and asked curiously, "Lornell, what gift did you bring?"

"My old man gave me a bottle of Qi-boosting pills to give as a gift," Lornell said lazily, taking out a white medicine bottle with no packaging.

However, for Crypt families like the Quentin family, who

are experts in medicine, many medicines are priceless. The Qi-boosting pills given by the Quentin family are naturally not ordinary.

Grace took the medicine bottle from Lornell and said, "Thank you, Lornell. Please also convey my gratitude to your old man when you go back."

Due to being born prematurely, Jasmine has been weak and sickly since childhood. Although the Reed family has been taking care of her health, she is still more prone to illness than the average person.

For Jasmine, the Quentin family's Qi-replenishing pills were the best thing ever.

Jasper kept glancing towards the entrance of the living room, as if waiting for something.

William approached her and asked, "Are you waiting for Lawrence?"

"Mm-hmm," Jasper replied.

"Maybe he doesn't plan on coming. After all, he had a difficult time here before," William said.

"No, he will definitely come," Jasper said confidently. "Since he took the invitation, he will come."

William looked at Jasper's determined expression and suddenly asked, "What about you? Do you want him to come?"

Jasper was taken aback and looked up at William. "Why do you ask?"

"Just curious," William said.

After thinking for a moment, Jasper said, "I want him to come. Whether he has good intentions or bad intentions, only if he is willing to take that step can we possibly resolve the grievances between us, right?"

"That's true," William agreed.

Just as they were speaking, another figure walked into the living room. Jasper froze and looked straight at the person. It was...Roger!

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As Roger entered the living room, everyone else stopped talking and looked straight at him.

After all, everyone who came here today is a familiar face, and only Roger is a stranger to everyone.

But even though he's a stranger, because of the years of searching, everyone is quite familiar with him.

Grace had already seen Roger's photo before, and when she saw him, she greeted him, "Lawrence, you're here!"

"Hello, Mrs. Reed," Roger greeted politely, "But now I go by Roger, please don't call me by my old name anymore."

"Okay, Roger," Grace replied.

At this moment, Jason also walked over, "Today is Jasmine's birthday, feel free to mingle with everyone here, many of whom you've met before when you were with the Reed family."

So Roger greeted everyone in the room. When he was with the Reed family before, he had indeed met many of them, but at that time he was more shy and always hid behind Jasper, rather than facing everyone alone like he is now.

After greeting everyone one by one, Roger finally came to Jasper, William, and Jasmine.

"Yes, I said I would come and bring Jasmine a gift," Roger said, taking out a box and handing it to Jasmine, "This is for you."

Jasmine took the box, but instead of opening it immediately, she looked at Roger curiously, "Are you Lawrence's brother?"

Roger smiled faintly, "I used to be, but now I go by Roger. You can call me Roger brother."

"Is that your new name?" Jasmine asked.

"Yes, my new name."

"Thank you for the gift, Roger brother!" Jasmine politely said, with a smile on her little face, "You're still alive, it's really great. Sister has always had Mom and Dad look for you. She has always believed that you're still alive!"

Upon hearing this, Roger responded calmly, "Is that so?"

"Yeah, I remember one time someone asked my sister to give up on finding you, but she argued with that person and even cried under the covers!"

Jasper was embarrassed by his sister's big mouth and said, "Jasmine, who told you to say that?"

"I didn't lie," Jasmine confidently replied, "At that time, sister, you were crying so sadly and even holding a photo of brother

Jasper became even more embarrassed!

Roger's gaze fell on Jasper's face. Did she cry for him?

"Alright, isn't it your birthday today? We're about to cut the cake soon," Jasper quickly changed the subject.

"But..." Jasmine hesitated, "Veronica hasn't come yet. She said she would come when she last saw me."

When Veronica's name was mentioned by Jasmine, Mason, who was standing nearby, stiffened slightly. His hand hanging by his side also moved imperceptibly.

Just as it was almost time to cut the cake, Veronica finally arrived. She was wearing simple clothes and looked

apologetically at everyone in the living room, "I'm sorry...I'm late."

"No worries, you're just in time. We're about to cut the cake," Grace greeted her.

"Veronica, come here!" Jasper said, pulling Veronica to her side. At this moment, Mason stood next to Jasper.

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Veronica looked at Mason in a daze. He was someone she used

to see every day and was the most familiar person to her, but now he seemed so unfamiliar!

After hesitating for a moment, Veronica took the initiative to greet Mason, "Hello, it's been a long time."

Mason looked at Veronica coldly, then turned his head and walked away, completely ignoring her as if she didn't exist in his

eyes.

Veronica's face showed a hint of embarrassment. Jasper saw this and quickly comforted her, "I think Mason has been abroad for too long, so..."

"I understand," Veronica forced a smile and said, "It's okay. Um...I have something to do later, so I won't eat."

Veronica handed the gift she brought to Jasmine, "Jasmine, happy birthday!"

"Thank you," Jasmine took the gift.

Jasper suggested, "Why don't you have a piece of cake before you go? Later, I'll have the driver take you home. I also have a lot to talk to you about, Veronica."

"No, I...I really have to go. Let's chat next time we have the

chance." Veronica said goodbye to everyone and left the Reed family in a hurry.

Jasper watched Veronica leave and then turned to look for his own Mason, but found that Mason was no longer in the living

room.

Where did Mason go? It's almost time to cut the cake!

"I'll go find Mason," Jasper said to William.

"No need, I'll go myself. You stay here and greet the other guests." Jasper left the living room in a hurry and dialed Mason's phone number.

However, the phone showed that it was turned off.

Meanwhile, on the road leading to the main entrance of the Reed family's mansion, Mason stood in front of Veronica. "Why did you appear here?" His voice was icy and devoid of any emotion.

Veronica was a bit at a loss and said, "I just...came to give Jasmine a gift. Today is her birthday, and I..."

"You didn't know I would be here too?" Mason said.

Veronica bit her lip, but couldn't bring herself to say no.

Yes, she knew that she had contacted Jasper online before and knew that Mason had returned as an exchange student at Stanford University. So, of course, he would appear at Jasmine's

birthday party this time.

In previous years, she would deliberately avoid him, and if he had to come to the Reed family, she would choose a time when he wasn't there. But this time, she didn't avoid him.

"Why did you appear in front of me?" Mason said coldly.

"I didn't mean to appear in front of you, I just wanted to give... Jasmine a gift," Veronica said, even more uneasy.

"If you really just wanted to give a gift, you could have had the servant deliver it. It's not hard to find a reasonable excuse,"

Mason said.

Veronica hesitated for a moment, finally met his gaze, took a deep breath and said, "It's not hard, I... I knew you were here, so I just wanted to see you when I gave the gift."

"See me?" Mason's expression was indifferent. "Why, do you regret it? Or are you unwilling? Jasper did say that you're not doing as well now. If you really don't want to suffer so much, you can tell my parents. I think they won't treat you badly because of your previous care for me."

"I... that's not what I meant," Veronica quickly said. "I just simply wanted to see you because... it's been too long since we last met."

Yes, it had been too long, so she missed him even more, and just wanted to see him for a moment.

After all, he was once the most important parent to Beet

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"It's been too long, so you just had to see me?" Mason sneered. "But I don't want to see you at all. You should understand that you're not my Veronica anymore. We have no relationship between us."

Veronica's face turned pale, and her hands hanging at her side anxiously tugged at her clothes.

Yes, she knew that they had no relationship anymore... but she always remembered the past between them, the misunderstandings she had of him, and the attachment he had for her...

"I...I understand now. I'll be more careful in the future," Veronica said with difficulty.

"Good that you understand. Don't appear in front of me again," Mason said before turning and leaving.

Veronica hung her head, holding back the tears that threatened to spill. Yes, she understood. His attitude today made her realize once again that he had truly hypnotized away the feelings from their past.

Although she still remembered everything from their past, those feelings were no longer there!

To him, she was already someone completely unrelated!

Jasper didn't expect to come out looking for Mason and stumble upon this scene. And she certainly didn't expect Roger to suddenly appear by her side and witness it with her.

"It seems that the Reed family is really cold-hearted. Even though you were once so close, you can still heartlessly cast someone aside when they're no longer useful," Roger said mockingly.

Although he didn't spend much time with the Reed family and only saw Mason and Veronica a few times, he knew that they had a good relationship. Mason even lived with the Barlow family because of Veronica, not the Reed family.

"You don't understand anything, so why make comments?" Jasper retorted.

"Then tell me, is there some hidden story behind this?" Roger asked.

Jasper pursed her lips and didn't explain. After all, this was between Veronica and Mason. "It's not my place to say, and you don't need to know anything."

Roger's sarcasm grew stronger. "Of course, you're the high and mighty Reed family. Why would us ordinary people need to know about your family affairs?"

"That's not what I meant! This is between Mason and Veronica!" Jasper said.

"I don't think I need to hear your explanation. People like you rich folks play with other people's feelings so easily, it's only natural, isn't it?" Roger said.

"You—" Jasper glared at the other person and suddenly said, "Do you think Mason played with Veronica's feelings? Or do you think I played with your feelings?"

Roger's lips curled up slightly, as if he was agreeing with her statement.

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"Do you know how deep Mason's feelings for Veronica are? Do you know how much I, Mason, have suffered to become like this? You know nothing, yet you say such things here. Don't you think it's ridiculous?" Jasper said angrily.

"And..." She took another step forward, approaching him, "I have never played with your feelings. I have always treated you as a friend. Yes, I know I have made mistakes before, I shouldn't have ignored your explanation. But do you have no faults? Why didn't you explain everything to me before I heard your conversation with your parents? Maybe there wouldn't have been any misunderstandings!"

At this moment, she was so emotional that her face turned red, and her beautiful almond eyes seemed to be covered with a layer

of mist.

Roger couldn't help but stare at her.

"What about yourself? Don't you think you're playing with other people's feelings?" Jasper continued, "You act intimately with those girls, you know they like you, but you still give them the wrong signals. Isn't that playing with their feelings? You can criticize others, but can't reflect on yourself?"

"So, you want me to reflect on myself?" Roger looked at Jasper.

"Yes, I want you to reflect on yourself!" She stared at him and

said, "I'm glad you're alive. If you want revenge for what

happened back then, you can take it out on me alone, I can bear it. But don't take it out on my family. And I have never played with you, I don't like being accused of things I didn't do!"

He stared at her with his black eyes, and after a moment, his voice became hoarse, "If I really want to take revenge on you, then I'm afraid the Reed family is enough to make me disappear

without a trace."

"I won't let my family hurt you!" Jasper said firmly.

tell me,

how can

Roger's eyelashes trembled slightly, "Then you I make up for the harm I have suffered? Do you think the only thing I have suffered is the death of my parents? Do you think a light revenge on you can really make up for everything? Jasper,

don't understand how dark this world can be!"

you

There was pain and struggle in his eyes, which shook Jasper's heart. "Then you can tell me, what happened to you, what have you experienced during these years of disappearance?"

His lips were tightly pursed, his body trembling. Tell her? Tell the person he hated the most about his most embarrassing side? Those memories were so unbearable and so difficult for him to endure...

Roger's face became increasingly pale, and his body trembled more and more violently.

She noticed that something was wrong with him and asked urgently, "What's wrong? Are you okay?"

"I..." He gasped heavily and suddenly hugged her tightly.

She was startled and instinctively wanted to struggle, but all her resistance stopped when she felt his body trembling.

He was shaking like a child who was extremely scared, and this kind of Roger made Jasper feel a dull pain in her chest.

He held her tighter and tighter, like a drowning person holding onto the last piece of driftwood.

It seemed that if he let go, he would sink completely to the bottom of the water.

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Jasper let Roger hold her like this, "Where do you feel uncomfortable? Should I take you to the hospital? You..."

Before she could finish her sentence, his hands suddenly loosened, and then he pushed her away completely.

She staggered back several steps and almost fell to the ground.

His face was still extremely pale, "I'm fine! There's nothing wrong! Since my gift has been delivered today, I should leave now! Please tell Miss. Reed and your parents for me. I'm leaving now!"

After saying this, Roger turned and left quickly, leaving Jasper standing there in a daze, looking worried.

What's wrong with him? Is he really okay?

For some reason, Roger's appearance just now made her feel like he had experienced something terrible.

Did the conversation just now remind him of his parents' death, or did he experience something even more terrible?

At this moment, Jasper felt his mind was in chaos.

Meanwhile, when Roger rushed out of the Reed family mansion, he almost stumbled and had to lean against the walls along the

way.

In that moment, he thought of the experiences he had after being kidnapped by the kidnappers from the hospital, those dark experiences he didn't want to recall!

And she even asked him to speak it out!

How could he describe such experiences?

How could someone as pure and clean as her think of such darkness?

The cleaner she was, the more he felt his own filth, and the more he had the urge to destroy her.

He wanted to destroy her cleanliness and make her as muddy as he was!

But why... did he still want to hold her?

Even he himself didn't understand this impulse!

When Jasper returned to the main room, it was almost time to cut the cake. William walked up to her and asked, "What's wrong? I sent you a message, but you didn't reply. Mason has returned to the living room."

"I... I didn't notice the message," Jasper stammered.

"Why do you look so bad? Did something happen?" William asked.

"Nothing, nothing happened," she forced a smile.

After a moment, it was time to cut the cake. The Reed family stood beside today's birthday girl, Jasmine. With a knife in her hand, Jasmine made a wish, blew out the candles, and began cutting the cake under everyone's gaze.

Laughter and congratulations filled the scene.

William, however, looked at Jasper's strained smile and showed a thoughtful expression.

Not long after Jasper left, Roger also disappeared. And when Jasper returned, Roger was nowhere to be seen in the living

room.

So, did something happen when Jasper went out to look for Mason?

And could this be related to Roger?

While everyone was eating cake, William walked up to Jasper and asked, "Roger isn't in the living room. Do you know where he went?"

"Ah, he said he had to go back first," Jasper answered nervously.

"Go back first?" William pondered. "Did he tell you that?"

"Yes, when I went to find Mason earlier, I hoped to enter into

him, and he said he had to go back first, Paper and Although what she said was true, the inexplicably felt guilty.

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"Oh, I see," William smiled and changed the subject. "By the way, Mason is going to accompany Jasmine to a concert today. Are you going?"

"No, I'm not interested. Besides, it's not just Jasmine and Mason going. Tina and Chandler are going too," Jasper said.

"Then after the birthday banquet, how about you accompany me somewhere?" he said.

"Where are we going?" she asked.

He smiled slightly, "You'll know when we get there."

After everyone had finished lunch, the birthday party finally came to an end. People left one by one. When Tina left, she said goodbye to Jasmine, "Jasmine, don't forget to come with me to the concert tonight!"

"Got it!" Jasmine nodded her head, "Mason will come with me!"

"Great, see you at the concert!" Tina said, happily leaving with Chandler.

Mick whispered to Mason, "Are you really going to accompany the little girl to the concert?"

"Otherwise, how can you replace me?" Mason said calmly.

Mick refused directly, "No, you should go by yourself." He didn't like the noise of concerts.

It was rare for the little girl to ask Mason to go. He didn't have to endure this kind of fatigue. He was looking forward to it!

Mason gave Mick a white eye.

Mick patted his brother's shoulder and said seriously, "It's rare for you, as Mason, to come back. You should accompany the little girl well. Today is her birthday, you have to make her happy!"

Mason pursed his lips and said nothing.

After saying goodbye to his family, Jasper left the Reed House with William and went to a second-hand market.

Jasper looked puzzled and didn't understand why he brought her here.

"Are you looking to buy something?" Jasper asked.

"I've brought you here to see something," said William, leading Jasper into one of the shops. The shop was filled with toys, clearly a second-hand toy store.

However, the second-hand items in the store were not cheap toys, but limited edition or discontinued toys, all from high-end brands, and priced at a premium.

Some of these second-hand toys were even priced higher than the original retail price, and some could even be considered antiques.

As soon as the shop owner saw William, he recognized him and immediately put on a friendly smile. "Mr. Barlow, welcome!" he greeted.

"I'd like you to show this young lady the set I was interested in last time," said William.

"Sure thing!" the shop owner replied, and soon brought out a set of wooden toys.

As soon as Jasper laid eyes on the set of toys, her body stiffened and even her breathing paused. Was this the set of toys she had given to Lawrence? The set of "home" toys for playing house?

The entire set of toys was a wooden toy villa, complete with various scaled-down wooden furniture.

She had given this set of toys to Lawrence, and later, when Lawrence and his parents planned to escape Emerald City, Lawrence had taken this set of toys with him.

But later, his parents were killed, and he lost this set of toys during his escape.

And now, she saw this set of toys reappear before her eyes.