## Ex Convict 3691

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The concert began, and the stage and audience were lively. Tina and Jasmine were waving their glow sticks with excitement, fully immersed as qualified fans.

But Mason, sitting in his seat, seemed to be isolated from the noise and excitement, with his head down, lost in thought, looking so out of place.

During the intermission, Tina and Jasmine went to the

restroom, and Mason and Chandler naturally followed.

Standing in the rest area outside the restroom, Chandler looked at Mason and asked, "I saw you seemed to be thinking

about something during the concert. Were you thinking about

Veronica?"

Mason coldly looked at him and said, "You better not mention

the name 'Veronica' in front of me."

"By now, do you really not want to hear those three words?"

Chandler said. "The more you don't want to hear them, the

more it shows that you care."

Care? Mason snorted. How could he possibly care? His

feelings for Veronica had long been forgotten due to hypnosis.

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"I don't," he denied.

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"Is that so?" Chandler smiled. "Just now, you got dirty because you were protecting Veronica."

Mason suddenly furrowed his brows, then took a step forward and grabbed Chandler's collar. "You're not someone who meddles in other people's business. What do you really want?"

Chandler calmly allowed himself to be pulled by his collar. "I guess it's because I find it strange."

"Strange?" Mason was puzzled.

"Can someone who once cared so much really forget about it because of hypnosis? Can someone just stop loving another person just by saying so?" Chandler said.

"If you find it strange, then you can try it," Mason said in a cold

voice.

"I won't," Chandler said with great certainty.

"You won't because you think Tina will eventually fall in love with you?" Mason said sarcastically.

"Even if she doesn't, I won't give up," Chandler said. "Tina is my own choice. I chose her even before she was born. Since this is

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my choice, I will naturally work hard for it."

"If she doesn't love you, then your efforts will be useless,"  $\,$ 

Mason said bluntly.

"If I don't make an effort, how can I expect her to fall in love with me?" Chandler retorted.

The two of them faced each other, their faces very close, until

Tina's voice interrupted them. "What are you guys doing?"

Chandler and Mason turned their heads and saw Tina and

Jasmine had already come out of the restroom. The two

women were now staring at them with wide eyes.

Jasmine asked curiously, "Mason, are you going to kiss

Chandler?"

Upon hearing this, Mason and Chandler's faces changed immediately. Mason quickly let go of Chandler's hand, and the two men instinctively stepped back, creating some distance

between them.

Tina pulled Jasmine's arm and whispered, "You can't be so straightforward about these things."

Jasmine was confused and asked, "Why not? But Tina, in the comic book you showed me, there were two men kissing!"

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"Well... comics are comics, and Mason isn't... Anyway, he

doesn't want to kiss Chandler, but if they did, it would look pretty good..." Tina muttered to herself.

The two women thought they were whispering quietly, but

they didn't realize that the two men could hear them clearly.

Mason was relatively calm, still looking cold and indifferent.

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But Chandler was speechless, wondering what they were

talking about. And what kind of book did Tina show Jasmine?

After the concert ended, Tina had planned to chat with

Jasmine a bit more, but Chandler immediately pulled her into the car. "Alright, I'll take Tina home first. We can talk another

time."

"Hey, I'm not in a hurry to go home. I still have things to talk to Jasmine about," Tina protested.

"Whatever you have to say, you can say it another time,"

Chandler replied, closing the car door and driving away

Jasmine then went back to the car with Mason and ask.

"Mason, should we say goodbye to Veronica?"

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Mason replied coldly, "No need."

"Mason, do you really not like Veronica anymore?" Jasmine

asked.

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In her memory, when she was still young, she vaguely remembered that Mason liked Veronica very much. Many times when Mason came to their house, Veronica would come

along, and Mason would smile at her, even though he didn't

smile at others.

And Mason always liked to hold Veronica's hand. Wherever

Veronica went, he followed her like a tail.

But today, when Mason faced Veronica, he was so indifferent

that it made her feel unreal.

"Yes, I don't like her anymore," Mason replied flatly.

"Because of hypnosis?" Jasmine asked again.

Mason was somewhat surprised and glanced at her. "How do you know?" After all, in his opinion, his little sister was still young. Although he had no intention of hiding anything, he didn't expect his little sister to know.

"I heard my sister and brother-in-law talk about it," Jasmine

said. "Mason, can hypnosis really make a person go from

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liking to not liking someone?"

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Mason pursed his thin lips. Chandler had asked him the same question today.

If it were in the past, he could have answered "yes" without

hesitation. But today, the word "yes" seemed to be stuck in his

throat and was difficult to say.

And in his mind, he flashed back to the scene where he

instinctively rushed to Veronica's side today and blocked the

bowl of pasta that was thrown at her.

Why did he still have such instincts when he clearly no longer

liked her?

"Mason?" Jasmine spoke again after not getting a response

for a long time.

Mason snapped out of his thoughts. "I have no feelings for her anymore, so don't mention her in front of me again in the future," he said.

This sentence was like he was talking to his little sister, but it was more like he was talking to himself. Yes, he had no

feelings for that woman anymore!

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At this moment, Tina was still grumbling in the car, "Why did you pull me up so quickly? Today is Jasmine's birthday, and I wanted to go shopping with her a little longer."

1/4

"It's already so late, do you not fear danger while wandering around?" Chandler retorted impatiently.

"But we have you and Mason with us, how could we possibly be in danger?" Tina replied.

It must be admitted that her flattery was quite good, at least

for Chandler, it was effective.

Chandler glanced at the person sitting next to him and

suddenly asked, "What kind of manga did you lend to Jasmine? Yaoi?"

Tina chuckled nervously, "Not entirely, I also gave her some manga that are very youthful, energetic, and positive, about striving hard."

"Such as?" he asked.

"Such as..." She began to rack her brains, and finally managed

to name a few manga books about sports.

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"Jasmine is still young, don't always give her those 'kinds' of manga. If you lead her astray in the future, see how your parents will deal with you," Chandler warned.

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Tina grumbled, "The manga I read is not a big deal. My mom even watches them with me and says the boys in them are handsome!"

"..." Chandler was speechless for a moment. It seems that he still needs to communicate with his future mother-in-law in the future. "Do you also like the love in those manga books?" he asked.

"What?" She was stunned.

"The love between men, do you like it?" he asked.

"I like that kind of love, but it doesn't matter if it's between

a man and a woman," Tina said. "I think as long as it's two people who truly love each other, age, gender, wealth, can all

be overcome."

As she spoke, a dreamy expression of longing appeared on her face. At her age, she may not yet understand what true

love is, but she has a naive yearning for it.

"And what about you? Would you be willing to overcome everything for someone you love in the future?" Chandler

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asked.

3/4

"Me?" Tina blinked and turned to Chandler. "But in the future, I'm supposed to love you, Chandler. Do I need to overcome anything else?"

Chandler's heart suddenly shook. The car stopped at a red light, and his gaze fell on Tina. "You 'have' to love me?"

"Of course. Isn't that what I'm supposed to do?" she said. "You and I are engaged, and this engagement was arranged since I was born. You also saved my mother's life. Without you, both my mother and I might not be alive."

Chandler felt a complex emotion rising in his chest. He hesitated for a moment and said, "Don't you feel uncomfortable? Because I saved you and your mother, your engagement has to be tied to me?"

"No," Tina shook her head. "I think it's great. I have a fiancé like you. My classmates envy me because you're handsome,

a famous university student, rich, and talented... everything is

perfect."

Chandler tightly pursed his lips. She felt good and didn't feel any sense of restraint because she hadn't truly fallen in love with him yet.

She hadn't fallen in love with him, she just saw him as a

habitual presence, which was why the could say such things

If one day she fell in love with someone else, would the feel

that he had used his life-saving act to force her info an engagement, binding her for life, and that it was a despicable

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Would she turn against him and even want to break free from their engagement and leave him?

"What's wrong? Why are you looking at me like that?" Tina asked strangely, raising her hand and waving it in front of

Chandler.

He suddenly grabbed her hand and held it in his palm.

"Tina, I... hope you can love me in the future, but I don't like it

because you 'have' to love me," he murmured.

Perhaps it was his greed, hoping that she didn't love him just

because of their engagement or his family's favor to hers.

Tina seemed a bit confused. "So...what should I do?"

He raised his hand and touched her forehead. "In a few years,

maybe you'll understand."

A few years later... Tina felt a bit regretful. She wasn't as

clueless about love as he imagined. After all, she had read so

many comics, novels, and watched so many movies and TV

shows.

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Has she never seen a pig walking just because she hasn't

eaten pork?

Besides, there were classmates in her class who were in

relationships. When the girls got together, they would talk about these things too.

She actually wanted to date Chandler too!

2/4

She didn't know when she could fulfill this wish, instead of

being treated like a child by Chandler, who kept saying they had an engagement and hoped she would love him.

"Barlow, later you'll let Angelica choose which of these dresses.

to wear for tonight's ceremony." The manager of the agency  $% \left( x\right) =\left( x\right) ^{2}$ 

said to Veronica.

"Okay." Veronica responded and pushed the hanger with the

dresses into Angelica's dressing room.

The makeup artist was doing Angelica's makeup. Veronica said, "Miss Kinsman, these are your dresses for tonight. Which one do you want to wear?"

Angelica stood up and walked to Veronica, but instead of looking at the dresses, she stared at Veronica and asked,

"Don't you know the Reed family? Why are you still working as

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a little assistant here?"

3/4

"Whether I work as an assistant here or not, and whether I

know those people or not, are not related." Veronica said.

"But if you know those people, it's not difficult to find a better job, is it?" Angelica looked at Veronica.

"I just know them, but they don't have any obligation to help me," Veronica replied.

"So... what's your relationship with Mason?" Angelica asked with a meaningful look in her eyes.

Veronica's eyelashes trembled and her gaze gently lowered. "We don't have much of a relationship, just... acquaintances."

"Is that really all?" Angelica asked with some dissatisfaction. "Didn't Mason protect you from the pasta I threw at you that day? If you don't want to tell the truth, you don't have to lie like

this."

"It really is just like that. Miss Kinsman, if you ask him, I believe he will give you the same answer," Veronica said.

Angelica looked at Veronica suspiciously and suddenly said, "I heard from other assistants that you took a very expensive suit to the dry cleaners, and that suit wouldn't happen to be

the one Mason took off that day, would it?"

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"It... was that one," Veronica's body stiffened.

"When you get the clothes back from the dry cleaners, give

them to me and I'll return the suit to Mason," Angelica said.

Veronica was stunned and looked at Angelica in a daze.

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"What's wrong? Don't want to?" Angelica raised an eyebrow.

"No, it's not that," Veronica said.

"That's fine then," Angelica quickly interrupted Veronica. "Since I dirtied Mason's clothes last time, I'll apologize to him

when I return the suit."

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After saying these words, Angelica looked at Veronica's reaction again.

Veronica lowered her head and didn't say anything more.

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"Okay, you can leave now," Angelica dismissed Veronica. After Veronica left, a calculating look flashed in Angelica's eyes.

Regardless, this was a great opportunity for her to get close to the Reed family. Although there were some initial problems, as long as she made good use of this opportunity and climbed up to Mason of the Reed family, who would dare to look down

on her in this circle in the future!

Even if she could spread some rumors with Mason, many resources would probably come continuously.

As for Veronica, even if she really had something with Mason before, Angelica didn't care about her. After all, in Angelica's eyes, Veronica was far inferior to her, just an unremarkable

assistant with no threat at all.

In the library of Stanford University, a fashionable and

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beautiful figure walked in.

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Today, Angelica didn't wear sunglasses or masks to cover her

face like usual, just a hat that couldn't cover much.

After all, someone had to recognize her for there to be a possibility of creating rumors.

However, Stanford University was the best university in Emerald City, and the students there mostly focused on studying. Although some people recognized Angelica, there was no scene of people crowding around her like fans.

Angelica went to a corner of the library and saw Mason, who was sitting and reading the original text.

She had inquired beforehand and knew that Mason was an exchange student here, now a junior, 18 years old, but had skipped two grades and was several years younger than her.

Perhaps it was because of the indifference and coldness

emanating from Mason that he didn't look like an 18-year-old,

but much more mature.

But Angelica didn't mind. After all, these days, it was popular

for older women to date younger men. If she could really develop with Mason, it would be great. Even if she couldn't,

as long as she could get some good feelings from this young

man, she would have a place in the entertainment circle in the

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future.

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"Hello, we meet again," Angelica greeted Mason proactively.

Mason gave her a cold glance and returned his gaze to his book.

Angelica sat down beside him, oblivious to his indifference. "Don't you remember me? Backstage at the concert..."

"Go away. I don't like unrelated people sitting next to me," Mason said coldly.

Angelica's face showed a hint of embarrassment, but she

smiled and said, "I came here today to return your suit." She

took out the dry-cleaned suit from the elegant bag Veronica had given her.

But Mason didn't even look at it. He closed his book and stood

up, ready to leave.

Angelica reached out to grab him, but her hand came up

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Even she was surprised that she couldn't grab his arm. She

had felt like she had him, but she didn't.

"Your suit..."

"This is my unwanted trash. What's the point of returning trash. to me?" Jasper said coldly, finally looking directly at her as Angelica had hoped.

But his gaze made Angelica's heart skip a beat.

Because his eyes were too cold and sharp, as if he could see through all her intentions, even...making her feel like he was calling her trash, not just the suit.

Angelica forced a dry smile. "Veronica, my assistant, found this

suit. I didn't know you had thrown it away. I wanted to help her

out since she's so busy with work and school. I also wanted to

apologize for last time when I accidentally spilled pasta on your clothes..."

She shifted all the blame onto Veronica, making herself look both innocent and wronged.

Mason's gaze darkened at the mention of Veronica's name.

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The air around them suddenly felt suffocating. Just as

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Angelica thought Mason wasn't going to say anything, his thin lips parted and he asked, "Is she your assistant?"

"Ah, yes...she is," Angelica quickly replied. "Actually, I used to have another assistant, but she was just a temporary worker. Recently, my other assistant had to take a leave of absence due to illness, and I heard that Veronica was working part-time to support herself. I thought she deserved a chance, so I let her be my temporary assistant. This way, she could earn more money than just doing odd jobs."

Angelica continued to portray herself as a kind-hearted

person.

Mason spoke coldly, "Since she was the one who picked up the

clothes, she should be the one to return them to me!"

After saying that, Jasper left on his own.

Angelica stood there in a daze, watching Mason's back. She felt a lump in her throat and couldn't breathe properly.

What was this supposed to mean?

Did he want Veronica to return the clothes?

Angelica had thought that even though Mason seemed cold,

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she could still strike up a conversation with him while returning the clothes. But it turned out like this! It seemed like she was just a clown from beginning to end.

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The next day, Veronica looked at the suit that was thrown in

front of her and hesitated. "Miss Kinsman, what is this for?"

"This suit. Mason said it was garbage and didn't want it. Since you picked up the garbage, you should return it to him

personally!" Angelica said unkindly.

Veronica lowered her gaze and felt a bitter taste in her mouth. Garbage? He thought it was garbage because it was the suit that had protected her from the pasta. In his eyes, she wasn't worth that kind of gesture.

"What are you staring at! Listen carefully, you will return this suit to Mason and explain the situation from last time. It was your fault that I got angry and threw pasta, don't let Mason misunderstand me, got it?"

Veronica's eyes dimmed, "I understand."

"Okay, you can leave now," Angelica said.

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After Veronica left, the manager next to Angelica asked, "Aren't you afraid that this little assistant will say something

bad about you in front of Mason?"

"She wouldn't dare," Angelica confidently replied, "Her personality is very quiet and she doesn't dare to say much. Besides, if she really said something, she wouldn't be able to keep this job. I've looked into it, and if she loses this job, she probably won't even be able to pay her tuition."

The manager frowned, "But I heard that she knows people from the Reed family. How could she not be able to pay her

tuition?"

"Knowing someone is one thing, there are many people who know the Reed family. Do you think everyone can benefit from

them?" Angelica said.

"But I heard that Mason helped her block the pasta you threw

and protected her in public," the manager said.

Angelica's expression couldn't hold up, "What protection it

was just a coincidence. Do you really think Mason wo

interested in a poor little assistant like Veronica?"

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The manager thought about it and realized he was overthinking it, "Yeah, you're right. It's not easy to climb up to the Reed family, only top celebrities can do it."

Angelica felt a bit uneasy and pursed her lips. If she hadn't

thrown that bowl of pasta, would she have had a better first

encounter with Mason?

If that were the case, she could have left a better impression

on him.

It's all because of Veronica's connection! Thinking of this, Angelica became even more disgusted with Veronica.

After work, Veronica put the dry-cleaned suit in a bag and

headed to the subway station to go to the Reed family.

Some of the servants at the Reed family's house know her, so

she plans to hand over the suit to them when she arrives.

As for meeting Mason... Veronica sighed bitterly. He doesn't

want to see her at all. He even told her not to appear in front

of him again.

So, she never thought about returning the suit to him in person. As for Angelica's instructions, she will tell the servants and have them relay the message.

Twenty minutes later, Veronica left the subway station and

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headed towards the Reed family's mansion.

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This is a wealthy area, and there are noticeably more luxury cars on the road than elsewhere. As she got closer to the Reed family's mansion, there were fewer and fewer people around.

Just as Veronica was about to arrive, a silver-gray car drove towards her and suddenly stopped in front of her after passing by. Then, a figure got out of the car.

Veronica looked and saw that it was Mason. She suddenly

became a little flustered.

He looked at her and walked straight up to her. "Why are you here?" he asked in a cold voice.

"I... I'm here to return your suit." She stuttered a bit, then

fumbled in her bag and took out the suit, presenting it to him as if to prove that she really came to return it.

But he didn't even look at the suit. His eyes were still fixed on

her as he repeated his question, "Why are you here?"

She bit her lip. "I... I don't know where else to go to return your suit except here." Although Jasper had said that he was now

an exchange student at Stanford University, she didn't know which department or class he was in.

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"Then why bother picking up the clothes?" he asked again. "If they're dirty, just throw them away. Why bother washing them?"

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"The clothes are just dirty. They can be washed clean," she said. "It would be a shame to just throw them away like that."

"A shame?" He sneered. "It's just a piece of clothing. What's there to be ashamed of?"

She paused. Yes, how could she forget that he was Mason from the Reed family? Even if this piece of clothing was expensive, it was just an ordinary piece of clothing to him. He

could easily have as many new ones as he wanted.

But she still picked up the clothes and even squeezed out several hundred dollars from her meager living expenses to dry clean it, just because... it was his clothes, and he had

protected her while wearing it, so it got dirty.

Did he know how he looked when he shielded her from the

pasta that was thrown at her? It made her feel like she was

back in the past, when they were still together and he always

protected her like that.

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"So... this piece of clothing..." she asked hesitantly.

"Just throw it away, but it's not just garbage," he said.

She felt that the clothes in her hand became particularly

heavy.

Garbage... was it just garbage to him?

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But after receiving this piece of clothing, she gently stroked it over and over again, as if she was reminiscing about the past.

"I'm sorry," she said, putting the clothes back in her bag and turning to leave.

"Why not throw it away?" His voice suddenly sounded in her

ear.

She bit her lip. How could she bear to throw away his clothes?

But facing him, she couldn't say those words.

She lowered her head, unconsciously gripping the handle of her bag tightly, standing there silently.

He looked at her, and suddenly a wordless anger filled his chest. He thought of the day he saw her backstage, standing silently as another woman scolded her.

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In just a few years, it seemed to have worn away all the edges and corners on her, making her so quiet and silent.

"What, are you only capable of silence? Veronica, when did you become like this?" Mason asked.

She seemed even more at a loss... Yes, when did she become

increasingly quiet and reserved?

It was as if since he left her and she moved out of the Barlow

family, living alone in the house her biological mother left her, she had fewer and fewer words to say to the empty house.

Because words are meant for communication with others, but

in that empty house, she didn't even have anyone to talk to.

Taking a deep breath, Veronica looked up at Mason and said,

"I'm sorry for appearing in front of you again. Originally, I was

going to give this dress to the servants in the mansion to pass on to you. Since you think it can be thrown away, then I will

throw it away later."

Pausing for a moment, she continued, "If my presence makes you unhappy, then I'm sorry. I will try my best to avoid appearing in front of you in the future."

After saying this, she turned around and planned to leave

again.

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But she had only taken two steps when her arm was already caught by his hand. "Are you always so decisive? Do you treat other things the same way, just throw them away?" he asked.

"I don't understand what you mean," she said, twisting her arm, trying to break free from his grip, but she couldn't.

"Just like how you treated me back then, didn't you say you could just throw me away?" he said, "If it was destined to be

thrown away, then why did you pick me up in the first place? Why bother?"

He seemed to be talking about this dress, but it was more like

he was talking about himself back then!

Veronica's body trembled. "I... I didn't throw you away. In

my heart, you have always been my most important family

member."

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Her eyes stared into his, "It was you who hypnotized and

made me forget all the emotions about our past, wasn't it?"

"Why did I choose to hypnotize? Don't you know?" Mason said, "Family, you only treat me as family, but I don't lack family at

all!"

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Her body shrank a little.

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"But now, you can rest assured," he sneered at her, "I don't

love you at all, so you don't have to be afraid that your 'little brother' will violate you."

A hint of embarrassment flashed across Veronica's face.

"I...I'm not..."

"And another thing!" He interrupted her, "Don't say anything about treating me like a relative. You and I are not relatives!"

After saying this, he let go of her and went straight back to the. car. The silver-gray sedan drove into the Reed House.

Veronica stood there blankly, feeling the wind passing over her body, which was so cold that it was bone-chilling.

Veronica almost exhaustedly returned to her residence. As

soon as she walked into the room, she saw her father and

stepmother sitting there.

Suddenly, Veronica felt uneasy. Every time her father and stepmother came to see her, it was never for anything good.

This year, due to her falling out with Mason, the Barlow

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family's business has plummeted. Her father is no longer as vigorous as he used to be, and all the luxury brands he used to wear are gone. Maybe he sold them or mortgaged them.

"Is there something you need?" Veronica asked calmly.

"Is this how you talk to your father? What, can't I come here if I'm not in trouble?" Archer said unkindly.

Veronica shrugged indifferently, "If you weren't in trouble, you wouldn't be here."

Archer's expression stiffened, "There's a dinner party in a few days. Dress up and come with me."

"I have to work, I don't have time to attend any dinner parties,"

Veronica said.

"Working, how much money can you earn?" Archer sneered.

"At least I can earn my own tuition and living expenses,"

Veronica said.

"That's just foolish of you!" Archer was getting angrier, "The

Reed family has already said they will provide you with living expenses and tuition, but you insist on earning it yourself. Do you think money is that easy to earn?"

"I just don't want to be a parasite anymore!" Veronica said,

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"For so many years, we've been living off the Reed family like parasites. But once we're no longer with the Reed family, what do we have left that we've earned ourselves?"

Archer couldn't bear to be spoken to like this by his daughter. "Being a parasite is not something ordinary people can do!"

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"Look at what our family has become after you fell out with Mason. If it weren't for you, the Barlow family's business

wouldn't be in such a state. Your brother wouldn't have missed

out on the best high school in Emerald City. If this continues, we don't even know if he'll be able to go to college!"

"The Barlow family's business is failing because you don't have the ability to run a business. Your brother can't get into a good high school because of his own academic problems," Veronica spoke frankly.

Archer was furious and raised his hand to slap his daughter.

Veronica dodged the slap and said, "Dad, if you're here to hit me, I'll call the police!"

Outside, she was submissive to survive, but she didn't want to

accept all the blame from her unreasonable family members

at home.

"Okay, okay!" Rosalind, the stepmother, quickly acted as a

peacemaker. "Your father came here today to invite you to a dinner party in a few days. It's also a kind gesture. He thinks you're at the age where you should be dating and wants you

to meet some young men at the party. There will be many

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talented young people there, and it will expand your network,

which will also help your future career."

But Veronica politely declined, "I don't want to attend any dinner parties, Auntie Rosalind. I appreciate your kindness, but right now I just want to work hard and finish my studies."

"You-" Archer's face turned red with anger.

Seeing this, Rosalind pulled her husband's sleeve and said to

Veronica, "Since that's the case, your father and I will leave

first. Rest well."

After speaking, she immediately pulled Archer out of

Veronica's room.

As soon as they left, Archer said, "Why did you pull me out?

She clearly said she wanted to see Veronica!"

"If you keep talking like that, she'll only become more cautious. Anyway, I have a way to make her obediently come to the dinner party." Rosalind's eyes flickered as she spoke.

Upon hearing this, Archer immediately felt relieved.

"That's good. You must make sure that girl comes to the dinner party, otherwise that business deal will be ruined."

"I will!" Rosalind smiled.

Meanwhile, inside the room, Veronica took out Mason's suit

from her bag and held it tightly to her chest. It was as if the suit was her last support.

Now, she was all alone!

3/4

Unlike before, even if she was feeling down, she had Mason by her side, and they had a feeling of mutual reliance.

But now, she had no one to rely on!

Two days later, after finishing her classes, Veronica was on her way to work when Rosalind stopped her outside the school

gates.

"Auntie Rosalind?" Veronica looked at her in confusion.

"Your father had an accident. You and I need to go see him

right away." Rosalind said urgently.

"An accident? What happened?" Veronica asked quickly.

"At today's dinner party, your father spoke carelessly and offended someone. He's now being held there, and I...I'm at a loss. The other party said they must see you before they'll

release him," Rosalind said.