

Ex Convict 3701

Chapter 3701

"See me? Why do they want to see me?" Veronica asked, puzzled.

"It's all because your father talked too much. He said you and Mason used to call each other brother and sister, and that Mason lived in our house for many years. But the other party didn't believe him, and now there's trouble. They insist on seeing you. Maybe we can talk to the Reed family and they can help us out. Then your father will be okay," Rosalind said, looking troubled.

As she spoke, Rosalind observed Veronica's reaction.

"They want to see me, so I'll go," Veronica said.

Rosalind sighed inwardly. If Veronica was willing to ask the Reed family for help, it would give people the impression that the Barlow family and the Reed family were still connected. Businessmen would naturally be willing to help the Barlow family. But Veronica's words had dashed Rosalind's best hopes.

Nevertheless, if Veronica was willing to go, that was good enough.

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"But you can't go like this. You need to change your clothes a bit, or they won't let you in," Rosalind said, instructing the driver to take them to a styling salon.

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Veronica frowned, clearly not wanting to change her clothes, but also worried about her father.

After some fussing, she changed into a white dress, tied her long hair back, and applied a light makeup. She looked completely different from when she came in, like a lotus emerging from the water, giving people a fresh and elegant feeling.

Even Rosalind, her stepmother, was stunned.

All along, her stepdaughter had been plain-faced and dressed plainly, so much so that Rosalind had the impression that her stepdaughter was average-looking.

But unexpectedly, after a bit of dressing up, she looked extremely beautiful. It can only be said that the stepdaughter

had excellent looks.

Rosalind took Veronica to the dinner party, and Veronica's

face was full of worry. She didn't notice her stepmother's expression at the moment, but she had no worries at all.

When they arrived at the dinner party, Veronica realized it was

a five-star hotel. In a banquet hall of the hotel, Veronica saw

Chapter 3701 her father.

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At this moment, Archer didn't look like he was being held hostage at all. He kept drinking with people and had a smiling

face.

As soon as Archer saw Veronica, he immediately waved to

her and said, "Come, Veronica, let me introduce you to some people."

Seeing this scene, Veronica understood immediately that she had been tricked by her father and stepmother. She spoke up and said, "I have something else to do. I'll leave first."

But before she could turn around, her stepmother had

already grabbed her and said, "Since you're here, why leave

so soon? Let your dad introduce you to some people. Young people should make more friends."

"Auntie Rosalind, you should know that I don't want to make

any friends here. If you don't want to embarrass everyone, you'd better let go." Veronica whispered.

Auntie Rosalind's face changed slightly, and then she whispered in Veronica's ear, "Veronica, it's not that Auntie

Rosalind wants to make things difficult for you. The other

party really wants to meet you. Your dad is relying on this

business deal. If this deal falls through, the Barlow family may

go bankrupt. Your dad has borrowed a lot of money over the

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years. Do you really want to see him being forced to live in poverty by his creditors?"

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Veronica remained silent.

"Just accompany them for a few words and a few drinks. If they're happy, the business will naturally go smoothly. From now on, your dad and I promise not to force you to attend these kinds of dinner parties again." Rosalind promised.

Veronica took a deep breath and walked towards her father.

When Archer saw his daughter coming over, he was happy and immediately greeted her, "Come, this is Mr. Ward from Toyar Group. Veronica, say hello to him."

Veronica approached the somewhat overweight Mr. Ward and said, "Mr. Ward, hello, I'm Veronica."

"You must be Veronica," Crispin Ward looked at Veronica with a hint of malice and a satisfied smile on his lips. "You're late today, making me wait. How about you punish yourself with three cups?"

Veronica frowned, "Sorry, I'm not good at drinking."

"Why be so modest? This drink is no different from a beverage. How about I use smaller cups?"

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As he spoke, he snapped his fingers and the nearby waiter quickly came over. After receiving instructions, the waiter brought three small cups that were only about an inch tall. Crispin filled them with alcohol and said to Veronica, "Just these three cups, okay?"

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Veronica glanced at her father's eager eyes and then at the three cups in front of her. The amount was indeed small, so there shouldn't be a problem.

She pursed her lips, picked up the cup, and drank it all in one

1. Then, she quickly drank the second and third cups!

After drinking three cups of alcohol, Veronica felt a burning sensation in her throat.

Archer had already freed up a seat for Veronica, which happened to be next to Crispin.

Crispin looked at Veronica with a smile, "Your father said that Mason from the Reed family used to call you sister. Is that true?"

A hint of embarrassment flashed across Veronica's face. She

didn't want to be reminded of the past, but it was always cruelly brought up.

"It was just a nickname we used to play around with. I'm not

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really Mason's sister," Veronica said. "Besides, I haven't had any contact with Mason for many years now."

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Veronica tried to distance herself from Mason. She knew her

father probably mentioned her relationship with the Reed family to make this deal, but she didn't want to use them or

Mason anymore.

As soon as she said this, Archer's face turned ugly.

However, Crispin didn't seem to care. He smiled and said, "Come on, let's eat some food. You can't just drink without eating." He then took the initiative to serve Veronica some food and even reached out to hug her with his greasy hand.

"I...I'm feeling a bit unwell. I need to go to the restroom. Excuse

me," Veronica stood up and deliberately avoided his hand,

walking towards the door of the banquet hall.

"Ah!" Archer wanted to stop his daughter, but Veronica's

footsteps were too fast. Rosalind was about to get up, but saw Mr. Ward had already stood up and chased after her.

She immediately sat back down, understanding what was

happening.

She didn't care what might happen to her stepdaughter. As long as the Barlow family could seal the deal, that was all that

mattered.

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If this deal went through, the Barlow family would have a

chance to turn things around.

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Veronica's steps were already faltering as she ran out of the banquet hall.

The hall was on the second floor, and as she headed towards the stairs, Crispin intercepted her.

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"Why rush? You said you were going to the bathroom, right?"

"It's on the other side. Let me take you there!" Crispin said, grabbing Veronica's hand and pulling her in the opposite direction.

Veronica's steps became unsteady, and her head began to feel heavy. The three drinks she had earlier may not have seemed like much, but they were hitting her hard. Her tolerance for alcohol was average, and she could feel the effects of the drinks rushing to her head. She was afraid that she would soon lose consciousness, and that would be

dangerous.

And Mr. Ward in front of her was definitely not a gentleman.

"I...I can go by myself. You don't have to take me," Veronica said weakly.

"Why bother? Let me take you!" Crispin said with a lecherous grin. He then pulled Veronica into his arms and whispered, "Your whole family is counting on my deal. If you accompany me tonight, I can sign the contract with your father tomorrow.

It's a good deal, isn't it?"

Crispin dragged Veronica towards the direction of the

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elevator.

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Veronica struggled to push him away, but it was useless. To outsiders, they looked like a couple being intimate.

Just then, a door from a nearby private room opened, and a few figures walked out. One of them saw the two embracing and paused for a moment, feeling that it was inappropriate. He then spoke up, "Mason, come this way," and led Mason

down the other staircase.

Mason responded with a faint sound, about to turn around, but his footsteps suddenly stopped when he caught sight of

that familiar face.

The face that was always free of makeup was now adorned

with delicate and elegant makeup. Her cheeks were slightly red, her eyes misty as she looked at the short and chubby

man holding her. Her lips were slightly parted, as if whispering sweet nothings.

She was wearing a white dress that outlined her beautiful figure.

She was completely different from the woman he saw a few days ago.

The people accompanying her seemed to notice that he was looking at the man and woman, so one of them said to Mason,

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“That man is Crispin, the young master of Toyar Group.”

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“Is that so?” Mason said coldly. Was she unwilling to be just an assistant again, dressing up like this and being intimate with

this man?

Did she find a sugar daddy?

A wave of anger that had not yet come over him spread, but then he silently scolded himself for being emotionally affected by such a woman.

After all, it was she who had pushed him away with her own hands.

When he decided to bury all the past, the relationship between him and her had already been completely severed.

Mason turned around and walked towards the other end of the stairs.

Veronica, in her drunken haze, saw those familiar eyes. Whose eyes were they? They made her feel at ease, as if she didn't

have to worry about anything as long as those eyes were there.

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But in the blink of an eye, those eyes suddenly disappeared.

Don't...don't go!

"Save her... save her... those eyes are her last hope!"

With a burst of strength that seemed to come from nowhere, Veronica pushed Crispin away as he tried to pull her into the elevator. She stumbled towards Mason.

When everyone was caught off guard, Veronica hugged Mason from behind.

Mason froze in place and the people around him stopped too, turning their attention to the unexpected scene.

"Save... save me..." Veronica's voice was broken.

Mason slowly turned around and looked down at Veronica, who was still hugging him. "You want me to save you?"

"Save... save me..." She struggled to focus her gaze on his dark eyes, pleading with him.

Mason looked at her with mixed emotions. He had been wary

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when she tried to hug him earlier, and with his skills, he could have easily avoided her embrace. But in the end, he let her hug him.

"What nonsense are you spouting, woman!" Crispin's sudden outburst interrupted them. He tried to pull Veronica away from Mason.

But when Mason gave him a cold stare, Crispin's hand froze in mid-air. He felt a sense of familiarity in Mason's face, as if he had seen him somewhere before.

"What's your relationship with her?" Mason asked in a cold voice.

“She’s my girlfriend, we were just going back to our room!” Crispin regained his composure and reached out to Veronica

again.

But this time, Mason waved his hand and pushed Crispin

away.

“You little punk...”

Crispin was interrupted by a voice beside him before he could finish speaking. “Crispin, what are you talking about? This is Mason from the Reed family!”

Crispin was startled and realized that one of the people he

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was talking to was actually a relative he knew, someone who had business dealings with his family.

At the moment, this relative was just standing on the side, giving him a disapproving look.

Mason from the Reed family, could this be... Mason?! Crispin remembered seeing him from afar at a banquet a few years ago, no wonder he felt familiar just now.

At this moment, he looked at Veronica, who was holding onto Mason. Wasn’t the reason he wanted to see Veronica to find out what kind of person the woman who Mason called “sister”

was?

Crispin really hoped that what Veronica said was true, that she and Mason had no contact and no relationship anymore!

“I... I’m not his girlfriend, I’m not...” Veronica said with difficulty, holding onto Mason even tighter, as if holding onto a lifeline.

“Help... help me... please?”

Her voice was full of hope and pleading, and even her eyes

were covered with a layer of mist.

Mason looked at her face, his expression still indifferent. “But why should I help you?”

Veronica’s body trembled, her head slowly lowered from its

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raised position, and her hands holding onto him also loosened

little by little.

The drunkenness still lingered on her body, but she seemed to have used up the last bit of her sobriety. "I... I'm sorry... I said the wrong thing... I... I shouldn't have asked you to help me..."

She finished her words intermittently and tried to leave.

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Crispin breathed a sigh of relief when he saw this. It seemed that Mason didn't take Veronica seriously at all.

He was about to embrace Veronica eagerly when suddenly a hand came out of nowhere and stopped him.

In the next moment, Mason pulled Veronica behind him.

"Mason, what are you doing?" Crispin looked at Mason in surprise.

"Get lost." Mason coldly spat out these words.

As soon as he said that, Crispin's face stiffened. After all, he was the young master of the Toyar Group. Being told to "get lost" like this in front of everyone was a huge blow to his pride.

"Mason, this woman doesn't know her place. She was just trying to seduce me earlier, but as soon as she saw you, she clung to you and cried for help. She's obviously trying to set a trap for you. I'll take her back and teach her a lesson!" Crispin said as he tried to grab Veronica again.

"Get lost!" Mason said again. "Don't make me say it a third time."

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Crispin's face turned ugly, but he thought of Mason's identity and decided to leave. He glared at Veronica and walked away.

It wasn't until this moment that Veronica finally relaxed, feeling the comforting breath of air around her nose.

Thank goodness!

Mason... he really saved her!

Her thoughts became more and more hazy, and finally, she couldn't bear the drunkenness in her body anymore. She lost consciousness and fell down. In her daze, she felt a pair of arms holding her, and the breath that enveloped her made her feel extremely safe...

Mason carried Veronica horizontally and walked towards the

hotel exit, while the people around him looked surprised.

Although they didn't have much contact with Mason, they had

heard rumors that he didn't like to be close to women. So, they didn't bring any female companions to the banquet. But now, Mason had just picked up this woman and carried her away.

What's the relationship between this woman and Mason?

The crowd speculated in their hearts, while Mason held

Veronica and got directly into the car.

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"Drive." Mason said.

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"Are we going back to the Reed House?" The driver in the front seat asked.

Jasper pursed his lips, "No, we don't need to go back to the Reed House, go to..." He pondered for a moment and reported the address of Veronica's current residence.

He knew that she had moved back to the house her mother had left behind, and he naturally knew the address of that

house.

Because once, before the Reed family found him, he lived there with her.

The driver drove the car to the entrance of an old community, and Mason carried Veronica out of the car.

This was where he used to live, and even after so many years, many places were still so familiar to him.

Mason carried Veronica to the door of her house and looked at the electronic lock on the door, which was password-protected.

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This was different from before, when the lock was an old-fashioned one.

Her password...

He closed his eyes and thought about it. In his memory, her mother's death anniversary was probably the password she

used most often.

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But when he tried it, he found out it wasn't.

If it wasn't for her mother's anniversary... He tried several times, including her birthday and even his own, but none of them worked.

He looked down at her sleeping form, trying to wake her up. "Wake up, we're at your place. Do you remember the password?"

As she slept, she snuggled closer to him, seeking some kind of comfort from the noise.

Mason furrowed his brow and asked again, "What's the password for your door?"

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"Pass...word..." she mumbled, and then in a half-awake state, she said a number.

His eyes darkened suddenly, and after a while, he finally pressed the numbers on the lock and the door opened. He carried her inside.

The room was pitch black, but Mason turned on the light, and suddenly the room was filled with a bright, white light.

Everything in the room was just like he remembered it from years ago, except for a small piece of furniture that had been replaced.

The small room, though old, was very clean. There were two rooms, one with a closed door and the other with a half-open door. In his memory, the latter was once her room, but after he joined the Barlow family, it became their room.

Mason carried Veronica into the room and placed her on the

bed. He didn't even notice that his movements were cautious.

He silently watched her lying on the bed. The room was still dark, and moonlight shone through the window, falling on her peaceful and beautiful face.

Why did he have to intervene tonight? He could hav

what would happen between her and that man!

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But when he saw that man about to grab her again, he didn't even think twice before pushing him away.

It was as if he couldn't stand those hands holding her so intimately.

What was wrong with him?! Mason shook his head and pushed away the doubts in his mind. He glanced at her shoes still on her feet, pursed his lips, bent down to take them off, and then pulled up the thin blanket to cover her.

Just as he was about to straighten up, her body suddenly moved and one hand wrapped around his neck... "Don't... don't go..."

Broken murmurs escaped from her mouth intermittently.

His body suddenly shook, his gaze sinking as he looked at the face so close to him.

Once, she was the person he loved the most, but now, she was just an acquaintance to him, without any significance.

He should push her away immediately and leave this place!

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Just as his hand was about to pull her hand off his neck, her previously closed eyes had opened and were staring at him.

Mason was stunned, and at this moment, time seemed to stand still. All his attention seemed to be drawn to her eyes.

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Her eyes were still hazy with drunkenness. At this moment, she was still drunk and not sober.

"Mason..." her murmured voice rang out leisurely, "Is... is it you?"

He pursed his thin lips and did not answer her.

She squinted her eyes hard, as if trying to see him clearly. Then her hand slowly moved from his neck to his cheek, her fingers slowly stroking his cheek as if trying to feel his face

and bones.

"You... should be Mason, should be..." she muttered, "Do you know? I miss you so much. I know I shouldn't have blamed you back then. Later, I thought a lot..."

"Thought a lot?" His cold voice finally sounded.

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"Yes... thought a lot..." she murmured, her face getting closer to his, and her drunken eyes widening as if trying to see him more clearly, "I thought... I was afraid... afraid that the balance between us would be broken, afraid that in the end, we couldn't even be... siblings. But..."

She suddenly laughed again, but her laughter seemed bitter. "But in the end...if we can't be siblings, we can't even be friends..."

"So, you regret it, don't you?" he stared at her.

"I..." she opened her mouth. Suddenly, she flipped over and pressed him down beneath her.

Her fingers were still feeling his face, and in this position, it seemed easier for her to see his face clearly.

"I regret it. I

shouldn't have hurt you like that...if I could go back in time,

that would be great..."

As her voice fell, her head fell heavily on his chest, and she fell

asleep again.

But because of her words, he was confused.

She was someone he shouldn't care about, so why didn't he push her away just now? He even let her touch his face and

said a bunch of nonsense.

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Whether she regrets it or not is meaningless now.

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He should push her away now and leave, but...everything is in chaos again after meeting her again!

Veronica felt her head throbbing. Why was her head hurting

so much? Right, she drank a lot of alcohol yesterday, and then...she wanted to leave, but Crispin chased after her and grabbed her. She wanted to struggle, but...

Suddenly, her hand seemed to touch something, it was...another person's body?!

Veronica shuddered. Did Crispin...do something to her last night?

But when she opened her eyes, she saw Mason's face.

Veronica blinked in confusion. Was she dreaming? She actually dreamed of Mason.

Just like before, Mason used to love lying on her bed, holding her intimately.

The scene before her seemed so unreal that she reached out her hand and trembled as she touched the other person's cheek.

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However, before her fingers could touch the cheek, a hand suddenly grabbed hers, preventing her from moving forward.

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The pair of eyes that were originally closed suddenly opened, and the gaze swept over her face calmly but coldly. "What do you want?"

The tight grip and warmth on her wrist made Veronica finally realize that the scene before her was not a dream.

"You...what are you doing here?" she asked nervously, trying to pull her hand back.

He let go of her hand and sat up. "Don't you remember?"

"I..." She opened her mouth, and suddenly the fragmented memories from before flashed through her mind.

Right, she seemed to have broken free from Crispin, then hugged Mason, and then...asked him to save her!

Suddenly, her expression became awkward.

"Remember now?" He got off the bed and straightened out his

wrinkled clothes.

"You sent me back?" she asked. She only remembered that she seemed to have fallen into his arms at the end, and then

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she couldn't remember anything else.

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"Otherwise, how do you think you got back?" he asked coldly.

She felt uneasy. "Then why were you...uh, why were you sleeping here?"

"If it weren't for you holding me down, I could have left a long time ago," he said, his voice carrying a barely noticeable hint of guilt.

Only he knew that he could have left earlier, but for some reason... he just didn't. He let her press against him like that, and then... he fell asleep without realizing it.

Was it the same atmosphere as back then? It was so similar to the memories in his mind.

He remembered that he used to love falling asleep with her like this, lying on the same bed, intimately close to each other. It was as if in this world, they only had each other, and as long as they had each other, they could survive.

Even though the memory in his mind was devoid of any emotion, as if he was just watching an old movie, the

experience from last night helped him slowly fill in the missing emotions that had been hypnotized away.

"I'm... I'm sorry," Veronica apologized in a choked voice.

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"And in the future, don't just hug someone and scream for

help. Since you dressed like that and were with that kind of man yesterday, you should have known what would happen," Mason said coldly.

Veronica's face turned white at the thought of last night's events, and she defended herself, "I didn't... it's not what you

think!"

“How do you know what I’m thinking? Isn’t the Barlow family trying to get Toyar Group’s business? Isn’t this Toyar Group’s young master your benefactor?” he asked.

Her face turned from white to red, and she tightly gripped the sheet on her body. She was both embarrassed and angry.

“Do you really see me that way?” she asked, trembling.

“How I see you doesn’t matter at all. I just hope that next time, you won’t come and bother me,” he replied.

“Bother you?” she murmured, feeling a certain emotion bursting in her chest. She lifted the thin blanket on her body, got out of bed, looked up at him and said, “Mason, do you think I shouldn’t have asked you for help yesterday? I should have let that bastard take me to the elevator, take me back to

the room, and do those dirty things to me?”

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“That’s your business, it has nothing to do with me,” he replied,

his voice indifferent, cold, and unfamiliar.

“Yes, it’s my business, it really has nothing to do with you...” she said bitterly, “Then why did you save me? Why did you bring me back?”

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He furrowed his brow and said irritably, “It was just to avoid being laughed at by others. But there won’t be a next time. And if you want to exchange something for your body, you better think it through beforehand. Don’t come back and change your mind at the last minute and make a scene! Or did you see me back then and think that I could benefit the

Barlow family more than that Toyar Group small business owner? So you chose to come to me?”

His words made her body tremble, and suddenly she threw herself at him with all her strength.

The two of them fell to the ground like this.

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She pressed down on him, her hands on his shoulders. “Why do you think of me like this? Why? Shouldn’t you be the one who knows me best? Even if you were hypnotized, it was just your emotions that were hypnotized, right? You should remember everything between us from the past, right? Then you should know that I didn’t start being with you because you could bring any benefits to the Barlow family!”

She spoke loudly, as if all the emotions that had been suppressed in her heart for so long could no longer be

contained and erupted like a volcano.

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Tears the size of beans flowed from her eyes and down her cheeks, falling onto his face.

One drop, two drops...they were so hot.

Mason felt a heavy pressure in his chest, accompanied by an indescribable pain.

"Why...why did you hypnotize me!" She choked, "If I

misunderstood you, then explain it to me clearly. Say it

once, twice, three times, until I don't misunderstand you

anymore...but why hypnotize me? Why forget everything we had in the past? Clearly, you said I was the most important person to you...you said we had to rely on each other..."

Her tears fell even more fiercely, and her crying became

louder.

"Don't you know why I hypnotized myself? Is it really just because of that one misunderstanding?"

Mason looked at Veronica, who was full of tears, and wondered why he still felt sad when he saw her crying like this.

She paused for a moment.

"Veronica, you only see me as a little brother and don't want to love me. But Grace wants me to stay by your side as a brother,

isn't that too selfish?" he said.

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She trembled and closed her eyes, listening to his voice

continuing to ring in her ears. "I chose to hypnotize myself just because I didn't want to be burdened by that impossible

emotion from before."

"I'm sorry..." she murmured, "I know it's too late for anything I

say now, we can't go back to the way things were..."

"What if we could go back?" he suddenly asked.

“What?” She was startled, opened her eyes wide, and looked at him in disbelief.

“If we could go back, would you love me then? Would you stop treating me like a little brother?” Mason asked, his beautiful black eyes calm as the deep sea, making it hard to read his thoughts.

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Veronica was lost in thought. In fact, she had asked herself the same question countless times over the years.

If she had accepted his confession of love back then, would everything be different? There would be no misunderstandings, no separation, and he wouldn't have chosen hypnosis.

He had always been the most important person to her, the one she was willing to depend on. In the Barlow family, she never felt like she belonged, she never felt like it was her home, but... Mason was different!

He was her true family, the only one she had in her heart! For him, she could give up everything! And she knew he felt the same way back then!

They were each other's most important person!

She had always seen him as a little brother and never thought about being with him as anything else.

Or perhaps, in her subconscious, her views on love and marriage were not necessarily long-lasting. Like her parents, after her mother died, her father quickly found a stepmother.

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All the promises he made to her mother were just a joke.

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She had also dated before, but that relationship ended abruptly. Of course, part of the reason her relationship ended was because of Mason.

But even without Mason's interference, her relationship with Daniel wouldn't have lasted long. Perhaps when there were some changes in the wind, or conflicts of interest, Daniel and Grace would choose their family over her.

So looking back, her first love was just a childish game.

Lovers can be replaced.

But family cannot be replaced. The bond of family can last

forever.

So at that time, she didn't want to change her relationship
with Mason!

Even when she found out that Mason's liking for her had turned into romantic love, she avoided it and
didn't want to
face it!

But she never thought that her avoidance would only make the distance between them grow further.

If she had a chance to choose again, would she still avoid it?

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Or would she try to accept him?

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"I...I don't know," Veronica murmured her thoughts, "I don't

know if I will fall in love with you, or if I can stop seeing you as a little brother, but...I think I will try to
understand you and see

if there is another possibility between us besides siblings."

But now, it's too late to say these things. It may even be
meaningless.

Time cannot be turned back.

"So let's try," he said.

She was stunned. "What...try?" What was he talking about?

Could it be what she was thinking?

"Let's try to see if there is another possibility between us besides siblings," Mason said. "I can give you a
chance to try. If it turns out that there is no such possibility, then we will go our separate ways. I will give
you some money and you can leave Emerald City and never appear in front of me again."

She was shocked and trying to digest what he had just said.

"So...what if that's a possibility?" she murmured after a while.

"Then we'll date, and I'll choose to lift the hypnosis," he said.

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"Lift the hypnosis?" She blinked, not understanding.

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“The hypnosis makes me forget the emotions from this period of my past, but it doesn’t mean they can’t be restored. Before the hypnosis, a secret phrase is set, and that phrase can lift the hypnosis,” he explained.