

Ex Convict 491

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"Oh, look at that, you've called for a sidekick!" The woman mocked Lina Sweeney when she saw Grace.

Grace frowned and looked at her friend. "Lina, what happened?"

"You don't need to be bothered about her," Lina Sweeney said.

The young woman burst out like a barrel of petroleum that caught on fire as she yelled, "Why? Are you ashamed to admit that you shamelessly seduced my boyfriend? If I hadn't caught you in the act, were you going to strip naked and get into my boyfriend's bed!"

Lina Sweeney glared at the woman. "Seduce? Do you think I'm interested in this kind of man? What exactly is going through your brains? You only think that the problem lies with other people but have you ever considered that it's your boyfriend that's the problem!"

"I saw you with my own eyes yet you're still arguing with me about it!" the woman yelled.

"Bullshit! What did you see with your own eyes?!" Lina Sweeney argued back. She pointed at the man who was

curled in a corner. "Let me be frank. With his face, I won't bat an eyelid even if you offer him to me. Besides, I have a boyfriend who is multiple times better than him. What reason is there for me to be interested in this kind of man? Is he made

of gold or money bills?"

The younger woman's expression was full of mockery. "I don't think you have a boyfriend to begin with! That's why you're eyeing someone else's boyfriend. You dare to do it but you're too much of a coward to admit it? Who will believe this load of crap."

Lina Sweeney was fuming with anger. She wished she could open up the woman's head to see what was inside that made

her so unbelievable.

'Even if this woman sees her boyfriend as treasure, does she think that everyone will think the same?!'

"I believe her!" Grace spoke up and looked at the young woman. "I've seen Lina's boyfriend. Besides, what evidence do you have to prove that she had ill-intentions toward your boyfriend? If there isn't, we can sue you for defamation.",

"I saw it with my eyes, so how can it be fake?" The young woman named Hattie Robson scoffed.

"Is that so? What did you see?" Grace asked.

"I saw her entering a fire escape stairway with my boyfriend

to have a secret chat,” Hattie Robson said.

“If you meant a fire escape route, then people walk past there all the time. It can’t be considered as a secret chat anymore,

can it? The most you can say is that they were having a chat. Besides, do you have more concrete evidence? Maybe a video or an audio recording to prove that my friend was indeed having an affair with your boyfriend? Otherwise, you’re just blatantly defaming her,” Grace said neatly.

Hattie Robson’s expression became livid. What Grace said was a slap to her face. She blurted, “You’re the same type of person as Lina Sweeney. Both of you are probably the kind of women who go around seducing men.”

When Lina Sweeney heard that, she rolled up her sleeves and was ready to fight the woman. “What a b*tch you are, Hattie Robson! You can scold me but how dare you scold my friend.

F*ck you. Even if I’m going to be locked up for a night, I’m going to beat you up first!”

When Hattie Robson saw that Lina Sweeney wanted to march

up to her, she chickened out and hid behind her boyfriend. Grace quickly pulled Lina Sweeney back. The police officer who was in charge of the case immediately asked both

women to pipe down.

Grace finally understood what was going on. Two women got

into a fight over a man, then both sides also sustained some injuries. Initially, her best friend wanted to just let the incident slide, but the other woman was not going to give up easily.

She brought the incident to the police station and now they needed someone to bail them out.

Hattie Robson’s boyfriend was the reason for the fight, but he was not involved in the fight. Thus, he could bail her out. However, Lina Sweeney needed Grace to help her.

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While Grace was going through the procedures to bail Lina Sweeney out, Jason called her. “Are you at the police station?”

“Huh?” Grace was stunned for a moment and quickly recovered. It must have been the driver who informed him.

“Yes, I’m at the police station. Something happened to Lina, so I’m here to bail her out.”

Jason found it quite amusing. “She needs you to help bail her

out? Why didn't she look for Hadwin Stephenson? Isn't he her boyfriend?"

"..." It was a rather complicated situation, and it was Lina's private matters. "I guess she has her own way of thinking. Anyway, I'm in the middle of going through the paperwork. I'll talk to you later!"

Grace ended the call and continued with the process.

Hattie Robson was still cursing at Lina Sweeney as she was adamant that Lina Sweeney was interested in her boyfriend.

Lina Sweeney was so angry that she scolded Hattie Robson as a pig! She had Hadwin Stephenson as her boyfriend now.

Although he was just a temporary boyfriend, he did not

mind that she occasionally flirted around with him or took advantage of him! Why would she need to do anything to a man she had no interest in?

Sometimes, when a woman realized there was a problem in her relationship, she would rather blame another woman

rather than blaming her man.

Once Grace was done, she brought Lina Sweeney out of the station. As they stepped out, they were met with Jason who was walking toward them.

"Why are you here?" Grace was taken aback.

"I came to pick you up," Jason said and turned to glance at

Lina Sweeney. He noticed that she seemed fine.

However, if it was a serious problem, he believed that Hadwin Stephenson would settle it for her.

"Since you're done here, then let's go," Jason said.

Grace nodded. "Let's send Lina home first.

Lina Sweeney smiled sheepishly. "Sorry for the trouble today."

Jason naturally took Grace's hand in his and walked toward the car. At that moment, Hattie Robson and her boyfriend,

Taylor Carline, came out of the police station too.

When Hattie Robson saw Jason who was with Grace and Lina Sweeney, she was mesmerized. After all, this kind of man

could easily catch anyone's attention.

He was dressed in a business suit that wrapped around his tall figure. He had broad shoulders, a slim waist, and a long pair of legs. He looked like a perfect model. Besides, he had a handsome face that on closer inspection, you could see how

exquisite his features were.

When this man stood still, he looked like a real-life painting. that exuded elegance and royalty.

When Hattie Robson saw Jason and Grace holding hands, she

felt jealous. 'Is this her boyfriend? Lina Sweeney's friend looks like an ordinary woman, how did she get such a boyfriend!'

Hattie Robson diverted all her anger on Lina Sweeney toward Grace and said to Jason, "Hey, you're this woman's boyfriend? You better watch your girlfriend properly otherwise you can't guarantee that she won't be like her friend, seducing other people's boyfriend. After all, birds of a feather flock together!"

"What are you saying!" Lina Sweeney burst into anger. She did not expect that Hattie Robson would be so shameless to say such a thing to a stranger. "Hattie Robson, if you don't watch what you say, I'll make sure you suffer even if I never find

another job!"

"Am I spouting nonsense? Taylorsaid you were the one who seduced him!" Hattie Robson then looked at her boyfriend

and said, "Say something! Isn't that the case?"

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Taylor Carline nodded cowardly. "Y-ye-yes... Lina Sweeney seduced me!"

Lina Sweeney wanted to give a slap to that man!

Grace was worried that her friend's rash behavior would land her in hot soup, thus she pulled her friend back and said to the couple, "You'll need to be legally responsible for whatever you've said just now. Otherwise, that's considered. as defaming a person's reputation. Why don't we go back into. the station to see if we need to open up a case."

Taylor Carline shuddered and shut his mouth.

Hattie Robson was still hurling verbal abuse when Jason lazily.

looked at her. "What a pompous woman. Are you fit to point out what kind of person my girlfriend is? Who do you think your are?"

Hattie Robson looked horrified. Jason's words were like a slap to her face.

"I... I'm just giving a kind reminder, I'm worried that you'll be cheated on." Hattie Robson tried to argue.

However, Jason was not interested to listen to what she had to

say. He turned to Lina Sweeney and said, "You were arrested

by the police because of such people? Looks like Hadwin

Stephenson doesn't know about it. If he did, these people

would not be standing in front of you now."

Lina Sweeney looked awkward.

"Let's go," Jason softly spoke to Grace before leading her

down the stairs. A black Bentley was parked on the road at

the bottom of the stairs. The trio got in the car.

Hattie Robson and Taylor Carline were left standing there like

insignificant air.

Hattie Robson's angry look turned into a look of disbelief

when she saw the Bentley.

'This car... is not cheap. If it's the top of its series, then the price is not something a regular person can even imagine. Who is this friend of Lina Sweeney?!

'And that man. The last look he gave was so cold. When I think

back about it now, it gives me the creeps!

Inside the car, Grace asked Lina Sweeney to tell the full story.

Lina Sweeney said, "Haffie Robson and Taylor

my colleagues. I'm in the same team as Taylor Carline for

a project, and he has been trying to flirt with me. I've been rejecting him but he refused to give up.

That's why I called him to the fire stairway to warn him to stop harassing me."

Lina Sweeney said that she assumed that things would end after she had given her warning, but he tried to pull her and

make advances on her.

That was when Hattie Robson appeared and blamed Lina Sweeney for seducing her boyfriend!

Nobody in the company knew that these two were having an

office romance!

The situation became a mess and they ended up in the police

station.

Grace was speechless for a moment after she heard the whole story. How could Hattie Robson not blame her boyfriend? Instead, that woman was adamant that it was Lina Sweeney's fault.

"Aren't you together with Hadwin Stephenson? Why didn't you look for him to bail you out?" Jason's voice suddenly resounded within the car.

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Lina Sweeney looked like she had difficulty explaining it to Jason. She wished that she could hide the fact that she was a couple with Hadwin Stephenson.

She did not want to have many changes to her life after they broke up.

If it were not because her parents had accidentally found out about him, she would not have even told them!

"I... Hehe... I was worried I'd disturb him at work." Lina Sweeney gave a random excuse.

"Then you're not afraid of disturbing Grace?" Jason shot back.

Lina Sweeney held her breath. Grace quickly replied, "I'm not afraid of being disturbed by Lina." Then, she turned to Lina Sweeney and said, "If there is any issue in the future, you must disturb me. You are the most important friend I have."

Lina Sweeney felt warmth in her heart. She replied and looked through the rearview mirror to see Jason who was next to Grace. 'His tone earlier... Um, he sounded like he was jealous?

It made me feel like I'm being envied.

'But the question is... Why is Jason envious of me? Because of Grace?' That thought made Lina Sweeney shudder!

It was unbelievable that she was being envied by Jason who was like a king in Emerald City.

However, it seemed to have happened just now.

When the car arrived near Lina Sweeney's housing estate, another car also drove into the area. Lina Sweeney found the car rather familiar. Subsequently, she was shocked to realize that it seemed to look like Hadwin Stephenson's car.

At that moment, Hadwin Stephenson also noticed Jason's car. He got down from his car and walked over to Jason's car.

Lina Sweeney got down to ask, "Why are you here?"

"I called your phone, why didn't you answer?"

She fished out her phone to see that it was shut and

sheepishly said, "Erm... It's out of battery."

Hadwin Stephenson took a glance at the car and asked, "Why did they send you home?"

"About that... It's a long story," Lina Sweeney dryly said.

At that moment, the car window rolled down and Jason said to

Hadwin Stephenson from inside the car, "If you're her real boyfriend, then don't let others bully your girlfriend till no end."

Hadwin Stephenson was taken aback. However, Jason had asked the driver to drive off before Hadwin Stephenson could

respond.

Inside the car, Grace asked, "Did you do that on purpose?"

After all, Jason was not a nosy man. He would not usually say

such things to anyone.

"Yes, I was." Jason admitted.

"But why did you do that on purpose?" That was something

she did not understand.

"To prevent her from troubling you again. Since Hadwin Stephenson is her boyfriend, then he should perform his duty as a responsible boyfriend."

"But I don't find it troublesome at all. I only came to help bail Lina out. Besides, Lina helped me so much back then, so even if I have to do more for her, I'm more than willing."

'That's why I am jealous!' Jason said so inwardly. He was jealous that Lina Sweeney held such an important spot in

Grace's life.

Even though he understood that this was a genuine bond

between two women, he still could not suppress that jealousy brewing within his heart.

"Grace, how important is she to you?" he stared at her as he asked.

"Very important!" she answered without hesitation.

"More important than me?" His tone was rather displeased.

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She was dumbfounded for a moment before responding. "You can't compare it like that."

One was the love of her life and the other was her best friend.

These were two completely different kinds of relationships!

On further thought, she said, "Both of you are people I can sacrifice my life for! So both of you are equally important to me."

His gaze shifted. He should feel satisfied that she was willing to use her life to protect him!

'But why can't it be me only?!'

The bottom line was, he was being too greedy. He was so greedy that he wanted to be the one and only person in the center of her heart. He was so greedy that he did not want anyone else to occupy an important role to her,

"Because she helped you back then?"

"I guess so. In the beginning, I didn't know that she would do so much for me even though we're friends." Grace sighed. Back then, her friendship with Lina was quite good, but

sometimes you need to weather through a storm together before you could find the gem or trash in that person.

Only after going through some ordeals could you see a

person clearly and understand that some people were worth your genuine heart.

"Without Ling, there won't be me now. That's why Lina is so important to me." Grace then looked at Jason and touched his cheeks. "Are you jealous of Lina as well?"

"If I said I am?" he asked in return.

Grace was taken aback and inexplicably felt that Jason was like a child right now. In the past, she had heard a saying that there was a child hidden in every man regardless of how mature and responsible he may seem. It seemed to be the

case right now.

"Then you'll just have to bear with it."

Jason pulled her hand over and placed it on his lips. They gently touched her palm, causing her to blush again.

"I guess I have to," he mumbled and closed his eyes.

If it was not for the road accident back then, perhaps Lina Sweeney would not be that important to her. However, just as Grace said, if it was not for Lina Sweeney, there would not be

Grace now.

Therefore, he should be grateful toward Lina Sweeney. When

Grace was at her lowest point, it was Lina Sweeney who supported her.

Otherwise, he would not have been able to meet the current Grace.

“But the most important man in your life can only be me.” He gave in.

He was always the one who gave in when it came to her!

Back at the housing estate, Lina Sweeney and Hadwin Stephenson were still staring at each other. “What did Jason mean? What happened?”

Hadwin Stephenson was uncomfortable with the fact that he needed to find out about his girlfriend’s problems through

another person.

“It’s just a small matter.” Lina Sweeney sheepishly smiled.

When Hadwin Stephenson heard it, he immediately gave her two options to choose from. “Are you going to tell me the full story or shall I investigate it myself? You pick one out of the two options.”

Lina Sweeney’s expression fell. That meant that she was supposed to confess it herself.

She was worried that if he investigated this matter, he would find out more about her than this issue alone.

“Okay, okay. I’ll talk.” Lina Sweeney gave up on being resistant. She then narrated everything to Hadwin

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She told him everything—from how she was harassed by her male colleague and got misunderstood, to how she got into a fight and went to the police station, and finally, how she needed to be bailed out. She said everything in one go, so her throat was parched by the time she was finished.

Hadwin Stephenson listened with his brows furrowed. His handsome face was frosted with a layer of ice. Nobody could guess what was going through his mind right now.

After Lina Sweeney finished, he said, “Why didn’t you call me when something happened to you?”

“I... I was afraid that I’d disturb you. You’re busy with work. I was only caught up with a small matter.” Lina Sweeney

coaxed.

Hadwin Stephenson stared at Lina Sweeney until she felt guilty inside.

After some time, he said, "Only because you're afraid of disturbing me?"

"Of course," she said with a guilty conscience.

He pursed his lips and said nothing. Both of them stood there and stared at each other without saying a word. Ling Sweeney complained inwardly, wondering how long more would Hadwin Stephenson want to stare at her while they were still at the housing estate compound.

'Isn't he supposed to be happy that I didn't disturb him when I got into trouble? Why does he look as if I owe him a huge

sum?'

"Let's go." He suddenly grabbed her hand.

"Huh?" She was dumbfounded and stared blankly at him. "To where?"

"To your house. You're not expecting me to stand here for an eternity, are you?"

She held her breath. If he went to her house... "Can you keep what happened today a secret from my parents?" Otherwise, regardless if she was right or wrong, her parents were going to nag at her till her ears bled.

He suddenly scoffed and stared at her with his black eyes. "Lina Sweeney, why should I help you hide it from your parents?"

"Because you're my boyfriend!" she said without thinking but immediately realized that something was amiss. Both of them.

understood what was the real deal about this boyfriend thing.

"So you do realize that I'm your boyfriend?" He stepped closer to her. "Yet when something happened, you didn't look for this boyfriend of yours? As your boyfriend, I was the last to know about what happened to you."

She inadvertently stepped backward, but the more she reversed, the nearer he came.

She continued to excuse herself. "I said that I was afraid of disturbing you."

He scoffed at her. "Good. Go on with your lies. Come on, what other lies do you want to concoct for me to hear? You can tell

me all of them."

“When did I lie... AHH!” She suddenly screamed. Her foot accidentally tripped on the steps behind her and her whole body fell backward.

Just as she was about to fall onto the stairs, her wrist was suddenly pulled by a force the next moment. She ended up flopping into the embrace of a broad chest.

Lina Sweeney’s breathing was erratic as her nerves were all wrecked. A familiar scent traveled through her olfactory

senses.

She could feel Hadwin Stephenson’s hand wrapped around her waist while she was leaning inside his arms. That moment made her feel extremely safe and secure.

She felt that he was here to take revenge on her, thus he was here to bring her pain. Yes, the person giving her security right now was that same person.

This was like a huge joke being played on her.

At that moment, a voice rang in her ears. “Lina Sweeney, you’re a liar!”

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As for her, she had no way of refuting it,

Finally, Lina Sweeney brought Hadwin Stephenson to her house.

At the Sweeney household. Mr. and Mrs. Sweeney welcomed Hadwin Stephenson warmly and asked him to join them for

dinner.

Hadwin Stephenson agreed readily, Lina Sweeney, on the other hand, was secretly fearful upon hearing that. She worried that the longer Hadwin Stephenson stayed, the higher the chance for him to have a slip of the tongue when

he chatted with her parents.

After dinner, Lina Sweeney quickly pulled Hadwin Stephenson into her room and asked, “When are you going back?”

“You’re hoping that I leave as soon as possible?” he asked with his brows raised.

She laughed dryly. “I’m afraid that my parents’ overzealous enthusiasm will irk you. They think you’re my real boyfriend, so

they'll catch all opportunities to dig more information about you."

"It's not annoying at all. Sometimes, I find it interesting to have a chat with them," Hadwin Stephenson said. When he

conversed with her parents, he could find out many things.

about Lina Sweeney as well.

He had found out about her childhood and other memorable experiences. He could hear more about her through the conversations with her parents.

"One more thing... Regardless of what happens in the future, you must always remember to give me a call. You're not allowed to look for Grace anymore," Hadwin Stephenson said.

"Grace is my friend. It's normal for me to find her when I get into trouble." She argued.

He chuckled, but it was more like a mocking tone. If you look for Grace again, believe me when I say that Jason will get someone to get rid of you."

Lina Sweeney shuddered. "Aren't you exaggerating it?"

Hadwin Stephenson raised his brows. "Exaggerating? Jason is not a generous man. The last time we went to S City together, I could tell how important Grace is to him. The closer you are to Grace, I'm guessing that his jealousy will rise exponentially as well."

Lina Sweeney thought about the feelings she felt inside the car earlier. At that time, she did feel that Jason seemed jealous of her. Could it be real... "But I'm a girl!" She complained.

"Does it matter if you're a girl? Those adult comics that you used to read were about two men. So tell me why women can't do the same thing?"

"..." Lina Sweeney felt that his statement was like a slap to her face. However, she understood that her relationship with Grace was pure friendship. "Why don't... I can swear in front of Jason that my feelings for Grace are platonic." Lina Sweeney sheepishly suggested.

Her words made Hadwin Stephenson react with a huge eye roll.

"As long as the first person you think of is me and not Grace. when you're in trouble, then Jason won't have any other ideas."

Come to think of it, was he not jealous of her relationship with Grace as well? Although he knew they were just friends, he

still felt uncomfortable about it.

Just like years ago when she immediately returned because of Grace's case, leaving him only a short farewell note.

Lina Sweeney could only nod her head obediently. In this generation, even women found it difficult to maintain a friendship.

Hadwin Stephenson then said, "I'll get the lawyers to meet with you later to follow up with your case."

"Thanks a lot!" She immediately thanked him. After all, with the aid of a lawyer, she did not have to go through much trouble.

"Also... Don't your colleagues know that you have a boyfriend?"

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"About that... I can't be going around announcing that I have a boyfriend." If she did that, her colleagues would think that she was a lunatic.

"Is that so? Okay, I understand," he said.

She blinked her eyes. 'What does he understand? Why do I have a feeling that we're not on the same page?'

The next day at the company Lina Sweeney worked in, rumors about yesterday's incident were spreading like wildfire. The kind of gazes that her colleagues gave her was different than the usual.

Some of them even mocked Lina Sweeney right in her face. "How shameless of you! Hattie Robson and Taylor Carline are a couple yet you still want to put your foot in!"

"That's right. Even if you want to be a third party, don't do it within the company!"

Lina Sweeney scoffed and fought back. "What third party? If you all don't know the whole truth, then check the facts first. If

I would have eyes for Taylor Carline, I'd dig out my eyes!"

"You're just being boastful now. What's wrong with Taylor Carline? He's a graduate from one of the national key

universities. It won't be too long before he's invited to join the main company. By then, he would have a bright future ahead

of him.”

The company they worked in was a branch company. The staff benefits within the main company were better, thus everyone aimed to get into the main company.

At that moment, Hattie Robson and Taylor Carline came over. When Hattie Robson saw Lina Sweeney, she began mocking her. “Lina Sweeney, I think you can start packing up your belongings and look for a new job. Oh dear, but this year’s economy is not too good. Should I get my father to contact other design institutes to see if anyone will hire you?”

Lina Sweeney frowned. She heard that Hattie Robson’s father was a professor in one of the design faculty, thus he knew quite a few design institutes.

When Hattie Robson said that, Lina Sweeney understood that Hattie Robson intended to cut off Lina Sweeney’s progression in this field.

How despicable!

Lina Sweeney rolled her eyes and was not afraid of those threats. She was not going to starve even if she did not work in this line.

‘Some people think that they rule the world!’

“I don’t need that. If you have so much free time, you should spend more time watching over your boyfriend. However,

I think both of you are a match made for each other. Unfortunately, I’m not the least bit interested. My boyfriend is way better than this Taylor Carline here!”

Hattie Robson felt that Lina Sweeney was merely making a pointless struggle. “Boyfriend? What boyfriend do you have! If you had a boyfriend, you wouldn’t be seducing Ziyu! Am I right, Ziyu?”

Taylor Carline immediately nodded cowardly.

Lina Sweeney was annoyed by Taylor Carline’s attitude. He was so despicable when he tried to harass her back then yet. was acting like a coward now, What a sissy.

At that moment, Lina Sweeney felt that Hadwin Stephenson’s image in her heart became so much greater. He was too awesome a comparison against this Taylor Carline!

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Lina Sweeney wanted to hurl more insults at them when

suddenly her vision was attracted to something further

behind Hattie Robson at the entrance of the office. She saw her boss walking into the office, but that was not the problem. The problem was the person next to him... was Hadwin. Stephenson?!

Lina Sweeney blinked her eyes and looked carefully. Okay, her eyes were not playing tricks on her. It was really Hadwin. Stephenson.

Hadwin Stephenson saw her as well but did not greet her. He merely shot her a smile and continued his conversation with.

her boss.

From Lina Sweeney's point of view, her boss was being very respectful and humble toward Hadwin Stephenson when they conversed. They were talking as they walked, and her boss got his secretary to brew some tea to serve in his office room.

Lina Sweeney thought about it and understood why. After all, their design firm was not famous in Emerald City. Their main company was slightly better in which it managed to squeeze itself into the rankings. As for their firm, it was merely a

stepping stone to get into a better company.

Hadwin Stephenson was the current boss of Stephenson Group, thus it was understandable for her boss to be extra respectful. After all, if they could get a collaboration with Stephenson Group, the company would hit the jackpot.

'But why... What is Hadwin Stephenson's purpose for coming here?!

'Our small design firm can't possibly be under his consideration?'

After a while, Hadwin Stephenson followed her boss into his office room. Hattie Robson looked disdainfully at Lina Sweeney. "What are you looking at? Do you know who that is? That's the chairman of Stephenson Group. A person like you doesn't have the qualifications to even stand next to him."

Lina Sweeney looked at Hattie Robson in disbelief. She did not expect Hattie Robson to know who Hadwin Stephenson was.

Hattie Robson was secretly devising a plan. Their boss and her father had a good relationship, and that was why she led a good life in the company.

Earlier before their boss went out, he happened to see Hattie

Robson and reminded her to be at her best as the chairman of Stephenson Group was visiting. He did not know the purpose of the visit but was going to find an opportunity to

introduce her to him and give her a chance to show her talent.

Such opportunities were hard to come by. As such, when she

heard about it, she immediately went online to search for

more information regarding the chairman of Stephenson Group. She did not expect that the actual person looked much younger than the photos she found on the net.

After looking at Hadwin Stephenson who had come in earlier and now looking at Taylor Carline, she suddenly found her boyfriend less appealing.

After some time, the secretary came to inform everyone to gather at the main meeting room as there was an important announcement.

In just a few short minutes, 40 to 50 people were gathered inside the meeting room. Due to the limited seats available inside the room, those lower-ranking staff had to carry their chairs into the room and sit nearer to the wall.

Lina Sweeney was one of those who needed to bring her own seat.

Lina Sweeney found a corner to sit down, and the others periodically filled in as well. What was surprising was that even the cleaning lady was told to attend the meeting as well.

‘What’s so important that every single worker is called in?’

Lina Sweeney was puzzled. Once the meeting room was filled, her boss and Hadwin Stephenson entered the meeting room.

Usually, the boss would be the only person sitting at the main seat, but today, Hadwin Stephenson was also seated at the front.

Everyone could see how important Hadwin Stephenson was.

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Lina Sweeney sneaked a glance at Hadwin Stephenson. ‘Hmm, he looks good in a suit. He looks rather handsome! He is indeed very good-looking! No wonder I was so rash to do such a thing to him when I got drunk back then.

‘On that note, he does have a good physique. Although he’s a little on the skinny side, he’s muscularly firm...’ Lina Sweeney

recalled the time she saw Hadwin Stephenson in his full naked glory as she looked at him...

Her complexion immediately flushed red, and she quickly looked down. She was telling herself to stop thinking of such nonsense.

Hadwin Stephenson caught sight of Lina Sweeney who was at a corner with her head lowered. He was unsure of what was going through her mind.

Looking at her figure, Hadwin Stephenson’s lips inadvertently curved into a small smile.

The boss said to Hadwin Stephenson, “Mr. Stephenson, we can begin.”

“Okay.”

Thus, the boss started the meeting. He began by introducing

Hadwin Stephenson, then he introduced some of the past projects done by the firm.

He did not forget to mention Hattie Robson as well. “This is our youngest designer. Don’t think that her age is too young as her father is a famous designer in the industry. She has won

an international award as well. Some of her designs are very

creative. Later if you have the time, Chairman Stephenson, you can have a look at her designs as well.”

Hattie Robson quickly stood up and put her best foot forward. “Nice to meet you, Chairman Stephenson. I’m Hattie Robson. This is our first meeting. I hope you’ll teach me a thing or two

in the future.”

“Oh, I know you,” Hadwin Stephenson lazily replied.

Hattie Robson was pleasantly surprised. ‘What’s going on? Did he say that he knows me? Has he seen my past designs and was captivated by them?’

Hattie Robson’s heart began to leap erratically.

Lina Sweeney, who was hiding at a corner, finally looked up and stared at Hadwin Stephenson. She inexplicably felt a bad premonition as if... something was going to happen.

Hadwin Stephenson’s subsequent words made Lina

Sweeney’s body stiffen as her premonition came to fruition.

“My girlfriend mentioned you to me once,” Hadwin Stephenson said.

“Girlfriend?” Hattie Robson was taken aback as a sense of

disappointment rose within her heart. She did not expect that the man already had a girlfriend. It was as if she lost a chance, even though she already had a boyfriend.

However, she was then curious about who his girlfriend was.

Was it someone she knew?

“I heard that you and my girlfriend got into a fight till both

of you ended up in the police station and that it was over your boyfriend. By the way, who is your boyfriend? I want to see what he looks like because it seems yesterday’s

scuffle happened due to you presuming that my girlfriend’s

interested in your boyfriend?”

When Hadwin Stephenson said that, everyone’s gaze landed

on Hattie Robson, Taylor Carline... and Lina Sweeney who was

hiding at a corner.

Even if Hadwin Stephenson did not mention names stating

who was his girlfriend, the whole firm knew that Lina Sweeney and Hattie Robson had been involved in a scuffle yesterday over Taylor Carline.