Married by Mistake – Chapter 0101

Madeline was trembling in the wind and her blood seemed to be frozen.

She returned to her residence hurriedly, packed some clothes and daily necessities, and moved away overnight.

She no longer had the courage to face this man who was more terrifying than the devil. She was not afraid of death, but she was really afraid of the cruel methods he has shown time and time again. She never wanted to see him treat the people she loved cruelly in front of her again.

Looking at herself in the mirror, Madeline touched the faint, tingling scar and closed her eyes.
Jeremy, how could loving you brought such a result...

......

As the new year approaches, many companies would hold annual meetings at this time.

Although Felipe had insisted that Madeline be his plus one to attend the annual meeting, Madeline still refused in the end.

After the dinner party, Madeline went to a karaoke bar with some people from the department.

The room was large and everyone had gathered together to drink and play games but they had left Madeline at the side, not one paying any attention to her.

There was continuous laughter, it was such a lively and joyous moment, but Madeline could not feel the joyous atmosphere at all. All she felt was sadness.

She went to the bathroom and unexpectedly saw Jeremy's when she was coming back. She did not expect him to be here too.

Madeline was so frightened her heart jumped. She turned around in a panic and ran.

Jeremy turned his head around after the phone call and vaguely saw a familiar figure flash past his eyes. He furrowed his eyebrows and followed.

Madeline ran back to the room in a single breath, but her heartbeat still had not calmed down.

Her colleagues were still playing around happily. Some of them were already drunk, lying haphazardly on the sofa. No one noticed Madeline's existence.

She breathed a sigh of relief and walked slowly to the seat. As soon as she sat down, she heard the melody of a love song from the speaker.

It was a song she was familiar with, "Evil in Innocence".

Listening to the melody and watching the lyrics lighting up on the screen, Madeline's eyes became wet inadvertently.

The lyrics were essentially a portrayal of her journey along the way.

Jeremy had followed all the way and when he reached the door of a certain room, he suddenly heard a familiar voice coming from the inside.

Although he had never seriously cared about Madeline's voice, his hippocampus told him that this was Madeline's voice.

Jeremy looked in through the round window on the door and saw Madeline sitting on the bar chair. Her figure was extremely thin and her short, simple hair could not cover up her haggard face.

In spite of this, the outline of her profile was still beautiful. Under the dim light, he saw tears falling from her eyes, and lyrics were suddenly sung out, "You would know, the cruelest things that have been done to me."

"It was you, who had turned me into an adult overnight."

"Desperate innocence, instantly turning into scars along the way."

"I miss, my stupidity."

"Oh lover, you know too well how to hurt a person, how to hurt a life…"

Madeline's voice floated into Jeremy's ears, quietly and cleanly, but he felt as if his heart had suddenly been stabbed.

What Madeline had said to him then appeared in his mind. She had said that she did not love him anymore, and she had said that she hated him.

Jeremy just stood outside the door, listening to Madeline sing, watching her unstopping tears. His heart seemed to be gradually flooded by an invisible sea and his breathing became difficult.

Madeline sang the song and her mind was filled with all the unspeakable pain that she had suffered over the past few years. She sang till the end. "Although heaven and earth are not benevolent, if not necessary, wake your defense, wait a minute……"

By the time she finished the song, Madeline had already burst into tears.

She picked up her bag and left. No one noticed her presence nor her departure.

Madeline called for a cab and returned to her new residence. Just as she had her keys out to open the door, the voice-activated light in the corridor suddenly came on and a nightmarish sound rang in her ears.

"Madeline, who allowed you to escape from my sight?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0102

Madeline's hand shook violently and the key in her hand dropped on her feet with a clang.

The wounds in and out of her body seemed to have suddenly "woken up" at this moment and the insurmountable skin cutting pain once again invaded her entire body. It hurt so much that she was losing grip on her mind and only the image of him smashing the urn with the ashes of their child by how own hands the other day was left in her mind.

The voice-controlled lights went out and Madeline's world had also seemed to have suddenly gone dark.

"Madeline, I'm talking to you," came Jeremy's domineering voice coldly.

Madeline shuddered reflexively. When Jeremy grabbed her wrist, she looked like a hedgehog that had been stripped of its spines. After bouncing off in horror, she suddenly knelt down by his feet, smashing her head desperately.

"Mr. Whitman, it's my fault! It's all my fault! I shouldn't have fallen in love with you and I shouldn't provoke Meredith!

"Jeremy, I know I was wrong, please don't hurt the people around me again.

"Our child has been treated so cruelly by you and her existence has been completely wiped out. I beg you, don't touch my grandfather's ashes. I promise I will never think of you anymore. I agree to divorce you, I don't want to be your wife. I don't want to be your wife anymore, in this life, in the next life, forever and ever. I won't be your wife again!"

Jeremy stared at the little woman who was kneeling in front of him, bowing to him desperately for mercy blankly, and for a moment, he was stunned.

The lights in the corridor were flickering and dimming. Jeremy could not believe that the woman in front of him was Madeline. The stubborn and unyielding Madeline who had never bowed her head to him, the one who had said she would seek revenge if he did not kill her. Where did Madeline, the one who had said she'd wanted to pester him forever and be his woman, gone?

Jeremy's heart trembled all of a sudden and he pulled Madeline up.

"Madeline, what are you doing?"

"I'm sorry, Mr. Whitman! I've angered you once again. I'll make myself scarce!"

Madeline dropped her head, picked up the key on the ground, and opened the door in a hurry. She lowered her head all the way, not sparing a glance at Jeremy.

She knew she was extremely ugly in Jeremy's eyes and now that she was disfigured, she might be even more disgusting.

Madeline wanted to close the door immediately after entering, but it was pushed aside by Jeremy.

The house was less than 20 square meters, small but complete, and also very clean.

Yet, such a small house had also left her with nowhere to escape. As soon as Madeline turned around, she was dragged by Jeremy.

"Madeline, what are you doing? Did I allow to you to go?" His voice was as cold as usual.

Seeing Madeline lowering her head and not looking at him, Jeremy felt his heart stop. He reached out to pinch her chin and then lifted her face.

The X-shaped knife mark, glowing with a deep red color, appeared in Jeremy's vision.

There were suddenly two eye-catching knife marks on her once beautiful face.

His pupils shrank all of a sudden and his heart was as if it were suddenly being bitten by thousands of insects. There was an indescribable feeling.

Seeing Jeremy looking at the wound on her face, Madeline raised her hand to cover it. "I'm sorry, Mr. Whitman. I have soiled your eyes again. If you let me go, I will disappear automatically and never appear in front of your eyes again. "

As she said that, she wanted to break free of his imprisonment, but was pulled into an embrace by Jeremy.

"What's the matter with your face?" he asked, it was a tone of ignorance and lack of understanding.

"Madeline, tell me, what's the matter with your face? Who did it?"

"I asked for it! You don't need to worry, Mr. Whitman. I will never show up in front of you again to obstruct your vision!" Madeline said emotionally as she broke away from Jeremy's arms and ran out.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0103

She ran into the street without turning back. A piece of glacier had melted in her heart and black icy water had flooded her world.

She did not have the courage to face Jeremy again. His cruel methods of time and time again had made it so that her already devastated body and mind were no longer able to bear it.

At this moment, she just wanted to escape.

Even wanting to escape forever.

Suddenly, fine rain floated down the sky.

Madeline ran toward the zebra crossing in a daze, wanting to go over to the opposite street. A car was speeding in her direction. It was not slowing down.

Sensing the coming bright car lights, Madeline suddenly stopped and stood motionless in the middle of the zebra crossing.

Looking at this bustling street and watching the street lights lining it, she burst into tears.

If she could, she really wanted to restart her life...

Madeline closed her eyes and a harsh horn sounded out. Right at this critical moment, Madeline suddenly felt a strong and powerful arm hugging her tightly.

The moment the car had almost hit her, she was carried away by a man and had rolled to the side of the road.

"Madeline, listen to me! Even if you really want to die, you can only die by my hands!"

Jeremy's furious voice came from above her head, and Madeline was suddenly awakened as if she had just recovered her heartbeat and thoughts.

Because she had been afraid of seeing Jeremy, she had practically agitated herself into thinking that death ends all one's troubles...

Madeline was brought back to her current residence by Jeremy. The winter night was cold and windy. Jeremy took off his coat that had been wetted by the cold and rain, and said, "Go get the bath water ready."

Madeline looked at Jeremy who said this in surprise.

"Didn't you hear what I said?" Jeremy repeated impatiently, "If you hadn't gone crazy looking for death, would I be like this?"

He blamed Madeline.

Madeline glanced at Jeremy calmly and walked into the bathroom without a word.

Looking at Madeline's back, Jeremy thought that she was behaving like another person.

What he was especially occupied with were the two eye-catching knife marks on Madeline's face.

He looked around. It was really cramped, no bigger than the bathroom in his home.
She had actually hidden in such a place in order to avoid him.

Jeremy sneered, his eyes were suddenly drawn by a notebook on the bed.

He picked it up, flipped open a page, and found it to be Madeline's diary.

At a glance, Jeremy saw Meredith's name on the page and Madeline clearly stated that she had wanted to take her revenge on Meredith and wanted to see Meredith receive retribution.

Madeline came out after putting on the water when saw Jeremy standing by the bed, holding her diary.

Her nerves were pulled and she ran over quickly.

Just as she was about to snatch the diary back, Jeremy restrained both her hands.

He threw her a colder look than from before. "Madeline, you truly are too vicious! You should have been hit by a car just now. Keeping you alive will only cause more damage to Meredith!"

Without giving Madeline any opportunity to explain, Jeremy smacked the diary onto Madeline's face.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0104

The corners of the diary scraped against the unhealed wound on her face and there was a burst of sharp pain before blood began oozing again.

Jeremy did not notice, however. He brushed past her shoulder and his broad and powerful shoulders hit Madeline's thin body and in an instant, she fell down beside the bed. In front of her, was the open diary that Jeremy had dropped. Madeline looked down and she saw the words she had written. "Jez, finally I get to see you again…"

Madeline looked at the words written on the diary page and laughed at herself. Laughing and laughing until tears began to run out of her eyes unconsciously.

The warm water dripped past the bleeding wound, along the curve of the chin, and finally, mixed with a drop of blood, dripped onto the sentence in the diary.

Jez…

Her former Jez had died in her heart.

That gentle sunshine, the boy who had said he had wanted to be with her forever, had completely died in her heart…

____

Some pus developed in the wound on Madeline's face and so, she had to go to the hospital.

Right after treating the wound and as she was about to leave, two young nurses hurried past Madeline.

"Mrs. Montgomery will be operated on soon, but the hospital's Rh blood has been completely used up. If something happens during the surgery, who's gonna take care of it?"

"An appendicitis surgery does not usually cause heavy bleeding unless there is an accident but I don't think Mrs. Montgomery would be so unlucky! And I think her face has gone blue from the pain, she has to be operated on immediately!"

Madeline's pace fluttered suddenly and she hurriedly caught up with the two nurses. "May I ask if the Mrs. Montgomery you mentioned is called Eloise Patton?"

"That's right! Who are you?" The nurse looked over Madeline a few times. "If you need anything, please head to the front desk. We are busy here!"

The nurse hurried away after saying that.

Madeline turned around without thinking and ran to the blood transfusion point where she heard Meredith's sharp scolding from a distance.

"What kind of hospital is this? Why are you always running out of blood! Last time it was my son, this time it's my mother! Are you deliberately targeting me!"

She questioned the nurse. The nurse lowered her head. Her eyes were red and she dared not say a word as she was scolded.

Accompanying was Meredith's mother, Rose. No, it should be said that she was her adoptive mother because Meredith had been confirmed to be Eloise's biological daughter three years ago.

Meredith's expression was dark. She looked like a shrew with her teeth and claws.

"You better pray that the operation will go smoothly. If my mother meets any accidents during the operation, I will definitely have my fiancé sue your hospital till bankruptcy!"
"M-Ms. Montgomery, you are Mrs. Montgomery's biological daughter, in fact, as long as you have a blood transfusion..."

"What transfusion! Meredith's period is not over yet, how can she transfuse her blood!" Rose became angered like a devil.

Hearing this, Madeline suddenly thought of the time when Jackson had needed a blood transfusion. Meredith had also said that she could not do a blood transfusion as it was her period.

It has been more than half a month, but her period is not over yet?

Madeline suddenly understood something. Meredith was not having her period. She just did not want to do a blood transfusion at all.

One was her own son and the other was her real mother yet she was so cold-blooded that she did not want to save either.

After Madeline had watched Meredith and Rose leave while still cursing, she trotted over without hesitation. "Nurse, Mrs. Montgomery should be able to use my blood. Please check it for me immediately, thank you."

The nurse who crying after being scolded heard Madeline's words and instantly, it raised her spirits.

Before long, Madeline had contributed another 500c.c of blood.

She did not leave immediately but she was waiting for news of the operation.

Appendicitis required a minor operation and there were usually no complications, but Madeline still felt uneasy.

She did not understand why she was so worried about Eloise Patton as if she had a kind of intimacy, a longing to approach Elois in her heart.

Just as she recalled to ask about the operation, Madeline suddenly saw Meredith and Rose hurriedly running in the direction where she was.

Just when Madeline thought that the foster mother and daughter were going to trouble her, a gust of wind seemed to pass by Madeline. A man had walked past her.

"Dad, you are finally here!" Meredith shouted at the man.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0105

It turned out to be the husband of Eloise, Sean Montgomery.

Looking at this tall and steady back, Madeline felt a sense of sorrow and grief in her heart.

She had also longed for a father, but unfortunately, she had never felt the love of father or mother in her life.

"How's your mother's situation?" Sean was very nervous about this situation.

Meredith cried, "I don't know what's wrong. There seems to have been an accident during the operation. Mother is bleeding heavily and she is now in operation…"

"What?" Sean's expression changed all of a sudden and he ran to the operating room.

Madeline's heartbeat also stopped for a second. How could an accident really have happened?

She squeezed her fingers anxiously but then heard Meredith's cold voice saying, "Where did so many people with RH blood suddenly appear from? Once before, and once again now."

Meredith's tone did not carry any sense of gratitude, but rather it sounded very dissatisfied.

Then again, she could do something like personally cutting up her own son's cheeks, as if she had a conscience.

What Madeline was most worried about at the moment was Eloise's situation. While she was waiting, she started to feel discomfort in her body again. The area where the tumor was hurt so much that it affected her nerves, making her uncomfortable.

She had subconsciously wanted to take the painkillers from her bag, but she suddenly stopped and thought of the bottle of painkillers that Jeremy had thrown away. She smiled bitterly.

At this moment, the nurse who had been scolded by Meredith previously ran to her happily. "Young lady, thank you for the blood you'd donated. Otherwise, Mrs. Montgomery might not have been so lucky now."

Madeline raised her head shakily and she stood up reluctantly, "How is Mrs. Montgomery's situation now? Is the operation over?"

"Appendicitis is originally just a minor operation. If it weren't for the minor complication, the operation would have ended long ago. Don't worry, Mrs. Montgomery is fine."

Hearing the nurse's answer, the large rock in Madeline's heart fell away in an instant.

That was great. Everything was fine.

"Madeline, so it was you!" Meredith's extremely unhappy voice came from behind.

When Madeline turned her head, she saw Meredith's arrogant face.

"Who asked to be so troublesome!" Meredith cursed. "You don't know how dirty you are yet you dare give my mother a blood transfusion!"

Madeline could not help laughing. "If I'm so dirty, then you aren't too clean either. Don't forget that I gave you a lot of blood too for this measly life of yours."

"You…"

Meredith's eyes sunk with anger and she raised her hand to hit her injured right cheek but Madeline caught it before it fell.

"Meredith, touch where your heart is, is your conscience still there? One was your own son, the other was your own mother, how could you ignore their safety just to protect yourself? You are no longer human!"

"Of course I'm a human! I'm still a human being! But you? Madeline, you are a wild dog who doesn't even want its biological parents! Tell me, if my mother knew that you gave her blood, wouldn't she be sick? She would be so sick, she'd vomit!"

"So, you would rather watch your biological mother die than have a blood transfusion?"

Madeline was so angry that she threw away Meredith's hand.

Meredith was also so angry that she was about to fight back, but she glanced behind Madeline all of a sudden and immediately pretended to have been pushed down by her, falling to the ground with a plop.

"Meredith!"

Madeline's shoulder was bumped into. After she regained her footing, she saw Sean running to Meredith with a look of pity, helping Meredith who had "fallen" off the ground.

"Are you alright, Meredith? Let Dad have a look," Sean checked nervously.

Meredith had already adjusted her tearful and pitiful look. She shook her head weakly and held Sean's arm. "Dad, I'm fine, please don't blame Madeline."

When Sean heard this, a touch of anger suddenly appeared on his heroic-looking face. "So you are Madeline!"

His sharp eyes pierced Madeline, brows filled with anger.

"You are truly a heinous woman! Not only have you targeted my daughter, again and again, you have also cruelly attacked my grandson who is still so small. You simply aren't a human being!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0106

Sean cursed.

"It's no wonder your biological parents didn't want you. Such a vicious person like you shouldn't even be alive in this world!"

Hiss.

Madeline's breathing froze.

She had been insulted and questioned by many passers-by and the ignorant masses in the past few years, but she had also long become numbed.

Hearing every word Sean was cursing her at the moment however, it was as if thousands of cuts had been slashed at the flesh and blood on her body. The indescribable pain made it difficult for her to breathe.

"Dad, forget it. It was all my fault. I was the one who shouldn't have fallen in love with Jeremy..." Meredith took the blame upon herself.

Sean felt even more distressed for this precious girl when he heard this. "How could you be to blame? The blame is with this vile woman!" Sean stared at Madeline with a solemn expression. "If she hadn't stolen Jeremy away, you would already be a happy family of three."

"Dad......"

"Let's go see your mother."

Sean hugged Meredith affectionately, caring for her under the wings of his fatherly love.

Before turning around, Sean warned Madeline fiercely, "If I see you bullying my daughter again, I will take action even if you're a woman!"

Accompanied by his words, Madeline felt as if an invisible fist had fallen on her.

Madeline saw Meredith, who had turned her head around, revealing a sinister smile.

She had won again.

In the end, this woman had successfully worn her hypocritical mask on her equally ugly and hypocritical face flawlessly.

Night fell and Madeline had returned to her residence in a daze.

She was cooking absently when the doorbell rang.

Madeline turned around to go open the door. When the door was opened, she saw Felipe standing outside unexpectedly.

He was wearing a gray coat and there were some snowflakes on the top of his head. His countenance was extraordinarily elegant.

"Mr. Whitman? What brings you here?" Madeline looked at him in surprise.

Felipe stared and smiled; his smile was gentle.

"I heard that you had suddenly returned alone last night. I was afraid if something had happened to you, so come over to have a look."

Madeline paused slightly, her heart warmed. "Thank you, Mr. Whitman, for your concern. I'm fine. Come in and have a seat, it's cold outside."

She hurriedly opened the door and turned on the heating generously. She then poured a cup of hot water for Felipe.

"You live here?" Felipe looked around.

Madeline nodded. "It's enough."

"I meant that, you and Jeremy are husband and wife, so why would you live here alone?"

Madeline's hand that had just picked up the water glass trembled at Felipe's question. The boiling hot water spilled out and splashed on the back of her hand. She only winced in pain but endured it.

"Madeline, are you okay?"

"I'm okay, it's just a small injury." Madeline took a paper towel to wipe off the water stains.

Compared with the pain Jeremy had caused her, these small injuries were nothing.

Felipe noticed that Madeline seemed a little uncomfortable, so he did not ask any further. Yet, just by looking at her cheek that was once again wrapped in gauze, he could not help but wonder and ask, "Did the injury on your face open up again?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0107

"It's no matter," Madeline smiled indifferently. "By the way, have you had dinner, Mr. Whitman?"

Felipe shook his head. "What's the matter?"

"Would you like to try my creation? I just happened to be cooking, I'm almost done."

Felipe sniffed lightly and could really smell the aroma of fragrant rice. "Then, I shall take you up on that offer."

Madeline was also very happy when she heard his answer.

She had originally planned to go to bed after a casual meal, but now, she fried up two more side dishes.

She had once had much hope that a day could come when her beloved man would come home after getting off work. Then, he would eat the home-cooked food that she made by herself, while they chat with each other.

She had thought that Jeremy would be the first man to taste her creations, but things were impermanent. Regardless of the extravagant hopes or expectations she once had, they had all turned into gray sand sculptures, blown away cleanly by the wind.

Madeline had not had such a good appetite for a long time. She used to have not been able to eat a whole bowl of rice ever since she had got sick, but she had eaten it all today.

Maybe she felt that she was not a wasteful person in the end. At the very least, she still had the ability to bring others happiness.

"Madeline, your cooking is really good," Felipe praised.

"It's good that Mr. Whitman likes it."

"Don't call me Mr. Whitman, it's not working hours. You can treat me as your friend."

Contrary to his noble and glamorous appearance, Felipe's tone was very friendly and his eyes were also warm.

Madeline suddenly felt a sense of sorrow in her heart. She had not expected that she would meet a friend who really cared about her as she was dying.

"To be friends with Mr. Whitman is not something I could have asked for." Madeline smiled and picked up the soup bowl. "I'll use soup instead of wine. Thank you, Mr. Whitman, for saving my life and shielding me from the hot coffee. With just these two instances of your help, my friendship with Mr. Whitman has been decided!"

"More than twice, actually."

Madeline was stunned by Felipe's words.

She raised her clear eyes and looked at Felipe, his eyes were smiling. "Remember when you received that video from a stranger three years ago?"

Felipe reminded her, "The video where you were wrongly accused of stealing that bracelet at Jeremy's mother's 50th birthday party."

Madeline was astounded. She would never forget that text message video!

How could she forget that she had received a video from a kind person that could prove her innocence, but it was then completely destroyed by Jeremy!

Jeremy's absurd behavior at the time had indicated to Madeline that he had always cared about her life and death but wanted nothing to do with her innocence. He would ignore anything so long as Meredith was happy, let alone Meredith ruining her face, even more so if she had stabbed her heart with a knife.

Her heart was severely beaten again, but there was a warm current from the invisible wound.

"Turns out you are the kind person…" Madeline looked at Felipe's smiling face, and for a moment, she felt endless gratitude.

Although Jeremy had destroyed the video, Felipe's action still deserved her thanks.

"If you want to thank me, invite me out for a meal next time." Felipe had seen through Madeline's mood at the moment.

Upon hearing this, Madeline smiled suddenly and readily agreed. "Not just a meal, it can be as many meals as Mr. Whitman likes!"

Click.

Just as Madeline's words sounded, the door was suddenly opened by a key.

She could not believe seeing Jeremy opening the door and walking in with the key.

Madeline's smile froze and her body shuddered reflexively from fear. "Why do you have the key to this place ? What are you doing here ?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0108

Jeremy walked in with a calm expression and a chill surrounding his body.

"Jeremy." Felipe addressed him.

Jeremy did not respond. His cold eyes swept across the dining table before finally falling on Madeline's pale face.

"Madeline, what are you even asking? I am your husband. Is it so weird for me to have the key?"

"…"

"Do you blatantly bring other men back to eat and drink when I'm not around?"

Jeremy spoke with a smile but he shot Felipe a sharp gaze. "So, Uncle Felipe, you like this kind of woman?"

Madeline's heartbeat stuttered.

'This kind of woman.' He used these words to describe her.

Madeline's face went even paler with that, but she did not dare confront him again.

Facing him now, she was like a frightened bird, alarmed and uneasy.

"Jeremy, don't get me wrong," Felipe explained calmly, "I was just worried that something was going on with Madeline, so I came to see her."

"Hmph." Jeremy sneered again. "Worried about this cruel, mean, and sinister woman?"

Madeline's heart seemed to have bled when she heard Jeremy's ironic words.

Felipe frowned. "Jeremy, Madeline is your wife, how can you say that to her?"

"Am I wrong?"

Jeremy walked toward Madeline's side and bowed his head slightly, his warm breath gushing by her ears. Madeline smelled a faint fragrance of wine. He had been drinking.

"Let Uncle Felipe know, am I wrong? Did you not rack your brains back then trying to climb into my bed?"

For Jeremy to have asked something so humiliating like this, not even caring about Felipe's existence. Madeline bit her teeth, her eyes are red.

"Yes." She finally opened her mouth and laughed at herself. "I am the kind of despicable, insidious, and vicious woman Mr. Whitman had claimed. I have done one shameless thing after another just to get to you," she said, raising her eyes to meet Jeremy's cold gaze.

"And so to make disgust Mr. Whitman anymore, we will divorce soon."

Madeline thought that she would not only cooperate with Jeremy but she would also make him feel satisfied.

She found, however, a clod, gloomy light bursting out from his eyes, forcibly trapping her gaze.

"Madeline, what right do you have to mention a divorce with me? Are you even worthy?"

"Jeremy, if you really don't like Madeline that much, a divorce is good for you."

Jeremy let out a chuckle as soon as Felipe's persuasive words came.

He looked at Felipe with extremely cold eyes. "Does Uncle Felipe really want to see me divorce this woman?"

Jeremy's tone at the moment sounded with a strong scent of gunpowder. He suddenly pinched Madeline's face, squeezed her chin firmly, and turned to Felipe. "Does Uncle Felipe like this face? Although it is already rotten Halfway, it's still very attractive."

The man's sarcasm was so smooth that Madeline only felt pain. The wound that had been bandaged during the day seemed to have split open again. The tearing sensation had numbed her scalp.

She wanted to break free, but Jeremy's hands were very strong.

"Jeremy, you have drunk too much." Felipe's eyebrows were more deeply furrowed than before.

"Let go of Madeline quickly. She is uncomfortable."

When he heard those words, Jeremy looked at Madeline who was imprisoned in his arms with a chuckle. "Let my uncle know, are you uncomfortable, hm?"

Looking at Jeremy's deep icy eyes, Madeline endured the pain. She gritted her teeth and smiled lightly at Felipe. "I'm not uncomfortable."

"Madeline."

"Mr. Whitman, don't you worry about me. I won't die, you can go back."

Felipe seemed to consider it for a few seconds before nodding. "Jeremy, Madeline is just a girl, don't be so harsh."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0109

As he was done speaking, he picked up his coat and turned away.

Madeline looked at Felipe's back as he was leaving and the light in her eyes extinguished bit by bit. There was nothing but despair left in her eyes in the end.

She did not know how Jeremy would deal with her, she only knew that his methods would definitely be very cruel.

She would never forget that he was like a demon from hell. He had dug through the grave and allowed the ashes of his own daughter to be washed away by the wind and snow, and he had actually smiled nonchalantly at that.

Seeing Madeline's reddened eyes gazing in the direction of Felipe's departure, Jeremy got angry.

"Are you this sad about him leaving? Madeline Crawford, are you treating me as if I am dead? I am the one who is your husband."

He pushed Madeline away from his arms angrily.

Madeline staggered and fell by the side of the sofa, brushing her injured cheek against the corner of the sofa and causing her teeth to tremble in pain.

"Clean this place up. Whatever you did for that man just now, do it now!"

Madeline lowered her eyes and smiled bitterly. "Okay, as long as you are happy, my husband. You can have me do anything."

Jeremy looked at Madeline who got up slowly. Somehow, he felt that the way she had called him husband sounded particularly disturbing.

Through the wind and snow, Madeline went to the supermarket to buy the food and then immediately cooked Jeremy a table of dishes after she had returned.

Madeline also prepared the bath for Jeremy according to his wish.

She did not dare to oppose him. She only knew that if she went against him, fate would be that the people around her would be the ones who suffer.

It was just that, right as when Madeline had prepared a new towel for Jeremy, there was a sudden, dull pain in her abdomen the moment she stood up.

She crouched back down reflexively in pain, her face turning almost as pale as snow immediately.

"Madeline." Jeremy's voice had reached her ears.

She wanted to get up, but the violent pain made it so that she was not able to straighten her body.

Madeline laid down on the cold, ceramic tiles while arching her body. She curled up even more from the increasingly tormenting pain and her consciousness seemed to be diminishing...

"Madeline Crawford, are you deaf?"

The man's urging voice sounded impatient. Madeline raised her hand to her teeth and took a hard bite.

Hiss.

A bone-deep pain spread through her body. Madeline opened her increasingly blurred eyes all of a sudden, and as she was about to get up from the ground, Jeremy's figure appeared in front of her.

Seeing Madeline who looked like she was about to die, Jeremy looked at her contemptuously.

"Are you trying to perform an act by pretending to be dead again in order to gain sympathy?"

Madeline took in a deep breath and raised her head with difficulty. "Mr. Whitman, can you please help me get the painkillers on the coffee table..."

She was in so much pain to even catch a breath. Jeremy looked at Madeline for two seconds, then turned around.

Not long after, Jeremy returned while holding the bottle of painkillers in his hand. "Is this what you wanted?" he asked Madeline who was supporting herself by the bathtub condescendingly.

Madeline gritted her teeth and nodded, and then stretched out her hand. "Thank you..."

However, before she could finish, Jeremy's lips twitched, and his smile was dark, just like a demon.

He opened the medicine bottle, poured all the pills into the toilet, and then flushed it.

With a sloshing sound, all the pills were then washed away by the water, and Madeline's heart seemed to have disappeared instantly.

She looked at the man who was looking down at her disdainfully as if she were a dog. A fog was blurring her vision. "Jeremy, I really am not feeling too well…"

"So what?" The man chuckled nonchalantly. "It's merely a discomfort. Just like you said to Felipe, you won't die."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0110

Madeline suddenly felt her entire body go cold, the blood in her body seemed to have been frozen.

She stared at this sneering man in a daze. He was just like Satan in the dark night, his whole body was black.

It turned out he wanted to see her die.

'Jeremy, very soon it would be as you wish.'

'May you still be as calm as in this moment when the day comes.'

Yet, when she started having the thought of completely leaving this world and forgetting this man forever, she, however, felt a lot of reluctance in her heart.

To this day, she still had some feelings for him.

Madeline's tears began to fall all of a sudden, but no matter how hot her tears were, it could not warm her heart.

"Why are you crying? Are you trying to pretend to be pitiful again?"

Jeremy sneered, his warm, slender fingers pinched Madeline's chin, forcing her to look up at him.

"Do you think I will fall for your trick like those men? Your face is already healed so why are you still wrapping yourself up with gauze? There is no need for this trickery in front of me, I will only feel disgusted by it!"

As soon as he said those words in disgust, he noticed that a bright red color had gradually seeped through the gauze right after Madeline had teared up.

Jeremy's gaze changed all of a sudden. He tore open the gauze on Madeline's face. The skin was exposed and fleshy, and the bloody wound was there was him to see in an instant.

Jeremy was shocked. His ridicule and contempt towards Madeline from the previous moment seemed to have come back to bite him at this moment.

"Give it back!" Madeline hurriedly snatched the blood-stained gauze back from Jeremy's hand, and then she held it back in place with trembling hands. "Don't look! Stop looking!"

She endured the searing pain. While covering her cheek with one hand, she then stood up unsteadily with her other hand against the wall.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's appearance at the moment. He had lost focus for a while but when he came back to a realization, Madeline had already run out.

Madeline's already weakened body was swaying as she stumbled downstairs. Her tears were mixed with blood and they dripped down her fingers. The gradual flow of her blood had made her face paler.

Something in her body was burning fiercely, slowly burning up her almost dying life.

Snowflakes were falling one by one, deepening the chill that Madeline felt.

She stared at the increasingly blurring foreground blankly, but in her mind, she was recalling one of the happiest moments in her memory.

'It would be great if things could just stop during the good times so that there would have been no separation between us, no reunion, and no suffering from the tortures of now...'

Madeline finally did not have the strength to continue walking. She fell against a pillar and the blood from the oozing wound on her cheek stained the falling snow.

She vaguely heard Jeremy yelling her name, even saw the man running towards her anxiously, then picking her up nervously.

Madeline felt as if she was having another beautiful dream, dreaming about the him from before who used to worry about her so much as he carried her who was wounded and bleeding on his back. She was nestled in his chest as she said shyly, "Jez, I want to be with you together forever…"

…

When Madeline woke up, it was already the next day. The moment she moved, the first thing she felt was the burning pain on her right cheek.

She had tried to raise her hand subconsciously to touch her face but then realized her hand was being held down by something. She turned her head around to look and found Jeremy lying beside her.

Madeline's consciousness turned sober in an instant. She could not imagine that Jeremy would actually squeeze himself into this single bed with her.

Looking at his charming, sleeping face close up and smelling the breath of him, Madeline's heart was beating extremely fast.

She turned her head quickly but still could not ignore Jeremy's breath flickering behind her ears, could not ignore the warmth of his wide chest against her back, which was really hot.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0111

She could even feel his strong, powerful heartbeat.

But what was going on?

She tried hard to recall what happened last night, but she only remembered that she ran out as she didn't want Jeremy to see her current hideous appearance. Alas, she fainted while running.

Just as she was trying to recall what happened, Jeremy seemed to have woken up.

Overcome by shock, Madeline immediately closed her eyes, her heart beating so fast to the point it almost jumped out of her throat.

Jeremy opened his eyes and gradually raised the arm he had around Madeline's waist, then proceeded to get off the bed.

Madeline thought that Jeremy left at first, but she suddenly felt his breath closing in on her. The next moment, his forehead leaned against hers as if he were sensing her body temperature.

Madeline didn't dare to believe Jeremy's current actions. Even more so, she didn't dare to believe that he tucked her into the blanket attentively before leaving.

Madeline finally opened her eyes after hearing the sound of the door closing.

She saw two boxes of medicine placed on top of the bedside cabinet. There was a box of anti-inflammatory medications and painkillers, respectively.

The wound on her face had also been treated and was freshly wrapped up with gauze.

Madeline picked up both boxes of medicine unbelievingly. How was this possible?

However, she suddenly recalled shouting Jeremy's name toward him yesterday night before she fainted. Could his heart have softened because of this? So does that mean that he actually still remembers their promise from the start?

Madeline's train of thought was messed up immediately as an inexplicable sense of eagerness arose in her heart.

However, it only lasted momentarily. Her heart still cooled down quickly.

There wasn't much left of her life any longer. The best evidence for this was the fatal pain she felt yesterday.

Also, his ruthlessness that knew no limits and failure to distinguish between the good and the bad had created an insurmountable gap between them both.

She could forgive him for anything except what he did to their own flesh and blood. That was something that she could never forgive no matter the circumstances.

After cleaning up and brushing her teeth, Madeline made some porridge for herself.

She received a phone call from Felipe. His words were full of care and he told her that she could call him anytime if she had anything she needed help with.

On this cold, frigid day, Madeline felt as if a ray of radiant sunshine shone into her heart.

Although her life may not last for long, she was still happy that she could meet a friend that truly cared for herself at times like this.

The porridge was ready. Just as Madeline was about to prepare to eat, the door suddenly opened.

She stared dumbfoundedly at the man who stepped into the room. When Jeremy directed his deep gaze toward her, Madeline was so shocked that the spoon in her hand fell into the bowl with a loud 'clang', the porridge splashing onto the back of her hand. Madeline let out a muffled noise and retracted her hand reflexively.

Why was he back again?

Madeline stood up in a hurry. Just as she was thinking of escaping, Jeremy grabbed her arm suddenly.

He exerted some force and pulled Madeline before him.

"You're that unwilling to see me? Is it because all you see and hold in your heart is that Mr. Whitman?" he asked.

There was a certain sourness to his tone of voice, but Madeline didn't think that it was Jeremy being jealous.

He was just unhappy that the person that used to bend to all of his wills actually managed to get along with a man of similar status as him.

Madeline smiled bitterly and raised her eyes to meet Jeremy's angry, peach-shaped eyes. "Yes, there's a Mr. Whitman in my heart. But he has been dead to me from the moment he murdered our child in a frenzy," she declared.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0112

Madeline was certain that Jeremy knew for sure that he was the Mr. Whitman that she was referring to.

She thought that he would show some empathy and remorse toward that incident, but all she heard was the sound of his disdainful scoff.

"Madeline, you're still adamant on attaching that bastard to my namesake till today. I'll tell you once again that I, Jeremy Whitman, only have one biological son, and he is Jackson Whitman," he said.

After he finished talking with a cold smile on his face, he let go of the hand he was using to hold Madeline in place.

"I'm hungry, go get a bowl of porridge for me," he said.

Madeline clenched both her fists tightly. Looking at the cold, merciless man before her, she said in a dull tone, "I didn't make enough for you, Mr. Whitman. The portion here is small, please go back."

"Madeline Crawford, is this the attitude you're going to have while talking to me?" Jeremy asked, his brows furrowing slightly. It was evident that he was displeased.

Madeline's heartbeat raced a little. Despite her efforts to remain calm and steady, her heart was still uneasy.

"Does Mr. Whitman not like this attitude of mine? Then how would you wish for me to be? Do you want me to beg for you on the floor like a dog just like how I did in the past?" she questioned.

Once the words settled in the air, Madeline felt herself being assaulted by an obvious blast of cold air.

"I guess I should've let you die on the streets yesterday night," he said with gritted teeth, a dark glint in his peach-shaped eyes.

Madeline looked at the angry man in a slightly humorous manner. "I don't care why Mr. Whitman didn't leave me there to die. Didn't you say that if I continued to be alive, I'd just be hurting your sweetheart more? Then why did you save me yesterday night? Why not let me die just like that? I'd then be able to disappear from your world once and for all!" she yelled.

Somehow, Madeline's words seemed to have provoked Jeremy. It was most likely because she mentioned Meredith. His facial expression changed all of a sudden as she mentioned Meredith, his handsome features filled with a fearful darkness.

Suddenly, he reached his hand forward to wrap it around Madeline's slim neck and pressed his knuckles forward forcefully.

Madeline instantly found it difficult to breathe, her face turning bright red.

However, she didn't beg for him to release her. Her large, red eyes met his gaze directly.

She did not fear death anymore. However, he suddenly felt his arms grow weak.

Inexplicably, Jeremy's temple began twitching intensely all of a sudden, especially when he saw the tears sliding down from Madeline's eyes.

"Kill me, Jeremy. When I get to heaven, I'll tell our child that although her father doesn't love her, her mother will love her forever and always. She'll also be by her side forever……" she croaked.

While speaking, Madeline slowly closed her eyes.

Nonetheless, at the moment she closed her eyes, she sensed Jeremy letting go.

"Madeline Crawford, you listen to me. Your life belongs to me. Before you atone your sins to Meredith and my son, you don't have the right to die!" he shouted.

He warned her viciously, a complicated glint in his eyes as he stared at Madeline, who was taking in large gulps of air. He would not allow this toxic woman to disappear from his life once and for all like this. He would never.

Madeline curved her lips, not knowing whether to cry or to laugh. So he rescued her twice, tortured her a few times, and let go of her just to let her atone her sins to Meredith.

She looked at the cold man while smiling in a self-deprecating manner. "Then if one day I die before atoning all my sins, will Mr. Whitman crush my bones and scatter my ashes just like he did to his biological daughter in the past? Just to bring a smile to Meredith's face?" she asked.

Once she finished talking, Madeline saw Jeremy press his lips together tightly, seeming to be deep in thought.

Madeline smiled bitterly. "I'm such a fool. The answer to this question is definitely yes. Mr. Whitman, as long as your sweetheart is happy, there's nothing that cannot be done in this world, right?" she asked.

As the contemptuous words spilled out of her mouth, she felt desolate on the inside.

His silence came to her like a sharp knife being stuck into her heart.

See, sure enough, he didn't care for her. He only saved her pathetic life in order to torture her more.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0113

Madeline went to the hospital again. She didn't go there for the wound on her face but went there to visit Eloise instead.

Since it was nearing the new year, the atmosphere of the new year could even be detected in the hospital.

Madeline wore her mask and saw a flower vendor at the entrance of the hospital. After thinking for a bit, she finally chose a bunch of pink carnations.

She grabbed a pen and a piece of paper from her bag. After writing the words "Madam Eloise Patton, I wish you a speedy recovery" on the paper, she placed it in the middle of the bouquet.

Madeline enquired about Eloise's ward from the reception desk. She was located in the VIP ward section.

However, Madeline hesitated when she arrived in front of the room's door.

Nobody will welcome her here. She would just be seeking humiliation if she went in.

However, inexplicably, she couldn't let go of Eloise from her heart.

At this moment, laughter rang out from the room.

"Eloise, just look at how much you're adored by our darling daughter. Thanks to the blood she donated, you managed to evade danger and attain safety," Sean said in a rather proud tone.

Madeline was stunned upon hearing what he said. Daughter?

Just as she was lost in confusion, Rose's voice rang out.

"Meredith has always been kind-hearted since young. Usually, she often goes to the blood donation center to donate blood as well. Now that something has happened to her biological mother, she'd definitely do so without hesitation!" she said.

Listening up to this point, Madeline understood right away.

Of course, Meredith told Eloise and Sean that she was the one who donated her blood to Eloise.

"My darling daughter is such a good girl," Eloise said gently.

Madeline trembled harshly while clutching at the bouquet of flowers. Her heartbeat suddenly felt unbearable and she even felt the urge to cry.

"Mother, as long as you're okay, I'd be willing to even give up on my life," Meredith replied demurely. "Mother, shall I accompany you downstairs to take a walk?" she asked.

"Alright," she said.

Upon hearing the sound of movement from within the room, Madeline immediately turned around.

Seeing Meredith pushing Eloise on her wheelchair from her peripheral vision, Madeline felt a hot sensation overcome her eyes.

After everyone left the ward, Madeline quickly rushed inside. After putting down the flowers, she turned around rapidly.

However, just as she was about to step out of the ward, Meredith suddenly returned unexpectedly while pushing Eloise on her wheelchair.

Meredith recognized Madeline instantly. "Madeline, is that you? Why are you wearing a mask and come to my mother's room in such a suspicious manner?" she asked.

Displaying a shocked and worried expression, she hid Eloise behind her protectively. "Madeline, come for me if you have anything against me. Don't hurt my family," she voiced out.

Madeline only found Meredith's overdramatic performance amusing. "I don't want to hurt anyone. You don't need to act so pitifully, I just wanted to take a look at Mrs. Montgomery's condition," she said.

"Madeline Crawford, quit acting like a good person here. It is none of your concern whether I live or I die! Also, I don't need people like you to care for me!" Eloise exclaimed. She glared at Madeline hatefully.

A dull, painful sensation emanated from Madeline's chest. However, from Eloise's tone of voice, she could tell that she was recovering well.

She didn't say anything more and proceeded to leave. However, when she turned around, Eloise rushed before her in a fit of rage and tore away Madeline's mask without any reason. She then slapped her harshly on the right side of her face, which was wrapped in gauze.

"Madeline Crawford, you venomous bitch! What do you want to do to Meredith again! Although Meredith isn't my biological daughter, I've always seen her as my own daughter. Come for me you want to carry out your devious schemes! If you bully Meredith once again, I'll fight you!" she yelled.

Madeline's head hurt severely upon being pulled and pushed around by Eloise. Her originally weak body crashed onto the wall after being pushed by Eloise and the gold pendant in her woolen sweater with her original name "Eveline" engraved on it fell out of her collar……

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0114

After the impact, Madeline leaned against the wall, her head spinning. She did not notice the gold pendant she always had hidden in her clothes slip out.

However, Meredith noticed immediately!

She definitely noticed the butterfly-shaped gold pendant that slipped out of Madeline's collar!

She did not forget, three years ago, she when heard that Madeline could be Eloise's daughter by birth, she tried all sorts of ways to obtain Eloise's own personal toothbrush from Brittany, and at the same time, she stole Madeline's clothes that had her DNA in order to perform a DNA test.

The results stated that Madeline really was the daughter that Eloise and Sean Montgomery had been looking for over twenty years!

It caused Meredith to feel incredibly envious but also gave birth to another evil thought. She devised a fake show with Rose and Jon which caused Eloise and Sean to suspect that she would be their daughter that was mistakenly taken away from the hospital all those years ago.

Eloise and Sean did mention the butterfly-shaped pendant at the time and were adamant that the pendant was custom made. It was a unique object and had the name "Eveline" engraved on it.

Meredith did not forget that Madeline had the name Eveline before she changed her name, she just never knew what her family name was.

This caused her to be even more certain of the fact that Madeline was the birth daughter of Eloise Patton.

As for the pendant, Rose and Jon recalled seeing that gold pendant many years ago, but they did not know where it went.

Eloise and Sean did not press the issue either. After they finished signing the adoption papers, they fully believed that Meredith was their precious long-lost daughter, and stopped caring about the gold pendant.

Meredith had always been careful about the jade pendant. When she initially met Madeline's grandfather, Len Samuels, she noticed the crazy old man had a moment of clarity, calling Madeline Eveline, which caused her to be on alert.

She would do anything to ensure she could keep her seat as the precious daughter of the Montgomerys, which was proven when she had Madeline's grandfather killed.

In the three years following that, she thoroughly enjoyed everything that was meant to be Madeline's. However, the pendant that could ruin everything suddenly appeared on Madeline, which was something she absolutely would not allow to happen!

Meredith rushed to Madeline's side, pretending to be concerned. "Maddie, are you alright?"

She had a look of concern on her face, but her hands were forcefully trying to pull off the pendant on Madeline's neck.

However, the chains were very sturdy, and she could not break them.

"What are you doing? Meredith, let me go!" Madeline was in pain and tried to push Meredith away.

Rose did not notice it at first, but when she received a look from Meredith, she noticed the pendant on Madeline's neck as well. She immediately realized what was happening, and hurried up, pretending to be concerned for Meredith.

"Oh Mer, you stupid child, how could you still be worried about this cold-hearted woman after all this time. If it wasn't for her, you would have already been married to Jeremy, and your children would never have been harmed by this woman!"

Madeline did not know why Rose and Meredith were pulling onto the chain on her throat so wildly, she could only feel it tightening.

"Mer, don't bother with this woman anymore! Come upstairs and relax with me, I can't help but feel disgusted just looking at this woman!" Rose said, her face full of disdain as she glared at Madeline.

"Fine, mother, I'll accompany you." Meredith agreed as a sinister look flashed on her face. She used all her strength and yanked, finally breaking the chain that was on Madeline's throat.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0115

The pendant fell on the back of Madeline's foot and bounced off before landing next to Eloise's wheelchair.

Madeline coughed as her face turned red, her throat was extremely sore. She did not notice the sudden change in Meredith and Rose's expressions, but she did hear Eloise's surprised shout.

"This! This gold pendant!"

Eloise's voice was shaking, and she was even stuttering.

Madeline looked over with suspicion and saw Eloise pressing onto where she had her surgery before standing up from the wheelchair to pick up the pendant.

"Sean! Sean!" Eloise cried out for Sean. When Sean heard Eloise's cries, he ran over. The moment he saw the pendant in Eloise's hand, he looked extremely shocked, it was as if he had recovered something that was long lost.

"This! This is the pendant we had custom made for our precious Linnie all those years ago! Did you finally find it?"

What?

Madeline did not even have time to catch her breath when she heard Sean say that. Her mind suddenly went blank as her heartbeat sped up.

"It's definitely this pendant, but why was it with you?!" Eloise looked at the flabbergasted Madeline with a look of astonishment and confusion.

Sean turned around after hearing it as well. He saw Madeline leaning against the wall, her mask having been torn off. Her reddening face was half-covered with gauze, except for those eyes. Even though her eyes were bewildered, her pupils were still exceptionally clear and vibrant.

Madeline looked at the couple's curious gazes, and a thought floated through her mind, but she did not dare voice it out.

"This pendant was with you?" Sean asked Madeline, "Where did you find it?"

Madeline locked eyes with Sean with a lost look on her face. "My grandfather ga…"

"No wonder Mer's pendant went missing, you were the one who stole it!"

Madeline's explanation was interrupted by Rose. She pinned the crime on Madeline, with a furious expression on her face.

"Madeline, our family took you in because we pitied you. We clothed you and fed you, and even allowed you to be educated alongside Meredith. Sometimes, we even gave you things that Meredith did not have, but how could you do such a despicable thing!"

"Madeline, you have really disappointed me. Do you really like stealing things so much? You stole away my fiancé, and now you even stole such an important pendant away from me. Do you know how important that was to me?!" Meredith's eyes were red as she uttered those words in sorrow.

Madeline did not even have the chance to explain herself, but the crime had been pinned onto her.

Eloise and Sean's surprised and bewildered gazes, and even had a hint of anticipation completely evaporated. All that was left on their faces were disdain and contempt.

"Madeline, how could an evil person like you exist in this world!" Eloise shouted at Madeline.

Sean was filled with rage as well. "Get out of my sight! You are never to appear before our family ever again!"

As he said that, he tenderly held Meredith's hand. "Mer, this is the gold pendant mom and dad had made for you before you were even born, now I'll put it on you myself."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0116

Madeline looked on as Sean gently put the pendant on Meredith's neck, and Meredith's eyes were full of tears with a touched look on her face.

"How wonderful, the pendant has finally returned to our precious daughter." Eloise's elated voice could be heard. Her gaze was filled with motherly love as she looked at Meredith.

Looking at that scene, Madeline could not help but cry as an inexplicable pain shot through her heart.

She stepped forward and tried to explain. "I did not steal that pendant, my grandfather left it..."

"Madeline, what are you still trying to do?!" Rose suddenly interrupted her, forcefully pulling Madeline's shoulder. "Get out of here this instant! Don't for a moment think that Meredith is an easy target!"

Rose continued to shout as she pulled Madeline away from them.

Madeline wanted to fight back, but her body was very weak. Her vision got hazier as she looked at the familial scene in front of her. The pain in her heart intensified looking at Sean and Eloise tenderly hugging Meredith.

She wished desperately that Eloise and Sean would turn around to look at her, and she finally got her wish. Eloise did shift her gaze onto her, but it was a look full of hate.

Eloise hated her.

Just by looking at her, Eloise would be filled with disgust.

Madeline's heart felt like it was stabbed by a knife, and blood was pouring out of the wound. No, the wound itself felt like it was being filled with salt.

Madeline never knew why she cared so much for Eloise, why she liked her, and wanted to get closer to her. However, now she realized the reason, yet, she did not dare dwell on it...

As she was deep in thought, Madeline was shoved by Rose, falling on the floor.

"Get lost!" Rose spat at Madeline, and had a fierce look on her face as she warned her, "Listen carefully, if you dare to even get close to Mer again, your life will be at risk!"

After threatening Madeline, Rose turned around and went back in.

Madeline tried to stop her tears, but due to her tumor, her stomach was constantly in pain, to the degree where she could not get up.

Just as Madeline wished for someone to help her up, she suddenly saw a wheelchair stop by her side. She looked up in disbelief and saw Eloise.

Madeline's heart skipped a beat as she looked up hopefully.

However, at the moment, Eloise raised her hand and threw the pink carnation that Madeline gave her at Madeline's face.

"Madeline, don't ever come near to our family again. I will never forgive you if you bully our precious daughter anymore!" Eloise gave a stern warning before softly telling Meredith who was pushing the wheelchair, "Dear, push me inside."

"Okay," Meredith said obediently, pushing Eloise toward the elevator.

Madeline sat on the cold floor in despair. She saw Meredith turn her head around, flashing a victorious and sinister smile at her.

Madeline endured the pain that was coursing through her body, biting down on her lips as she looked at the pendant on Meredith's neck. She suddenly understood why her grandfather had died…

Madeline stood up and leaned against the corner, waiting for Eloise's room to be empty. She then covered up her face and hurried inside.

She took out the toothbrush that Eloise used in the morning before rushing away.

Madeline immediately went to perform a DNA test nearby. After two days, she received a call, asking her to personally collect the report.

On the way there, Madeline was filled with anxiety. The answer seemed to already be in her heart, but she did not have the courage to accept it.

After receiving the report, the few pieces of paper felt like they weighed a ton in her hands, causing her to not have the strength to open it.

She decided to head home before looking at it, but the moment she stepped out the door, a burly looking man forcefully grabbed onto her wrist.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0117

Madeline tried to escape, but she could not resist that huge man. She was forced into a car.

"Who are you?! Where are you bringing me?!" Madeline shouted, but no one responded. She could not even jump out of the car if she wanted to, since someone was holding onto her hands the whole way.

After a little over ten minutes, the car stopped at a deserted place outside the city.

"Get out!" The man fiercely pulled her out of the car, shoving her onto the ground.

As Madeline fell on the ground, her palms fell onto the sharp rocks on the floor, piercing through her skin as she started to bleed. She ignored the pain as she raised her head up.

"What are you doing?! Who sent you here, is it Meredith?!" She asked. The moment she said that, Meredith appeared in front of her.

Meredith had a face full of makeup and an expensive branded fur coat as she looked down arrogantly on Madeline.

"Meredith, so it is you!" Madeline clenched her teeth as she faced the vile woman. "What did you have me brought here for? What are you planning on doing?!"

Madeline tried to stand up after saying that, but the moment she moved, someone kicked her on the stomach.

The pain caused her entire body to tremble as she rolled on the grass, her face pale. The cold winter air pierced her like a cold knife on her skin.

It was so cold, but Madeline's forehead was full of sweat.

Looking at Madeline's despondent state, Meredith spoke, "Maddie, how could you ask such a stupid question? I'm just repaying a debt, a tooth for a tooth after all. Why did you have to bully me all the time? Now Jeremy is telling me that I need to prove a point to you."

The moment Jeremy was mentioned, Madeline's heart froze.

"Beat her up." Meredith issued the order, her beautiful eyes were filled with mirth, but her voice was full of venom. Those thugs listened to the order, and immediately rained blows and kicks toward Madeline.

At the end of it, the thugs took their money and left. Meredith remained behind, looking down at a severely wounded and shivering Madeline.

The sky suddenly turned dark, and it did not take long for snow to begin falling.

The ice-cold snow fell on Madeline's open wounds as the cold pierced into her bones, chilling her to the core.

Meredith was completely untouched, maintaining her usual demeanor as a spoilt and arrogant princess, looking down snidely at the tortured and powerless Madeline.

"Mother told me her toothbrush was missing the other day. I immediately knew you were the culprit." Meredith said.

Madeline's eyes widened as she raised her head in determination, only to see the DNA test that she had not even looked at herself in Meredith's hands. Her heart beat fiercely.

She clenched her fists that were filled with mud and blood as she forced her battered body to stand up.

"Give it back!" Madeline lunged at Meredith, trying to take back the maternity test.

Meredith let out a sly laugh as she got out of the way, raising her leg to send a kick at Madeline's stomach.

Her sharp heels pierced into Madeline's abdomen, which only had a thin shirt over it. Madeline was in so much pain that she felt all the nerves in her body contracting.

Before she could stabilize her footing, Meredith grabbed onto her short hair, letting out a cruel warning. "Madeline, remember this. I am the precious daughter that the Montgomeries lost all those years ago. What are you? Do you think you are an ugly duckling that can turn into a swan just because of a stupid gold pendant?! Are you even worthy?!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0118

After her poisonous warning, Meredith violently pulled Madeline's hair, shoving her head into a tree trunk over and over again, until Madeline had a gaping wound on her head.

Madeline understood why Meredith had ordered some thugs to beat her up beforehand, it was to make it easier for Meredith to torture her right now. Madeline had absolutely no power to fight back. Madeline's wound on her forehead had only just begun to heal, but it was once again open and bleeding.

However, the pain that Meredith had brought onto her was not limited to just that. At the moment, Madeline was slumped on the floor, leaning against a dried-up tree, her pale face full of dirt and blood, looking absolutely terrifying.

Meredith stood in front of Madeline, grabbing onto her chin. "Oh, look at how pathetic you are right now. Quit dreaming of seducing any more men. You can forget about Jeremy, as for Felipe…"

She paused for a moment before letting out a crazy laugh.

"Madeline, do you really think a high-class man like Felipe would even look at a knocked up ex-convict like you?" Meredith was filled with the feeling of superiority as she constantly belittled Madeline.

She was always jealous of Madeline's gorgeous looks and was always worried that Jeremy would eventually be seduced by that face of hers. However, now Madeline's face had been completely ruined by her.

Looking at Madeline's face bleeding, Meredith was extremely satisfied. However, Madeline did not utter a single word, she never broke her defiant state on Meredith.

Meredith laughed without a care in the world, grabbing onto Madeline's chin again. "I warned you not to go against me. There is only one outcome if you fight me, and that is a fate worse than death!"

She bit through her last words, absolutely confident that she could make Madeline's life just like hell on earth from now on. That was because, behind her was not just Jeremy Whitman, but also the Montgomeries.

Just as Meredith was happily devising the next step in her torture of Madeline, Madeline suddenly lunged up, snatching the DNA test papers from Meredith's hands. It was only when her hands were empty that she realized Madeline did not scream or fight back earlier all for the sake of that moment!

"B*tch!" She shouted in anger, trying to snatch the report back, but she saw that Madeline had already ripped open the envelope, taking out the documents within. Meredith panicked at the sight, raising her leg to send a fierce kick to Madeline's back.

Madeline was sent sprawling on the floor by the kick as the familiar taste of blood came from her throat. In the next second, she spat out a massive mouthful of blood.

Even with the situation like that, her grip on the DNA test papers did not loosen. The blood dripped onto the white blanket of snow on the ground as Madeline opened her clear eyes, looking right at the red stamp on the paper, 'Confirmation of relation".

Her heart felt like it was pierced by a sharp blade, and after it shattered, the cold wind covered it up, causing it to go numb.

"Confirmation of relation…"

Madeline was fixated on those words as she let out a cold laugh, not able to stop the pain in her heart.

As she laughed, tears obscured her vision, flowing freely from her eyes.

She did have parents.

Her parents were actually right by her side.

However, her parents hate her to the bone.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0119

Just thinking about how Eloise and Sean looked at her caused Madeline to choke up.

Meredith realized something was off, so she immediately snatched the paper away from Madeline's hands. She was not surprised at all when she looked at the results on the paper, instead, she ripped the paper to shreds in rage. With a flick of her hand, the pieces of paper scattered into the wind.

"Madeline, you vile woman!"

Meredith used all her might to grab onto Madeline's collar, her eyes were so venomous she looked like she wanted to skin Madeline alive.

However, Madeline was still laughing, her white teeth stained with fresh blood that also colored her pale lips red.

"Meredith, you really are just imitation goods." She said those words softly, but it grated on Meredith's ears when she heard them.

Meredith sent a slap to Madeline's injured face, as she widened her eyes widened wildly in front of Madeline. "Madeline, you better watch your f*cking tongue!"

Meredith once again gripped Madeline's collar tightly as she gave a vicious warning. "I will definitely be the daughter of the Montgomeries! I am Eveline Montgomery! Do you hear me?!"

Madeline looked at Meredith's vicious face in amusement, once again spitting out fresh blood as her eyes reminded determined. "Meredith, I won't allow a despicable woman like you to make a fool out of my parents!"

"You…" Meredith's eyes were coldly sinister, but after a few seconds, she suddenly let go of Madeline's collar, on her face an ill-intentioned smile.

"Fine, you can go ahead and tell them!" Meredith said as she stood up with her arms crossed.

"You can go ahead and tell them you don't even have three months left in your life as well, tell them you'll be dying really soon." After those words, Meredith could clearly see the hesitant look that appeared on Madeline's face.

Her lips curved up into a smile, saying, "Why don't I let you know something else, my dear sister."

Meredith's smile turned sinister. "Eloise has a heart condition."

"What?" Meredith exclaimed with a suspicious look in her eyes.

Meredith raised her eyebrow, laughing as she said, "Madeline, if you feel like causing Eloise to have a heart attack and die, then you can go ahead and tell them that you are their real birth daughter."

"After that, tell them that you have an incurable disease, that you'll be dead in three months. Do you think they'll be happy or sad? With such a train of exciting information, what do you think will happen to your parents when they hear it?"

Meredith's voice sounded like the devil as it reverberated in Madeline's ears.

Madeline sprawled on the ground, feeling her body get colder and her vision get darker.

However, Meredith was not finished. "Don't even think about telling Jeremy. Putting aside if he'll believe you or not, if you really dare to say that, then first think about your grandfather's ashes, and then think about Ava Long."

She knelt down, grabbing Madeline's chin as she looked down viciously. "There's nothing I won't do!"

Meredith composed herself. Looking at Madeline who was getting weaker by the moment, she took out a napkin and wiped away the blood that got onto her in disdain before getting up and turning around to leave.

She had not even taken two steps when a figure appeared in front of her.

She was shocked as she asked, "Why are you here?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0120

Meredith looked at the person who just appeared in astonishment. Meredith had already begun to devise a plot in her mind when she realized what she said to Madeline could have been overheard.

"Meredith Crawford, you were never mom and dad's birth daughter! It was always Madeline!" Brittany Montgomery shouted at Meredith angrily, "I had always treated you like a sister, but you had always coveted my position!"

When she heard that, Meredith knew it was going to be a problem. However, she was good at acting, and quickly feigned a hurt expression. "No Brittany, don't misunderstand. I really am mom and dad's daughter…"

"Meredith quit your lying, I recorded everything you said just now! I'm going to head right back and show them who you really are!" Brittany waved her phone around as she looked down arrogantly on Madeline who lay on the ground unmoving.

"So what if I'll be sisters with this ugly duckling in the future, it's better than allowing a fake woman like you to continue strutting around!" Brittany turned around as she said that.

Meredith chased after her, feigning anxiety. "Brit, don't do it!"

"Humph! Don't even think you have a chance of obtaining what even I can't get!" Brittany said as she gave an arrogant smile, turning toward Meredith. It was at that moment that she saw Meredith's venomous expression for the first time in her life!

Brittany was taken aback, but she did not have time to avoid or protect herself from the knife that Meredith suddenly pulled out, stabbing it right into Brittany's heart.

Brittany stopped breathing as she widened her eyes. "Meredith, you…"

"I'll be taking the seat as the precious daughter of the Montgomery family. Whoever dares defy me will have to die!" Meredith maintained her sinister smile as she pulled out the fruit knife before stabbing it into Brittany's heart a few times again.

Brittany's blood splattered onto Meredith's face and body, but she remained unmoving as she looked at Brittany collapse in front of her, slowly losing her breath.

"Opposing me? I won't even give you the chance to regret it!"

Meredith smiled as she looked at Brittany's corpse, shifting her gaze to the knife she had in hand, she finally gazed at Madeline's unmoving body not far away…

Madeline was frozen awake as the cold air deepened around her. She opened her tired eyes, and when she thought about what happened before she passed out, a splitting headache coursed through her head. However, the pain she felt in her heart was far worse than what her head felt.

She really was Eloise and Sean's birth daughter, but Meredith had taken away her identity, monopolizing the parental love that should have been hers.

What Madeline could not stand was the looks filled with hatred and contempt that Eloise and Sean looked at her with.

Madeline hissed as she felt pain throughout her whole body. As she tried to get up, she noticed a fruit knife in her hand, and she also noticed traces of dried blood on it.

She stared at the knife for a while before looking backward in confusion. She was shocked to find someone lying beside her.

That person was not just anyone, it was the daughter that Eloise and Sean had raised for over twenty years, Brittany!

Brittany's face was deathly pale, and her snow-white fur coat was stained with blood, making for a terrifying sight.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0121

Madeline widened her eyes, her hands trembling as she checked for Brittany's breath and pulse, but she could not feel anything. Brittany's body had no warmth to it at all and had even hardened a little.

Madeline's mind was blank as she started to have a nervous breakdown. She was completely clueless as to what happened after she fainted, so it was impossible she would know what the knife was doing in her hand.

Just as she was about to stand up, she heard police sirens in the distance. Looking at the police who got off the car, a cold shiver went down her spine.

She did not expect to pay a visit to a detention center once again. It was a familiar scene, with undeniable evidence in front of her to counter anything she would say.

The fingerprints on the knife were only Madeline's and they managed to find traces of Brittany's skin on the back of her hand, which proved that Brittany did have a struggle against her before she died.

Madeline did not know how she had any bodily contact with Brittany, all she knew was that she did not kill Brittany, that she was innocent.

No one believed her explanations, and the police handed her the confession papers. "Meredith Crawford, all of the evidence points to you, you should just plead guilty."

"I did not kill Brittany, I was framed!" Meredith insisted, her determined eyes filled with injustice and frustration.

The police did not believe her and were too lazy to continue, so they sent Madeline back to the detention ward.

Madeline could not believe that she would be dying in a cell. Maybe, she should have just died in a cell three years ago, putting everything to an end.

As she shut her tired eyes, she had already given up, but the police came back for her, claiming someone wanted to see her.

Madeline did not know who would want to see her, but she had an unsettling feeling about it. It was a stifling feeling that she had never felt before, completely different from the time she had to face Jeremy.

When the door opened, she saw Eloise and Sean. At that moment, she understood why she had such a foreign and uncomfortable feeling in her heart.

Facing their gazes and their desire to skin her alive, Madeline's eyes started to tear up. However, she did not dare to cry, nor could she, because crying would obscure her vision. Before she died, she wanted to take a proper look at her birth parents.

Eloise, who was still recuperating, jumped up in anger when she saw Madeline come out in handcuffs.

"Madeline, you murderer!"

Eloise furiously sent a slap right at Madeline's face.

Madeline ducked her head, the pain on her face was nothing compared to what her heart felt at the moment.

She bit down on her lips, frantically suppressing the urge to break down.

"Madeline, you despicable woman, you're not human! How could you be so cruel that you had to kill my Brit, return my daughter to me!"

"Eloise, calm down, your wound might reopen," Sean told Eloise in concern.

Eloise was unable to calm down, she was sobbing as she said, "How could I calm down! That's our Brit! Even though she's not our flesh and blood, she's still our daughter that we raised for over twenty years, and now she's been killed by that b*tch Madeline! How could I calm down!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0122

Her Brit, her daughter, her precious daughter.

In Eloise's eyes, Madeline was just a cruel b*tch.

To Madeline, hearing those words was like a sharp knife, cruelly stabbing into her heart.

No one could see the wounds, but her heart had long since been riddled with wounds, blood pouring out everywhere.

Madeline withstood the intense pain as her hands trembled, forcing herself to calmly say, "Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery, I've never hurt Brittany, nor would I have killed her. You have to believe me and investigate this, don't let the real killer free."

"Don't you dare try to weasel your way out of this!" Sean slammed his fist into the table. "The evidence is clear, how could you still say it's not your fault! What grudge do you have against our family? You keep targeting our daughter Meredith, and now you killed Brit. Madeline, listen clearly, I will make sure you pay the price!"

Sean shouted full of hatred, causing Madeline's heart to momentarily slip into an endless abyss. She finally could not take it and started to cry. He asked her what grudge she had against them, but was that really a grudge?

They clearly were her own flesh and blood, her own parents. In the end, the parental love she had longed for years was just out of her reach.

It did not stop there, what she got instead was indiscriminate derision and a slap from her own parents.

How could her heart hurt so much?

So it was not just love, family could cause her heart to hurt so much as well.

She clenched her fists tightly, feeling her nails almost digging into her palm.

No.

She could not let that vile woman, Meredith, continue to stay by Eloise and Sean's side. At that moment, Eloise suddenly hissed in pain.

Sean hurried over. "Has your wound reopened? Eloise, listen to Meredith, let's stop meeting this woman. I guarantee I will seek justice for Brit. This woman will be trapped in prison forever!"

Madeline wanted to say something, but the words were trapped in her mouth. After hearing Sean's words and looking at Eloise's hurt look, Madeline lost the courage to reveal the truth.

She did not forget what Meredith said, Eloise had a heart condition. Even if Meredith was lying, she could just imagine what sort of reaction the two of them would have if they knew the truth about her being their daughter.

They might not be able to bear with the intense backlash. Furthermore, she did not have much longer to live.

Why would she cause them to go through the pain of losing a daughter again after they go through the joy of finding her? That sort of impact could potentially lead to them suffering for the rest of their lives.

Madeline's eyes were filled with hopelessness as she looked at the two departing figures. She could no longer hold back her tears as they started to obscure her vision.

A strong feeling of longing could be felt in her chest as she looked at Eloise and Sean leave, her fingers tightening their grips.

This could be the last time she would ever see her parents, she might not ever have the chance to call them mom and dad…

She really wanted it, she wanted her parents back. She really wanted to be their precious little daughter. She wanted to stop being an orphan that did not have parents to love her.

At that moment, the door suddenly opened. Meredith walked inside, her face full of grief as she tearfully called out to Eloise and Sean, "Dad, Mom."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0123

When Madeline saw Eloise and Sean hold Meredith's hand with tender love, all she could think of was that the love should have belonged to her. All that love and care had been given to Meredith.

Madeline's heart froze and she bit onto her lips, swallowing down those words that were on the tip of her tongue, suppressing the longing back down into her heart.

She felt a weird sensation in her chest, but she did not even have time to think about it when the familiar taste of blood was once again present in her throat.

"Madeline, you really crossed the line this time!" Meredith sobbed as she ran in front of Madeline. "I told you before, if you have any problems you should just bring them to me, don't hurt anyone around me. How could you be so cruel! You actually killed Brit this time! Will you not rest until you've tormented everyone around me?"

With Meredith's face right in front of her, Madeline jeered as she gagged, fresh blood once again flowing out of her mouth, staining her white teeth.

"Meredith, you might be able to fool everyone else, but you'll never fool me. Don't play games in front of me, you make me feel sick." The moment Madeline finished saying that, a slap was sent right to her face. That slap was courtesy of Sean.

Madeline was already at the brink of exhaustion. That one slap sent her straight to the ground, spitting out blood from her mouth. However, this time around, the blood was not a normal bright red, but dark.

Madeline let out a cold laugh, suddenly reveling in the piercing pain she felt in her heart. At the very least, before she died, she could enjoy another form of 'love' from her parents.

Sean did not even spare Madeline a look, holding Meredith's hand and saying, "Mer, your mom is not feeling well, let's go back."

"Dad, you should bring mom back first, I'll have a few words with Madeline before I go," Meredith said with a weak look on her face.

That look pulled on Sean's heartstrings, and he was not willing to push the matter, so instead, he went ahead and helped Eloise out.

Before heading off, Eloise did not forget to remind her, "If this despicable woman dares to bully you, just shout for me. Even if I have to put my life on the line, I won't let this b*tch hurt my precious daughter!"

Meredith nodded her head obediently at that, whereas Madeline let out a cold laugh, sprawled on the floor.

She was used to the feeling of someone rubbing salt on her wounds, but this time, it felt exceptionally painful.

After Eloise and Sean left, Meredith knelt down next to Madeline. Upon seeing the dark blood that Madeline had just spat out, she curved her lips into a smile.

"Madeline, do you see that? You spat out blood again. However, looking at the color, you probably don't even have three months left." Her voice sounded exceptionally evil.

"Therefore, let me give you some advice. It's best you keep certain things to yourself, otherwise, you might not be the only one dying."

As Meredith's words entered her ears, Madeline suddenly jumped up, clamping her hands around Meredith's throat with all her might.

"That's right, I won't be the only one dying, you will too!" Madeline shouted, "Meredith, even if I die, I won't let you hurt my family ever again!"

Meredith's face rapidly reddened as she was choked. The guard hurried over to try to pull Madeline away, but Madeline was exceptionally strong at that point. Even when the guard used a police baton to hit Madeline, trying to get her to let go, Madeline would not budge.

There was too much commotion, which caused Eloise and Sean to turn back. Looking at the scene, Sean ran over and kicked Madeline away, hugging Meredith protectively.

"Mom, dad, Madeline is way too scary! She wants to kill me!" Meredith screamed.

Madeline lay down on the floor, a cold smile on her face as she said, "Yes, I want to kill you! Meredith, I won't let you off even if I die!"

Another slap was sent at Meredith's face, this time it was from Eloise.

Eloise stared at Madeline with the utmost contempt, pointing at Madeline and declared with a stern voice, "Then I really want to see what you would dare do to our precious daughter! Even if you turn into a ghost, I will get someone to destroy your soul. You will never be able to lay a hand on Meredith!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0124

Madeline tearfully looked at Eloise as she uttered those words. In that moment, her heart shattered into a million pieces, losing all hope. The familial love that she had craved for so long had turned into a weapon that would destroy her life.

If there was a next life, she wanted to be a fish that only had seven seconds of memory. That way, she could forget all the pain.

Not long after, Madeline was tried in court for murder. People usually begged to live but Madeline's heart was so broken she had lost all will to live.

In the court, Madeline wore a prison uniform. Her face was pale and her hair disheveled, looking just like a wild ghost.

She saw Meredith dressed up beautifully, accompanying Eloise and Sean. Even Jeremy had come, probably to see what her sentence was. He probably wanted to see her get sentenced to jail, never to have a chance to redeem herself again.

Madeline could not help but laugh bitterly. She felt like she was certain to be deemed guilty, and either sentenced to life in prison or even given the death sentence, but she did not expect that there would be a lawyer present to defend her.

This lawyer was extremely professional and was quite well known in the field as well. He provided a very important piece of evidence.

At the crime scene, they found a napkin stained with Madeline's blood. On the napkin were the fingerprints of a third person. However, these fingerprints were not present in any criminal records, nor have they managed to figure out who it belonged to.

Madeline suddenly recalled that Meredith had hit her face, which resulted in her blood getting onto Meredith's hand. After that, Meredith had used a napkin to wipe off the blood before throwing it on the floor. That napkin had to have been left behind my Meredith!

Meredith definitely had a hand in Brittany's death!

Madeline did not voice out anything in court, but plans began to form in her mind.

Thanks to that suspicious fact, Madeline could not be sentenced and was let free by the court.

However, Eloise and Sean did not let the matter rest. They were convinced that Madeline was the murderer who killed Brittany, and Meredith had been whispering false advice into their ears.

Madeline left the court dressed in simple clothing. The sun shone brightly, but her heart was dead inside.

She closed her reddened eyes. Even if she did not have much longer to live and could not fight against Meredith and Jeremy, she felt that, if she really was to die, she could not afford to let Meredith continue free and unfettered.

Madeline sent in a letter of resignation, and after resting for two days, she returned to that forest outside of the city. She wanted to find evidence, evidence that would prove that Meredith was the real killer.

Madeline did not expect she would actually find it. It was a studded earring from Chanel, covered under a pile of grass. There were still traces of dried blood on it.

Perhaps the snow had covered up the earring before, or maybe it was an act of god, but an earnest smile finally showed on Madeline's face.

She stood up, and as she was about to leave, she was surprised to see Jeremy had come.

He took large strides as he walked over, and his handsome and cool face was quickly right in front of her. Madeline held the earring in front of Jeremy's eyes. "Jeremy, I guess you would recognize these earrings? They're Meredith's!"

Jeremy looked at Madeline's big eyes that were filled with anticipation, furrowing his eyebrows as he said, "Do you know why you can stand here freely right now?'

Madeline was taken aback, not understanding what Jeremey meant.

"The lawyer was hired by me." He answered, much to Madeline's surprise.

He actually hired a lawyer for her!

"Why? Why did you help me?" Madeline was extremely astonished. Her heartbeat sped up as she awaited Jeremy's answer.

Seeing Madeline look at him with such anticipation, Jeremy's lips curled up into an evil smile, startling Madeline.

"Didn't you say you don't love me anymore? Why does it feel like that's a lie?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0125

Madeline was stunned and did not even have the chance to deny it when Jeremy gently lifted her chin, his warm breath closing in on her, causing her heart to beat wildly. She heard a sinister laugh from him. "I've said it before, even if you die, you need to die by my hands."

His magnetic voice reverberated in Madeline's ears like a nightmare.

Madeline could only state in horror at the man's evil smile as her heart thumped against her chest. He was not saving her, he just wanted to kill her himself!

"Hand me the earring," Jeremy demanded.

Remembering the fact that he had already destroyed evidence for Meredith that could have proven Madeline's innocence, Madeline knew she absolutely could not hand the earring over to Jeremy.

She hurriedly turned around but was held in place by Jeremy.

"Madeline, don't make me repeat myself, give it to me." Jeremy's tone got a lot colder.

Madeline frantically shook her head, clenching her fist tightly. "I won't give it to you! I want to hand this to the police, I won't let Meredith remain free!"

Jeremy's face darkened as he said, "Madeline, you really never learn."

With some force, he pulled Madeline right into his embrace. He used his hands to hold on to Madeline's, prying open her fingers one at a time.

Even though Madeline was extremely anxious, the moment she thought about Meredith's true, evil self, her grip tightened.

She was also immensely disappointed in Jeremy. As she struggled, she angrily said, "Jeremy, I really don't know how you could] ignore so much evil just to protect Meredith! I really regret being so blind that I fell for a man like you."

As Madeline said that in frustration, Jeremy suddenly bent his head down and kissed her.

Other than three years ago, under the influence of drugs, Jeremy had never kissed her.

Even when they did things that were reserved for married couples, he never once kissed her.

However, he was doing it right now.

Madeline's eyes widened as she froze, feeling Jeremy's lips and teeth clash with hers, she felt as if she lost the ability to breathe.

After a few seconds, Madeline started to struggle with all her might, she did not want to turn into that man's plaything.

However, Jeremy was too strong, he held her tighter the more she struggled, and there seemed to be some sort of power coming from him that caused her to be unable to move, slowly diminishing her ability to fight back.

Madeline did not know how long it was before Jeremy released her, she looked at the smiling man with her heart frantically beating.

"Madeline, you say you don't love me, but your reaction was quite honest." Jeremy smiled softly, his tone mocking and filled with ridicule.

Madeline's face reddened and was about to retort when she noticed the earring in Jeremy's hand. Looking at her hand, the earring seemed to have been taken away by him.

She finally realized Jeremy's intentions. She wanted to laugh, but could only feel a sense of disgust.

"Jeremy, in order to protect Meredith, you're even willing to sell yourself!"

Jeremy barely spared her a glance before walking toward the nearby lake.

Madeline chased after him in realization. "Jeremy, what are you trying to do? Don't!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0126

"Don't do it! Jeremy!" Madeline shouted, but Jeremy ignored her.

She stared as he raised his hand, tossing that important earring right into the lake. Madeline's heart froze, she had no more cards to play.

However, the heavens really might be helping her. There was a thin layer of ice on the lake, and the earring did not fall in, instead landing on the ice!

Jeremy was obviously very unhappy. He furrowed his eyebrows, trying to think of what to do when Madeline ran across like the wind.

He stared in disbelief as Madeline suddenly ran like crazy toward the lake, just to retrieve that earring.

The thin ice was quite a distance from the shores, and Madeline could not reach it. She tried to find a tree branch to hook the earring over, but she was afraid she would accidentally push the earring into the lake.

Seeing that, Jeremy walked to her side, pulling Madeline up.

"Madeline, what are you doing?"

"Mr. Whitman, can't you see? I'm trying to retrieve some evidence, evidence that Meredith was the true killer!"

Jeremy's face was somber. "What sort of nonsense are you talking about, what does Brittany's death have to do with Mer?"

He protected Meredith as usual, pulling Madeline over. "Come back with me."

"I won't!" Madeline pushed him away with all her might, her gaze conflicted. "Jeremy, don't touch me again! You disgust me!"

"What did you say?" the man's face darkened again.

Madeline did not falter. "I said you disgust me! You kissed a woman you hate just to protect that vile and despicable Meredith, that sort of behavior disgusts me!"

With those words, Madeline looked at Jeremy's dark face, his lips pursed tightly and veins could be seen on his forehead.

Nonetheless, Madeline looked at him with a detached gaze. "Jeremy, I've thoroughly seen through you. I'll put my life on the line today. If you want to get your hands on the earring, you'll have to kill me!"

With those words, Madeline jumped into the lake without hesitation.

Jeremy's pupils contracted as he looked at Madeline jumping into the lake. His mental state was in disarray, he suddenly felt a worry that he had never felt before.

The lake was freezing from the winter cold, but she jumped inside!

Madeline finally got her hands on the earring. She was elated but the cold suddenly caused her right leg to cramp up. She wanted to return to shore, but she suddenly could not move, feeling her body getting heavier, she started to sink.

Jeremy immediately noticed something was wrong with Madeline. He did not hesitate to take off his coat and jump into the lake, pulling Madeline up.

"Jeremy, you don't have to save me! Don't even think about taking the earring away from me again!" Madeline tried to push him away.

However, Jeremy held onto her arm, making it difficult to get away.

When they got to the shore, Madeline's leg was still cramped. She thought that Jeremy would take the chance to snatch away the earring again, but he did not.

He had a stony face as he shoved Madeline into the car, quickly bringing her back to her home.

When they got off, Jeremy saw that Madeline's leg still had not recovered, and wanted to carry her upstairs, but he was pushed away.

She leaned against the wall, forcing her wet body to slowly walk upwards. Jeremy followed behind her, and she could feel his intense gaze following her every move, making her very uncomfortable.

When they almost got to the destination, Madeline suddenly quickened her pace, immediately locking the door behind her when she entered.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0127

Jeremy unhappily knocked at the door. "Madeline, open the door."

"Jeremy, just leave, I don't want to see you." Madeline coldly rejected him, turning around to leave.

She hid the earring before taking a bath. Changing into some dry and comfortable clothes before turning the heater on, finally warming herself up.

Madeline looked at the time, and more than half an hour had passed. Jeremy should have already left. She walked to the door and listened, making sure she could hear nothing outside before opening the door.

The moment she opened the door, Jeremy's long and handsome figure was right in front of her! His entire body was still wet, even his hair was dripping, and his expression did not look too good.

His deep eyes stared at Madeline, causing her heart to skip a beat. She did not expect him to stay in front of the door despite it being a windy winter day.

Madeline was shocked, and her first response was to close the door, but it was blocked by Jeremy's hand. He used a little force and easily pushed the door open. As he entered the place he tossed his car keys to Madeline. "There's a change of clothes in my car, bring it to me."

After giving Madeline her commands, he headed toward the bathroom. Madeline chased after him, blocking his way as she asked, "Jeremy, what is the meaning of this?"

Even if he was dripping wet, Jeremy's noble aura did not diminish as he amusedly smirked. "Madeline, would you still be alive if I didn't save you earlier? Is this how you treat your savior?"

"Savior?" Madeline laughed mockingly. "Jeremy, did you really save me? You only did it to protect Meredith, and so you could torture me to death yourself!"

With those words, dark clouds seemed to form over Jeremy's face. "Madeline, you really don't know when you're being shown kindness."

"Even if that's the case, I was forced to be like this by you, Mr. Whitman."

Madeline did not give Jeremy another chance to lecture her as she turned straight for the door.

Looking at Madeline's retreating back, a sliver of peace shone in Jeremy's cold eyes.

Even though she was not willing, Madeline still retrieved Jeremy's change of clothes for him, hoping that he would leave after he showered.

However, Jeremy did not have any intentions of leaving, he sat lazily on the sofa, demanding that Madeline make him some food.

Madeline knew Jeremy's goal was the earring, but she would never let him have his way.

She made a simple meal before calling for Jeremy.

However, she says that Jeremy had closed his eyes and was lying down on the sofa, he was probably asleep.

It was the first time she saw his sleeping face. It looked like a teenager who had yet to experience any hardship, his gentle appearance caused Madeline to think about the past.

She could not help but reach out and touch Jeremy's forehead, but she noticed his skin was hot to touch, and his face was oddly red.

He had a fever.

Was that because he jumped into the lake to save her, and waited for half an hour in the cold winds?

Madeline could not bear the thought and wanted to head to the pharmacy to buy some medicine. However, the moment she turned around, Jeremy held her by her wrist.

"Don't go, Linnie."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0128

Madeline froze in her steps, she did not believe what she just heard, but she felt Jeremy's grip on her tighten.

"Linnie…"

He was calling her Linnie.

What a familiar yet foreign name.

Madeline's eyes suddenly reddened, staring at Jeremy's sleeping face, her vision slowly blurred.

Remembering the chance encounter all those years ago, Madeline's heart felt a sense of longing.

"Mer, don't worry, what I've promised you, I'll definitely make it happen…"

Madeline's heart that had just begun to warm suddenly froze yet again. She bit her lips as she pulled her hand away.

The Linnie Jeremy was crying out for was not her, it was Meredith. That was true, Meredith currently called herself Eveline Montgomery.

Madeline felt incredibly humiliated, laughing at herself as she left. She really deserved the pain she felt right now, how could she feel anything for that man even after all that has happened?

Madeline bought the fever medication, and just as she was about to wake Jeremy up, his phone rang. Looking at the display, it was Meredith's name. Madeline thought for a moment and finally picked it up.

On the other side of the phone, Meredith's fake sweet voice could be heard, "Jeremy, where are you? You said you would accompany me tonight."

"Meredith, you shameless b*tch. If you want a man, don't come looking for my husband." Madeline said rudely. She had deliberately said all that to provoke Meredith, and true to form, Meredith exploded after two seconds.

"Madeline! Why do you have this phone? Where's Jeremy?!"

"I'm Jeremy's wife, what's wrong with me answering the phone?"

"You…"

Meredith was so angry she had no words, Madeline could just imagine the twisted face she was making right now.

"Don't call my husband again. If you're free, you should be thinking of a way to explain to the police how something belonging to you was found at the scene of Brittany's murder." After Madeline said that, Meredith was speechless.

This led Madeline to be even more confident that Meredith had something to do with Brittany's death.

Thinking that her own parents were showing so much love to that animal, Madeline decided to send a message to Eloise after some consideration. She wanted to voice her suspicions, in hopes that Eloise and Sean would take some precautions.

However, she did not get any reply as Jeremy woke up.

Madeline offered him fever medication and warm water. Jeremy's eyes measured Madeline, seemingly suspecting something.

"Are you worried I'm trying to poison you?" Madeline placed the medicine and the cup down. "It's up to you."

She left right after, without any hesitation.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's thin back with a complicated expression before gulping down the medicine, then shutting his eyes to get some more rest.

The sky turned to night, and Madeline had dinner ready on the table before getting Jeremy. He seemed to be much better as he sat down at the table. His appetite was good, but he noticed Madeline far away from him.

"You're not going to eat with me?" Jeremy said, his alluring eyes staring right at her.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0129

Madeline had a calm expression. "Mr. Whitman, please leave after you finish eating, it would be best if you stop coming back from now on."

Jeremy smiled as he said, "Madeline, why do you need to pretend you want me away from you? You were so into it when I kissed you during the day!"

"Don't mention that anymore!" Madeline said, losing control of herself for a moment. "Jeremy Whitman, you've disappointed me too much."

"So what? It won't change the fact that you love me."

Madeline was so angry she felt like exploding. Her heart hurt, and so did her stomach.

"I loved you once, but now, even being touched by you disgusts me!"

Hearing those words, the food in Jeremy's mouth stopped tasting good. He put down his utensils, getting up, and walking toward Madeline.

Madeline felt something was wrong, so she turned around to leave. However, Jeremy was much faster, with both his hands, he pinned her against the wall.

Madeline did not dare look at Jeremy, but he bent his head, deliberately getting closer to her, placing his handsome and evil face right in front of her eyes.

Feeling his breath drawing closer to her, Madeline was so scared her throat began to tighten. She immediately ducked down and tried to escape under his arms, but Jeremy anticipated it, grabbing her chin with his hand.

"Let me go!"

Madeline was extremely scared, ready to run at any moment.

Jeremy knitted his eyebrows. "Now you don't want me touching you? Do you have someone new in your heart? Don't forget, Madeline, I am your husband!"

"When have you ever treated me like your wife? You've never!" Madeline shouted at the man, her eyes burning. She clenched her teeth, refusing to allow her tears to fall.

"Jeremy, I don't love you anymore. I've really stopped loving you! Please stop touching me, go ahead and touch Meredith. You love her so much, then just save yourself for her. Stop touching a filthy and despicable woman like me. You said it yourself, I'm not worthy!"

Madeline did not have anything left to say, she saw Jeremy a complicated look on Jeremy's face that she did not understand at all.

"Madeline." He suddenly said in a calm manner, reaching out to try to hold her hand. However, Madeline avoided it, not even looking him in the face.

Looking at her face that was still covered in bandages, and his expression slowly turned a lot gentler. He bit his lips, wanting to say something when his phone suddenly rang.

He let Madeline go, picking up his phone.

When he looked at the phone, he hesitated for a few seconds before picking up.

Madeline was curled up against the wall, being terrified by the silence. It was also the silence that let him hear what was said on the phone, "Jeremy, come to the hospital quickly. It's Meredith, she's about to die!"

Meredith was about to die?

Madeline refused to believe those words. It was definitely another trick by Meredith, but she saw that Jeremy's face changed immediately to one of concern.

He hung up and turned around to leave.

However, as he stood at the door, he seemed to remember something and pulled Madeline up.

"Jeremy, what are you doing? Let me go!" Madeline struggled.

"From now on, it's best you don't leave my sight." His tone left no room for arguments as he shoved Madeline into the car.

Madeline quickly understood. "Are you afraid I'll bring the evidence over to the police and report Meredith? Jeremy Whitman, you really are a bastard! You're willing to ignore your morals for a woman like that, and you're even willing to protect a murderer!"

Jeremy listened to Madeline berating her and suddenly roared, his cold hands clamping against Madeline's throat. "Meredith has always been innocent and kind, she'd never do something sick like that! I won't allow you to slander her!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0130

Madeline struggled to breathe, her face red as she forced a smile. "Slander? Jeremy, do you know what slander truly is?"

"Jeremy, when you were dreaming in the afternoon, did you not dream of our dead child? Has your consciousness never hurt for it?" Madeline looked at the man that had a conflicted expression.

"That child was not mine." He said through clenched teeth, his eyes coldly gazing at Madeline, but there was a sliver of doubt in them.

Madeline laughed, her tears dropping on Jeremy's hands.

Jeremy suddenly felt it was abnormally hot, burning him until he let go of Madeline's throat. He uncomfortably avoided Madeline's case, starting the car.

"If you don't want to die, then stop provoking me."

Madeline inhaled deeply, not speaking again.

At least for the moment, she really did not want to die. She wanted to live until Meredith's true face was revealed.

Madeline was forcefully brought to the hospital by Jeremy. Meredith was in the VIP ward, and Madeline could vaguely hear the sounds of her crying inside. Seeing that Madeline was here, Rose stopped her at the door.

"Madeline you despicable woman, what are you here for! Do you think Meredith isn't dying fast enough?!" She shouted in anger, her finger pointing at Madeline, looking like a shrew.

Madeline calmly looked at Jeremy. "I didn't want to come either, but my husband forced me."

Jeremy heard that and looked at Madeline who was smiling subtly, he furrowed his eyebrows but did not deny it.

At that moment, Eloise walked out of the ward. She sent a look of pure hatred when she saw Madeline. "What are you doing here? You've killed Brit, and now you're trying to kill off my remaining daughter! Madeline, how could you be so vile! I really want to see what sort of parents could give birth to a despicable woman like you!"

Hearing Eloise's words, Madeline's heart clenched up. What sort of parents…

She did not know if she should laugh or cry, but could only explain, "Mrs. Montgomery, I did not kill Brit, someone else did. That person is…"

"Are you trying to say it's Meredith?! You really are despicable!" Eloise shouted thunderously, "Meredith tried to kill herself because of you!"

"Mom, don't blame Madeline for it. It's all my fault, my fault. Just let me die, I'm so tired…" Meredith's frail voice could be heard from inside the ward.

Jeremy glanced at Madeline without a word before hurrying inside, whereas Eloise stared at Madeline in rage before running in herself.

Madeline wanted to go in as well, but was stopped by Rose. "Madeline, who do you think you are? You are not worthy of coming into Meredith's ward!"

Madeline looked directly at Rose. "You know exactly who I am."

"You…" Rose was suddenly stunned speechless.

Madeline was very satisfied when she saw that. Just as she was about to leave, she heard Eloise gently saying, "Mer, don't think these thoughts. To me, you are the purest and most innocent child. That vile and shameless woman, Madeline, snatched away the man you love, harmed your child, and even harmed you. I will definitely get justice for you!"

Madeline's legs suddenly froze, feeling extremely heavy.

She stood in front of the ward, hearing Eloise's assessment of her. A vile and shameless woman.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0131

Her heart had long since been hurt so much that it could never recover again, but now, these people still wanted to continue hurting her.

Eloise turned around, shooting a hateful gaze at Madeline. "Madeline! Just look at what you've done to Meredith. Jeremy was Meredith's fiancé, but you used despicable means to snatch him away. Now, you even called Meredith with Jeremy's phone and said those shameless things to hurt her! Do you have no shame?!"

Madeline finally understood what was going on. Meredith plotted this suicide scheme during the phone call she received when Jeremy was having a fever.

Madeline pursed her lips while smiling at Meredith. "Meredith, just keep on lying. Aren't you just hoping that Jeremy and I will get a divorce so that you, the mistress, can take my spot? Isn't that why you did this? Then listen to me. Even if I die, I'll keep holding onto the title of Mrs. Whitman!"

The moment she finished those words, Madeline received a slap from Eloise.

"Shameless!" she shouted, "Madeline, a girl like you deserves to be abandoned by her parents! Your parents would probably have been angered to death by you!"

Madeline's eyes burned. She wanted nothing more but to scream out all the pain and frustration. However, she swallowed it all down. "Yes, I've never had parents when I was growing up. Only my mentally unstable grandfather raised me.

"My grandfather told me I wasn't abandoned by my parents. They just overlooked me in a moment of carelessness. However, now I know that they weren't careless. They just didn't love me at all. That's because they can't even recognize me when I'm standing in front of them…

"Jeremy, you should just ignore me from now on. You shouldn't care about me anymore!" Meredith shouted at just the right time, interrupting Madeline.

Madeline looked up and saw Meredith suddenly jumping up from the bed while holding a fruit knife in hand, acting like she wanted to kill herself.

"Meredith!" Jeremy called out to her anxiously, his eyes full of worry.

Madeline's heart was cold. When had the man who she loved for so many years ever shown her so much concern? No, he had never.

However, now he was so concerned with that vile woman. Madeline really did not understand what was so attractive about Meredith that could make Jeremy so attracted to her.

"Meredith, don't do anything stupid! I won't be able to bear it if you die!" Eloise shouted as she cried, trying to stop Meredith.

"Mom, I'm sorry!" Meredith sobbed her heart out, looking at Jeremy with a look of sorrow.

"Jeremy, do you still remember what you promised me? You said you'd always protect me, treasure me, and that you'd marry me. However, that day will never come…"

Meredith's words caused Madeline to snap. She remembered the promises that Jeremy had made her all those years ago. Those promises suddenly turned into a gigantic joke now.

He made those same promises to other girls as well.

She had always believed that she was the only one who received those promises, but at the end of the day, she was only one of the many fishes in his pond.

What a joke!

Amidst Madeline's confusion, she heard Meredith's so-called last words, "Mom, I'm sorry. Jeremy, I'm sorry, I love you. Let's get married in our next life! Madeline, I'll give Jeremy to you. I won't fight with you anymore. From now on, you won't need to slander me, provoke me, or give me calls like that. I'll just give you what you want!"

"Meredith, no!" Eloise rushed in to snatch the knife away. "Jeremy, do you really want Meredith to die in front of you? Even now, are you still going to cling to your grandfather's words and not divorce Madeline?!"

Madeline's heart ached at Eloise's words. She always thought that Jeremy would keep his promise, but he was looking at Meredith in hesitation.

After a few seconds of silence, Meredith shouted while crying, "Mom, let me go!"

After the shout, Madeline saw that Meredith had slashed her wrist and blood was spurting out.

Looking at that situation, Jeremy lost any hesitation he had as he walked in front of Meredith. "Meredith, don't hurt yourself anymore. I promise you, I'll divorce Madeline right away! I'll make you my wife!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0132

Madeline looked at Jeremy's determined promise to Meredith. It was just a few simple words, but they caused Madeline boundless pain.

It would seem like they were only suited to leave each.

Madeline slowly teared up. She saw Meredith looking at Jeremy with a face full of tears. "Jeremy, are you telling the truth? Will you really marry me?"

Jeremy looked at her tenderly. "Of course, it's true. I'll definitely fulfil my promise."

"Jeremy, we finally won't have to hide our love…" Meredith hugged Jeremy tightly, crying into his chest.

She turned her face around, showing Madeline a sly and evil look.

Beside them, Eloise was elated. She then shot a hateful glance at Madeline.

Her suffering and pain threatened to spill out as Madeline clenched her fists. She turned to leave.

Jeremy noticed that Madeline was leaving and looked over. He gently pushed Meredith aside, looking like he was going to leave.

Meredith pulled onto his shirt. "Jeremy, are you reluctant to leave Madeline?"

"Nonsense. How could I not want to leave that woman?" Jeremy smiled softly. "I'm just going to talk to her about the divorce. You should get your wound treated."

As he said that, he walked away without turning around.

Even though Jeremy said that, Meredith still had doubts in her mind. However, Eloise was there as well, so she had to continue acting like an obedient child.

Madeline stormed out of the hospital, but her steps were not steady. She was holding back a mouthful of blood.

She hurriedly took out a napkin to cover her mouth. The dark shade of blood was very obvious under the street lights. She had been vomiting blood increasingly frequently. It seemed like she was at the end of her life.

Madeline tearfully looked at the rows of street lights, her heart in immense pain. She was drowned in her thoughts, drowning in the promise of her first love that she could not forget to this day.

She had thought that no matter what, their reunion all those years ago and the fun they had, at least those were real.

However, he had actually played that game with other women as well.

Madeline looked at the sky, blinking as she felt completely lost. All these years, what had she wished for? What was she anticipating? A dream-like, perfect wedding?

What a joke.

She pushed back her tears, ready to leave when she suddenly heard the voice of her nightmares.

"Madeline," Jeremy called out to her.

Madeline stood there for a second, crumpling up the napkin in her hand in a panic before rushing ahead.

Looking at her unusual actions, Jeremy hurriedly grabbed onto Madeline's wrist.

"What are you hiding in your hand?" He had noticed her actions earlier.

Madeline pulled her hand away. "It's got nothing to do with you."

"Nothing?" Jeremy said softly, his voice cold, "So I take it the divorce is exactly what you want? You've always been waiting for the day you could get away from our relationship, right?"

Madeline laughed as she clenched her fist. "Mr. Whiteman, isn't divorcing me the best thing that can happen for you and your precious loved one?"

Hearing that, a strange and subtle look flashed across his face. "So you don't want to divorce me? You still love me?"

He stared at Madeline, waiting for her answer.

After a few seconds, Madeline said, "Jeremy, I don't love you anymore, but I won't agree to divorce you."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0133

As she said that, Jeremy's exquisite face seemed to freeze. His eyes glared piercingly at her. "Madeline, what did you say? What's the meaning of this?"

Thinking that she would be dead soon and remembering her laughable wish that she had held onto for over ten years, Madeline's eyes reddened as she smiled at Jeremy.

"What I mean is, I won't let that fake b*tch Meredith get what she wants. Even if I die, I'll bring the title of Mrs. Whitman with me!" Madeline's red eyes widened, her tears falling against her wishes.

"Jeremy, even if you're disgusted with me and hate me, it'll never change the fact that I am your wife!" Saying that, Madeline felt excruciating pain in her heart.

A lifetime's worth of her love and passion had been poured onto him. It started with love, and it was now going to end because of love.

Now, their love had soured, and everything was going up in smoke.

However, why did her heart still hurt so much?

Was death the only escape she could have from her pain?

Jeremy was enraged as he reached out to choke Madeline. "Madeline, you dare toy with me?!"

Madeline forced out a smile, her tears still flowing as she said, "Mr. Whitman, haven't you toyed with me for so many years?"

"Madeline Crawford!" His rage intensified, and the force in his hands increased.

Even if he was so violent, he remained as handsome as usual.

Madeline did not beg for mercy nor did she struggle. She just tearfully looked at the man who wanted to kill her. Had he not said it before? He wanted to kill her with his own hands.

It seemed like that day was here.

Madeline started to lose her breath, and just as she was about to suffocate, Jeremy let go.

"Leave!" he shouted in rage, tossing her aside.

Madeline fell onto a flowerbed powerlessly, her stomach feeling as if it was being torn apart. She forced herself to stand up, looking at the furious man.

"Jeremy, don't regret it in the future if you don't kill me today."

The man let out a smile. "Madeline, you dare threaten me? Do you really believe that I'm staying in this farce of a marriage just to keep my promise to my grandfather?"

What?

Madeline's heart pounded as she looked at Jeremy in astonishment.

Was he not staying in this marriage because of his grandfather?

If that was not the case, then what was he after?

Jeremy seemed to revel in Madeline's unsettled face. He grabbed her chin and said softly, "Madeline, let me tell you. Since the beginning, this marriage has always been in my hands. Do you really think you could become my wife just by sleeping with me for one night? You're way too naive!"

His words were full of mocking as he released her, coldly turning away after.

Madeline stood frozen in place, her entire body shivering in the cold as a gigantic question mark loomed over her in the darkness of the night.

She returned to her home, still full of questions. However, she noticed Felipe waiting at her door.

"I haven't been able to contact you and was a little concerned," Felipe said warmly, a large smile on his bright and handsome face.

Madeline hesitated in front of the door, wondering if she should invite Felipe inside.

Felipe saw through Madeline's hesitation and softly said, "If I knew you'd end up like this with Jeremy, I would've stopped this farce of a marriage three years ago."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0134

Madeline widened her eyes in shock. "Why did you say that?"

Felipe looked at her, dispirited. Then, he parted his lips slightly before stopping himself from saying what he wanted to say.

"Nothing. I just think it's a great pity."

Pity?

Madeline felt that something was amiss, but she did not ask any more questions.

Some words would be said when the time was right. He might find her annoying if she kept asking.

In the end, she opened the door and invited Felipe in.

"I heard about Brittany. I believe that it has nothing to do with you. You're not someone who's cruel and cold-blooded."

Madeline was touched that Felipe was always so trusting of her. He took a sip of his warm tea and looked at Madeline's pale face.

"I'll keep your resignation letter. You can go back to work anytime you want."

"Thank you for your trust and kindness, Mr. Whitman. However, I think I don't have the chance to go back anymore." Madeline smiled bitterly.

"You can come back anytime as long as you want to." Felipe's answer was gentle, just like the handsome smile on his face.

Even though he looked cold and elegant, when he opened his mouth, his voice was as gentle as the spring breeze.

Madeline could feel his kindness. However, Felipe would never know that it was not her who was refusing to go back to work, but in fact, it was because she did not have much time left.

She did not have a choice but to let go of her career in jewelry design and the people who she loved most.

Felipe did not stay long. He left after a short while.

Madeline lay in bed and could not sleep. She grabbed a new diary and picked up the pen again.

A few days later, Madeline finally removed the bandage on her face. She looked at her face in the mirror and felt extremely foreign.

The illness was slowly destroying her body and appearance.

She had gotten thinner and looked haggard. Her bony face made the two scars on her face look even more disgusting.

Madeline put on a face mask and left the house with the bloody earring.

She was in a rush to get to the police station. However, the moment she got out of the door, she ran into Daniel.

Since he could not contact Madeline during this period, he was extremely worried. Finally, he got Madeline's current address from Ava.

When he saw the ugly scars on Madeline's face, Daniel's heart was almost in pieces.

Then, he looked at her thin and haggard face. He was mortified and brought Madeline over to Adam by force.

Madeline knew her condition and did not want the people she cared about to worry about her. However, she could not win against Daniel, so she was forced to go for a check-up.

After they got the result, Adam's face looked solemn. "Maddie, have you been throwing up blood recently?"

"Vomiting blood?" Daniel's scalp felt numb when he heard that. When he saw Madeline staying silent, his heart felt as if it had fallen into a bottomless abyss. "Maddie, you…"

Madeline smiled lightly. "Dan, don't worry about me. This is just a common symptom of my illness. I still owe you so much money. I'll make sure to live so that I'll be able to repay my debt to you."

She smiled as if nothing had happened. Then, she gave Adam a look.

Adam understood and cooperated with Madeline. He got Daniel out of the room with the excuse of doing more check-ups and stayed in the room alone with Madeline.

"Dr. Brown, just tell me the truth. How much time do I have?" Madeline asked bravely. She was ready to face death with equanimity.

Adam sighed in regret. He did not hide anything when he said, "If you're lucky, two months."

Madeline was slightly shocked. "If I'm not?"

"If you suffer any triggers or the tumor decides to worsen during this period, you'll have one month max."

Oh.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0135

Madeline stayed silent and muttered to herself irresolutely.

She had at least a month left.

A month was enough for her to take the evidence to the police and report that Meredith had killed someone.

After she left the hospital, Daniel took her on an aimless car ride around the city center. Toward the end of their trip, he stopped next to a food truck.

Daniel looked at Madeline with a gentle and soft smile on his handsome face. "Maddie, will you have tacos with hot sauce with me again this time?"

Madeline felt surprised. However, when she saw the glistening tears in Daniel's eyes, she sensed something.

Did he already know that she did not have much time to live?

Madeline did not think too much into it. She smiled and nodded. "Of course. And not just this time, we'll have lots of chances in the future."

"Really?" Daniel looked at her expectantly.

"Yeah, really," Madeline replied confidently.

Madeline accompanied Daniel as he ate tacos with hot sauce by the food truck. They started talking about their life at university.

Daniel confessed that he had fallen for Madeline the first day she got into university. Eventually, he found out that she had already fallen for Jeremy at first sight.

However, Madeline knew that she did not fall for Jeremy at first sight. In fact, her love for him rekindled after she saw him again.

After they finished eating, Daniel sent Madeline back to her house. He wanted to hang out with her a bit more in her home, but he received a call from his family, so he had no choice to go back.

He watched as Madeline's scrawny frame walked further and further away from him. Daniel could not control himself and got out of the car. Then, he ran in front of Madeline.

Madeline did not have time to react before Daniel planted a gentle kiss on her forehead.

"Maddie, I like you."

After he said that, he turned around and went back to his car.

Madeline was frozen in place. The wind lifted the thin bangs on her forehead, and it felt as if she could still feel the residual warmth.

"Madeline Crawford!"

While she was spacing out, an eerie voice came from behind her.

Madeline turned around abruptly and saw Jeremy walking downstairs from the apartment.

He walked toward her with a murderous aura around him. His deep eyes looked unperturbed, but the cold air coming from his body was enough to make Madeline shiver.

She forced herself to stay calm. However, her heart was beating erratically.

The cold wind kept attacking her body and yet it was nothing compared to the murderous aura coming from Jeremy.

"You're really something else. Felipe, Daniel, and Tanner. Just how many men do you have?"

Those bone-chilling words came out from his thin lips.

He walked in front of her and grabbed her wrist.

"Do you think I'm dead? How dare you love and coo with another man on the streets?"

Madeline clenched her fist at Jeremy's insults. "So what? Don't you always do that with Meredith in front of me, Mr. Whitman? Do you think about your wife when you do that?"

After she said that, a layer of frost appeared on Jeremy's face.

"How dare you talk to me like that? Madeline, do you want to be punished?"

After his brutal words, he grabbed Madeline violently.

She could not defend herself and was dragged upstairs by Jeremy.

"Jeremy, what are you doing? Let me go!"

She struggled hard, but he only turned a blind eye. When they got into the house, Jeremy pushed Madeline onto the bed. He pressed his body against hers in a brutal fashion when she tried to run away.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0136

Madeline was so petrified that her face had turned pale. She wanted to run, but she was trapped.

Jeremy pinched her cheek and forced her to look at him.

She kept shaking her head as she struggled. "No! Jeremy, don't touch me! Let go!"

"You were so happy when Daniel kissed you, but now you're so reluctant when I touch you?"

Looking at Madeline's conflicting and resisting gaze, Jeremy's face was grim while his eyes were extremely icy.

"Madeline, look closely. I'm your husband." His deep and seductive voice sounded next to Madeline's ear. In the next second, she felt him biting her shoulder.

"I don't want this, Jeremy!"

She knew what he was going to do to her, and it made her so scared that even her bones were shaking.

However, it was as if the man was possessed. He ripped her clothes garment by garment before devouring her viciously.

Madeline fell asleep groggily. She had a dream that she had gone back to the happiest time of her life.

However, when she woke up, the reality was like a nightmare that suffocated her.

She saw that she was still being trapped and the man was lying beside her. Madeline looked at the moon outside the window with a blank look on her face.

'The only thing I did was fall in love with you, but why do I have to pay such a heavy price?

'Why are you torturing me even if you don't love me anymore?

'Jeremy, what do you want me to do?'

Madeline did not know how she fell asleep. However, when she woke up, Jeremy was not there anymore. His residual warmth had also dissipated.

She lifted her battered and bruised body before going into the bathroom to take a shower. However, no matter how she washed, she could not get rid of the smell and warmth he had left on her body.

She put on some clothes hastily and went out the door with a pale look on her face. She wandered around the streets aimlessly as if she had been possessed.

She did not know what she was doing. She just wanted to get rid of the memories of him toying with her last night.

However, she could not get rid of those memories no matter what. Then, she decided to go home.

When she was about to open the door, she realized that her door had been pried open.

Madeline thought she had been burgled. However, when she pushed open the door, she saw Meredith sitting on the sofa like a high and mighty princess. There were also two burly men next to her.

The house that Madeline had cleaned and tidied was now in a mess. It was obvious that they were looking for something.

"Why are you here?"

"Why am I here? You should know." Meredith snorted. "If you don't want to suffer, give it to me."

Madeline knew what Meredith was talking about. She had already found out about the earring!

'Jeremy, you covered this up so nicely.'

Madeline chuckled lowly. "You're too late. I've already handed it to the police."

"What did you say?" Meredith's expression changed.

The two bodyguards went up to grab Madeline's arms. Then, Meredith approached her and slapped her in the face. "Madeline, I think you're done with life! Take her away!"

Meredith commanded and the two bodyguards lifted Madeline.

"Let me go! Meredith, you evil witch!" After Madeline yelled at her, she felt a sharp pain at the back of her neck before she lost consciousness.

Madeline was woken up by a pail of cold water thrown over her head. The coldness invaded her entire body, starting from the top of her head.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0137

She did not know where she was. When she opened her eyes, she saw Meredith towering over her while looking down on her disdainfully.

"You're awake? I thought you were dead. It'd be so boring if you were."

Meredith scoffed and squatted. She then grabbed Madeline's face.

Looking at the disfigured yet pretty face, Meredith was so jealous that malice started filling her eyes.

"Madeline, I underestimated you. Even at a time like this, you could still seduce men!" She grabbed Madeline's wound that had just started to heal. "How did you seduce Jeremy? With your pitiful eyes?"

Madeline finally understood what was happening after she heard what Meredith said.

Meredith knew about him spending the night with her. Plus, Meredith even successfully imagined the scene of them entangled in bed.

She scoffed and burst out laughing. She was laughing sarcastically and at the same time, she was laughing while feeling pleased. "Are you mad? Looks like Jeremy doesn't love you that much, huh? If he does, then why did he sleep with another woman?"

"You…"

Meredith was infuriated. She grabbed Madeline's wounded face even tighter. When she saw the wound bursting open again with blood pouring out, she let out a perverted and carefree cackle.

Madeline was in so much pain that her face turned ghastly pale. However, she did not make a sound.

Meredith wanted to see Madeline in pain, but she refused to make a sound nor cry.

This made Meredith agitated. She lifted her leg and kicked Madeline on the stomach. Finally, she heard a low groan.

Meredith started kicking the defenseless Madeline repeatedly as if she had gone insane.

"Scream, damn it! Madeline, you b*tch! You even have the nerve to seduce Jeremy and refuse to divorce him!"

"Haha… I'll never divorce him! Meredith, you'll always be a mistress!" Madeline looked at Meredith with an obstinate gaze without showing her weakness.

Meredith's face was as black as a piece of coal now. When she looked at Madeline's crystal clear and beautiful eyes, she yanked her hair once again.

"Madeline, why are you so pleased with yourself? I'll see how long you can endure this. You'll only have three months max, you lowlife!" she yelled angrily and released all of her anger onto Madeline.

"You b*tch! How are you so good at seducing men? Do you do it with these eyes? Do you think men will still fall for you if you go blind?"

After Meredith said that, Madeline sensed that something bad was about to happen. When she was about to get up, she was instantly held down by the two men in black behind her.

"Meredith, tell them to let me go! What are you trying to do to me now? Tell Jeremy to see me if you have the guts!"

"Why would Jeremy want to see you?" Meredith asked while feeling amused. "Oh, my precious little sister. You should know that I wouldn't be doing this without Jeremy's permission."

She was cackling happily. Then, she lifted a shiny and sharp knife. "The lavender in Provence is so beautiful. Jeremy said he'll take me there and propose to me. He even said that he'll give me the most memorable wedding ever. Too bad you won't be able to see it."

Madeline clenched her fists. There were reluctance and hatred in her face that was already full of despair. "Meredith, karma will get you!"

"My karma is spending the rest of my life with Jeremy. Just the two of us, forever. On the other hand, you'll be going to hell soon."

She laughed wretchedly and took out a photo.

"Since you're about to die, I'll let you take a look. This is the little thing that Jeremy killed right after she was born."

What?

Madeline lifted her head and saw Meredith throwing the photo at her with an evil grin.

Her child's photo?

Madeline's heart beat faster. She watched as the photo fell in front of her. However, when she was about to go get the photo, someone grabbed her arm. The man then stabbed a syringe filled with tranquilizer into her arm. Her vision blurred instantly, and she could hear Meredith's eerie cackles in her ears.

"Madeline, open your eyes. This is the last chance for you to get a close look at your daughter! Haha…"

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Due to the effects of the tranquilizer, Madeline did not know long she was unconscious for.

When she finally regained consciousness, she felt numbness in her arm. Then, she felt a stinging pain in her eyes.

She opened her eyes slowly and noticed that her vision was blurry. It was even near to complete darkness.

Was it nighttime?

When she remembered what Meredith said before knocking her unconscious, Madeline sat up quickly and ignored her wounds. Madeline felt about the floor frantically in the darkness.

Photo…

Her child's photo!

Madeline started searching in the dark. However, she did not see anything nor feel anything.

She took out her phone from her pocket and pressed the screen hurriedly. However, the screen would not light up. Did it run out of battery?

As she contemplated that, she felt something that felt like a card with her fingertips. She was sure that it was the photo Meredith had thrown at her before she passed out.

Madeline picked it up happily. She put it in front of her eyes but saw nothing.

She supported her shaky body as she stood up. She wanted to find a source of light, but everything in front of her was dark and blurry. Plus, her eyes were also hurting.

She found the exit using the help of the wall. She could vaguely see some light from the corner of her eyes.

Madeline tried to open her eyes to look at the photo in her hand, but she felt a debilitating pain all of a sudden.

She recalled Meredith's sinister voice and soon felt her body going cold. She lifted her trembling hand in disbelief and touched her eyes.

She lifted her hand in front of her eyes but could only see a blurry silhouette. The clarity she used to have was completely gone.

She was blind!

Madeline was in disbelief. She stumbled out and ran into a group of people.

They saw the dried blood and dazed look on Madeline's face. They immediately sent Madeline to the hospital out of kindness.

After looking at her, the doctor looked at the report with a frown on his face. "Miss Crawford, you've lost your left cornea and your right cornea is badly wounded. You're on the verge of complete blindness. If you want to regain your eyesight, you'll need a cornea transplant and a pair of complete corneas to do that."

The doctor's answer was like a bolt of lightning striking down on Madeline's body. She stood her ground in a dazed state. She finally found her breathing as her heart resumed beating after a long while.

"Thank you, doctor." She thanked the doctor in a soft voice. After she thanked him, she depended on her remaining vision to stumble back to her room.

She fumbled about her bedside table and turned on the light.

She took out her photo with trembling fingers. After she caressed the photo with her fair and thin fingers, she held the photo and curled up in bed with a broken heart.

Tears escaped her eyes, and she felt a burning sensation in them.

Madeline lifted her head to look at the ceiling. Aside from the blurry rays of light, she could not see anything.

She would be completely blind soon.

In order to protect Meredith, the man allowed her to hire someone to steal her corneas.

Although she was going to die soon, they would not even allow her to die with all of her organs intact.

It started drizzling. After Madeline stayed in bed for one whole day, she brought the bloody earring to the police station.

She was lying to Meredith when she said she had handed it to the police that day. She did not have the chance to report her that day, but now, it was happening. She was going to report Meredith for Brittany's murder.

The officers in the station welcomed Madeline and took the evidence. At the same time, they also took Madeline's statement.

She picked up the pen, and using her remaining vision, she signed her name on the statement.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0139

After she left the station, a smile appeared on Madeline's face.

She could finally convict Meredith of the crime she did.

If they were able to find Brittany's blood on the earring, then Meredith would be unable to defend herself.

Madeline was waiting to receive updates from the police, but she still got nothing after two days.

She was unable to wait anymore, so she went to the police station again. However, she ran into Meredith and Jeremy at the entrance of the station.

Madeline could not see who they were from a distance. She was holding an umbrella while standing in the rain. She could only hear Meredith's voice from a mile away.

"Jeremy, why won't Madeline leave me alone? Will she only be happy if I die?" After Meredith said this, she saw Madeline. Her voice sounded surprised. "Maddie?"

Madeline tried to open her eyes, then she vaguely saw Meredith's face getting close to her.

"Maddie, what can I do for you to leave me alone? Why did you accuse me of killing Brit? Brit is my best friend! Why would I kill her? It's normal to have Brit's blood on the earring because I was the one who gave her those earrings!" Meredith's voice sounded aggrieved as she sobbed.

Madeline smiled calmly. "You killed Brittany. Do you think you'll be able to get away with this by saying all that? Meredith, you can't run from the long arm of the law. The truth will come out eventually."

"Maddie, you…"

"No matter how good or genuine your acting and tears are, they'll be useless with me. I can still see how hideous your heart is even though I'm blind."

"Enough!"

Jeremy's angry voice sounded from in front of them.

Madeline's heart skipped a beat as her grip on the umbrella became tighter.

She lifted her head, her bright and clear eyes staring in front of her dully.

Through the light curtain of rain, Madeline could see a furious yet handsome face from the remaining vision in her left eye.

Jeremy walked in front of Madeline and pulled Meredith behind him.

"Madeline, I've warned you again and again not to harass Mer. You still haven't learned from all the lessons, huh?" His cold voice was laced with the possibility of him flipping out at any second.

Even though Madeline could not see clearly now, she could still imagine Meredith's pleased smirk at Jeremy coming to her aid and the man's cold, firm expression.

She smiled. "Mr. Whitman, I think you know clearly who's harassing who."

After she said that, Meredith's soft voice sounded. "Maddie, I didn't think you'd become like this. I finally get it now. You only called yourself my sister so that you can get close to Jeremy. I was so stupid. However, I hope you won't hurt the people I care about for the sake of our relationship."

Jeremy immediately felt sorry and pity for Meredith after what she said. He placed his hand around her shoulder gently. "Mer, don't be scared. You'll be my wife soon. I promise to always protect you. I'll never break my promise."

"Jeremy, it's so good to have you here…"

"Heh." Madeline scoffed. Bitterness and envy started rising in her chest.

Jeremy's cold gaze landed on Madeline's face. When he saw that she was not looking at him, the veins on his forehead protruded. "Madeline, I've drafted the divorce papers. I'll give you one day to sign them after you get them!"

Madeline bit her lip. The rain falling on her umbrella felt like glass shards that were trying to pierce through her heart. She was in so much pain. "Jeremy, I told you. I won't agree to the divorce! Don't you even think about letting that two-faced b*tch take my place as long as I'm alive!"

"It's not up to you!" Jeremy replied coldly. When he saw that Madeline was not even looking at him, he felt a dull ache in his heart. Then, he held Meredith's hand to leave.

When he left, he deliberately slammed his shoulder into Madeline.

Madeline was already weak, so after he slammed into her, she faltered and fell. The umbrella fell at one side as the raindrops instantly drenched her clothes and face.

She sat up with a pale look on her face before she fumbled around for her umbrella.

After Jeremy started the car, he had an unknown urge in his heart. He lifted his head and looked at the rearview mirror subconsciously.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0140

The rain became heavier while Madeline was still kneeling on the wet floor. Her hands fumbled frantically around her.

Cars drove past her and splashed water on her again and again. However, she still could not find her umbrella.

Jeremy was about to start the car, but he could not help but keep looking at the rearview mirror.

Meredith noticed this and immediately shifted Jeremy's attention. "Jeremy, let's go. We need to bring Jack to check his face."

Jeremy turned his head. "Don't worry, there won't be a scar on Jack's face."

"I didn't think that Maddie would hate me to this extent. I also didn't think my father would ask people to slash Maddie on the face just to avenge me and Jack," Meredith said innocently.

"Jeremy, you won't blame my father, right?"

"You dummy, why would I blame him?" Jeremy smiled.

He looked at the rearview mirror again. He saw Madeline standing up after finding her umbrella. Then, he watched her walk away while following the path. He scoffed in a fit of unknown anger.

"That woman deserves to have her face disfigured. Who asked her to do those cruel and despicable things?"

Meredith was pleased when she saw Jeremy's anger and resentment. However, she still put up the act of a saint and said, "Jeremy, I want to become your bride so badly. Do you know that after parting with you at the beach, I've been missing you every single day? I've longed for the day that I'll become your bride, and this day is finally here."

Jeremy was silent for a few seconds before coming back to his senses.

"I'll keep my promises to you."

"Okay." Meredith smiled sweetly. However, there was a glint of envy in her eyes.

Despite Jeremy promising her as such, she still felt uneasy.

She figured she could only be at complete ease if Madeline died.

…

Madeline went back to her home and took some painkillers.

She had been through so much these few days that she figured she might not even have a month.

She kept recalling how Jeremy told Meredith that he would take her as his bride in front of her. She felt as if a thousand ants were gnawing on her heart. The pain kept invading her withered and broken body repeatedly.

Some time had passed since she took the painkillers, but her pain still did not lessen.

Madeline took out the photo Meredith had thrown to her previously and caressed it with her fingers. It was as if she could feel the child's features this way.

'Darling.

'Mommy will reunite with you soon. Soon…'

Madeline closed her eyes in despair.

The next day, she received the divorce papers from Jeremy.

He asked his assistant to send them over. The assistant waited for Madeline to sign them before taking them back. However, Madeline refused to sign the papers no matter what. Eventually, the assistant could only call Jeremy.

After a while, Jeremy arrived.

It had been raining for the past few days and the air surrounding his body had gotten even colder.

Madeline was sitting on the sofa with a distant look on her face. Despite her remaining vision becoming dimmer and dimmer, she could still sense that Jeremy was getting closer to her.

He threw the papers at Madeline's face. "Sign them."

His words had no warmth at all. Those two words were brief and to the point.

Madeline was like a statue, giving no reactions at all.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0141

Jeremy's face became colder. "Madeline, I'm asking you to sign the papers."

"I won't do it," Madeline finally said, her tone sounding oddly calm.

Jeremy saw Madeline sitting in front of him coldly and motionlessly while her eyes were on somewhere else. She did not once look into his eyes. Jeremy felt anger rising in his chest. "Madeline, don't try to challenge my patience. You know the consequences to that."

When she was faced with his threats and warnings, Madeline did not have any fear on her face. On the contrary, she smiled.

"Jeremy, I'll tell you this one last time. I won't sign your divorce papers. If you want to marry Meredith, sure. Then you should just wait for me to sue you for bigamy."

"Madeline Crawford!" Jeremy was completely enraged. "I'm going to ask you one last time as well. Are you signing or not?"

"No!" Madeline said firmly.

Jeremy's face became icy. When he saw that Madeline was still acting arrogant and refusing to look at him, he strode over to her and forced the pen into her hand. Then, he held her right hand tightly.

"Jeremy, what are you doing? Let me go!" Madeline started struggling.

"Didn't you refuse to sign? I'll help you do it then!" His frigid and menacing voice next to her ear sounded like the final nail in the coffin for her.

Madeline struggled with all her might, but the more she struggled, the more pain she was in. Her worsening tumor and her heart were all in debilitating pain at this moment.

"Jeremy, you beast! I won't let you and Meredith have your way even if I die!" She pushed him away forcefully and turned around to run.

For someone who had lost her vision, every step she took was extremely dangerous.

Before Madeline could run far, she tripped on something and fell heavily. Pain overwhelmed her entire body.

When she wanted to get up, Jeremy's huge body loomed over her.

Madeline could not see anything. As such, she could only sense a black shadow coming down on her and trapping her mercilessly.

Jeremy did not notice something was wrong with Madeline's eyes. He placed his knee on her back and grabbed the divorce papers. Placing them in front of Madeline, he threw the pen down.

"Madeline, don't make this harder than it should be. As long as you sign the papers like a good girl, I'll give you some money."

"I don't want your money!"

"Then what do you want? Are you still so naive to think that I have feelings for you even until now?"

His words froze her.

"Madeline, listen here. I've never liked you, let alone loved. Not even a little bit."

His cruel words left no room for maneuver, penetrating Madeline's heart like a heartless blade.

She could feel a dull pain in her heart as the familiar metallic taste of blood started rising in her throat again.

"Don't waste my time. After you sign the papers, I'll go prepare for my engagement with Mer. If you don't want to sign, then just think about your grandfather's ashes."

"Hehe…" Madeline laughed lamentably. Her eyes that had lost all light were already red and wet. "Alright, I'll sign."

She finally agreed. She fumbled for the pen in the dark with tears in her eyes. Then, she swallowed the blood in her mouth resolutely.

"Jeremy, just as you wish, you're finally going to marry her. From now on, we'll go our separate ways."

When Jeremy heard her saying that, he felt a sudden chill in his heart. A strange feeling was bubbling in his heart as it started beating erratically.

He looked at Madeline who was holding in the pain while touching the papers with her left hand over and over again. Even after a long while, she had not signed the papers.

"Madeleine, are you still trying to fool around?"

Madeline smiled bitterly and lamentably. "Mr. Whitman, I'm blind. I can't see."

"You're blind?" Jeremy thought she was lying to him to buy time. He scoffed and replied, "Alright, since you're blind, I'll help you."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0142

After he said that, Madeline felt a warmth on the back of her hand

Jeremy held her hand tightly and forced her to sign her name 'Madeline Crawford' on the last page.

It was her name but in his handwriting.

After Jeremy was done, he swung her hand aside and pulled the papers away. He looked at the name on the paper and felt an uneasiness in his heart. Not only did he not feel relieved, but he also felt an abnormally heavy weight pressing on him.

He lowered his eyes and looked at Madeline who was still on the floor. Her face was pale and there were tears in her eyes. Other than that, there was also blood on her lips as if she had bitten her lip too hard. She looked battered and pitiful.

Jeremy frowned. "Madeline, do you have any requests?"

"500,000 dollars," she said without hesitating.

After Jeremy heard that, he scoffed in disdain. "It looks like you came prepared. I'll ask someone to transfer the money into your account immediately."

After he said that, his phone rang.

When he picked up the phone, Madeline heard Meredith's sweet voice from the other end of the phone. She heard Jeremy reply softly, "Okay, I'll be there in a minute."

In the next second, she heard him turning around. Her remaining vision turned dimmer and dimmer as he turned around. Then, it went out, and finally, all she could see was darkness.

She could feel something breaking inside her body at that moment.

The broken pieces were stabbing into her heart like thistles and thorns.

She looked up with her eyes that had lost their vision and stared in the direction where he left. At that moment, she understood. Her pursuit and love for him her entire life was all just a one-man show.

'Jeremy, thank you for stopping by.

'I hope I'll never see you in my next life...'

Madeline was ready for the worst. Even though she could not see her face and appearance, she could clearly feel her body steadily deteriorating.

However, she still had one last wish before she died.

She wanted to see her biological parents before she passed, even though they hated her to the bone.

She stood next to the road and waved her hand to flag down a car. Finally, a car stopped in front of her. However, the driver drove away quickly after they saw the two wretched scars on her ghostly pale face.

Madeline had no choice. She could only walk forward following the tactile paving on the side of the road. Time after time, cars would stop for her, but no one was willing to give her a lift.

She gritted her teeth and continued walking. However, she did not know when it started snowing.

The coldness brushed past her cheek and went all the way into her heart.

Madeline took out the photo from her pocket and gave it a gentle kiss, cherishing it.

'Baby.

'My darling baby.

'Mommy won't feel cold with you here.'

"There's a celebrity over there! Let's go over and take a look!" An excited voice sounded from behind Madeline.

Celebrity?

This should be a lively scene, right? It was a shame she could not see anything.

Madeline smiled pitifully. Then, she felt the people running from behind her crashing into her shoulder.

She stumbled forward. She did not fall, but the photo in her hand was gone.

The look on Madeline's face changed. She squatted down and started feeling the ground around her. Her hands were all covered in dirt and still, she could not find it.

Madeline was frantic. She was so frantic that tears started to escape from her eyes.

Jeremy drove past her coincidentally. He saw a lot of people looking at something from the corner of his eyes. He merely glanced at them but when he was about to focus his attention back on the road again, he saw a familiar figure.

He slammed the brakes and looked in disbelief at Madeline who was kneeling on the ground as she searched aimlessly for something

Her face was as pale as snow, and she had a worried expression on her face. She looked so haggard, seemingly having lost all the vigor that she used to have. Plus, tears were even rolling down her cheeks.

As the tears rolled down her cheeks, it felt as if they were hitting against his heart. His heart felt as if it was burning.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0143

Jeremy held the steering wheel even tighter. He was starting to suspect whether his eyes were not working. However, it was obvious that Madeline was the one whose eyes were not working.

She was blind.

She was really blind.

She was not joking earlier when she had difficulty signing the divorce papers. It was real.

However, she was just fine previously. Why was she blind now?

Jeremy watched as Madeline crawled on the ground as she looked for something while sobbing. He felt that it was getting hard to breathe and even felt like he was going to suffocate.

The snow was getting heavier and even rain started to fall.

The people around her started to leave, leaving the street empty. However, Madeline was still looking for something.

She was crying. She was so anxious, looking like a child who had lost their favorite toy.

Jeremy got out of the car while feeling dispirited. He slowly walked toward Madeline, his footsteps feeling abnormally heavy.

However, she did not notice his presence or existence. Her scrawny body was still on the floor while her hands were still frantically searching for something despite being covered in dirt.

Jeremy looked at her with a dazed look on his face. He picked up the photo of a random scenery next to his feet and placed it in front of Madeline.

When she touched the photo, Madeline's grief turned into happiness.

She held the photo and blew on it. Then, she placed it in front of her lips and kissed it. It was only then did she finally stand up while looking relieved. She continued walking while following the tactile paving.

Jeremy stood in place and let the wind blow on him. Madeline's figure became smaller and smaller in his vision. He felt a sting in the corner of his eyes for no reason and he was struggling to breathe.

...

The news of Jeremy and Meredith getting married spread quickly. Meredith was the one who called Madeline about this.

On the other end of the phone, Meredith was beaming. After she showed off, she overtly invited Madeline to their engagement party.

Madeline held the phone in her hand and replied neither too quickly nor too slowly, "I'll be there."

Meredith scoffed and chuckled. She felt that Madeline was just boasting her merits.

She had hired someone to investigate Madeline, so she knew she did not have much time left. Plus, she was blind, so what could she do?

The spring chill was in the February air, and the most luxurious hotel in Glendale served as the venue for the engagement party.

Meredith was wearing a beautiful dress as she stood gracefully next to Jeremy. She was facing the spotlight while smiling sweetly. She turned around and saw that Jeremy had no expression on his face.

"Jeremy, we're going to get engaged soon. Aren't you happy?"

Jeremy forced out a smile on his face. "Why wouldn't I be happy? I told you I'll take you as my wife, so I'll definitely do it."

Meredith smiled after she heard that. However, there was anger in her heart.

Even though Jeremy let her make decisions on almost everything, he had never told her he loved her. Whenever he replied, he would always bring up the promise back then.

However, the woman he made that promise to back then was Madeline and not her!

Jeremy let Meredith hold onto his arm as they walked to the center of the stage. He was like a marionette. This was not what he wanted at all.

They exchanged their engagement rings with all of their friends and family as witnesses.

However, he could not help remembering the scenes from the day he married Madeline. She had worn a white wedding dress as she stood in front of him, her face looking undeniably charming. He was indeed captivated by her. Her eyes were the most beautiful part of her, looking like they could speak. When she looked at him, her gaze was filled with shyness and longing. She was so young and so beautiful then.

However, now...

He remembered how Madeline had been crawling on the floor looking for something. Her eyes had lost all focus and were so dull. He could not find the fiery and deep love she had for him in her eyes anymore.

"Please exchange the rings."

Jeremy's wandering mind was called back by the emcee. Meredith's beaming face was in front of him, but his brain was occupied by Madeline.

Meredith grabbed his hand delightfully and placed the ring on his ring finger.

Jeremy suddenly felt an urge to resist this. When he was about to pull back his hand, he saw a familiar figure appearing in the corner of his eyes. Then, Madeline's clear and distinct voice said, "Wait."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0144

When her voice sounded, Jeremy retracted his hand.

Instantly, Meredith's hand was empty as the look of joy on her face froze over. What came after was her expression cracking.

Everyone looked over to the source of the voice and saw a small, fragile frame.

It was Madeline.

She was wearing a simple and elegant dress. She had some light makeup on her face. Despite the scars on her face, she still looked as beautiful as she had just walked out of a painting.

Everyone could tell that this was Madeline. She was Jeremy's ex-wife.

However, no one could tell that she was blind. She forced herself to walk to her destination. Her body was welcoming the embrace of death, yet she was walking forward despite the difficulty.

Jeremy watched as Madeline walked slowly toward him. He was trying hard to look into Madeline's eyes, but alas, there was no focal point for her eyes. He would not find the passionate love and longing that she used to have for him in her eyes.

Plus, she was stumbling as she walked forward.

It was because she could not see. She could not see any light, so she was risking her life with every step she took.

Plus, she did not look too good. Despite her delicate makeup, it still could not hide her fatigue and haggardness.

Meredith looked at Madeline who was walking toward her in disgust. Then, she saw Jeremy staring at her without blinking. At that moment, she felt a bad feeling rising in her chest.

"Jeremy…" She frowned and leaned against Jeremy weakly.

However, Jeremy ignored her. On the contrary, he walked down the stage and walked toward Madeline.

"Madeline, what are you doing here?" Eloise was the first person to stand up and stop Madeline.

Madeline had to stop. She could feel Eloise standing in front of her now, but she could not see. She could not see how her mother was looking at her with so much detest in her eyes. However, she could feel the pain burning mercilessly in her heart.

"Where's the security? Get security here now! Kick this woman out now!" Sean's voice boomed much later on.

Madeline smiled and swallowed the pain that felt like she had been sliced by a knife. She lifted her dull eyes and looked forward blankly.

There were so many people at the scene, but aside from Jeremy and Meredith, no one knew that her eyes were not working.

The security got here instantly to kick Madeline out. However, Jeremy stopped them. "Wait."

Meredith's expression was grim. She had been waiting for this day for so long to become Jeremy's woman, but this happened!

Madeline, that eyeless scavenging vermin!

She was already halfway to her death and she still had the guts to show up?

'I won't let her see the rising sun tomorrow!' Meredith thought as she saw Jeremy approaching Meredith.

He looked at her with tenderness in his eyes that had never existed before. "Did you come here because you have something to say?"

His voice was never this gentle before. However, Madeline did not care anymore.

It was no longer important how he treated her.

Madeline smiled softly, but because of the torment from her illnesses, she frowned. "Today's the engagement party of my dear sister and brother-in-law. I'm here to give you your present, of course."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0145

Meredith threw away her bouquet and ran in front of Madeline hurriedly. She started sobbing, and as usual, she had a pitiful mask on her face.

"Maddie, today's my and Jeremy's engagement party. I know you hate me, but I hope that you won't do anything impulsive to hurt the person I love."

"Madeline, today is my precious daughter and son-in-law's engagement party. If you don't want to get into trouble, then you should go now!" Sean warned in a stern voice, wanting to chase her away.

"Madeline, for a cruel and heartless woman like you to still be alive right now… That's already letting you off lightly. Scram now! If not, I'll make you regret this!" Eloise threatened.

Madeline was extremely heartbroken. However, she still had a calm look on her face. She smiled magnanimously, saying, "Do you know how to read my fortune, Mrs. Montgomery? I did have a hard time living until this age."

When Jeremy heard that, he felt that the smile on Madeline's face was exceptionally dazzling. It was so dazzling that it hurt his heart as well.

However, Eloise and Sean's faces were dark. "Madeline, you evil wench, why are you so shameless? Are you still trying to get between Jeremy and Mer's marriage?"

"Jeremy and I have been married for three years and we only got a divorce a while back. However, the child that Meredith gave Jeremy is about two years old now. So, who's the one who got between other people's marriage? Who's the shameless mistress?"

"You…" After she said that, Eloise and Sean had nothing to say. Meanwhile, Meredith's face turned extremely grim.

The guests were starting to gossip among themselves. They knew about this as well.

Madeline could imagine Meredith's expression at this moment. She smiled and walked toward the direction of Jeremy's voice.

"My ex-husband," Madeline called out to Jeremy. "I know you guys don't want to see me, especially you, so I'll leave after I give you the gift."

Jeremy could feel his temples pulsing. His deep eyes were glued on Madeline, and his tone was gentle. "What do you want to give us?"

Madeline looked in Jeremy's direction with her eyes that had lost their vision based on her senses. "My ashes."

"…" When Jeremy heard Madeline's answer, Jeremy felt a sudden dull ache in his heart.

Everyone at the scene looked at each other with shock on their faces.

Madeline was indeed here to cause a commotion!

"Madeline, what are you talking about?" Jeremy looked at Madeline with an uneasy look on his face. Madeline was oddly calm. "Talk properly."

"I am talking properly. I want to give you my ashes."

"Madeline…"

"Jeremy, I know you hate me. You all hate me to the bone. I don't have much time anyway, so after I die and get cremated, you can take my ashes. You can crush them into dust to vent your anger toward me. However, I have a request." Madeline paused. "I hope you can find kindness within yourself to spread my ashes into the sea by April Hill."

After Jeremy heard this, his expression changed. He looked at Madeline's out of focus eyes but could not say anything.

Madeline smiled gently, and the smile on her lips was lamentable. It started to gradually disappear as the dull ache from her heart began to overwhelm her. It was about to drown her breathing. She could not hold on anymore.

"Jeremy, thank you for being in my life. Thank you for giving me all those beautiful memories. However, I'm giving them all back to you now. I'll return everything to you, including my ashes. From now on, we don't owe each other anything. I just hope I won't run into you in my next life…"

After she said this, a hot tear rolled down her cheek. She did not stay for a second more and turned around quickly.

A hot sensation started to rise from her stomach and it kept rising. In the end, the blood she could not keep inside started pouring out from her mouth.

Madeline used her hand to cover her mouth quickly, but she was bleeding so much that she could not stop it. More and more bright red liquid dripped down onto her white dress. The blooming red patches became gaudy decorations on her white dress, invading Jeremy's vision with no mercy.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0146

"Madeline!"

Jeremy ran to Madeline quickly and worriedly. He did not know how much fear and terror was in his heart when he yelled out Madeline's name.

Madeline's shaky body was being held by Jeremy.

Her legs gave up as she leaned against the wall to force herself to stand up. However, she could not do it no matter how hard she tried. Even her consciousness was trying to drift and wander.

Looking at the horrifying blood on Madeline's lips, Jeremy's heart leaped right up to his throat as he felt a fear that he had never felt before.

"Jeremy!" Meredith ran over while looking at Madeline who was on the brink of death. Of course, she felt carefree, but she was extremely displeased with how Jeremy was treating Madeline now.

"Jeremy, the guests are waiting. How can you abandon Mer and chase after that woman?" Eloise came over as well. She looked at Madeline who was vomiting blood with disgust. "It's obviously fake blood. Jeremy, can't you tell? She's lying to you with fake blood. The reason she's here today is to stop your engagement with Mer!"

Heh.

Madeline's consciousness started to drift, but she could still hear Eloise's hurtful words.

Whatever.

She was about to die anyway. She would not feel heartbroken when she was dead.

"Jeremy, get away now! That woman has blood all over her. How filthy!" Eloise urged.

"Shut up!" Jeremy yelled all of a sudden. A horrifying rage had taken over his face that was as exquisite as fine art. Meredith and Eloise were petrified when they saw that.

"Madeline, what's wrong with you?"

"I'm dying, Mr. Whitman. Just as you wished..."

Madeline's voice drifted into Jeremy's ears weakly and vaguely.

Jeremy was stunned for a few seconds. His heart felt as if it was being gnawed by a million ants.

She was dying. How could it be? How was it possible?

Stupefied, he looked at the woman who was still holding onto her last breath. He saw her reaching out her hand with difficulties to grab his collar. Her out of focus eyes stared into him. It was as if she was using her last energy to move her bloody lips.

"The child... is yours. I hope that after I die, you'll give her a name and let her soul reside in the Whitmans' mausoleum. This is my final wish..."

After she said that, Madeline let go of her hand lifelessly on Jeremy's collar and fell.

Jeremy stopped striding out of the front door. The debilitating pain overwhelmed his entire body and senses. His world was plunged into darkness…

"Maddie! Maddie!"

Ava's heart-wrenching screams sounded next to him when he finally found his breathing and heartbeat.

"Jeremy, you scum! Give Maddie back to me!" She wailed, wanting to snatch away Madeline who was in Jeremy's arms.

"If you won't send her to the hospital, I will!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0147

"Get lost! Don't touch her!"

Jeremy roared all of a sudden. He ran out and carried Madeline to the side of the road before calling a cab.

Ava was stuck in a daze for a few seconds before she ran after them.

Meredith and Eloise ran out hurriedly as well. They did not have time to stop Jeremy as they saw him already getting into a cab with Madeline.

Ava clenched her fists and gritted her teeth. She did not think much before chasing after them.

The light of the emergency room lit up while Jeremy was sitting on the chair in the waiting room quietly. He had no expression on his face.

Madeline's warmth and scent were still lingering in his arms. However, his white shirt had been stained with the blood she vomited out. There was so much blood and it was such an unpleasant sight.

He closed his eyes, his brain occupied with what Madeline said before she closed her eyes.

"Jeremy Whitman, you cold-blooded scum of the earth!"

Ava's shrieks sounded in front of him. Jeremy slowly lifted his expressionless face. There was a horrifyingly ominous gaze in his eyes, and he looked as if he was going to devour someone whole at any time. However, Ava was not scared. She looked at Jeremy with tears in her eyes as she sobbed.

"Jeremy, it's fine if you don't love Maddie, but why do you have to torture her like this?

"What happened three years ago had nothing to do with her! She was framed! Why did you put all of the blame on her?

"Maddie followed you with no previous crimes, but you accused her of sleeping around with different men. You even denied the fact that she gave birth to your child so mercilessly! Do you know how cruel you are?

"If she didn't love you… If she didn't love you so much, why would she risk her life to protect that child? However, you don't even care and even ground that child's bones into dust! Are you even human?"

Ava yelled at him fearlessly, but Jeremy only stared at her without saying anything. However, his gaze became more and more sinister with every sentence Ava said.

He stood up with no expression on his face and stared at Ava.

When Ava thought Jeremy was going to say something to her, Meredith appeared and defended him.

"What nonsense are you spewing? Who are you to talk to my fiancé like that? Madeline knows what she has done and we know what she did as well. Do you think you can clear her name with just a few words? Do you think Jeremy will believe you?"

"You're the one who needs to clear your name! It's you, Meredith! You malicious and duplicitous two-faced b*tch!" Ava fought back without showing any weakness. Then, she scoffed and peered at Jeremy who was remaining silent. "Of course this scum of the earth won't believe anything I say because he's just a deaf and eyeless fool who doesn't know right from wrong!"

"You…" Meredith was furious. She lifted her hand to slap Ava, but when her hand was in mid-air, she was stopped by Jeremy.

"Jeremy..." Meredith looked at the indifferent man with an aggrieved look on her face. "Jeremy, I won't allow anyone to talk about you like this."

She tried to curry favor with him, but Jeremy only ignored her. He let go of her hand and walked in front of Ava. His eyes were like bottomless abysses—dark and terrifying.

"Continue."

Ava hesitated for a bit but continued to glare at him with tearful eyes. "Jeremy, you'll regret this."

There were only a few words in her sentence, yet it caused him to have difficulties breathing.

Jeremy's heart was beating rapidly when the door of the emergency room opened. A nurse walked out. "Which one of you is the patient's family?"

Jeremy rushed forward instantly, looking extremely worried. "I'm Madeline's husband. How is she?"

The nurse looked at Jeremy with a dazed expression before sighing with regret. "The tumor in her body has taken a turn for the worst. She's lost consciousness, but the doctors are still doing everything to bring her back. However, I hope you'll be prepared because the rate of success is close to zero. This is the notice of critical illness. Please sign it."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0148

The nurse said, handing the notice of critical illness over.

The light piece of paper landed in Jeremy's hand, but it felt like a heavy rock weighing down on him. The invisible pressure made him extremely uncomfortable.

Notice of critical illness…

Was she about to leave this earth and out of his sight?

He would not allow that!

"Jeremy, now that it has come to this, you should sign the notice and let Maddie go peacefully." Meredith came forward and advised him, grabbing his arm.

However, Jeremy pushed her away and crumpled the notice of critical illness into a ball. His eyes were red. "What notice of critical illness? She's always been fine. How can she be in critical condition all of a sudden? You have to save her. If anything happens to her, don't think you'll be able to run this hospital anymore!"

The nurse started trembling when she saw Jeremy's terrifying expression. She turned around and ran back inside nervously.

After a while, a few experts walked their way and rushed into the operating theatre.

Jeremy sat in the chair with his head in his hands. His brows were knitted together tightly.

How was this possible?

Why was he so worried? Why was he so scared and so concerned about Madeline?

He was going crazy from this anxiousness that he had never felt before!

He wanted to know Madeline's condition.

After his strong and determined demands, the doctors were left with no choice. They could only let him go in.

Jeremy had to change into personal protective equipment and sanitize his entire body before he was allowed into the operating theatre.

The moment he walked in, he was still imagining that this was just an act put on by Madeline and that she was actually fine. However, what he saw horrified and suffocated him.

He could only see Madeline's face that was so pale with no color in it at all.

This was the first time he looked at Madeline's face so seriously. Despite the glaring scars on her face, he still thought that she looked stunning and perfect.

It would be great if she would open her eyes and look at him now. Her eyes were the most beautiful part of her.

However, it was all his imagination. Madeline was not moving and her entire body was covered in tubes to maintain her body that was on the brink of death.

Jeremy stood at one side in a daze. He was feeling extremely uneasy with the helplessness he was feeling right now.

His brain was occupied with the scenes of the first day Madeline went to university. She was like a frolicking deer that was running up and down doing the paperwork for admission. In the end, she had accidentally run into him. She lifted her head and said to him while blushing furiously, "I'm so sorry."

Her voice sounded so sweet—as sweet as the spring water from the mountains.

Her face was so beautiful, looking youthful and energetic too. Her eyes were also shining brightly like stars in the sky.

Then, they got married. She was so stunning at their wedding. When she smiled, she had deep dimples on her face.

However, now…

Jeremy listened to all kinds of noises coming from the machines. Finally, he could not take this kind of torment anymore.

He was scared.

He ran away from the operating theatre in fear.

This was the first time he was feeling such debilitating pain that he could not endure it any longer, and it was because he was afraid that Madeline would die.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0149

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 149

How was this possible?

He did not care about her at all. He had never cared about her.

Jeremy kept on hypnotizing himself while suppressing his emotions. However, the intense pain in his heart forced him to accept the truth that he could not deny anymore.

He had fallen in love with Madeline.

He did not know when it started, but Madeline had slowly made a home inside his heart.

He remembered that he loved Meredith. He loved Meredith who he had made promises to when they were younger. Why had that person become Madeline instead?

Jeremy massaged his temples, feeling agitated. His eyes were staring at the light of the operating theatre that was still on. He felt as if he had lost something important in the quicksand of his memory and could not get it back anymore.

An entire day passed and the light of the operating theatre was still not switched off.

Meredith was already impatient, but Jeremy looked too horrifying at this moment, so she did not dare to act without thinking. She could only wait for the doctors to announce that they had failed to save Madeline and she died.

Eloise came after a while. When she saw Jeremy at the entrance of the operating theatre, she went over to seek justice for Meredith.

"Jeremy, why are you still here? How can you let Meredith waste her time accompanying you here? Based on my knowledge of that evil woman, she must be acting! She's only trying to get your attention and ruin your engagement with Mer!"

"Come, Mer. Take Jeremy back to the hotel with me," Eloise said before trying to pull Jeremy up. When Meredith was about to help her, Jeremy mercilessly pushed away Eloise's hand that was trying to grab him. His red eyes looked at her piercingly and there was a sinister glint in them.

"So what if she's acting? Even if she is, she's doing it for me. What does it have to do with you two? Get lost!"

Eloise did not expect Jeremy to answer her like this. She was so shocked that she was stunned momentarily. Then, she tried speaking up for Meredith again.

"Jeremy, you're wrong. You've divorced Madeline and Mer is your fiancée now…"

"So what? That won't change the fact that she used to be my woman! It also won't change the fact that her name is already registered in my family tree! Stop annoying me! If not, I'll put all the blame on you if something happens to Madeline!"

Eloise and Meredith were silent after hearing what Jeremy said. They did not dare to say anything more.

His face looked terrifying right now, especially those eyes. It was as if they would penetrate through anyone who looked into them.

Meredith clenched her fists in secret. She could not accept how Jeremy was reacting to Madeline's condition right now.

Actually, she already noticed the special treatment Jeremy was giving Madeline.

The best example was that he allowed her to get pregnant and give birth to his child.

What about her? Despite her downing him with alcohol and trying to get intimate with him, he would always fall asleep every time. She never once got her way.

The experts in the operating room changed shifts multiple times in one night.

Jeremy also contacted his best doctor to come to save Madeline.

As time went by, Jeremy felt as if the day was dragging on like a year. He never had this kind of feeling before and never felt that it was so difficult to make it through the night.

The next day, the light of the operating theatre was turned off when the sky was still grey.

Jeremy felt as if his nerves had been yanked by something. He stood up quickly and walked to the door. There was hope in his eyes. He was hoping to hear news of Madeline being successfully saved.

In just one night, stubble had grown around his chin. Furthermore, he looked wan and sallow.

The experts walked out of the room. When they saw Jeremy, they shook their heads in regret. "Mr. Whitman, we've tried our best."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0150

Jeremy felt a dull ache in his heart instantly. His eyes were so wide that they looked like they were going to fall from his sockets. "What do you mean by you tried your best?" he questioned. Those were the words no family member would want to hear.

The doctor looked at him and sighed. "It's a miracle that the patient was able to live until this day. My condolences."

He would not accept this result no matter what.

He wanted Madeline to be alive.

He wanted her to be alive so that she would be able to hear him tell her the truth.

"I took a look at this patient three years ago. Back then, she was pregnant and I asked her to abort the child. However, she insisted on giving birth to the child. I think that child was more important to her than her own life. Now that she's gone, the child would be able to live for her. I think that's some kind of consolation." A female doctor chimed in at one side. After Jeremy heard that, he almost could not breathe.

That child.

He had crushed that child into dust with his own hands.

That child was their own flesh and blood, but its soul was destroyed by him, the father.

Why was his heart hurting so much? Jeremy felt as if he was going to go crazy.

He ran to the operating theatre. Madeline was still on the operating table.

He walked toward her slowly. He felt his footsteps getting heavier as he approached her.

Finally, he got to the operating table. Madeline was in front of him, but he felt like they were separated by a never-ending stretch of mountains and seas.

Her face was pale. She was not breathing and she did not have a heartbeat. She was like a lifeless doll that had fallen asleep forever.

"Madeline…"

Jeremy called out Madeline's name softly. His voice was trembling, but of course, she would never respond to him anymore.

Those expectant and longing eyes would never look at him anymore.

He felt like something in his body was broken and it could never be mended again.

Meredith walked in happily. When she saw Madeline who had lost all signs of life, she was delighted. However, she walked to Jeremy with a devastated look on her face.

"Jeremy, I guess Maddie was already sick three years ago. She must not have wanted you to see her like this. Just let her go peacefully. We should go home too."

She wanted to pull him away after she said that, but before she could do anything, she could feel a gust of cold air around her.

"Jeremy?" Meredith called out probingly. However, she saw Jeremy looking at her sinisterly.

"Did you ask someone to blind her?"

Meredith quivered while blinking innocently. "Jeremy, what are you talking about? Why would I do such things? Was Maddie blind? How come?"

Jeremy's pupils constricted as he looked at Meredith's face while trying to explain.

"You'd better not know anything about this."

"…"

Meredith felt a chill running down her spine when she heard Jeremy's reply.

"Jeremy, how can you think of me that way? I won't do such cruel things. I…"

"Get out."

"Jeremy…"

"Everybody get out now!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0151

Jeremy yelled tyrannically, causing Meredith to quickly turn around and run out in fear.

No one dared to go into the room anymore. At the same time, no one understood why Jeremy was acting like this.

Everyone in Glendale knew that Jeremy loved Meredith, but now, he was reluctant to let go of his dead ex-wife's body. What was going on?

Daniel knew about Madeline's death from Adam. He ran over the moment he heard the news but was stopped outside the operating theatre.

He fought with Jeremy's bodyguards for a while. Then, the door opened and Jeremy walked out.

When he saw Jeremy, Daniel escaped from the bodyguards and ran toward the man.

"Jeremy, you murderer! You killed Maddie!" he yelled as he was about to punch Jeremy.

Jeremy grabbed Daniel's hand indifferently, lifting his head to look at him with red eyes. "I said, no one's allowed to come and disturb my wife. Scram!"

"Your wife?" Daniel was amused. "Jeremy, just ask yourself, when have you ever treated Maddie like she was your wife? Now that you've tortured her to death, you're here pretending like you have such deep love for her. Don't you think you're being hypocritical and ridiculous?"

It seemed as if Daniel's words had triggered the other man because dark clouds started appearing in Jeremy's eyes and on his face.

He pushed Daniel away, overwhelmed by anger. However, in the end, he only said one word. "Scram!"

He shut the door of the operating theatre and once again, he locked himself and Madeline in the same enclosed space.

It was not real.

Madeline had to be pretending.

Then, he should put on this act with her. She would not be able to keep this up after some time.

However, he could not handle this anymore. No normal human could be able to withstand this for so long.

He reached out his trembling hands, his fingers landing softly on her face. The coldness traveled from his fingertips to his heart.

Jeremy felt a sting in the corner of his eyes. He could not control himself before holding Madeline's shoulder and placing her against his chest. While caressing her cheek, his first tear dropped on her face that had already lost its temperature. However, no matter how hot his tears were, it would never be able to warm her body again.

'Madeline, you said I'll regret this. It's true. I'm regretting this now. Can you wake up and look at my remorseful face?'

He hoped this was just an act. However, the passing time told him that the person in his arms was a dead person.

Jeremy did not think nor feel that he liked Madeline. Plus, he did not expect him to like her this much.

All this time, he thought a woman like Madeline was just an eyesore.

However, at this moment, the excruciating pain reminded him again and again that he liked Madeline. He liked her so very much.

The news of Madeline's death spread like wildfire. After Old Master Whitman knew about this, he was hospitalized from being too heartbroken.

Madeline was dead, and it was an undeniable truth. Of course, Meredith was the happiest person. Even though she did not get to enjoy the party that day, now everyone in Glendale knew that she was Jeremy's fiancée.

From now on, Madeline—the obstacle in her way—would be no more. No one would be able to threaten her position anymore!

As per Jeremy's request, Madeline's body was frozen and preserved.

Jeremy went back to the house for a while, but when he came back, he noticed that Madeline's body was gone.

He looked all over for her like he was crazy. He even hoped that Madeline had run away because she could not keep up with her act anymore. However, in the end, he saw from the security footage that Ava had asked someone to take Madeline's body away.

Jeremy went to the funeral parlor with the clues from the security footage.

When he was about to go in, he saw Ava walking out with an urn.

Jeremy was frozen in the snow. At this moment, he felt as if he was committing a sin from just breathing.

Ava was crying heavily, and when she saw Jeremy, she walked around him.

Jeremy's eyes were red as he chased after Ava before stopping her. "Give it to me."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0152

The four words he said sounded light. It was as if he had used up all the energy in his body.

"Jeremy, I won't give you Maddie anymore! Meeting you was the most unfortunate thing that ever happened to Maddie. Will you only be satisfied after you crush her bones into dust?"

When he listened to Ava's accusations, Jeremy felt his temples throbbing furiously. He reached out his hand, his tone sounding firm. "Give her to me!"

"No! I'd rather die than give Maddie to you!"

When Jeremy saw that Ava was refusing to hand Madeline's ashes to him, he felt like he was going to explode.

He reached out to snatch it from her, and of course, he got it.

He carried Madeline's ashes and ran to the car. He heard Ava's curses behind him, so he quickly stepped on the accelerator. Then, he left the scene like a thief.

Ever since he was young, Jeremy would get everything he wanted. No one had ever gone against him except for Madeline. However, he lost his reputation and image just to snatch over a dead person's ashes.

He went to Madeline's home when she was still alive. He lay on the bed she slept in and tried to look for any trace of her as well as the warmth she left behind.

He decided to read Madeline's diary once again. After he opened it, he saw Madeline's feelings detailed in fragments.

'6th November. Sunny.

'Why can't I let go of him even until now? What's the purpose of protecting a man who doesn't even love me? He's able to hurt me to this extent and was also able to crush our daughter to dust, so why should I still yearn for him? Madeline Crawford, you deserve this. You deserve to be tortured by him.

'11th November. Gloomy with rain.

'If there's a next life, I don't want to run into him again. I don't want to be in so much pain and go through so much torture. If time can be paused, I really hope it'd be paused the moment I ran into Jeremy in university. At least at that moment, he had smiled at me sincerely.

'20th November. Snowy with rain.

'My body hurts so much. I think I don't have much time left. I'll be able to go find my grandpa and my baby soon. They must be missing me. I want to stop this once and for all. I want to see my baby so much. I want to look at her face and hold her tiny body. I want to tell her that mommy loves her and that daddy actually loves her too, but he was blinded by a bad person. He'll be very remorseful and heartbroken when he finally finds out the truth.'

When Jeremy read that, his vision had started to become blurry.

What was he blinded by in all these years?

He slowly flipped through the pages, and in the end, he saw ten words. Her handwriting was still nice and clean, but they were not very tidy.

The time recorded was the day before his engagement to Meredith.

'20th February. Sunny.

'I hope I won't meet him in my next life.'

The ten simple words caused tears to fall from Jeremy's eyes immediately.

She truly did not love him anymore.

There was only contempt.

From that day on, Jeremy started having problems sleeping. He could only sleep with the help of sleeping pills.

However, when he finally fell asleep during those long nights, he would still see Madeline's face in the middle of the night.

In the morning, Jeremy was focused on work and only work. It was as if he would not think about Madeline if he did that.

Meredith saw all of this happening in front of her eyes, so how would she be able to accept this?

She went to look for Jeremy. Sometimes, she would bring Jackson along to attract Jeremy's attention. However, he ignored them and turned a deaf ear.

Meredith was so mad that she hired someone to get Madeline's birthdate and star sign so that she could curse her a million times over.

She thought Jeremy was not concerned about Madeline at all, but she did not think that after she died, she would still occupy Jeremy's thoughts.

She thought Jeremy was only feeling remorse and upset for the first few days. She thought that he definitely would not think about her anymore after some time had passed.

However, as the days went on, Jeremy had stopped paying her any attention. He even started to ignore Jackson now.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0153

She had been thinking about marrying Jeremy every day so that she could become the real Mrs. Whitman. However, it had been three years and their relationship did not change at all.

It had been three years and she could not wait anymore.

…

It was a bright and sunny summer afternoon. An adorable little girl was holding the skirt of a young woman in Glendale Airport.

"Mommy, Mommy, I'm hungry."

The woman turned her head when she heard that. Her long wavy hair fluttered as she turned around. A benevolent smile was displayed on her stunning face. She picked up the adorable little girl who looked like an elf. "I'll bring you to eat something yummy soon."

She started walking after picking up the girl. An elegant and poised aura started following her like it was her shadow.

On the way, she attracted a lot of praise and glances for her beauty and figure.

After they found a place to stay, she took the little girl out.

"Mommy, I want a burger first."

"Alright." The woman agreed.

"Thank you, Mommy! You're the best mommy in the world!" The little girl circled her arms around the woman's neck and kissed her loudly on the cheek.

The woman laughed cheerfully, revealing her beautiful dimples. She pinched the little girl's cheek. "You have such a sweet mouth. Who taught you this?"

"Daddy did!" The little girl blinked with a serious look on her face.

The woman's smile froze after she heard that, but she did not say anything more.

It was the weekend and there were a lot of people in KFC.

She held the little girl's hand as they placed their orders at the counter. After ordering, they found a place to sit down.

A little while later, the little girl blinked her crystal clear eyes and said, "Mommy, I want that too."

She pointed at a toy that came with the kid's meal.

"Then you should wait for me here, Lilian. I'll bring the ducky for you in a bit."

"Thank you, Mommy."

"Good girl."

The woman went back to the counter to order a kid's meal. When she took the toy to go back to her seat, she noticed that the little girl was gone.

Her expression changed. Her heart that had not felt any nervousness all these years started beating furiously.

Just as she was about to look for her daughter, she saw a tall and slender figure standing up from one of the tables with Lilian by their side.

"Thank you." She heard Lilian thanking the man politely.

Then, her face changed when she saw the man as her heart started beating normally again.

Madeline took out her sunglasses from her bag and put them on. When she was about to walk over, she saw Meredith wandering into her vision.

This devil of a woman killed her baby daughter, disfigured her, blinded her, and even lied to her saying that a picture of a scenery was the photo of her daughter!

She did not think that she would run into her.

Indeed, enemies would often cross paths with each other.

Madeline's pupils constricted beneath the sunglasses.

'Meredith Crawford, I didn't die, so it means that your life is going to be over soon.

'This time, I'll make you pay with your blood.'

At this moment, the little girl lifted her head and spotted Madeline at a distance. A sweet smile appeared on her beautiful face. She opened her mouth to call out to Madeline.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0154

Madeline made a shushing gesture and the little girl immediately understood. She pursed her lips together.

On one side, Meredith was extremely unhappy when she saw Jeremy holding a little girl. However, she knew she could not show it.

"Jeremy, whose child is this? Why do you keep holding her? Jack is waiting for us outside. Let's go."

She looked at Jeremy with a smile on her face, but then she rolled her eyes at Lilian who was in Jeremy's arms.

She did not know where this little thing came from. She even looked similar to that country bumpkin, Madeline!

"You can leave with Jack first. I'm waiting for the little girl's parents," Jeremy replied coldly. Just then, his eyes fell on Lilian.

For some reason, he felt a connection to her.

Meredith finally got to ask Jeremy out using Jackson as an excuse. She did not think she would be treated so coldly. She could not express her anger, so she could only turn around while pressing her lips together tightly.

Meredith was so focused on being upset that she did not see where she was going. When she walked past Madeline, she bumped into her shoulder.

Madeline took this opportunity to let go of the things in her hands.

The kid's meal fell to the floor, and the overturned coke splashed all over Meredith.

Meredith's expensive Chanel skirt and shoes were soaking wet. She was already pissed, and now, she was furious. She released all of her anger on Madeline.

"Do you even know how to walk? Are you blind?" She turned around to complain to Jeremy. She put on an aggrieved look on her face. "Jeremy, this woman dirtied my clothes and shoes."

Jeremy only turned his head around calmly. With just one glance, he was attracted by Madeline's back.

He felt his heart skip a beat. It was such an unusual feeling.

He walked over with Lilian in his arms.

Madeline looked at the furious Meredith and smirked calmly.

"I think the blind person is you, Miss Foul Mouth. I've been standing here this entire time and you're the one who crashed into me like a headless fly."

"What did you say? How dare you call me a fly?! Do you know who I am? You…"

Meredith pointed at Madeline and shrieked. However, when she lifted her head to look at the face behind the sunglasses, she was alarmed. Her eyes went extremely wide.

She looked at that face in disbelief. That face shape, those features…

Even though she could not see her eyes, those features looked eerily familiar. Meredith felt like it was getting harder to breathe the more she looked at this woman's face.

When Madeline saw Meredith looking at her in shock, Madeline raised the corners of her lips and smiled softly.

"Why do you look like that all of a sudden? Did you see a ghost?"

"…" When she heard this, Meredith's expression changed. "What are you talking about? What ghost? Even if I see one, I'll destroy it!"

She argued back angrily and ran back to Jeremy. Her voice was extremely coquettish. "Jeremy, let's go now. I don't feel so well all of a sudden."

"Sir, please put me down." Lilian wiggled her body.

Jeremy placed her down, but his eyes were still glued to Madeline's back.

Madeline felt someone staring at her, so she turned around calmly. Her hair fluttered as she did that, accentuating her fair face that was hidden by the sunglasses.

Jeremy's heart beat faster. He looked at the woman who was walking toward him. She looked elegant and refined. In addition to that, she stood out among the crowd.

"Sir, is this rude woman your wife?" Madeline asked with a soft smile.

When Jeremy heard her voice, he could feel his heartbeat slowing down.

It was not her.

This was not her voice.

Of course, how would it be her?

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0155

She had already left this world. What was left of her were her ashes.

"Of course I'm Jeremy's wife. The entire Glendale knows about this!" Meredith could not wait to announce her relationship with Jeremy.

Madeline said after suddenly realizing it. "So you're that famous Miss Montgomery, Meredith Crawford?"

When Meredith heard this, the arrogant smile on her face returned.

However, after a few seconds, Madeline added, "The woman who used her identity to force her sister, Madeline, to a dead-end before stealing her sister's husband! You're that mistress, Meredith Crawford, right?"

Meredith's face fell, but she displayed an innocent look on her face.

"Miss, how can you spew nonsense like that? When did I steal my sister's husband from her? Jeremy and I have always been together, right, Jeremy? The person you love this whole time has been me and me only," she said, looking at Jeremy with an agreeable look.

However, Jeremy was only looking at Madeline. His gaze was so intense that it was as if he wanted to see through her sunglasses.

She looked exactly the same as Madeline even though he could not see her eyes.

"Let's go," after a while, Jeremy said before walking away.

Meredith noticed that everyone around them was looking at her while criticizing her. She did not want to stay as well. After she glared at Madeline, she walked away quickly.

Madeline looked at Jeremy's back and called out to him, "Mr. Whitman, are you agreeing to what I said just now since you didn't deny it?"

Jeremy was about to push open the door to leave when he froze.

She had intentionally asked that to embarrass Jeremy and Meredith in front of everyone.

Meredith was the mistress and the other woman while he was the man who had an affair. What did it matter if they came from wealthy and reputable families? It would not get rid of the fact that they did such shameful things.

Madeline thought Jeremy would be mad after she said that and that he would defend Meredith. However, he turned around and lifted the corners of his lips into a smile.

After three years, his demeanor and appearance were even better now.

His irresistible charm came crashing, causing a few women to start blushing.

"You seem interested in my gossip, Miss." He smiled and handed her a card. "If you're interested, you can call me anytime to get more details."

Madeline took the card and smiled profoundly. "I think we'll meet very soon."

Jeremy was attracted to the wedding ring on Madeline's ring finger. When he heard Madeline saying that, he came back to his senses.

Meredith did not understand what Jeremy was doing, but she knew he was interested in that face.

That night, Madeline st by the window in the hotel. She was working on her draft on her laptop.

She picked up Jeremy's card and took a look at it. Then, she scoffed and threw it to one side.

'Jeremy, you didn't think that I'd still be alive, huh?'

"Mommy, Mommy, look! It's that annoying and evil woman!" The little girl waddled over to Madeline and handed her the phone.

Madeline lowered her head to take a look. She noticed that it was a video of her and Meredith arguing in KFC. Someone had captured this scene and uploaded the video online.

Jeremy was a well-known person in Glendale, so it was only natural that everyone knew what happened between him and Meredith.

Now, Meredith's refusal to apologize after she ran into someone in KFC and her arrogant attitude right after was being witnessed by everyone. Almost everyone was criticizing Meredith. They said that she was the daughter of a reputable family who did not have any basic manners.

On the contrary, a lot of people were praising Madeline. They said that she had a good attitude. Plus, they even said that she had a demeanor a young lady from a reputable family should have. A lot of them were also trying to guess what she looked like underneath those sunglasses.

She shut her laptop and looked at the lights outside of the french window. She smirked.

'Meredith, this is just the start.'

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0156

At this moment inside Whitman Manor.

Jeremy sat next to the bed lazily. He was holding his phone while watching a video that was going viral.

In the video, Meredith's menacing behavior made her lose her good reputation. All of a sudden, he was starting to wonder if this was the little girl he met when he was younger, Linnie.

He did not think much of it, but his eyes eventually landed on Madeline.

His heart started beating faster.

Those features looked just like hers.

However, despite looking similar, it was still a fact that Madeline had left him forever.

As Jeremy pondered, Madeline's sweet face appeared in his mind. His heart started aching uncontrollably again…

Maddie…

"Jeremy, are you asleep?" Someone knocked on the door, and in the next moment, Meredith's voice came from outside. "Jeremy, I think you saw the video, right? I'm being maliciously slandered. Can you accompany and comfort me?"

"Plus, the shop at the plaza in the city center is going to be up for auction soon. You promised that you'll buy it for my birthday present. Do you still remember that, Jeremy?"

Her soft voice sounded from outside the door as she waited for Jeremy's reply. However, after a while, Jeremy's mother pulled her away quickly and lectured her.

"You know that Jeremy hasn't been able to get any decent sleep for the past three years. Don't disturb him now that he's finally fallen asleep."

Meredith was already feeling miserable. Now, she was feeling even worse. "Didn't Jeremy's father buy some special aromatherapy kit from overseas to soothe Jeremy's nerves? His sleep has already improved a lot!"

"That's not a reason to disturb him!" Even though Jeremy's mother was fond of Meredith, her son was more important.

Meredith clenched her fist as a fire of rage burned in her chest. However, she could not release her anger. "Madeline is the one who caused him to suffer from insomnia!" She pushed all of the blame onto Madeline.

"That woman did so many evil things. It's karma that she's dead!" Jeremy's mother cursed as well. Then, she looked at Meredith. "I have to remind you not to disturb Jeremy when he's asleep. There's finally some progress but you're here making a fuss. Plus, the aromatherapy kit from that perfumer is hard to get."

Meredith scoffed in disdain. "Mrs. Whitman, don't be fooled. How would there be such amazing perfumers in the world? It's just a hoax. The reason Jeremy's sleep has improved is all because of me."

Jeremy's mother peered at Meredith. "That perfumer is the rising star of the industry. If it's fake, how can Jeremy sleep so soundly during this period?"

When Meredith heard this, she was even more pissed.

What perfumer? How could there be such people in the world?

She called someone to investigate this. After she got news about this, she found out that this perfumer, Nell, had gotten very popular in the past two years. Plus, the aromatherapy kit Nell created was indeed very efficient.

Meredith had an evil thought in her head. It had been so many years and she used all kinds of ways to try to get Jeremy to sleep with her but failed. It was time she invested in something like this.

If she got pregnant 'again', then it would only be expected that Jeremy would marry her!

She asked someone to contact the mysterious rising star in the industry, Nell.

When she saw that Nell had accepted her order, Meredith transferred a lot of money over in a showy manner. Plus, she even ordered Nell to give her the finished product in three days.

Meredith had made up her mind and already chosen a time. After the auction, she would use the aromatherapy kit to take down Jeremy.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0157

On the other side, Madeline took a sip of her coffee slowly. She looked at the huge sum of money that was transferred to her bank account on her phone. She lifted the mirror and looked at her reflection.

She touched the place where the scars used to be. However, she would still feel a stinging pain even though she had only touched them lightly.

She put down the mirror and turned her elegant body. Then, she walked into the fashion boutique next door.

All of the rich and powerful upper-class elites in Glendale were coming to the auction that was being held in the most luxurious six-star hotel here.

They were going to auction off a huge shop in the busiest part of the plaza in the city center.

Meredith had been eyeing this shop for a very long time. She also hinted to Jeremy many times before for him to bid on this shop for her.

Back then, she had stolen Madeline's diary and the jewelry design drafts she left behind when she was in university. Even she needed to admit that Madeline's designs were outstanding.

Even though Eloise was letting her manage two shops, she was still dissatisfied.

As such, she made up her mind to start her own brand once she got her hands on the shop. She would make a name for herself in the industry and crush all those brands that emerged during that period. Eventually, she would become an internationally well-known jewelry designer.

Meredith spent a lot of time and effort dolling herself up. She wanted to become the center of everyone's attention after she successfully got the shop.

On the other hand, she also wanted to attract Jeremy's attention.

Before they left, she did not forget to get an update regarding the aromatherapy kit. It was the key item to whether she would be able to have sex with Jeremy tonight. However, she did not get any reply from the perfumer even after a long time.

Meredith was agitated, but she could not show it. She followed Jeremy into the hall.

Today was such a great opportunity. She was able to follow Jeremy to a place filled with the rich and famous, so she had to put on a good performance.

Jeremy was wearing a black custom-made suit. His charming and domineering aura was oozing from his bones.

Meredith was wearing a stunning gown while donning on the latest jewelry. She walked next to Jeremy while all dolled up in jewels. She had her usual mask of kindness and gentleness as she occasionally greeted the people around them. She enjoyed the envious gazes the other socialites gave her and all the men ogling her.

"Jeremy, let's sit there," Meredith blinked and said sweetly.

Jeremy pulled his arm away from Meredith emotionlessly.

If this hotel was not under his name, he would not even be in attendance.

Meredith felt an emptiness in her hands, making her frustrated. However, she still kept the smile on her face as everyone was looking at her and Jeremy. She enjoyed the feeling of being in the center of attention too much.

The auction soon started. Meredith sat next to Jeremy happily. However, at that moment, everyone's gazes left her and were all focused on the entrance of the hall.

Meredith's face fell. She caught a lithe and beautiful figure sashaying over slowly from the corner of her eyes.

She turned around to look closely. When she saw the person walking over with a pair of sunglasses on her face, Meredith could not maintain her hypocritical smile anymore.

"Hmph, what a small world!" Meredith gritted her teeth. She still had not forgotten about what happened in KFC that day.

Jeremy was initially not bothered by the commotion, but all of a sudden, he felt that something was amiss.

He subconsciously turned around to look over at the scene. When he saw the woman in a long dress and magnolia white suit jacket sashaying over, his eyes lit up.

It was her!

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0158

Madeline could see Meredith's cracked smile from underneath her sunglasses.

She walked over while remaining calm and collected. She could feel the eyes of everyone in the room glued on her.

Back then, she did not know how to put on makeup or doll herself up. She did not even know how to walk after putting on high heels.

At that point in time, she was an ugly duckling that even a beggar would look down on.

However, everything was different now.

Every dog had its day. Ten years later, Madeline Crawford was not who she was back then.

Madeline smiled sweetly while sitting in an empty seat behind Meredith in a calm and composed manner.

Jeremy's eyes were on her the entire time. Until now, he was still looking at her.

When Meredith noticed that Jeremy's attention was on Madeline, she clenched her fists in anger.

Jeremy was indeed moved by that b*tch Madeline. If not, why would he stare at her just because she looked similar to Madeline?

Madeline noticed Jeremy staring at her. Perhaps, this was the gaze that she had longed for the most back then, but now, she did not care.

After she sat down, Madeline heard whispers from all around her.

"Who's that woman? Is there someone like her in our circle?"

"Look at her bracelet and necklace. Those are from the latest Miss L.ady collection. Only their honorary members are allowed to buy them."

"I think this woman is someone extraordinary. I wonder what she looks like. She's so mysterious with her sunglasses."

"Mysterious? Pah! Those might even be fake. She probably wormed her way in here to get a free meal! The star of today is Jeremy Whitman's fiancée, Meredith. Everyone knows that Jeremy will surely get the shop today because he wants to give it to Meredith as her birthday present!"

Madeline only smiled lightly when she heard those voices of suspicion.

After a while, the auctioneer arrived. After some opening remarks, the auction started officially.

The item of the auction was a shop on First Crystal Street. The base price was five million dollars.

Even though they knew Jeremy was going to win the auction no matter what, a lot of people were still trying to bid for the shop as it was located in the busiest part of the city center. The revenue that it would generate would be much more than the base price.

Every time someone lifted their placard, Meredith would follow suit.

The price was then raised to 8.8 million dollars.

It was a good number. Meredith lifted her placard and smiled widely. She was very confident.

She knew no one in this room would dare to fight with her for this anymore.

The reason was that she had Jeremy and the Montgomerys backing her up.

"8.8 million going once," the auctioneer started announcing.

"8.8 million going twice." Still, no one lifted their placards.

"8.8 million going thrice…"

"10 million."

When the auctioneer was about to slam his gavel down, a loud and clear sound interrupted him.

Meredith had been basking in happiness that she even felt like she was going to rise to heaven, but at that moment, her heart plunged into a bottomless abyss.

The huge contrast lit the burning flames of anger in her heart.

She looked at Madeline who was sitting behind her, following other people's gazes.

Madeline put down her placard calmly and smiled lightly. "Miss Crawford, if you want the shop that badly, you can continue."

"…" Madeline's face fell. She turned around and started simpering to Jeremy. "Jeremy, I really like that shop…"

"Just continue bidding if you like. No need to ask me," Jeremy replied flatly.

Meredith beamed. She lifted her placard. "11 million!" She generously added one million.

Madeline looked at Jeremy. 'Indeed, you're still spoiling that cruel and heartless two-faced b*tch.

'Jeremy, not only are you blind, but you're also heartless. You still can't see Meredith's true face after so many years.'

Madeline pondered and said after parting her pink lips, "15 million."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0159

After she said that, everyone looked at her with shock on their faces.

Meredith was so angry that she almost ripped the placard into pieces. Was this woman purposely going against her?

Who did she think she was? How dare she go against her?!

How would Meredith allow this? She lifted the placard again.

Everyone thought Meredith would add on a few million dollars, however, she only added 500,000 dollars.

The moment she finished saying that, Madeline said nonchalantly, "20 million."

"Wow…"

Everyone exclaimed.

Meredith could not stand this anymore. She suppressed the fire of rage inside her and glared at Madeline. She then forced out an innocent and gentle smile.

"Miss, were you hired by the other party to come here to deliberately raise the price? Everyone knows that my fiancé is going to buy this shop for me as my birthday present. Could it be that you enjoy stealing things from others?"

"Steal things from others? Isn't that what you're good at, Miss Crawford?"

Madeline's face fell. "W-What do you mean?"

"Nothing," Madeline smirked profoundly. "I just want to ask you, Miss Crawford, is your name on the shop now? If yes, then just pretend I didn't say anything. If no, then please respect the rules of an auction. The highest bidder wins."

"You…" Meredith was speechless and gritted her teeth in anger. She wanted to raise the placard to continue bidding, but she did not dare to add on too much. As such, she could only look at Jeremy. "Jeremy…"

Jeremy looked at Meredith with a blank expression. He said flatly, "She's right. The highest bidder wins."

"…" Meredith did not have anything to say to that.

At this moment, the auctioneer started repeating the amount Madeline proposed.

Meredith was livid and frantic. When she came back to her senses and was about to bid again, the auctioneer had already slammed the gavel down.

The auctioneer invited Madeline to the stage. She walked up the stage as everyone gawked at her.

She was walking slowly, her every movement graceful. She had a charming aura that one could not put their fingers on no matter how they thought about it.

The auctioneer smiled and asked, "What's your name, beautiful lady?"

Madeline smiled and said, "My last name is Quinn."

Quinn?

Jeremy thought about this last name. It was pretty rare.

Meredith was grinding her teeth at one side, glaring at Madeline who was on the stage while baring her teeth.

She was supposed to be the main character tonight, but at the last moment, her spotlight was stolen by this woman who had seemingly appeared out of nowhere!

She would not be able to let this go no matter what!

The contract was signed with everyone in the room as witnesses. The auctioneer announced that Madeline was the new owner of the shop on First Crystal Street and congratulated her.

Thunderous claps sounded from below the stage as well.

Madeline stood on the stage gracefully. Through her sunglasses, she saw Meredith fuming and felt extremely pleased.

When she was about to say something, she saw Jeremy getting up and walking toward her.

"Jeremy, where are you going?" Meredith wanted to stop him, but Jeremy did not turn back.

He walked up to the stage and looked at the dimples on Madeline's cheeks. He hesitated for a while before saying, "As the owner of this hotel, I'm happy that the event has ended perfectly."

He held out his hand to Madeline. "Miss Quinn, congratulations."

Meredith looked at Jeremy's hand and felt that this entire scene was extremely ironic.

Back then, she had longed to hold his hand so much, but now, all of those longings were gone.

She smiled and held out her hand. However, she did not shake Jeremy's hand. On the contrary, she removed the sunglasses on her face.

The moment she removed them, she saw Jeremy's expression freeze over. Even the air around them started to freeze.

However, Madeline smiled while maintaining the same expression on her face. She held Jeremy's frozen hand and said, "Thanks."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0160

'Thanks.'

The word she uttered so softly lingered in his ear. However, it landed heavily on Jeremy's heart.

When Jeremy saw this stunning face in front of him, he felt as if he had turned into a sculpture. In that split second, he lost all of his senses and consciousness.

He even felt that he might be dreaming.

The beautiful face in front of him was so glaring.

It was so painful!

'Maddie!'

He could not control himself from screaming out her name in his heart.

His heart that had fallen into a deep slumber for the past three years was abruptly woken up.

Madeline smiled lightly when she saw Jeremy's reaction.

'Are you surprised, Jeremy?

'The ex-wife you despise isn't dead yet.

'However, I'm not that Madeline Crawford who loved you so much that she abandoned all self-respect, self-love, and even herself.'

"I'm sorry, Mr. Whitman. I still have some things to take care of, so I'll get going now." Madeline retracted her hand and walked past Jeremy elegantly and calmly.

When the warmth was removed from his hand, Jeremy jolted back to his senses.

An extraordinary fragrance invaded his nostrils as he turned around to see Madeline walking toward the side door.

Jeremy did not hesitate and turned around to follow her.

Everyone below the stage was looking at each other after they saw this happening in front of their eyes.

Even though there were people in the crowd who had seen Madeline before, three years was a long time, so no one had any impression of her anymore.

They just thought that this face looked nice and yet, so familiar.

The multi-colored neon lights intertwined with each other in the city at night.

Madeline walked out of the door, but before she could go far, she saw Jeremy from the side mirror of the car that was parked on the side of the road.

His expression was grim, looking so intense that no one could tell what he was thinking about.

"Madeline!" She heard him calling out her name.

Madeline smiled in secret and continued walking forward, unperturbed. She looked into the side mirror of the car with the corner of her eyes and saw Jeremy chasing after her.

When he was behind her, he reached out his hand to grab her wrist.

"Madeline!" he called out again, his voice sounding astonished.

Madeline stopped. She displayed a look of innocence and shock as she blinked slowly. "Mr. Whitman, why are you following me? Why are you holding my wrist?"

Jeremy's deep eyes were staring into Madeline's dazed eyes. The night cast a shadow on his features, making them look even more abstruse.

"Madeline, you're not dead!" he exclaimed as he held Madeline's wrist tighter.

It was as if Madeline would disappear if he let go of her.

He would not allow her to disappear from his world again.

Madeline looked at Jeremy in confusion. "Mr. Whitman, I don't know what you're talking about. My name isn't Madeline, it's Vera Quinn."

Jeremy's eyes became darker after he heard that. "You are! You are Madeline!"

He stared into her eyes. Even though this face was a clone, he believed there would be no other eyes that looked like those in this world.

Madeline stayed silent for a few seconds after hearing that. Then, she smiled and said, "I heard that Madeline was Mr. Whitman's cruel and despicable ex-wife. Do I look like her? Did you chase after me because you think your hateful ex-wife has come back to life?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0161

When he heard Madeline's words, Jeremy's face went cold.

He pressed his thin lips tightly together and grabbed Madeline's chin all of a sudden.

Madeline did not expect him to do this. However, she managed to quickly dodge away. "Mr. Witman, you have a fiancée. Please have some respect for yourself." She reminded him.

However, Jeremy's face was icy as he stared piercingly at Madeline. "You say you're not her, but do you have the guts to show me your left chest area?"

He would never forget the mole on Madeline's left chest. It was extremely glaring on her fair and smooth skin.

After he said that, Madeline's face fell.

"Mr. Whitman, are you joking? Do you think I'll let you see that part of my body? Please let go of me."

He stared at the beautiful eyes in front of him. "Are you feeling guilty? Is that why you won't show me? Madeline, why aren't you dead yet?"

'Why didn't you come back to me if you're alive and well?'

'Why am I not dead yet?

'Am I such an obstacle in your life just because I'm alive? Do you want me to die again so badly?'

After he said that, Madeline smiled. "Mr. Whitman, you're hilarious. I told you my name is Vera Quinn. I'm not your ex-wife, Madeline Crawford. If you don't let me go, I'll call the cops."

At this moment, a car stopped next to Madeline. The window of the car was rolled down and a woman's voice called out to her.

"Vera, I heard you won the auction and you're now the owner of the shop. Let's go have a few drinks to celebrate! Who's that? Why is he holding your hand?"

Jeremy felt that this questioning voice sounded extremely annoying. Then, he heard Madeline introducing him calmly. "This is the young master from the most influential family in Glendale. He's also the president of Crawford Corporation, Mr. Jeremy Whitman."

"Oh, it's him. Why is he holding your hand?"

Madeline chuckled lightly. "He says I look like his dead ex-wife."

"Pah! There are so many similar-looking people in this world and you look like someone who died? Say, Mr. Whitman, is this a trick to get to know Vera? I've seen all kinds of cheap tricks, but there are too many men out there who want to get to know our Vera. If you're interested, you can get in line."

Jeremy's face became icier when he heard that. His bottomless eyes were still glued on Madeline.

Madeline used this chance to retract her hand. Then, she got into the car.

In an instant, Jeremy felt an emptiness in his hand. At the same time, he felt his heart getting empty as well.

"I'll see you when I see you, Mr. Whitman."

Madeline sat in the car and smiled at Jeremy. Then, the window was rolled up slowly.

The car drove further away. Madeline looked at the tiny figure in the rearview mirror and lifted her hand to tidy the hair on her forehead.

Jeremy stood in place as the darkness of the night blurred his vision.

They had the same face, but she said she was not her.

Jeremy frowned.

His heart started beating normally again.

Indeed, she was not.

Madeline would not have that sharp and mature gaze. Plus, she would also not have such a thought-provoking smile.

She had always been simple, and she simply loved him for so many years.

Jeremy's heart sank once again.

Meredith had looked all over for Jeremy before she finally found him. "Jeremy, why are you here? The woman just now…"

Jeremy ignored Meredith and just went straight home.

On the way, he contacted his trusted assistant, Ken Baker. "Investigate a woman named Vera Quinn for me. I need the information tomorrow morning."

On this night, Jeremy tossed and turned in bed. In the end, he could only fall asleep with the special aromatherapy kit.

The next morning, he sped to the office. Ken followed behind him and handed him the information he got. When Ken looked at the photo of the woman, his expression was abnormal.

"Mr. Whitman, isn't this Madeline, your ex-wife who has been dead for three years?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0162

After Jeremy heard that, his hands froze as they were trying to flip open the documents. "You're dismissed."

Ken did not ask much before leaving.

Jeremy flipped through the documents quickly, and the information on them was simple.

Vera Quinn was from F Country. She grew up in F Country and had never come to Glendale before. She studied psychology in university and had lots of interests. There was close to zero information about her social life.

It just stated that she had a very close male friend.

Her boyfriend.

Jeremy felt a thorn in his heart. When he first met her in KFC, he remembered she was wearing a ring on her ring finger.

Was she engaged?

Jeremy lit a cigarette and white smoke escaped from his lips. The smoke then blurred his expression.

While looking at this photo, his mind started to wander.

After a short while, Jeremy started to put his attention on Ava.

Back then, Ava was the one who brought Madeline's body to the funeral parlor. When he got there, she was the one who walked out with the urn.

He never suspected whether it was Madeline's ashes or not.

However, now...

Jeremy went to Ava's office and followed her for the entire day. He also hired someone to track Ava's calls for the past few days but found nothing suspicious.

Ava was Madeline's best friend. If she was still alive, it was impossible for her not to contact Ava.

Although, she could intentionally choose not to contact Ava so that he would not be suspicious.

If he was able to do a DNA test on the ashes, he would have done it.

Unfortunately, he could not.

...

Madeline woke up early and braided her daughter's hair. Then, she sent the little girl to kindergarten.

When she was about to leave, Madeline turned around and her attention was attracted by a little boy who was talking toward the entrance.

Madeline could tell immediately that it was Jackson.

Since it had been three years, he would be five years old now. His young and childish face changed a lot. He looked more handsome now and his eyes looked similar to Jeremy's.

This was Jeremy and Meredith's child. Madeline knew she did not hate or resent Jackson, but every time she saw him, she would recall her child who had died tragically.

Madeline pursed her lips as the fire of resentment rose in her heart uncontrollably.

At this moment, Jackson spotted Madeline.

There was shock on his cute face. "Maddie," he called out to Madeline.

Madeline unclenched her fists in secret and smiled gently at Jackson.

"Are you calling me, little boy?"

Jackson was curious about Madeline's question. His long and thin eyes looked at Madeline up and down in puzzlement. Then, he averted his gaze quickly. "I'm sorry, I got the wrong person." After he said that, he walked to the front door.

"Jackson." At this moment, Jeremy's voice sounded from not far away.

Madeline stopped in her tracks. She turned around to look at him.

Jeremy was walking over with a frigid and elegant aura surrounding him.

It was a beautiful sunny day, but when she looked into Jeremy's eyes, she felt that it was abnormally glaring.

Jeremy looked at Madeline thought-provokingly. Then, he walked to Jackson and handed him his lunchbox.

Jackson took the lunchbox before leaving. The father and son did not say anything to each other, looking more like strangers instead.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0163

Jeremy was already quite used to meeting her this way. He raised his eyebrows, gazing deeply at Madeline's unblemished, picturesque face.

He obviously did not forget that there used to be two deep wounds on the right side of Madeline's face. Those wounds never really healed, up until the day she stopped breathing.

However, the face in front of him had a flawless smile, and her skin was completely smooth. In short, she was stunning.

"Miss Vera, our fates seem quite intertwined," Jeremy said in a casual tone.

Madeline looked at the man in front of her and let out a vibrant smile. "It seems like Mr. Whitman is quite sober today. You're no longer mistaking me for your dead ex-wife."

Jeremy furrowed his eyebrows, looking quite dissatisfied.

However, he did not voice it out and instead continued smiling as he said, "I wonder if I can have the honor of treating you to dinner?"

Madeline knitted her eyebrows together. "Dinner might not be possible, but I'm free for lunch today."

Jeremy was very happy at Madeline's agreement.

However, the happiness lasted for only two seconds before his heart started to ache.

He suddenly thought of Madeline.

He recalled the days when they were married, how she would prepare his meals every day, waiting for him to get home. However, he never once treated her well.

Now, he was trying to use this woman who looked exactly like Madeline to regain the happiness and love that used to be his.

Madeline went back to the store, checking on the renovations as she prepared for the grand opening.

Before it even struck 11, Jeremy arrived.

Jeremy had changed his car. He was currently driving a white limited edition sports car.

As he stopped in front of the shop, he drew quite a lot of attention. The attention was all focused on Jeremy when he got out of the car.

He was a young man in his prime, coupled with Jeremy's flawless looks, he was the dream guy in every woman's heart.

He opened the door for Madeline in a gentlemanly manner before leaving.

As Madeline sat on the passenger seat, she could not help but mock him in her heart. She had loved him so much before and even married him. However, he hated her and thought she was filthy. He never even let her touch his car, let alone sit on the passenger seat.

However, he now invited a woman he only knew for more than a day to sit in his car.

It was obvious to her how low her position in his heart was back then.

Jeremy brought Madeline to the restaurant in the middle of the city. Madeline remembered this restaurant very clearly.

They even sat in the exact spot next to the window. Even though they had changed since then, she never forgot the humiliation she suffered at his hands.

Jeremy ordered a few dishes, and Madeline remembered that they were pretty much the same as what was ordered that day. Even the drinks were the same.

'So, he still thinks I'm his despicable dead ex-wife? Did he invite me for a meal just to investigate?'

"Miss Vera, it's your first time in the city, and you probably don't know much about our local specialties. I've specifically ordered these dishes for you. They're all signature dishes of the restaurant. Please have a try."

"Thank you, Mr. Whitman, but I'm quite partial to grapes, and the best drink to pair with steak is wine. Do you mind ordering a bottle of wine for me?"

Jeremy paused for a second before shooting her a seductive smile. "Of course."

Meredith had felt that something was off since last night. She kept feeling like Jeremy seemed to be interested in the woman who stole the store from him.

She got someone to follow Jeremy at the start of the day, and she received a slew of photos of Jeremy together with another person thanks to that.

The photos were taken outside of Jeremy's view, and they had to be sneakily taken, so they were not very clear. However, there was the obvious silhouette of a woman. It was just that the woman's face could not be seen.

"Seductress!" Meredith exploded in anger.

The moment she knew Jeremy brought that woman to the restaurant, Meredith immediately grabbed her bag and rushed over there.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0164

When Meredith reached the place, she immediately saw Jeremy sitting next to the window. Even if she had only seen his back, Meredith would never mistaken him for anyone else.

However, Meredith did not see another woman sitting in front of Jeremy. After thinking about it, she figured that the woman could have just gone to the washroom. Meredith did not bother greeting Jeremy and headed straight to the washroom instead.

Looking around, she failed to find anyone who was wearing the same outfit as the woman in the picture she saw.

Meredith cursed in her heart before tidying her appearance and putting on her best smile to go look for Jeremy. However, the moment she headed over, she noticed that Jeremy had disappeared as well.

She hurried down the elevator but only managed to see Jeremy's white-colored sports car speeding away in front of her, and in the passenger seat was a woman.

Meredith gritted her teeth in anger, immediately calling Jeremy. The phone call went through, but no one answered.

At night, Madeline was earnestly designing some new jewelry on her computer when a little girl ran next to her. She climbed up her leg and into her embrace. It was just like a kitten cozying up to a human.

"Mommy, Mommy, I met another boy today. He gave me a cute lollipop. I really liked it."

Madeline looked down at the little girl who was cuter than a doll, kissing her tenderly as she said, "Is that so? Then did you give the boy something back?"

"Yes!" Lily nodded earnestly. "I gave the boy the yellow duck you gave me, but he said he didn't want it."

"Is that so…"

"I know, I'll give this to Jackie tomorrow!" Lily suddenly jumped off Madeline and ran toward the coffee table.

Madeline's expression changed subtly. "Lily, what's the boy's name?"

"Jackson Whitman. He has the same surname as I do!"

Madeline was stunned and momentarily speechless. Suddenly, the phone rang, snapping her back to reality.

Looking at the caller, Madeline immediately picked it up. A man's gentle tone could be heard from the other end. "Are you used to being back in Glendale?"

"Yes." Madeline nodded, going silent for a few seconds before asking, "When will you be back?"

The man astutely realized something was off. "Did something happen?"

"Lily met Jackson Whitman. She seems to like him, so I'm a little worried."

"Both of them are just little kids. Don't overthink it. Nothing will happen, so get some rest."

Madeline calmed down significantly after listening to his words. She smiled. "You should get some rest as well. Good night."

Her mind was still active after the call.

If not for that man, she would have died years ago.

Instead, her dreams came through and she was living the life she always wanted. She even had the ability to return to Glendale to seek revenge.

Madeline managed to find some pictures of Jeremy and Meredith's engagement from the internet. Remembering how she had gone there to offer her 'gift', her expression drastically changed.

Meredith's birthday as the daughter of the Montgomeries was fast approaching. That day, Madeline would give her a birthday she would never forget.

In the few days that followed, Madeline was very busy preparing for the opening ceremony of her shop on First Crystal Street.

No one knew what she had gone through in the past three years.

Behind everyone's clueless backs, she knew that she had to make herself even more powerful in order to make the ones she hated pay the price.

In the following days, Meredith noticed that Jeremy had pretty much visited the shop at Crystal Street every day. He never entered and only waited inside his car, but Meredith could clearly see that he was always talking to a woman.

She clearly saw that the woman's silhouette was the same as the woman she had an incident with at KFC—the same woman who looked incredibly similar to Madeline. After investigating, she found out that the woman was called Vera Quinn.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0165

Meredith felt like she was in trouble, so she once again put on a show of spraining her foot. She made Rose exaggerate the story of her injury to Jeremy, wanting to trick him into visiting her at the Montgomery household.

The room was large and beautiful, elegantly decorated. Even the cloakroom was filled with various luxury goods.

Meredith was obviously enjoying everything that should have belonged to Madeline. She had never felt a shred of remorse, and even Brittany's death caused her to swell with pride at how decisively she handled it.

Only an intelligent and capable woman like her deserved the life of the upper society.

Madeline and Brittany were unworthy of being her opponents.

As such, how could she possibly lose to Vera Quinn—a woman who had appeared out of nowhere?!

While indulging in her own thoughts, Meredith heard the sound of Jeremy's footsteps. She immediately lay in bed like a frail patient, putting on a pair of pitiful eyes. "Jeremy, you've come to see me."

Jeremy saw Meredith's right leg wrapped up in bandages and asked, "Are you alright?"

"Since you're here, I'll be fine." Meredith reached out her hand to Jeremy, craving to touch him.

However, Jeremy did not hold her hand and stopped his advance. "Since you're fine, I'll just head off for now. I still have a lot of things to do."

Meredith was stunned as her expression changed immediately. "Jeremy, don't go!"

She pretended to fall off the bed in agitation, sobbing as she reached for Jeremy.

"Jeremy, don't go! Please don't leave me!" As she cried, she immediately put on a hurt face.

"Jeremy, why have you been treating me so coldly? It's been three years. Why are you still unwilling to marry me? Have you stopped loving me? Did you forget your promise of making me your wife all those years ago? Did Madeline's death cause you to believe her slander, that it was me who blinded her?"

Jeremy stopped in his steps, her words causing his face to visibly freeze.

Slander.

Why did he feel like that word was a joke?

"Jeremy…"

Meredith was still trying to continue when Jeremy's phone rang. As soon as he picked it up, the graceful and clear voice of a woman could be heard on the other end. "Mr. Whitman, thank you for the flowers. I like them a lot."

The room was very quiet, so quiet that Meredith immediately recognized the voice as belonging to Vera!

Her heart was immediately filled with rage as she listened to Jeremy speaking to that woman in a warm tone. She felt like exploding on the spot!

"Get some rest. I'm going to get some work done," Jeremy said coldly before leaving.

Not long after that, Meredith heard the sound of a car starting outside her window. She jumped up in embarrassment and anger, throwing things around her room in frustration.

After venting out her anger, she changed into a set of expensive clothes and picked up an expensive bag before rushing over to the shop on First Crystal Street.

When she got there, the front of the store was filled with flowers. Soon, she managed to spot the basket that Jeremy had given, causing Meredith's rage to soar.

She went inside while forcing herself to maintain a smile as she wanted to protect her graceful image in front of everyone.

There were a lot of shops around here and she was afraid that she would be photographed by someone.

However, recalling that Jeremy had basically forgotten her for this woman, Meredith struggled to maintain the smile on her face.

"Vera Quinn! Who's Vera Quinn? Come out!" she shouted, attracting a lot of attention.

A female staff member immediately went outside. "Miss, do you need anything from our boss?"

"Boss?" Meredith smiled coldly, arrogance shining in her eyes as she said, "Where's Vera Quinn? Tell her I wish to see her!"

Meredith was just done shouting when she felt someone come up behind her. "I'm Vera. Miss Crawford, we meet again."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0166

When Meredith heard the voice, her eyes lit up in fury.

These three years, she had been quite unhappy with Jeremy's cold treatment. Now, this woman came out of nowhere to attract Jeremy's attention, causing her to snap in anger.

However, due to the incident at KFC, Meredith was working hard to control her temper. She put on a smile as she said, "So you're that Vera woman who has been getting very close to my fiancé lately…"

She said those words as she turned around. However, before she could even finish her sentence, she gazed upon Madeline's beautiful and smiling face that instantly made her freeze.

Her eyes widened as she gaped at the face in front of her in disbelief.

"How, how… Madeline?!" Meredith's tongue was tied as she retreated. "How is this possible…"

She denied it in her heart.

'How is that possible?!

'That blind b*tch had long since turned into ashes, so how could she appear in front of me like this now!

'That's impossible!'

Madeline smiled as she looked at the rapidly changing expressions on Meredith's face. Her frantic expression gave Madeline quite a bit of comfort.

'Meredith Crawford, so you do understand what fear is.'

"Miss Crawford, are you okay? You look quite unwell. Do you want me to send you to the hospital?"

Madeline walked closer toward Meredith, but the latter frantically retreated in fright.

Looking at her honest reaction, Madeline smiled and said, "What's wrong, Miss Crawford? Why do you look like you've just seen a ghost? Do you think I'm going to eat you?"

Meredith finally composed herself at those words, furiously putting on an astonished face. "Madeline, you're not dead?"

She stared at that beautiful face, uttering, "How is that possible? How are you still alive? Your eyes, your face…" How did they recover so flawlessly?!

Looking at Meredith's astonished look, Madeline suddenly feigned realization. "I think you're mistaking me for that dead Madeline just like Mr. Whitman?"

Meredith stared at Madeline in suspicion. "What you mean is that you're not Madeline?"

Madeline smiled, adopting a casual posture as she stood in her high heels in front of Meredith. "Miss Crawford, you're free to take a good look. Do I really look that much like your dead sister?"

Madeline was a little taller than Meredith, and she was smiling as she looked down. Meredith looked up for a while before slowly composing herself. After a few seconds, she let out a cold laugh like nothing had happened.

"You do look quite alike, but you're very different from Maddie." Meredith's attitude changed drastically as she looked at Madeline in contempt. "My sister was obedient and mindful. She wouldn't have seduced an engaged man like what you're doing now!"

Meredith made sure to shout that last sentence loudly, causing the workers and customers in the store to look at Madeline curiously.

"Vera Quinn, I'm here today to tell you this. If you care at all about your reputation, you should stop seducing my fiancé. I'll never let anyone destroy my marriage!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0167

"Miss Crawford, you're free to shut up if you don't know how to speak properly. No one will think you're mute if you don't talk. Mr. Crawford and I have done nothing out of the ordinary. Even if you don't trust me, surely you should trust your own fiancé?"

"You…"

"If my memory serves me right, even Miss Crawford was a mistress before this. Don't you think the words that are coming out of your mouth are quite funny?"

Meredith was speechless as her face soured. She saw that the gazes surrounding them were quickly changing, so she adopted a look as if she was wronged.

"Miss Quinn, I don't know where you heard those rumors from, but I've always been together with Jeremy. It's my sister Madeline who fell in love with him and hatched a plot to sleep with him, forcing Jeremy to marry her. Now, Madeline is already dead, so I don't enjoy bringing this up, but I won't allow anyone to insult me like that!"

"You won't allow anyone to insult you, but it's fine if you insult me to my face? Miss Crawford, I heard that you're the daughter of the Montgomery family. Does a noble lady like you think she's above basic manners?"

Meredith was speechless, but she reacted quickly. She reddened her eyes as she gently said, "Miss Quinn, I didn't mean it like that. I just love Jeremy so much, which is why I… I'm sorry, I've troubled you."

Meredith said those words and walked away tearfully.

After a while, two other people walked into the shop. Madeline would never forget the evil faces of Rose and Jon Crawford.

She once believed that they really did treat her as their own daughter. However, it was all proven false in the end. She had treated them with such loyalty, but they still decided to beat her up, even almost costing her her life.

Madeline naturally knew they were here to question her under Meredith's orders. The moment the two of them stepped inside, they were looking around frantically.

A young worker politely greeted them. "Do you two need any recommendations?"

Rose and Jon dismissively looked at the jewelry on display. "We want to buy a bracelet for our daughter, but we don't know how to pick one out. Ask your supervisor to recommend something to us.

Their goal was obvious, and when Madeline heard their words, she casually turned around.

When the staff saw Madeline, he greeted her. "Miss Vera, the two customers here wish to pick out a bracelet for their daughter. Are you free to help them?"

Madeline smiled. "Of course." She walked toward Rose and Jon after that.

When they looked at the source of the voice and saw Madeline walking over, they were instantly surprised.

They had done so many wicked things, so it was hard not to be frightened when looking at Madeline's face.

"Madeline!"

"You… How are you still alive?!"

Rose and Jon said at the same time.

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows when she heard that and proceeded to put on a casual smile. "It seems like I really do look quite a bit like this woman named Madeline. Did the two of you come here because you were curious about how I look?"

"Look like? You're definitely Madeline!" Rose pointed at Madeline accusingly. "I'll never forget your face even if I die! Speak up, why are you not dead? What have you come back for? Are you trying to ruin Meredith and Jeremy's relationship? How could you be so despicable?! So what if you're alive? I'll kill you anyway, you despicable b*tch!"

A slew of insults flew out of Rose's mouth as she raised her hand up and aimed it right at Madeline's face.

Smack!

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0168

Smack!

Not only did Rose's slap not hurt Madeline at all, but she was currently holding onto her wrist tightly.

Madeline still vividly remembered all those slaps and beatings she had suffered before.

The moment she regained her sight, she had sworn to herself that she would never let anyone bully her again!

"You, let me go!" Rose shouted as she struggled in anger.

However, Madeline was quite strong. Thanks to the strength her hatred had given her, she was no longer a weakling anyone could pick on!

"Madam, please watch your tone! If you're here as a customer, I'll welcome you anytime. However, if you're here to cause trouble, then get lost right now!" Madeline's eyes were piercing as she put force into uttering every word, looking very imperious.

Rose stared for a few seconds, seemingly shocked into silence by Madeline's imposing manner.

At that time, Jon started to get angry. He reached out to help Rose.

However, Madeline did not give him a chance. She immediately pushed Rose's hand away. Rose did not manage to stabilize herself and her fat body went tumbling into Jon.

Jon had wanted to avoid the crash, but he was not quick enough. Rose caused him to slam into one of the counters as the two of them fell down, even causing the accessories on the counter to fall as well.

"Ouch!" Rose shouted in pain before shouting, "Madeline, you b*tch!"

Madeline sneered as her eyes lit up in anger.

Was she going to make a scene just because of that?

That was barely a scratch compared to everything the two of them had done to her!

Rose and Jon angrily stood up before turning around to prepare to curse at Madeline when a staff member next to them picked up the broken accessories. "Two of you, you've broken our accessories. According to the law, you need to pay for all of them!"

"Pay for what?! I only fell down because that btch pushed me!" Rose pointed at Madeline. "Madeline you btch, you don't even know how to die properly! You dare push me? I'll kill you right now!"

Rose was preparing to rush over, but Madeline stepped forward without even intending to retreat. She could not bother to put up with any more nonsense and took out her phone right away. "Officer, I'm here at First Crystal Street. There are two crazy people causing a scene here. One of them is saying that she wants to kill me. I'm scared, so please send someone here immediately to take care of them."

"What? You dare make a police report?! You even said we're crazy people?! Madeline, you seem to have forgotten how we taught you last time. How we lacerated your skin until you didn't even dare to lift a finger! Look at you pretending right now! You…"

"So you treated Madeline Crawford like that in the past? I'm quite curious, who exactly are you? Did Madeline kill your entire family? Why are you still holding onto your grudge against her even though she's dead?"

"Madeline, stop pretending! You're obviously Madeline!"

Rose was going to make a move again, but security came just in time and stopped both Rose and Jon.

Not long after that, the police arrived as well.

Meredith had been sitting in a car outside waiting for the results, but she did not expect to see the police.

She did not know what happened, but she saw Rose and Jon being taken into a police car.

Only after an hour did Meredith finally see Rose and Jon walk out of the station.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0169

She immediately brought Rose and Jon to the little villa they stayed in nowadays which was given to them as thanks for raising Meredith.

Rose cursed and swore as she recounted the events in great details to Meredith.

After understanding the matter, Meredith was deeply suspicious, but Jon shook his head.

"That's definitely not Madeline. Madeline was never that bold!"

Rose was originally certain as well, but she was wavering since stepping out of the station. "Meredith, I think that woman just looks like her. She definitely isn't Madeline. She's been dead for three years and even her corpse would have rotted by now. Jeremy personally brought back her ashes, so how could she return to life?!"

Even if that was the case, Meredith was still full of doubt. "Could there really be two people who look so much alike on earth?"

"Maybe she somehow saw a picture of that woman and felt that she looked good, so she did plastic surgery to look like Madeline. No matter what, that Vera woman is definitely not Madeline! Your dad is right. How could that idiot ever be this imposing?! It's impossible! That piece of trash was never able to fight us!"

Listening to Rose and Jon, Meredith's doubts slowly disappeared. A smile returned to her face.

"That's true. Madeline was just a useless idiot, so how could she be so imposing? Furthermore, she could never have gotten enough money to buy that shop on First Crystal Street. She even got the trending brand, Miss L.ady, into the shop."

Rose could not help but complain. "What kind of rotten brand is that? Just a stinky breast pin cost me 300,000, and a diamond even fell off it!"

Meredith proudly showed off her bracelet and ring. "That's not a rotten brand. It's the most popular jewelry brand among women in these two years. The designs are impeccable and highly sought after. Mom, I'll give this to you. That Patton woman insisted on giving it to me some time ago, and it's worth 100,000!" she said that as she passed the bracelet to Rose.

Rose's eyes lit up as she hurriedly received it. "What a filial daughter I have. Anyway, what's going on with Jeremy? I feel like he's been neglecting you recently. Your fake birthday is almost here, so why don't you get Jeremy to propose to you on that day? There'll be a lot of people there. If we pressure him together, he won't have a good reason to refuse!"

Hearing that, Meredith smiled happily as a sinister glint flashed through her eyes.

"Jeremy is mine. It doesn't matter if it's Madeline or Vera. I'll kill anyone who tries to steal my man!" Meredith said as a plan began to hatch in her mind.

This time, she would succeed!

After the two incidents in the morning, Madeline felt quite refreshed.

Remembering the shocked and frantic looks on Meredith and that couple's faces, her determination to get her revenge strengthened.

She looked at the time and was about to leave when Jeremy's car stopped in front of her shop.

Jeremy stepped down, his tall body a picture of elegance.

"Miss Vera, would you like to have lunch?" he said warmly as he walked toward her.

Madeline smiled coldly. "I don't think so. Your precious fiancée might run over and accuse me of seducing you."

As she said that, she turned around to leave.

Jeremy frowned as he quickly understood what Madeline meant.

He immediately chased after Madeline and saw her accidentally stepping on a rock. She was falling right in front of his eyes.

Jeremy did not know what came over him as his heart stopped. He immediately rushed over as he grabbed onto her tightly. "Maddie."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0170

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 170

Hearing Jeremy call her that caused a wave of emotions to wash over Madeline.

She did not think that Jeremy would have rushed to her side and hold her like that.

Madeline looked up and saw the concerned look on Jeremy's face.

Was he worried about her?

A brief moment of doubt could be seen in Madeline's eyes as she felt Jeremy hug her tightly. She could even clearly feel the warmth from his chest.

It was the warmth that she used to long for, but today, she no longer craved it.

"Thank you, Mr. Whitman," Madeline said calmly.

Jeremy sobered up at that, relaxing his hug.

Madeline tidied up her clothes as she shot a meaningful look at Jeremy. "If I'm not mistaken, did you call me Maddie just now? According to your fiancée, you deeply hate your ex-wife. Not only was she constantly clinging to you, she even trapped you and forced you to marry her. If that's the case, shouldn't you hate me as well? Why did you help me just now?"

After that, there was an air of silence around them.

It took a while before Jeremy spoke again. He showed Madeline a fake smile as he said, "If you want to know, then get in the car."

Madeline awkwardly wrinkled her eyebrows before nodding. "Fine. To satisfy my curiosity, I'll get in your car."

Not long after she got in his car, Madeline's phone rang. She looked at the screen and saw that it was Meredith. She was definitely calling to ask about the aromatherapy kit.

Madeline looked at Jeremy who was driving the car as she answered the call, even switching on the speaker. Meredith's questions could quickly be heard.

"It's been a few days. Where's the aromatherapy kit I asked for? What have you been doing after receiving my money?"

The car was already very quiet, and thanks to the speaker, Jeremy could clearly hear what was being said. He was already starting to feel that the voice was familiar when Meredith spoke yet again, "I'm warning you, if you don't give me the product in three days, I'll report you to the police for fraud!"

Madeline calmly replied in a low voice, "If you can wait, then wait. If you can't wait, then don't bother looking for me. I don't need your money."

"You…"

Madeline hung up before Meredith could even say anything else, immediately refunding her payment.

After the car quietened down, Jeremy curiously asked, "Who was that on the phone just now?"

Even though he knew it was Meredith, he still found it strange that Meredith would give such a phone call to Vera. He even heard Meredith mentioning an aromatherapy kit.

Madeline casually smiled. "It's just an unreasonable customer."

"Customer? Other than managing the jewelry shop, do you have other businesses as well?" Jeremy looked at Madeline with interest.

Seeing that Jeremy was interested, Madeline let out a mysterious smile. "Mr. Whitman, you'll find out very quickly."

Hearing that answer, Jeremy smiled and did not press on.

In Madeline's eyes, it was quite funny. When had he ever smiled at her when they were together in the past?

'Jeremy Whitman, you really are living a good life. It seems like my death really was a good thing for you.'

As she was thinking that, Jeremy's phone started to ring.

Jeremy looked at the screen and ignored it, but the phone kept on ringing. He finally put on his Bluetooth headset in annoyance.

"What is it?" Jeremy asked coldly.

Madeline heard the sharp shrieking voice of a woman on the other end of the call. She thought that the voice was quite familiar, and after listening closely, she realized it was Rose.

"Jeremy, Meredith left a note and went missing. She said she's exhausted and depressed. She said she's going to the place where she first met you for some peace and quiet. I really don't know where you first met her. Hurry and go see if Meredith is really there. Don't let anything happen to her!"

Madeline could clearly hear the words that were said toward the end.

She had long gotten used to Meredith's usual tricks.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0171

Meredith had just called her a moment ago, and her tone was quite aggressive. How did she sound even remotely like someone who might do something stupid?

However, she saw that Jeremy's face was solemn. He seemed to have believed it and was now concerned about Meredith's safety.

"If Mr. Whitman is busy, I can just get off right now."

Jeremy looked at Madeline, seemingly hesitating. It took him a while before he stopped the car.

Madeline got down from the car quite briskly, waving to Jeremy after. "Mr. Whitman, see you another time."

After that, she turned around and left.

Jeremy did not leave immediately and looked at her walking away with his rearview mirror as he replayed the scene earlier in his head.

Why did he so frantically reach out for her? That answer was quite clear in his heart.

It was only until Madeline heard the car moving did she stop to look back.

She immediately hailed a taxi to tail after Jeremy's car. She did not expect that the car would go all the way to April Hill.

This place held one of her happiest memories. It was the place where she met Jeremy for the first time when she was still young.

She wondered why he suddenly came here, but she was even more curious as to why he had held her so tightly as he called her 'Maddie' earlier.

Before she could dwell on it, she saw a woman standing next to the shore.

It was Meredith.

Madeline smiled. It turned out that they had met here for the first time as well.

When Meredith saw Jeremy approaching, she started to sob as she looked at him.

"Jeremy, do you still remember the first time we met?" she asked him, but Jeremy looked at her with an expressionless face.

"We were so happy here back then. You said you'd marry me and treat me well for the rest of my life. You said you'd protect me, and I believed it. I've been waiting for so many years, thinking that it would finally happen. I never expected that despite all that's happened between us, we'd still not truly be together." She wiped away her tears pitifully while walking over to Jeremy.

"Jeremy, have you stopped loving me? Was it Madeline's slanderous words before she died that affected you? Is that why you don't want to be together with me or marry me anymore?

"If that's true, then let's just let everything end here…"

Meredith turned around and started to walk toward the sea after that.

Jeremy looked at her for a good while before reaching out to pull her wrist.

Meredith happily smiled as she took the chance to fall into his embrace. "Jeremy, I knew that I'm still in your heart. These few years, I didn't mind even if people called me a homewrecker. I'm content as long as I can be with you!"

Madeline stood on the road in the distance, looking at the two of them hugging with a sneer on her face.

The sea breeze was blowing, bringing a wet and salty taste to her lips.

The sunlight shone brightly, and the tranquil sea looked as if thousands of stars were shining on it.

It was a perfect scene.

However, Madeline felt exceptionally disgusted by it.

She turned around and left, but at this exact moment, Jeremy looked up and saw her.

The sun was very bright, preventing him from seeing clearly, but he got a good look at that face.

Madeline?

He pushed Meredith away who was trying to lean further into his embrace and turned around to chase after the other woman.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0172

Madeline got on a taxi at the side of the road before leaving immediately. As she looked at the signs on the road, the words 'April Hill' hurt her eyes.

She suddenly felt that the cleanliness in her heart had been polluted.

How filthy.

When Jeremy finally caught up, he did not see Madeline at all and only saw a car moving along the roads of April Hill in the distance.

His mood sank again, sinking into the sea next to April Hill.

'She's gone.

'She left three years ago.'

He reminded himself again, but he had never accepted that fact in the first place.

"Jeremy, what's wrong?" Meredith hurriedly ran after him, not understanding Jeremy's actions or expression.

Jeremy glanced at her, his voice sounding distant. "Get in the car."

Meredith hurriedly got into the car. Her show had concluded, and she planned on cashing in on it.

"Jeremy, it's my birthday the day after tomorrow. I'm actually quite content just being by your side, but Jack is growing up. He's starting to understand a lot of things, and I'm worried that others will call him a b*stard, so… let's get married."

Jeremy suddenly lifted his foot off the gas pedal and shot a distant gaze at Meredith's tearful eyes. "Can you give me an honest answer to my question?"

Meredith was quite shocked by Jeremy's gaze, but on the surface, she maintained her innocent facade. "Jeremy, I'll tell you everything you want to know."

"Did you know before I did that Madeline was pregnant?"

She did not expect that Jeremy would ask that question. A look of shock flashed across Meredith's face, but she quickly shook her head.

"Madeline never talked to me about her pregnancy."

"Is that true?" Jeremy asked meaningfully. After that, he stepped on the gas pedal again. His gaze caused Meredith to feel uneasy.

She clenched her fists in silence, cursing at Vera in her head. That woman was a thorn in her side. If that woman had not suddenly appeared, Meredith was certain that Jeremy would not suddenly suspect her or think about Madeline!

After Jeremy dropped Meredith off at the Montgomery household, he went to the cemetery alone.

As the evening sunlight fell on his back, the summer winds blew past the branches and brushed against his face.

Jeremy slowly walked to the front of a tombstone, bending down as he placed a bouquet of 88 roses in front of it.

Roses represented love, and 88 roses represented remorse.

Alas, remorse was the most useless thing on earth.

What was the point of his belated love?

Looking at the name on the plaque, Jeremy lit a cigarette. As the sun started to set, night soon fell, obscuring his expression.

The next day, Madeline went back to the shop and noticed someone in the VIP room after sending her little girl to school.

Ever since she came back to life and had her eyesight restored, she spent an entire year establishing her own brand—Miss L.ady.

She personally designed every piece of jewelry. Since the designs were unique, they were very well received. Her business boomed because of that, quickly becoming a household name internationally. She received quite a few famous VIP customers thanks to that.

That was why the person who was browsing the limited edition jewelry in the VIP room could be considered as a high-class member.

Madeline was about to greet the person inside and express her gratitude, but she suddenly heard a familiar voice.

Her feet suddenly felt like lead as her footsteps became abnormally heavy.

"I definitely want this set. Do you have anything else? How could one set be enough for my daughter's birthday?" Eloise's voice was filled with endless love for Meredith.

Madeline thought that with her giving up on Jeremy, her yearning for parental love would be gone as well. She did not expect that her heart would suddenly hurt so much.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0173

Her mother…

No, she was Meredith's mother.

Madeline laughed at herself mockingly, her mind filled with the scenes of Eloise and Sean slapping her in the face for the sake of protecting Meredith.

She even remembered that last kick from Sean which caused her to spit out blood.

They never looked at her until the end.

Madeline's grip on the door was extremely tight, and at that moment, Eloise took out her phone to give Meredith a call.

"Mer, you can come out now. I'll bring you for a spa session later, then we can look for something to wear. It's your birthday tomorrow, and Jeremy will propose to you as well. I want to make sure you'll look the prettiest you can be. I'll turn you into the most dazzling princess in the world. Dear, you'll always be my precious daughter."

Princess? Precious daughter?

Ah.

Madeline wanted to laugh hearing all that. She no longer wanted to continue listening.

She turned around, but she did not see that one of her employees was carrying coffee and snacks over.

With a clank, the cups and tray all fell to the floor.

"I'm so sorry, Miss Vera, so sorry!" The employee frantically apologized.

Madeline knew she was the one at fault for being distracted, so she consoled him and said, "No need to apologize. It's not your fault."

The moment she finished saying that, she saw that Eloise had walked out.

"What happened?" Eloise asked curiously, lifting her gaze to look at Madeline who was standing by the door. "You are—"

"This is our store manager, Miss Quinn." The staff member explained briefly.

Madeline's back was turned toward Eloise, she softly said, "I'm terribly sorry. I have an important matter to attend to. All of you make sure you treat our customers well. I'm heading off."

After leaving, Madeline's thoughts were still on Eloise and Meredith's call earlier.

Looking at the cars coming and going in the bustling city, a deep smile presented itself on her face.

Thanks to Meredith's current status, her birthday celebration was going to be very grand and plenty of influential, rich people were invited.

After all, Meredith wanted to use public pressure to force Jeremy to propose to her on that day.

Meredith spent the whole morning putting on her custom-made gown and fixing her makeup as she put on her luxury branded jewelry. She wanted to make sure that her entire being would look immaculate tonight.

She stood at the balcony as she looked down on the guests who were conversing with each other. From her high vantage point, she immediately spotted Jeremy's car stopping in front of the main gate. She hurried down to receive him.

She had thought that since it was a special day, Jeremy would have formal attire on, but disappointingly, he only had casual wear on.

Even so, he was still unrivaled when it came to looks.

Meredith was a little unhappy, but she still went to receive him with a bright smile on her face.

"Jeremy, you're here," she said, "Jeremy, do you know? As long as I see you, I'll be exceptionally happy."

"As long as you're happy," Jeremy replied coolly.

Meredith felt like there was a hidden meaning to his words, but she did not dare press the matter.

She followed Jeremy into the garden as a tall, seven-layered cake was pushed out. The cake was beautiful beyond compare, and on top of it were the figures of a newlywed couple.

The crowd surrounded them as Eloise and Sean gave him a push. "Jeremy, my precious daughter has been waiting for you to propose for so long. Shouldn't you finally make a move?"

"Jeremy, it's Meredith's birthday today. Why don't you make use of this happy occasion to propose?"

"Propose! Propose!" the crowd started to chant as well.

Meredith looked at Jeremy with an embarrassed face. "Jeremy…"

Right as she spoke, a melodious and graceful female voice could be heard in the distance.

"Miss Montgomery's birthday really is quite sensational. There's even a proposal going on? It looks like I didn't come here tonight for naught."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0174

Meredith had a shy look on as she waited for Jeremy's response. Her mood was soaring.

She never expected that just as everyone was shouting for Jeremy to propose, an unwelcome voice would be heard.

Meredith's smile froze on her face as she clenched her teeth in dissatisfaction. She said, "Why is she here?!"

Jeremy immediately turned around when he heard the voice, and the face he had been dreaming of every night entered his sight.

Following that, everyone else looked toward the direction where the voice had come from as well. A graceful and beautiful woman entered their sights, but once they took a clear look at her face, Eloise and Sean widened their eyes in shock!

"This… Madeline?! How… How is that possible?" Eloise's face was pale, obviously scared as she unconsciously took a step backward. If not for Sean supporting her, she might have fainted from shock.

A dead person had appeared in front of them, so it was only natural that she was scared.

Sean was also taken aback, but he was still a man and had never done another against his conscience. That was why he was not as scared as Eloise.

To him, it was a person in front of them. It was impossible for her to be a ghost.

However, Madeline had clearly died, so how could she be right here?

It was one thing if she was not dead, but was she here to cause a scene again? He would not allow that woman to bully his precious daughter!

Meredith had thought that she would definitely be the center of attention that day, but with the sudden appearance of Vera, she suddenly felt like she had been sidelined.

Meredith raised her hand, about to pull at Jeremy's sleeve, but she saw that Jeremy had already started walking toward Vera.

"Jeremy…" Meredith called out to him with a wounded look, but he did not stop.

Madeline had a gown on, and her elegant figure was complemented with the refined smile on her face. Her exceptional looks were also accompanied by a graceful demeanor.

Looking at Vera, thoughts of Madeline filled Jeremy's head.

They looked exactly alike, which meant that Madeline was just as beautiful last time. It was just that he had never paid her any attention back then and never really appreciated her beauty…

"Mr. Whitman." Madeline greeted. "It looks like it was right for me to come here today. I've never seen an actual proposal in all my years alive. It looks like I'll get to experience one today."

Looking at her beautiful face, Jeremy said, "Then I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you."

"Oh?" Madeline raised her eyebrow.

"Miss Quinn, why did you come to my house so suddenly?" Meredith put on a smile as she faked a curious face.

Madeline smiled back. "I heard that it's Miss Montgomery's birthday today, so I came here bearing gifts."

Meredith's expression changed into one of surprise. "How did you know it's my birthday today? We're not that familiar with each other, so how could I receive your gifts?"

In her mind, she could not help but think back to her engagement with Jeremy three years ago. Madeline had also appeared similarly, claiming to have come bearing gifts. In the end, the engagement ceremony did not conclude. She certainly did not want her birthday to be ruined in the same way.

Madeline looked at Jeremy and smiled. "I know because someone cares for you a lot."

Hearing that, Meredith glanced at Jeremy, thinking that he was the one who told her.

Even if she was not happy that Jeremy was close to that woman, those words still made her feel quite happy.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0175

Madeline's next words rained on Meredith's parade very quickly. "Yes, I'm obviously referring to your mother."

"What?" Meredith looked like she had been slapped in the face. "What does this have to do with my mom?"

"Yesterday, your mother came to my shop to buy two sets of jewelry for you." Madeline explained calmly.

Meredith finally understood, but she had lost her smile.

Looking at the scene, Eloise and Sean exchanged a look. "What did Meredith call Madeline? Miss Quinn?"

Sean was also filled with doubt, not knowing what was happening. The moment they saw Madeline face Meredith, the two of them immediately walked over as they were afraid that Madeline would do something to Meredith.

Upon walking closer, they heard Jeremy say to Madeline, "Since you're here, come in and have something to eat."

"No! How can we let that woman into our home?!" Sean hurriedly shouted.

Madeline ignored the wave of hurt and continued smiling while looking toward the source of the voice.

In front of her were her mother and father, but they were staring at her with even more intense hatred than three years ago.

Madeline suspected that she must have accumulated a lot of bad karma to warrant being tortured so much in this life.

"These two must be Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery? Let me introduce myself, I'm Vera Quinn." She smiled as she offered her name card.

Eloise and Sean looked over the name card before sizing Madeline up with a suspicious gaze once more.

"You're not Madeline? How could that be? How could two people look so alike?" Eloise mumbled.

Sean had his doubts as well. "You're called Vera?"

"Yes." Madeline nodded earnestly. "This is my first time in Glendale."

"Impossible!" Eloise denied it, staring at Madeline. "How could there be two people who look so similar in this world?"

"There are many miracles in the world. I heard that the two of you managed to find your long lost daughter after over 20 years, isn't that a miracle as well?" Madeline asked with a smile.

Eloise did not know what to say to that and merely smiled coldly. "Madeline, stop lying! You never died! Back then, you were just putting on a show for us in order to ruin Jeremy and Meredith's engagement! With your sudden appearance today as well, it's obvious you're trying to do the same thing. Madeline, you've never changed. How despicable…"

"Enough." Jeremy suddenly interrupted angrily, his tone extremely harsh.

Eloise was shocked into silence and looked at Jeremy in surprise. She saw that Jeremy's face was ice-cold as if a layer of frost had formed over his features.

"I don't want to hear anything like that again." He looked at the innocent-looking Madeline. "They're clearly two different people. You should be careful of how you speak. Respect others and respect yourself as well."

"Mom, Dad, Jeremy's right. Miss Vera really isn't Madeline. Madeline left us forever three years ago…" Meredith faked a tear when she said that. Then, she introduced them, saying, "Mom, Dad, she's Vera Quinn. I've met her before. She's completely different from Madeline and they're clearly separate people."

Eloise and Sean's expressions changed as they apologized to Madeline. "Since Meredith and Jeremy have said so, then it must be true. Please forgive us, Miss Quinn."

Meredith smiled. "I'm already quite used to this."

Eloise and Sean paused awkwardly. "Since Miss Vera is friends with Jeremy and Meredith, then please come inside and witness Jeremy's proposal to Meredith."

"Very well." Madeline smiled, sending a meaningful look toward Meredith. "This is the present I picked out for Miss Montgomery. I prepared it in a bit of a rush, but I hope you'll like it."

Meredith wanted to reject it, but to keep up her gentle appearance, she accepted Madeline's gift with a smile. "Thank you."

After that, she pulled on Jeremy's sleeve. "Jeremy, let's go in. We shouldn't keep the other guests waiting."

"Indeed, the two of you head inside first." Eloise and Sean urged, their expressions full of happiness. "Make use of the happy occasion today and quickly set a date for your marriage."

Meredith smiled shyly at Jeremy. "Jeremy, I can finally marry you and become your bride."

Looking at Meredith's smiling face, Madeline shot them a gentle smile as well.

As they returned to the garden, quite a few gazes fell onto Madeline, all of them trying to guess her status and origin.

Sensing all their attention on Madeline, Meredith started to get unhappy.

Seeing that Jeremy did not seem to be willing to propose today, Meredith had an unsettled feeling. It would be quite embarrassing if it did not come to pass today.

With that in mind, she turned to Eloise and Sean before saying, "Mom, Dad, I'm feeling a bit unwell. I want to go back to my room to rest."

Eloise and Sean walked over, full of concern for her. "What's wrong? Are you alright?"

"I'm okay. Could the two of you take care of the guests?" Meredith smiled gently. "Jeremy, could you accompany me back to my room?"

Jeremy did not agree immediately. Instead, he looked at Madeline. "Miss Vera, please make yourself at home. I have something to see you about later."

Madeline smiled and nodded.

Staring at that scene, Meredith turned around and headed inside with a dark look on her face.

Looking at the retreating backs, Madeline calmly made a move as well.

No one minded her, and even her own parents did not spare her a glance.

Madeline walked through the luxurious courtyard alone, admiring the scenery around the villa as she stepped on the pavement.

Even if it was not the greatest of mansions, it was still significantly luxurious and splendid.

If it was not for the mistake that happened over 20 years ago, this would have been the garden where she grew up in.

Madeline did not know how she was lost all those years ago but wondered if it was just her fate.

However, she knew very clearly what her goal was today.

She walked for a while, then slipped into the house when no one was paying attention to her.

The moment she stepped inside, Madeline could hear the chilling sounds of a crying woman.

Madeline was once on the brink of death herself, so she did not carry a shred of fear in her, only curiosity. She wondered why someone was hiding in the corner, crying away at this time.

Following the voice, she spotted a middle-aged woman wiping away her tears in the corner. In her hands was a photograph.

"Brittany, oh my Brit…" The woman continued sobbing.

Brittany?

Madeline immediately thought of Brittany Montgomery.

"Brit, today should have been your birthday, but you were murdered by that despicable woman, Madeline! That woman deserves to die. You were so kind and smart, you shouldn't have left so early…"

It was Brittany Montgomery.

That woman was certain that Madeline was Brittany's murderer.

What Madeline could not understand was why she was sobbing so much for Brittany?

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0177

Looking at her attire, she did not seem like a servant of the Montgomeries, and neither did she look like a guest, so who was she?

Madeline did not have the chance to think about it. She hurried upstairs when she saw that the woman was wiping away her tears and preparing to leave.

Before she could clear the mystery in her head, Madeline heard Meredith's voice coming from inside one of the rooms.

She walked toward the room and stood outside. She did not know how Meredith did it, but she heard her voice shout out in elation, "Jeremy, I'm so happy. Marrying you is my greatest wish in life!"

It would seem that Jeremy really was going to propose to Meredith, and they were going to be married quite soon.

"I'll definitely fulfill my promises." Jeremy's voice followed, sounding like someone who always kept their promises.

Madeline felt like those words were grating against her ears. 'Jeremy, when have you ever fulfilled your promises to me?

'You destroyed everything that I waited and hoped for from you for over ten years. You even wanted to end my life in the end, and yet here you are, living a happy life with another woman.

'I won't allow you such happiness.'

Madeline clenched her fists, quickly hiding when she heard the sound of approaching footsteps.

"I'll go downstairs first. You should wipe away your tears and redo your makeup before coming down." Jeremy walked out of the room.

Once he went downstairs, Madeline returned to her original spot.

When she looked inside, she quickly spotted Meredith doing her makeup in front of the dressing table with a victorious smile on her face.

As she enjoyed herself, she suddenly remembered something and turned around to unwrap the present Madeline had given her.

When Meredith opened it, her face immediately sunk.

"A mirror?" Meredith did not understand, but she viciously threw the mirror on the floor the next second. "Vera Quinn! Where did that sl*t come from?! Does she think she can seduce Jeremy just because she's pretty? That's right, she's quite good looking, but alas, she looks exactly like Madeline. Jeremy will only feel disgusted looking at her!"

Meredith clenched her teeth in anger. "Who do you think you are, trying to steal Jeremy from me?! Jeremy will never marry anyone other than me!"

Meredith had an ace up her sleeve as she smiled. "I have a trump card! With this trump card, no one can stop me!"

Madeline looked away, not batting an eyelid.

Trump card?

Did she mean Jackson Whitman?

'Oh Meredith, so what if you have a trump card? The day you saw my comeback was the beginning of the end for you.' Meredith sneered as she walked downstairs gracefully.

When she reached downstairs, she stumbled upon the returning Jeremy.

Seeing her, he furrowed his eyebrows. He walked toward her as he asked, "Why are you in the house?"

Madeline shot him an innocent look as she said, "I'm looking for the washroom, but I couldn't find it."

She looked around as she said that, catching a glimpse of Meredith exiting her room.

Remembering how tightly Jeremy held her the other day, Madeline did not hesitate as she acted like she tripped, making herself fall to the side.

Madeline could not deny that it was a gamble, but she won the bet. Jeremy sped over just like that day, holding her tightly.

Madeline had a shocked look on her face as she locked eyes with Jeremy, but she noticed Jeremy was looking at her face with a lost look. That look was very complicated and hard to make out.

She laughed coldly in her heart.

'Ah, Jeremy, are you remembering your dead wife again?'

"Jeremy!" Meredith's screech could be heard, causing Madeline to feel like her eardrums were about to be ruptured. The next second, her arm was forcefully pulled aside. "Vera, you sl*t! So this is how you're seducing my fiancé!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0178

Meredith raised her voice. It was probably the first time she had been so hysterical in front of Jeremy.

She wildly pulled at Madeline who was in Jeremy's embrace, shrieking. "Vera Quinn! I knew you didn't have good intentions. Giving me a present? You're clearly here to seduce Jeremy!"

Madeline was getting quite annoyed with Meredith's high-pitched voice. If it was not for the fact that she had a plan, she would probably have slapped Meredith.

However, Madeline did not do so and instead frowned in mock dizziness. "Miss Crawford, you're mistaken."

"I'm not mistaken! I saw it with my own eyes! You despicable woman!" As Meredith shouted, she decided to send her palm straight toward Madeline's face.

Smack!

Meredith's palm did not find her target. Instead, it was grabbed firmly by Jeremy.

Jeremy's eyes coldly looked at the hysterical Meredith. "I was just helping her up. Do you have to shout at her like that?"

His voice was so cold that Meredith almost cried from hearing it.

"Jeremy, you've never talked to me like this before…" Meredith started to cry as she said that.

Jeremy released his hand, his expression still serious. "I've talked like this before. You don't have to read into it, but your actions just now really crossed the line. Apologize to Miss Vera."

Madeline widened her eyes in disbelief. "What? You want me to apologize?"

She clenched her teeth as she looked at Madeline. "I will not apologize to her!"

"It's fine, there's no need to apologize. It's my fault for not keeping my balance," Madeline said softly before turning to the angry Meredith. "Miss Crawford, I'm sorry for causing you grief."

"Vera, quit your acting! Do you think I don't know what intentions you have for Jeremy? Who are you to even apologize to me?"

"You're still going!" Jeremy interrupted her coldly, staring at Meredith with ice in his eyes.

"Today is your birthday, and Miss Vera is a guest. Are you supposed to treat your guests like this? Apologize immediately."

Meredith acted like the victim as her eyes reddened. "I won't apologize to her! She clearly did it on purpose!"

On purpose!

Madeline smirked subtly. She really did do it on purpose.

'Don't forget, Meredith, this is just what you taught me!

'That day, you held onto the divorce papers and humiliated me in front of Jeremy. You provoked me and even pretended to be pushed down by me to mislead Jeremy. You made him force me to apologize to you, have you forgotten that?

'You might have forgotten it, but I'll never forget that my whole life!'

Flames of vengeance burned brightly in Madeline's heart as she looked at the expression Meredith had on at the moment with extreme satisfaction.

"Fine, if you won't apologize, I'll just leave right now." Jeremy turned around and looked toward Madeline's face. "Miss Vera, would you be willing to accompany me?"

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows awkwardly. "Well..."

"Don't go, Jeremy!" Meredith grabbed onto Jeremy with a worried look. "Jeremy, don't leave. You're right. Today's my birthday and I shouldn't treat my guests this way, but I only lost myself because I love you too much!"

Meredith refused to let go of Jeremy's arm, reluctantly saying, "Jeremy, I can do anything as long as you're happy. I'll apologize right now!"

She turned to Madeline as she said that.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0179

Even though her eyes were filled with hatred, Meredith still managed to put on her signature mask as she smiled gently.

"I'm sorry, Miss Quinn. I just love my fiancé too much and lost my composure for a moment. I hope you don't mind."

Madeline smiled back. "I can see how much you care for Mr. Whitman. I can understand how you feel. I always get jealous when my boyfriend gets too close to other women as well."

Hearing that, Madeline could feel a subtle change in both Jeremy and Meredith's gazes.

"Miss Quinn, you have a boyfriend?" Meredith somewhat managed to recover a bit of her smile.

Madeline laughed gracefully. "Yes." She nodded softly, pretending to accidentally meet Jeremy's gaze.

Seeing that Jeremy's gaze was still on Madeline, Meredith hurriedly shifted the topic. "So Miss Quinn has a boyfriend. Why don't you call him over and we can get to know each other."

"He's temporarily not in Glendale, but I'll definitely introduce all of you if we have the chance." Madeline smiled brightly.

Meredith did not continue and wiped away her tears as she once again put on a warm smile. "Jeremy, let's go. We shouldn't make everyone wait."

Jeremy did not utter a word. All he did was pull back his arm and walk outside.

Meredith's smile faded a bit, but she did not care as she chased after him. "Jeremy, you won't disappoint me, right? You promised me you'd propose when we were in the room!"

Madeline heard Meredith pleading with Jeremy.

She was quite curious, wondering if something had happened in these three years that caused Jeremy to stop adoring Meredith as much.

However, he still liked Meredith. Otherwise, she would not be able to remain by his side for so long.

Even so, Madeline had a feeling that Jeremy had begun to be interested in her, even if she did not know what he was actually thinking.

Madeline was quite certain that her face had successfully attracted Jeremy's attention.

That was the first step toward her revenge.

She followed them into the garden, but as she walked, she suddenly felt as if someone was silently observing her.

She turned around but failed to notice anything.

It was only until she left the house when the person who was hiding behind the walls walked out, casting a venomous and hateful gaze on Madeline's back.

'Madeline!

'You're still alive!'

When Jeremy and Meredith returned to the public eye, they were once again surrounded by those who were pushing for a proposal.

Meredith maintained her shy look as she sweetly stood next to Jeremy. Her smile was full of confidence, confident that Jeremy would definitely propose to her. This caused Madeline a lot of annoyance.

"Jeremy, Mer is waiting for you to pop the question!" Eloise said.

"It looks like I'll have a son-in-law soon," Sean said happily.

Looking at her own parents fighting so hard for the happiness of their fake daughter, Madeline could not help but laugh.

She averted her gaze and saw Meredith leaning into Jeremy. "Jeremy…" She urged him.

Madeline felt like it was about time. She looked at Jeremy who was about to say something as she casually took out her phone and placed it against her ear, saying, "Really? I miss you too. I'll go over right now, so wait for me."

She could feel Jeremy's gaze on her when she was done talking.

Madeline let out a smile as she headed toward the entrance. She had not even taken a few steps when she heard Meredith's desperate shouts, "Jeremy, Jeremy! What's wrong? Where are you going—"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0180

Meredith's voice shook as she said, "Jeremy, don't go. Where are you going? Our marriage—"

"I don't have the mood today," Jeremy replied coolly, pulling his hand away from Meredith's grip.

"Jeremy!" Meredith continued to shout, but Jeremy had already left.

The Montgomeries and the guests did not understand what they just saw.

However, they could clearly see Jeremy's attitude. He was very obviously frustrated with something.

The crowd was suddenly suspicious. Jeremy did not seem to love Meredith as much as the rumors seemed to claim. Otherwise, why did their marriage keep getting delayed? Even today, Jeremy left Meredith just for the simple reason that he was not in the mood.

Meredith lifted her dress as she chased after him. She saw that Madeline was walking in front and Jeremy had driven his car next to her, opening the door for Madeline like a gentleman as he invited her in before leaving.

Meredith tightly grabbed onto her dress at the sight of the scene, and in her eyes was a murderous rage.

"Vera Quinn!" she uttered the name with her teeth clenched, so angry that even her lips were trembling.

Madeline was actually not certain that Jeremy would have followed her, but he not only left Meredith behind, he even invited her into his car.

He drove the car around, finally stopping at the beach next to April Hill.

Madeline was quite surprised, but when she recalled Jeremy and Meredith embracing each other at the beach here, she felt a bit disgusted.

She was forced to get out of the car when Jeremy opened the door for her.

As the summer breeze blew past them, the scent reminded her of her youth.

She suddenly heard the sound of a lighter and turned around to see Jeremy holding a cigarette.

He casually leaned against his car as his alluring lips let out a puff, the white smoke obscuring his flawless looks.

His expression seemed melancholic.

She wondered when he started to smoke. In her memory, it was not a habit he used to have.

"Mr. Whitman, why did you leave your fiancé behind and bring me here?" Madeline looked at him with a perplexed expression. "I have an appointment with someone, so I can't stay here too long."

Jeremy looked over, his smile reaching his eyes. "With your boyfriend, Miss Vera?"

Madeline nodded. "You even managed to guess that?"

"It's not just women who have a sixth sense. Men have their intuition as well." He smiled. A strong flirtatious tone could be heard in his voice as he continued speaking, "My intuition also tells me that you're interested in me."

Madeline was not shocked by what Jeremy said, but she was quite surprised that he said it so bluntly at that moment.

She did not have a shred of panic as she smiled serenely. "A perfect and successful man like Mr. Whitman would attract attention without fail. It's just a pity that we met at the wrong time," Madeline said that with a sorry look on her face, but Jeremy suddenly walked in front of her. His breath closed in on her, carrying the faint smell of cigarettes.

His gaze was deeply alluring as it swam across Madeline's face. Slowly, his expression changed from the usual sharp and cold look to one of strange tenderness.

"Are you suspecting that I'm your ex-wife Madeline? Is that why you're giving me so much attention?" Madeline said calmly, "If I remember correctly, you hate your ex-wife quite a bit. I even heard that you didn't shed a single tear when she died. It seems like Madeline was quite the horrid person…"

Jeremy snapped back to reality when he heard that, and a fake smile was on his face as he turned around to look at the vast sea.

"She was quite horrible indeed," Jeremy said softly.

'That's right, she was quite horrible for leaving just like that, not even giving me the chance to say goodbye.'

She was horrible for leaving just like that, leaving him with countless sleepless nights spent thinking about her.

After hearing Jeremy say that, Madeline could not help but feel angry.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0181

She smiled coldly. "If that's the case, then why did you befriend a woman who looks exactly like her? Wouldn't you be disgusted looking at my face?"

Jeremy turned around, looking at Madeline with an alluring gaze. "Miss Vera, your face is beautiful."

Yes, that face was beautiful.

Just as beautiful as she was.

No, she was just a little bit more beautiful.

Her face had a simple and genuine quality, perfect in its serenity.

Jeremy looked at the face in front of him as if he was only able to fill his empty heart that way.

Suddenly, the phone rang, stopping his admiration. He looked at the screen and wanted to reject it, but he still answered in the end. "What is it?"

The breeze was too strong, so Madeline could not hear what was being said on the other end, but she heard Jeremy's unwilling reply. "I'll return right now."

Madeline had thought that Jeremy would drop her off on the way, but he did not stop until he reached a familiar street. In the end, the car stopped in front of the Whitman household.

Madeline felt like Jeremy was still suspicious of her identity, which is why he brought her here.

However, she had long since made preparations for an encounter with the Whitmans.

When Mrs. Whitman heard the car, she walked out. Looking at Madeline getting out of the car, she had a look of panic and shock as she retreated. "Ah! It's a ghost! Ghost!"

Madeline smiled at that. "Mr. Whitman, I told you to drop me on the way. See, I've scared someone off again."

Mrs. Whitman ran right behind Jeremy while pointing at Madeline. "Jeremy, what is this?! Shouldn't this woman be dead? How is she alive?"

Jeremy frowned. "She's called Vera Quinn. She grew up in F Country, and it's her first time in Glendale."

"Hello, I'm Vera Quinn." Madeline introduced herself.

"Is that true?" Mrs.Whitman asked suspiciously, "Our future in-laws called me earlier to tell me about someone who looks exactly like Madeline. I even thought they were mistaken…"

As she said that, she pulled Jeremy aside. "Jeremy, what happened? They told me you left Meredith behind during her birthday party. She's still crying even now. Surely you didn't leave her alone for this woman?"

Mrs. Whitman cast a sideways glance at Madeline, but the moment she met Madeline's beautiful eyes, she withdrew in shock.

"That's my own problem," Jeremy said coolly before looking at Madeline. "Follow me inside."

"Is that okay?" Madeline hesitated.

Jeremy nodded. "Come."

Madeline then walked in without hesitation, scaring Mrs. Whitman into retreating when she walked past her.

Looking at Mrs. Whitman's panicked expressions, Madeline smiled.

Was she afraid now?

It was still too early for that.

Thinking about what Mrs. Whitman had done to Madeline, the worst had yet to come.

Madeline followed Jeremy closely and entered the hall. She immediately heard an old man say in a heavy accent, "Jeremy, you brat! Tell me what's happening!"

"You didn't appreciate Madeline back then and insisted on being with that mistress no matter what. I only agreed to this marriage because of Jackson, so what's the meaning of that stunt you pulled today?! Tell me what you left your precious mistress behind for!"

Hearing that, Madeline felt exceptionally fond.

Her eyes could not help but heat up when she heard the old master call out her name.

Before she could even process it, her hand was pulled over by Jeremy. "Grandpa, don't be mad. Look who I brought over to see you."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0182

Jeremy whispered a few words to Madeline before bringing her to Old Master Whitman.

Old Master Whitman was already quite old, so his eyesight was not too good. All he could see was Jeremy pulling a long-haired woman over. However, the moment Madeline was in front of him, his eyes widened in disbelief as he gripped his cane and stood up from the sofa.

"You… You are… Maddie?" the old man asked in disbelief as his trembling right hand reached out to her, seemingly trying to test if it was an actual 'human' in front of him.

Madeline looked at his hopeful gaze and could not help but feel sad. However, there was a hint of sweetness within that sadness.

There was still someone who cared about her here!

She smiled as she reached out to hold the old man's hands. "Grandpa."

"Are you really Maddie?" the old man asked excitedly.

Mrs. Whitman watched by the side with a suspicious gaze.

"Grandpa, of course she is," Jeremy said, helping Madeline answer.

Seeing that, Mrs. Whitman's expression changed. "What? She really is Madeline? Jeremy, didn't you say that…"

She was interrupted by a cold look from Jeremy before she could finish.

Old Master Whitman ignored Mrs. Whitman's words as he held Madeline's hands tightly, pulling her to the side.

His face was full of adoration. Those eyes that had seen all that could be seen were gazing at Madeline, full of warmth and love.

"Maddie, it really is Maddie. It's great that you're alive…" he muttered. It was obvious that he was really happy.

Madeline's face was smiling calmly, but her heart was in turmoil.

In this world, other than that man and Ava, only Old Master Whitman really treated her like family.

The old man had been quite weak in recent years and could not even walk normally. He usually needed to be in a wheelchair, but the moment he saw Madeline, his spirits were lifted several folds.

Madeline maintained her smile and occasionally nodded her head, but she was obviously careful not to do anything that would cast suspicion onto herself.

She could feel that Jeremy was definitely still suspecting her of something.

The old man said he wanted to bring Madeline into the garden to look at the flowers, so Madeline followed.

Seeing that Jeremy was going as well, Mrs. Whitman hurriedly pulled him over. "Jeremy, what is the meaning of this? Is she really Madeline? How could that woman still be alive?"

Hearing Mrs. Whitman's words, Jeremy's expression frosted. "I wish she was still alive."

Seeing Jeremy's unhappiness, Mrs. Whitman said, "So you mean that woman really isn't Madeline? Then why—"

"Grandpa hasn't been well lately, and his spirits have been quite down. Don't you want Grandpa to cheer up?" Jeremy gave a very good reason.

However, only he knew his true goal.

Old Master Whitman talked to Madeline for a long time, but he never asked her where she went in the three years she was gone.

When Jeremy was going to bring Madeline away, Old Man Whitman carefully looked at Madeline before giving out a caring smile. "Maddie, even though you've divorced Jeremy, our doors will always be open to you. As long as you're willing, I'll always be your grandpa."

Hearing that, Madeline was filled with gratitude and warmth.

On the surface, she pretended to look at Jeremy with disinterest before smiling softly. "Thank you, Grandpa. I'll be taking my leave, then."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0183

Old Master Whitman nodded, casting a meaningful look at Madeline as if he had seen through something.

In the car, Jeremy spoke first, "Miss Vera, thank you for fulfilling my unreasonable request."

"Since it's an unreasonable request, I hope there won't be a second time," Madeline said calmly, "Mr. Whitman, you've taken up a lot of my time. Could you please send me back immediately? You should also go back and console your fiancé."

Jeremy looked at Madeline and saw that her expression was cold and impatient. He said, "I'm really sorry for taking up your time with your boyfriend. I'll treat the two of you to a meal next time."

"That's not necessary. I'm afraid my boyfriend will get jealous." Madeline rejected.

Jeremy did not say anything else and headed back right after sending Madeline to the designated location.

Madeline stood next to the busy streets, looking down at her palms.

It felt like there was still some warmth in her hands.

Grandpa.

He actually still remembered her.

She smiled, feeling as if a lot of the wounds in her heart had just been healed.

That night, Madeline chanced upon news of Meredith's birthday party as she surfed the internet.

The scoop was that not only did Jeremy not propose to Meredith during her birthday, he even left Meredith for a mysterious woman.

Everyone was frantically discussing who the mysterious woman was, and there were also some who said that Jeremy never liked Meredith to begin with. It was just Meredith who clung to him incessantly.

Meredith had borrowed the influence of Jeremy and the Montgomeries to turn into quite a famous makeup influencer these three years, amassing several million fans for herself. When the news broke out, her brainwashed fans flooded in, all frantically protecting Meredith.

They said that Meredith and Jeremy were a match made in heaven, claiming that their engagement was already set three years ago.

They even dragged Madeline's name into it, claiming that their idol would have been married to Jeremy long ago if not for Madeline's evil and despicable actions.

Somehow, the topic changed just like that, turning all threads of discussion into attacks on Madeline.

Meredith instead turned into a poor victim who was tortured for many years.

Her fans gave their kind sentiments, flooding Jeremy's social media with them.

That was followed by more flaming of that mysterious girl and Madeline.

Madeline could imagine how happy Meredith was looking at those discussions online. She smirked as she left a message on Meredith's social media. 'Miss Crawford, do you like the gift I gave you?'

Not long after she sent that, Madeline was assaulted by an onslaught of foul private messages from many alternate accounts. The tone of those messages was exactly like how Meredith spoke.

Madeline casually made herself some coffee, feeling very satisfied while imagining Meredith's current furious expression. She also knew that Meredith would not let the matter rest.

During the weekend, Madeline brought Lilian into the shop. Lily had a beautiful princess dress on as she played in front of the door.

She had a beautiful glass bead in her hand and was happily playing with it when it suddenly slipped away. Lillian immediately ran after it, and as she was about to get it, the bead was suddenly stepped on.

"I thought I saw a familiar face. You're that thing that stuck to Jeremy at KFC that day!"

Lily looked up curiously, her large and innocent eyes blinking as she looked at Meredith and her friend who was smiling sinisterly.

"Aunty, are you calling me a thing?"

"Who's your aunt?!" Meredith's eyes widened. Looking at that small face that looked similar to Madeline's, her pent up rage surged. She raised her hand and aimed it at Lillian's face. "Shut up!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0184

Although Lily was not even three years old, she was very nimble.

Seeing that Meredith was about to hit her so maliciously, she immediately avoided her.

Meredith stretched her hand out, hitting the air. She became even more annoyed and stretched out her fingers to pinch Lily's face.

Lily opened her cute little mouth and unceremoniously bit the back of Meredith's hand.

"Ah!" Meredith screamed.

Lily loosened her mouth and blinked her big, beautiful eyes. "Aunty, my mommy said that those who like hitting children are bad people. Since you're a bad person, I can shout and hit you.

"What? What did you say?" Meredith had never expected that there would be such a day when she was actually lectured by a little girl who was not even three!

She was furious. Seeing Lily having turned and was walking toward the shop, Meredith hurriedly chased after her, forgetting at that moment that she was still stepping on the glazed bead under her feet. The glazed bead immediately rolled. Unable to hold herself steady, she fell down embarrassingly and pulled her friend beside her down to the ground as well.

"F*ck!"

Lily stopped. She turned her head around and stuck her tongue out at Meredith. "Tsk tsk tsk, bad aunty. Hmph, you shouldn't have bullied me."

The little girl then turned around proudly after she said that.

"You damned girl!"

As a pair of high heels were about to hit the back of Lily's head, a tall and handsome figure suddenly appeared. The man picked up Lily just in time and stood aside. The high heels flew directly into the glass window of a shop and cracked it.

This showed how much strength Meredith used.

If these high heels were to have hit the back of Lily's head, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Meredith did not expect someone to suddenly rush out to save this damned girl. She wanted to get angry, but when she saw that this man was Jeremy, her expression changed drastically. She hurriedly stood up and motioned to her friend beside her to pick up the shoes.

"Jeremy, you… Why are you here?" She gave an awkward and gentle smile.

Jeremy glanced at Lily who was unscathed in his arms, then looked at Meredith questioningly. "What are you doing?"

"Jeremy, don't get me wrong. It's because of this kid—"

"Miss Crawford? Mr. Whitman?" Madeline walked out of the shop and saw Lily in Jeremy's arms. She glanced at the broken glass again. She then pulled her lips apart and smiled. "Can someone tell me what happened?"

The employee beside her immediately walked to Madeline's side and explained it in a few words.

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows and looked at Meredith who had a terrible expression on her face. "Miss Crawford, if you have any dissatisfactions, you can come to me personally. You don't need to use a private message to curse me, let alone try to hurt my daughter. ."

"What? Your daughter?" Meredith looked at the little girl in Jeremy's arms in shock.

This little thing was actually Vera's daughter!

Jeremy also looked at the little girl in his arms blankly. She had a pinkish yet tender little face, and her faint eyebrows were curved like two small crescent moons. Sitting on top of her pretty little nose was a pair of clear eyes that were big and round. Long curly lashes accompanied them, blinking every so often. She looked especially innocent.

She was like a little fairy with a rare kind of beauty.

He finally understood then why he had felt that this little girl gave him a familiar impression when he first saw her in KFC. She was her daughter.

They looked alike.

Their eyebrows were almost identical.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0185

"Thank you, Big Brother. You've saved Lily again." Lily blinked at Jeremy with her pure-looking glass-like eyes. "My mommy is here, so you can put me down, Big Brother."

Jeremy looked at the little girl in his arms as a gentle smile appeared on his cold face. "Your name is Lily?"

"Yeah…" Lily nodded obediently but soon furrowed her cute, little eyebrows before shaking her head. "Only Mommy calls me Lily,   but Dad doesn't call me that."

Dad.

Jeremy never felt these two words to be so harsh before.

Harsh and unfamiliar.

He thought of Jackson. In the past three years, he had hardly heard Jackson call him 'Dad'.

His heart was beating uneasily all of a sudden for some reason.

He put Lily down and she ran straight to Madeline's side. "Mommy, this aunty wanted to hit me just now, but she fell down. Luckily, this big brother saved me."

Lily raised her eyes in a serious manner before explaining the situation earlier to Madeline.

Madeline smiled gently and hugged Lily. "Mr. Whitman, thank you, but please don't come to me again in the future, lest your noble fiancée thinks I have something going on with you. It doesn't matter if something were to happen to me, but if my daughter gets hurt, I will fight you,"

Madeline said before turning her sharp gaze to Madeline. "I will verify the price of the glass window and send it directly to the finance department of Whitman Corporation. Don't forget to pay for it, Miss Crawford."

"What?" Meredith's eyes widened, but then she saw Madeline turning around and leaving.

"Vera Quinn, you…"

"Have you not caused enough trouble?" Jeremy's voice sounded coldly with a reproach.

Meredith looked over at him, feeling at a loss. When she saw that Jeremy had turned around with a cold expression, she could hardly be bothered by her barefooted state as she hurried to catch up with him.

"Jeremy, Jeremy, wait for me. You've misunderstood me, Jeremy. Listen to me!"

She chased after Jeremy and shouted, but he completely ignored her.

Meredith's heart was anxious. When she saw a piece of glass shard in the middle of the road, she steadied herself and stepped directly on it.

"Ah!" she screamed out in pain and fell to the ground. "Jeremy, it hurts…"

Jeremy stopped and saw that Meredith had fallen to the ground sideways. There was a piece of glass stuck in the sole of her right foot and blood was flowing from the wound.

His thoughts all drifted away at once. She had also accidentally gotten glass pierced in the soles of her feet that year, that month, and that day.

He had ended up carrying her nervously, walking a mile. She was curled on his back at the time, saying sweetly, "Jez, I want to be with you forever."

He had promised without hesitation that he would marry her and protect her forever.

However, he did not know when it began that he no longer wanted to fulfill this promise at all.

Maybe it was the moment he realized that he was in love with Madeline…

"Jeremy, it hurts. There's a lot of blood…"

Meredith pulled Jeremy back from his memories with her crying voice.

Despite some resistance, he still walked over and crouched down whilst still thinking of that year.

Madeline had walked to the door again and she saw Meredith sitting on the ground while bleeding from the soles of her feet. She was crying and holding onto Jeremy's hand.

"Jeremy, what did I do wrong? Why are you so indifferent to me now? Have you forgotten what you've promised me? You said you'd take care of me forever."

Listening to these words, Madeline felt disgusted. She was already turning around to leave when she heard Meredith say, "Don't you see, Jeremy? I injured the sole of my foot the same way that year. I was so scared, but you walked such a long distance with me on your back. You said that you'd protect me forever and never let harm befall me. Did you forget…"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0186

Madeline could not help but halt her steps. She looked at Meredith who said these words as a layer of doubt gradually appeared in her heart.

Why was Meredith and Jeremy's past so similar to her own experience with Jeremy back then?

Moreover, was April Hill the place where they first met as well?

"Jeremy, I don't need anything, but I really can't lose you. Please don't leave me, okay?"

Meredith's soft voice pulled Madeline's thoughts back.

She saw Meredith's eyes that were filled with tears while she looked at Jeremy with an expectant gaze.

Although Jeremy had not responded, he took out a handkerchief to bandage Meredith's wound. He still cared for Meredith so much.

"Jeremy…"

"Stop talking. I'll take you to the hospital."

Meredith looked at Jeremy affectionately "Jeremy, with you accompanying me, I won't be in as much pain. I know that you'll protect me forever."

Madeline could hear these words from where she was standing.

While watching Jeremy help Meredith up, Meredith had then turned her head to cast a triumphant and provoking look at her as she was getting into the car. It was as if she was saying, 'Vera Quinn, you're not qualified to steal my man!'

Madeline looked at this scene indifferently and smiled softly.

'Jeremy, it's such a shame that a smart person like you with extremely high emotional and intelligence quotients who's also able to expertly maneuver through the business world is still incapable of clearly seeing Meredith's true character even after so many years.

'Or perhaps, that's what you like about this scheming b*tch.'

Madeline returned to the store, and not long after picking up the paintbrush, the phone rang.

She glanced sideways and saw that it was actually Jeremy who was calling.

However, she did not answer. Jeremy then called a second time.

Madeline picked up the phone and looked at the name on the screen with indifferent eyes as if she had seen herself from before.

How many times had she called Jeremy back then only to never receive a response? Her outgoing calls were either ended or blocked.

She knew that he had hated her so much, but still, she hoped that she could change her mind again and again.

Thinking about it now, Madeline felt that she was both ridiculous and sad.

How could she have so desperately fallen in love with such a cold and ruthless man?

Madeline did not answer the first two calls. Seeing that Jeremy was making a third call, Madeline then simply silenced the phone and threw it aside.

The rhythm of her heartbeat would never be moved for this man again.

Madeline was busy in the office the entire day. Finally, she was getting ready to bring Lily back to the apartment, but the moment she left, she saw a familiar car parked in front of the shop.

Jeremy got out of the car, and the afterglow of the setting sun was quietly scattered along his jade-like body. His natural and powerful aura shrouded him with every step he took. His charm was always bright and radiant.

Madeline looked at him and raised her knitted eyebrows. She was about to speak, but Jeremy beat her to it.

"Do me a favor of having a meal with me. After all, I saved your daughter today," he said. He walked up to Lily with a rare smile on his handsome face. "Cutiepie, are you willing to have a meal together with Big Brother?"

Lily thought for a few seconds, then stretched out her pale and tender little arm to hug Madeline's thigh. She raised her vivid eyes to look at Madeline.

"Mommy, are we having dinner with Big Brother?"

Madeline smiled and stooped down low to hug Lily. "Lily,   we won't be eating with Big Brother. Mommy will be taking you home."

Of course, she could not give Jeremy and Lily the opportunity to make contact.

If Jeremy still suspected that she was Madeline, then Lily would become his breakthrough point. She would never let Jeremy discover the secret about Lily.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0187

Never.

Seeing that Madeline was turning around to leave, Jeremy pulled the corners of his lips into a smile. "Miss Vera, you seem to want to draw a clear line with me?"

Madeline turned her head and chuckled. "Mr. Whitman, you and I have always been just passersby. There's no need to draw a clear line."

She quickly brought Lily into the car and returned to the apartment.

Right after taking a shower, she prepared to put Lily to sleep when the phone rang again.

After looking at it, it turned out to be Meredith.

Madeline walked to the balcony to answer the phone, and Meredith's questioning voice came from the other end, "Vera Quinn, where is Jeremy now? Are you with him?"

Madeline laughed in a low voice. "Miss Crawford, why would you come to me to ask if your fiancé is missing? You're really interesting."

"Vera Quinn, you don't have to pretend! Isn't your plastic surgery meant to look like Jeremy's ex-wife just so you can attract his attention?" Meredith's tone was full of resentment.

"Listen to me. Don't think that you can attract Jeremy's attention by doing this. What rights do you have to fight me for a man?!"

After Meredith arrogantly spat out these few words, she suddenly sneered proudly, "In terms of reputation and status, I'm a dignified and wealthy lady who has millions of fans on the internet! What about you? Don't you just have some lousy money? The money may have also been obtained through some abnormal means! Vera, how can you compare with me? So, you'd better stay within your bounds or things won't end well for you!"

Beep, beep.

Without giving Madeline any more chances to speak, Meredith hung up the phone. With this, it was as if it meant that she had won.

However, in Madeline's view, Meredith's anxious performance just revealed her inner worries and anxieties at the moment.

While imagining Meredith's unhappy appearance at this moment, Madeline turned around and went back into the room.

Just as she walked in, the phone rang again.

The caller ID showed that it was Jeremy.

This was really interesting.

Thinking of Meredith's call just a moment ago, Madeline decisively swiped the answer button.

Before she even spoke, the voice of a strange man sounded on the phone. The background noise was mixed with all kinds of music and voices.

"Miss Vera Quinn? Your friend, Mr. Whitman, is with us right now. He's drunk. Could you please come and pick him up? Here's…"

The man reported the exact address, and Madeline's mind instantly brought up an old scene.

After she had put Lily to sleep, she then changed her clothes and left.

She did not forget to call a certain friend to ask her to come to the apartment to watch Lily when she left, lest the little girl woke up halfway and became afraid after not being able to find her mother.

The evening breeze of the late summer came in wisps, also bringing with it the unbearable past events.

Madeline once again entered this high-end entertainment venue called Zero Degrees. The lights in the lobby were so glaring that she did not like it.

Back then, it was because of Meredith's lie that she had thought that her grandfather was seriously ill. At the end of her rope, she had come here to sell alcohol, but in the end, she did not make any money but only got humiliated and left with a debt of 500,000 dollars that made her not want to live anymore.

On the day of the divorce, Jeremy might have thought that she had asked for 500,000 dollars to be free and happy. He would not know that she wanted to return the money to Daniel Graham before she died. She did not want to owe anyone, especially those who had treated her well.

Madeline stopped the memory and halted her steps.

In front was the room where Jeremy was in. It was also the place where she was humiliated and got trampled on by Meredith and Jeremy.

Madeline pursed her pink lips as a spark of revenge flashed in her eyes. Just as she was about to push the door open to enter, she noticed that someone had stopped by her side and was looking at her.

"You... You... Ma-Madeline?!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0188

The voice was familiar and her nerves were telling her that the owner of this voice extremely repulsed her.

She tilted her eyes up and looked over. The lights in the corridor were very bright and Madeline could clearly see Tanner's ugly, wretched face appearing in her sight.

When Tanner was drunk, he thought that this woman only looked a little familiar after looking at her side profile. However, now that he could see Madeline's face clearly, he was instantly shocked! He backed up again and again, and as a result, both his feet tripped. He fell on all fours.

Madeline stood calmly at the door of the room, watching Tanner turning pale with fright. He looked like he was crawling backward in a panic, and she smiled brightly with the corners of her beautiful lips.

"Sir… Is something the matter?" she asked with a puzzled smile on her beautiful face. "Are you okay? Do you want me to help you up?"

Tanner looked at her, his eyes widening in horror. "Ma-Madeline! Don't come over!"

'Don't come over?

'Hmph!'

Madeline smiled even more brilliantly and walked toward him. "Why is this gentleman so scared? I'm a human, not a ghost. Why are you—"

"Ghost! You're a ghost! Madeline, you're a ghost! Don't come over! Don't come to me. I told a lie at best. I didn't do anything to you. I'm not the one who killed you. If you want, go to Meredith! Don't come to me!"

After Tanner was done roaring at Madeline, he ran away.

It was as if he would have been killed by Meredith's ghost in a second.

Madeline snorted funnily whilst looking at Tanner's back.

She had never done anything against her conscience in her life, but she was tortured until her body was incomplete and bloody.

These people who had hurt and bullied her, instead of getting any retribution, still went to nightclubs to drink and dance as usual.

Thinking about Tanner's horrified response just now, Madeline curled her lips slightly, already planning one of the links to her revenge.

She turned around and finally pushed open the heavy room door in front of her.

The lights in the room were very soft and not as colorful or messy as the ones in the hall. They were also not as bright and dazzling as the ones in the corridor.

She walked in and saw Jeremy leaning lazily against the corner of the sofa.

He was wearing a white shirt with the neckline slightly opened. She could vaguely see his collarbone which was very sexy hidden under the shirt, just looming.

His eyes were closed as if he was sleeping. The soft warm light of the crystal lamp lightly spilled on his angular and handsome face, but it seemed that the fatigue between his eyebrows could not be dispelled.

This was the first time Madeline realized that he had such a tired look on his face when he fell asleep.

However, how could he be tired?

He was worth hundreds of billions with a woman he liked by his side and a son. Why was he tired?

She put down her bag and walked toward him. "Mr. Whitman."

Madeline called out, but Jeremy did not respond. There was the faint fragrance of wine lingering around him, covering up his breath. Madeline glanced at the bottles of red wine on the coffee table, wondering how many Jeremy had drunk.

"Mr. Whitman," she called out again, but she still could not get any response. "Jeremy."

Finally, Madeline called his name, a name that had appeared in her heart countless times. She had also thought that this name would remain in her heart forever like an ivy until the day she died.

Yet during the time when she was really about to die, she then realized that she had been chasing the love of her life, but it was just a dream bubble of a person.

With an indifferent gaze, Madeline looked at the man who was breathing steadily and sleeping serenely in front of her. Then, she smiled softly.

'Jeremy, it's true that I loved you back then, but it's also true that I don't love you anymore.'

Just then, a phone's ringtone rang out. The room was quiet, so the ringtone was very clear.

Madeline lowered her gaze and saw Jeremy's mobile phone vibrating incessantly. Her sixth sense was telling her that this call was most likely from Meredith.

She stretched her hand out without hesitation and was just about to swipe the answer button when her palm was suddenly held tightly.

Madeline was startled and looked sideways, not wanting to run into Jeremy's deep and hazy eyes.

Somehow, Madeline's heart was beating fast, but she smiled calmly. "Mr. Whitman, are you awake? I originally wanted to answer the call for you, but since you're awake, you can answer it yourself."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0189

She tried to pull her hand back, but Jeremy did not seem to show any signs of letting go.

"Please let go of me, Mr. Whitman."

"I'll never let you go again."

What?

Madeline was shocked at Jeremy's unexpected confession.

She turned to stare at him in confusion, not expecting Jeremy to suddenly pull her into his arms.

As she was in her heels, Madeline lost her footing at the sudden tug and fell onto Jeremy.

For a split second, she felt the familiar warmth despite their distance.

He may have never loved her, but that did not mean nothing had happened between them.

Quickly recollecting her emotions, she tried to push herself up only for Jeremy to wrap an arm around her waist.

"What are you doing, Mr. Whitman?"

As she was feeling uncomfortable, Madeline tried to struggle out of his grasp. Her efforts were futile due to the difference between their strengths.

Right then, the hand around her waist suddenly moved upward, pressing Madeline against Jeremy before she realized what was happening.

His intoxicated yet handsome appearance was magnified before her eyes. With their breaths mingling and their noses touching, Madeline was stunned by the lack of distance between them.

She had never expected to get so close to Jermey again.

However, Jeremy seemed truly drunk. His eyes were dazed and glazed over as they stared back at Madeline.

Slowly, he lifted a hand, his warm fingertips caressing Madeline's cheeks. In his eyes swirled a myriad of unspoken feelings.

Madeline did not understand them, nor did she want to maintain such close distance and position.

She lifted a hand to push Jeremy away in distaste. "You're drunk!"

Taking her bag, Madeline made a move to leave only to have Jeremy hold her close from behind. The warmth she used to yearn for engulfed her, making it hard for her to escape.

"Madeline."

Jeremy's low and raspy baritone voice sounded, thick with mixed emotions.

Madeline halted in her steps, doubting the truth behind the situation.

"I missed you, Madeline…" the man spoke softly against her ear.

Madeline smiled at the hilarity of the situation. 'Do you think I wouldn't know that you're trying to test if I'm your ex-wife, Jeremy?

'You miss me?

'Hmph!

'The only person you miss is the evil b*tch, Meredith!

'Since when have you ever missed me?

'Had you never thought, for one moment, that I was human too? That I would hurt too when my appearance got disfigured when my cornea got removed? No!

'You didn't, Jeremy Whitman!

'So don't tell me you miss me or that you want me. All you've wanted was for me to die!'

Bang!

The doors of the private room were kicked open.

After hearing about it, Meredith had sped over to find Jeremy hugging Madeline in his arms. Furious, she ran over and took one of the many red wine bottles lying around.

"Vera Quinn, you b*tch! I'm going to kill you!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0190

Meredith ran toward them like a madwoman, completely forgetting about her gentle and kind persona in front of Jeremy.

She raised the bottle and aimed it at Madeline's face.

In the nick of time, Jeremy raised a hand to stop Meredith.

He pulled Madeline behind him. Intoxicated as he may have seemed a moment ago, Jeremy now glared at Meredith with displeasure, completely sober.

"What are you doing?"

Seeing Jeremy protect Madeline had Meredith struggling to keep her anger in check. However, she also knew that tears and acting weak were the only things she could do in this situation.

"I didn't actually want to hit her, Jeremy. I just don't want to see this woman always with you." She complained hurtfully, placing the bottle back down.

"Can't you tell, Jeremy? She even did plastic surgery to look like Madeline so that she can attract your attention. Jeremy, don't be fooled by this woman."

Jeremy turned to look at Madeline's flawless skin at the words 'plastic surgery'.

Madeline, however, merely smiled. "I had no idea that Miss Montgomery and the future Mrs. Whitman could speak in such an irresponsible manner. My appearance is a gift from my parents. Who are you to accuse me of plastic surgery? And even if I had done plastic surgery, pray tell why I would turn myself into a dead woman?"

The words 'dead woman' pierced into Jeremy's heart.

Any remaining sign of drunkenness had immediately vanished. The pain of losing Madeline and the woman who loved him the most woke him up.

Madeline brushed past Jeremy to stand in front of Meredith. "If you have time to throw a tantrum, Miss Crawford, I suggest you use it to think about why I was the first person your fiancé called when he was drunk instead of you, his fiancée."

"You…"

"Please refrain from contacting me again, Mr. Whitman. We wouldn't want this soulmate of yours feeling jealous, now would we?"

With that, Madeline turned and left.

Grinding her teeth together, Meredith glared at Madeline's retreating figure before turning around to reach for Jeremy with a pitiful look in her eyes.

"Let's go home, Jeremy. That woman's not worth ruining our relationship over."

She tried to persuade him, but Jeremy had chosen to evade her outreached arm.

He lifted his eyes to stare at her, displeasure swimming in the deep gaze. "How did you know I'd be here?"

Something flashed in Meredith's eyes. There was no way she would tell him that she had her own people spying him. "I didn't know you were here, Jeremy. All I knew was that I was worried because I didn't know where you were. I came here to try my luck, but I didn't expect to see you and that Vera Quinn…"

She explained as tears of hurt fell cooperatively from her eyes.

"I don't want another woman to come between us again, Jeremy…"

All Jeremy could think of was Madeline's face when he looked at Meredith's tearful eyes.

He realized that the moment Madeline had taken root in his heart, any other woman had become the mistress—including Meredith.

Jeremy returned to the villa with Meredith following behind.

Meredith did not like the villa at all. Sure, it was luxurious and beautiful, but it was also filled with traces of Madeline. Madeline's death did not change the fact that Meredith still hated her.

Oh, how she wished that Jeremy would build a new one in commemoration of their marriage. Yet three years had passed and she had not received even a single bracelet from him, let alone a new villa.

Jeremy made a beeline for his bedroom the moment he returned to the villa.

Meredith wanted to follow after him, but Jeremy stopped her outside. "I'm tired. Go back."

"Let me spend the night with you, Jeremy. It's been so many years. You must know how I feel about you by now. You used to tell me I'm the most perfect girl you've seen."

Meredith stared at Jeremy suggestively, reminding him of a memory he held dear. Knowing that Jeremy had drunk tonight, she hoped that the alcohol would help him lose some of the logic holding him back.

Jeremy hesitated, and Meredith took the opportunity to reach for his hand.

"Don't you want to go back, Jez? Back to how happy we used to be together?"

"Dad."

Just when Meredith was so close to persuading Jeremy to allow her into his room, the voice she hated rang out.

Embers of anger licked within her, but to be with Jeremy, she had no other choice than to play the part of a dignified and loving mother. Turning her head, she smiled lightly at Jackson.

"Why aren't you asleep yet, Jack? It's late."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0191

Jackson's eyes quickly flitted away upon seeing Meredith's smile.

"I need Dad to sign something."

Meredith smiled warmly as the workbook in Jackson's hands caught her eyes. "How about I sign it instead?"

Jackson pinched the corner of his workbook and turned to look expectantly at Jeremy.

"Just let your mom sign it instead. Don't go to bed too late." Then, Jeremy closed his room door.

Staring at the closed door, all the light in Jackson's eyes was replaced with unknown fear and darkness.

Turning around, he walked quickly to his own room.

Rejected by the door, Meredith immediately dropped the smile on her face.

Extremely displeased, she marched into Jackson's room. She kicked the door open right as he was about to close it.

The word 'Mom' was on the tip of Jackson's tongue, yet he dared not call Meredith that at all.

"What's wrong, Jack? I'm your mother. Why do you always look so sad every time you see me?"

She approached with a smile, only for her expression to shift drastically the next second. Almost as if she was a demon who had torn off a kind mask, there was nothing but ugly underneath.

"Of all the times, why did you just have to appear at that moment? All you know is to ruin my plans! Do you think I'd have kept you alive had it not been for the fact that you were useful? Every time I see you I hate you even more!" Meredith roared without restraint.

Running around her, Jackson hid in the bathroom and locked the door behind him.

Meredith ran after him to the door, continuing her round of verbal attacks that sounded downright horrible.

She did not have an ounce of like for Jackson. If anything, all she felt was deep hatred! Just like how she hated Madeline before!

Even if Jackson was the cause of her many benefits.

Sure, everyone would think that Jackson's eyes and brows were a replica of Jeremy's, but Meredith could not help but feel that Jackson was slowly growing to resemble Madeline.

He was Madeline and Jeremy's son, after all!

It made sense for a son to resemble his mother!

What nobody knew was how she had tortured Jackson behind everyone's backs. Jackson was five, yet he did not have the energetic and bubbly personality fit for a child his age.

At that moment, Jackson was squatting in the corner with his eyes shut tight and his small hands covering his ears. He was shielding himself from Meredith's scoldings.

'Why is my mother so different from everyone else's? Why...

'Shouldn't mothers love their child the most?'

His mind was filled with question marks as his long curly lashes sat heavily on his eyes from tears he had unknowingly begun to shed.

Returning to the apartment, Madeline took a cold shower.

She did not want to be swayed by Jeremy again just because he had called her 'Madeline'.

Walking to her bed, her resolve for revenge strengthened as she stared at the calmly sleeping child.

Lillian would have a sister had it not been for Jeremy and Meredith.

Madeline's fist tightened. She vowed to avenge herself and her late child no matter what.

The following evening, Madeline arrived at the kindergarten to pick Lillian up from school as usual. Traffic was horrible due to the rain and she was half an hour late.

Most kids had already been fetched when she arrived, leaving Lillian and another boy at the guardhouse.

After walking closer, Madeline realized that the boy was no other than Jackson Whitman.

Seeing Madeline, Lillian ran toward her excitedly. "Mommy! Hugs!"

Staring at the adorable and innocent girl, Madeline scooped Lily into her arms to plant a loving kiss on her cheeks.

Jackson felt a swell of emotions bubbling within him as he set his eyes on Madeline's face from the side.

He lifted his handsome but childlike face, summoning his courage to walk up to Madeline.

Realizing something was amiss, Madeline lowered her confused gaze to meet Jackson's. "What's wrong?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0192

"Is it you, Maddie?"

Staring seriously at Madeline, Jackson finally mustered the courage to ask.

Stunned for a second, Madeline then replied with a smile, "Hey, buddy. I'm Lillian's mother. I can tell you my name if you want? It's nice to meet you, I'm Vera Quinn."

She introduced herself with a smile, realizing that Jackson was currently analyzing her.

The small face before her eyes was a fair one of exquisite features, a result of Jeremy's great genes.

For some reason, Madeline could not help but feel like there was something deeper and more pressing within Jackson's onyx orbs.

Perhaps it was the light.

What issue could such a young child have, anyway?

Memories of how Meredith had cut Jackson's cheek to frame her appeared in Madeline's mind. She could still remember how freely the blood flowed and how the boy wailed. It must have hurt a lot.

Seeing the flawless cheek of his now, Madeline sighed an inexplicable breath of relief.

Thank goodness it had not scarred.

"Mommy, Mommy. This is the Jackie I told you about. We're great friends!"

Lily's voice was sweet and soft, melting her heart like cotton candy.

Madeline nodded. "Oh, so you're Jackie?" she said cooperatively despite not wishing for Lily to get too close to Jackson.

It was not because she disliked Jackson, but because their relationship was an unconventional one.

"Time to go home, Lillian. Say goodbye to Jackie now, okay?"

"Okay." Lily reached out to wave a chubby hand. "Bye-bye Jackie. See you tomorrow."

Madeline smiled warmly at Jackson. "Bye, buddy."

With that, she turned around with Lily in her arms and left, holding an umbrella over them with one hand.

Yet no more than two steps later, Madeline found herself stopping unexpectedly in her tracks.

The rain fell heavier and the last winds of summer were chilly as they blew past.

Turning back, Madeline stared at Jackson who stood by the gates. The boy did not seem to be wearing much and the schoolbag weighed heavily on his little body. Jackson's bright eyes bore into her.

He was so close, yet Madeline could not help but feel there were miles between her and Jackson.

Her heart suddenly clenched as she remembered the child Meredith and Jeremy had killed.

She walked back to stand in front of Jackson. "Are your parents coming to fetch you, buddy?

"My dad's busy," Jackson replied.

Madeline smiled. "What about your mom?"

Madeline watched rejection flare in Jackson's eyes at the mention of Meredith.

That moment, Jackson's class teacher walked over to tell her that it had been almost half an hour since the day had ended but they had yet to get in contact with Jackson's family.

Madeline hesitated before dialing Jeremy's number. It went to voicemail.

Mulling over the thought for a few seconds, she then decided to invite Jackson. "Hey, buddy. Do you want to come home with me first? We can wait until your dad contacts me and comes to bring you home."

"That's awesome! Jackie's gonna be a guest at our house! I'm so happy, Mommy!"

The little girl wrapped her arms around Madeline with a coquettish exclamation, making Madeline find it hard not to ruffle her head fondly.

Seeing as Madeline seemed to be acquainted with Jackson's father, the class teacher handed him over to him.

Half an hour later, Madeline arrived at the apartment with the two children in tow.

Lily jumped around and pulled Jackson into the house excitedly, already sharing her favorite snacks and fruits with him.

Madeline went to the kitchen to bake small cakes for the two kids.

In the open kitchen, Madeline was given a clear view of Lillian and Jackson sitting on the small stools by the coffee table.

For a child who detested homework, Lily had surprisingly taken her workbook out on her own today.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0193

"Hey, Jackie? Do you know why one plus one equals two?

"Why do two apples plus one banana equals three?

"Jackie, Jackie. Do you like mushrooms?"

As if transforming into the Book of Questions, Lily began to ask Jackson one question after another with her round eyes shining with curiosity and life.

Jackson may only be five years old, but he appeared much more mature.

He seriously tried to answer every one of Lily's questions. He would repeat himself patiently when Lily showed even the slightest bit of confusion.

Madeline had initially been afraid that something would go wrong should Lily and Jackson become friends.

Yet the sight in front of her quelled those worries, for Jackson was acting like an understanding brother who loved his younger sister without limits. The heartwarming sight melted her heart.

However, Madeline's smile did not last too long.

Perhaps Lillian would have a sister who loved her if her first child was still alive.

Perhaps she would be privy to such a heartwarming scene.

"Do you want to play hide and seek, Jackie?" Lily stretched a hand toward Jackson.

After hesitating for a moment, Jackson took Lily's hand. "Okay. I'll play with you."

Madeline found his voice childish but unusual when he opened his mouth to speak.

Yet that was not the only problem. Jackson did not seem to know how to smile, and that was very wrong.

He had not smiled once ever since they returned.

Such was not the behavior of a normal child.

Befuddled, Madeline placed the freshly baked cake and orange juice on the coffee table. Before she could search for the kids, her phone rang.

Reading the caller ID, she accepted the call.

"Why did you call? I thought you were the one who told me not to look for you anymore, Miss Vera." Jeremy's alluring baritone voice sounded over the line, his tone flirtatious.

Madeline chuckled. "Didn't you realize the calls from your son's class teacher before you called me back, Mr. Whitman? I understand that work is important, but a child also needs the loving nurture of his parents."

The line grew silent at her words.

Not too long after, Jeremy's voice sounded from the speaker again. "My son's with you? Send me your address. I'll be there shortly."

Madeline did not mind giving Jeremy her address. After all, searching it up would be an easy feat for him if he truly wanted to know.

After sending the address, she hung up the call.

"Jackie? What's wrong? Jackie, Jackie!"

Lily suddenly shouted just as Madeline was about to call the two children over for snacks.

Realizing that something may have happened, Madeline quickly ran to the storeroom where the sound came from.

Turning on lights, she was shocked to find Jackson squinting in the corner with his head between his knees. The boy's arms were wrapped around himself as he trembled.

Lily blinked innocently at her. "Jackie and I were just playing hide and seek, Mommy. Then, he suddenly hid in here and stopped talking."

"It's alright, baby. Mommy's here." Madeline comforted Lily before walking over to squat in front of Jackson.

"What's wrong, Jackson?" she asked kindly, reaching out to touch his shoulder.

Jackson shook at the touch and hugged himself tighter in fear.

Madeline felt her heart tighten at the strange reaction, her worry doubling. "Don't be afraid, Jackson. Aunty Vera won't hurt you."

Madeline reached out again to place a hand on Jackson's shoulder.

Jackson finally raised his head. His complexion was pale and his expression looked lost. His round eyes were brimming with tears.

For a reason unbeknownst to her, Madeline felt her heart break at the sight. The feeling resembled the time when she was forcefully inducted into labor. Her heart stabbed with a pain that was akin to losing a child.

Her hand slowly rose to softly pat Jackson's head, her tone warm and soft as she said, "What's wrong, Jackson? Did something upset you? You can tell Aunty Vera. It's alright, shh. It's going to be okay. Aunty Vera's here. I won't let anyone hurt you."

Jackson's eyes reddened as he watched Madeline comfort him. His small lips pursed as he dove into Madeline's arms. His voice trembled as he shook. He called out to Madeline. "Mom…"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0194

The last thing Madeline could ever have expected was Jackson running into her arms, calling her his mom.

Jackson must have been feeling terrified and insecure.

He buried his tiny physique deep into her arms. It was as if the only way to lessen his fear was to hold her tight with both his hands while his eyes remained shut.

Madeline felt her heart clench at the signs of distress on his small cheeks. It had been a long while since she had felt such an intrusive stab of pain eating its way out of her chest.

She lifted a hand to lightly pat the back of Jackson's head, her voice soft.

"It's alright now, Jack. It's alright."

With her comforting words, Madeline saw Jackson relax and calm from his previous upset state.

"Is Jackie okay, Mommy?" Lily walked over and asked innocently.

"He'll be alright. Don't worry." Madeline smiled. "Mommy made you some snacks. How about you share some with him?"

"Okay!" Lillian reached out a hand to Jackson. "Come on, Jackie, let's go eat some snacks together! Mommy's cake is the best!"

At her words, Jackson seemed to finally pull himself out of that mindset.

He blinked open his round eyes, his long eyelashes fluttering as he looked up to stare at Madeline Crawford. Slowly but surely, a red blush of what looked like embarrassment tinted his handsome little cheeks.

"Sorry." He suddenly apologized.

The words echoed with familiarity in Madeline's ears.

She smiled warmly and gently caressed Jackson's small cheeks. "What are you apologizing for, silly? You didn't do anything wrong."

A quick flash of envy left as fast as it came in Jackson's eyes as he took in Madeline's gentle, kind smile. He envied Lillian for having such a warm and familiar mother figure.

Madeline found herself sighing an inexplicable breath of relief when she saw that the state of Jackson's emotions was back to normal.

Mirth washed over her chest as she watched the two children sitting next to each other while eating the snacks she made.

Especially when she watched Jackson caringly wipe off the butter smudged on the corners of Lillian's mouth.

Her heart clenched again, this time reminding her of the child she lost.

Right then, Lily got up to use the bathroom. Only when she was conveniently out of earshot did Madeline dare to ask, "Hey, Jack. How does your mother normally treat you?"

Jackson hesitated as he drank his orange juice, the light in his eyes slowly dimming.

The answer to the question was clear as day.

Three years ago, she had watched Meredith heartlessly slash Jackson's cheek with a fruit knife.

Meredith scared her more than any demon for being able to remain aloof in the face of her son's tears.

How could such a woman who preyed on her own son for status and wealth exist in this world ?

To the point that Jackson would act in such a weird manner. What had she done that warranted so much fear in him that he ran into her arms and called her his mom ?

Had Jeremy never paid Jackson any attention ? Had Jeremy left Jackson to deal with Meredith's torture alone ?

Jackson's silence had Madeline putting a hold on her questions. Ruffling his adorable head, she changed the subject.

"You think that I look a lot like someone you know who's named Maddie, right ?"

At her words, Jackson's gaze bore heavily into her before he nodded. "I thought you were Maddie in the beginning."

Madeline smiled. "What if I am this Maddie ? I'm sure your mother told you that Maddie was a horrible woman, didn't she ? That this Maddie had hurt you before, Jack."

Jackson's expression grew solemn when he heard her words. Then, he started to shake his head vigorously.

"Maddie definitely isn't a horrible woman. She would never hurt me."

His words were certain, and his eyes were exceptionally determined.

Madeline was stunned as an indescribable feeling started to bubble in her heart.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0195

To have Jackson Whitman trust her so much despite his young age was something Madeline had never expected.

"Can I call you Big Sis Vera from now on?" Jackson looked at Madeline expectantly.

Madeline nodded and smiled, her mind wavering at the memory of Jackson calling her 'Mom' moments ago.

"Of course."

Hearing her reply, a smile finally graced Jackson's features.

This was the first time Madeline had seen Jackson smile, be it three years ago or three years later today.

Two dimples appeared by the corners of Jackson's mouth as he smiled. He looked warm and adorable, just like Lillian.

Madeline felt warmth flood into her chest at the child's angelic smile.

Not too long after, Jeremy arrived.

He wanted to enter the house, but Madeline held him off outside.

"Please do take better care of your son, Mr. Whitman. He is, after all, the precious child of you and your beloved." There was more to Madeline's words that met the eye. Turning around, she fired Jackson a gentle and light smile. "Come on, Jack, your father's here to fetch you home. You can always come again next time."

"Okay." Jackson nodded and slowly shuffled to stand beside Jeremy.

Instead of greeting his father, Jackson remained silent by his side.

The father-son duo gave her a strange and distant feeling.

"Thank you, Miss Vera." Jeremy expressed his gratitude. He wanted to say more but was interrupted by an untimely phone call.

Looking at the caller ID, he realized that it was from Meredith.

Jeremy spent a few seconds hesitating before accepting the call anyway.

When the line connected, Meredith's complaints and wailing drifted in from the other end. "Jeremy! I just went to pick Jack up from the kindergarten but the teacher told me a woman called Vera Quinn had already taken our son away! What does she want? Why did she kidnap Jack? What are we supposed to do now, Jeremy? I'm scared. What if Vera Quinn hurts Jack? Jeremy…"

There was no way Madeline could not catch a word with how loud Meredith was being.

She chuckled as she watched Jeremy frown with his lips apart, ready to respond. However, Madeline reached out to take his phone and placed it by her ear instead.

Meredith's high-pitched screams continued to sound from the speaker. "Jeremy, Jeremy, can you hear me? Je—"

"Miss Crawford? You're correct, I've kidnapped your son. In fact, not only did I kidnap your son, but I also have your fiancé with me. You want to save them, don't you? So how about you bring the ransom to my house? Oh, and call the police too while you're at it."

"…"

Meredith froze when she heard Madeline's voice, slowly taking in the other woman's words.

Imagining Meredith's embarrassed and pissed expression, Madeline smiled and returned the phone to Jeremy.

"This must be the legendary love of Mr. Whitman's life. Quite the high maintenance, I'd say."

Madeline waved Jackson goodbye with a warm smile. "Bye-bye, Jackson. See you next time."

Jackson smiled and waved back. "Bye-bye, Big Sis Vera."

Madeline nodded and quickly closed the doors.

She let out an ironic smile when she saw the grim expression Jeremy wore from her peripheral vision.

The following day, Jeremy caught Madeline by surprise as he found her working in the shop as usual.

In a tailored suit, Jeremy's divine aura attracted numerous envious gazes.

He made a beeline to speak to Madeline, going straight to the point.

"Grandfather believes that you're my ex-wife, Madeline Crawford. As a result, he wishes that you could attend the 50th anniversary of the founding of Whitman Corporation. The anniversary is in two days."

Madeline continued to draw without lifting her head. "I'm sorry, but I don't want to attract any more unnecessary issues, let alone be suspected from time to time by other people as your ex-wife."

With that, she lifted her gaze to stare into Jeremy's bottomless eyes. Madeline chuckled.

"You suspect it too, don't you, Mr. Whitman? You, too, suspect that I'm that damned ex-wife of yours.

"You pretended to be drunk when you called me over to the club. You knew what you were doing when you held me and cried lovingly for Madeline. Perhaps you've forgotten, Mr. Whitman, but everyone is well aware of how much you hated and were disgusted by Madeline Crawford.

There was absolutely no way that you would cry for her in such a tone even if she was still alive, let alone speak the words you claimed you wanted to say, no?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0196

Jeremy felt a rush of unease wash over him when he recognized the sarcasm and disdain in Madeline's eyes.

Pursing his lips, his gaze drilled into Madeline's eyes.

"As such, it'd be great if you would stop looking for me, Mr. Whitman. I really don't want to be treated as the dead again." Madeline rejected him indifferently.

"It won't happen again."

Jeremy parted his lips to say after a moment of silence.

With his gaze fixated on her, he bent his head to lean closer to her.

"I promise you, it won't happen again."

Madeline chuckled lightly. "Are you admitting to testing me the other day, Mr. Whitman?"

Jeremy remained silent under her inquisitive tone.

Perhaps so. While the entire world was privy to how shamelessly in love Madeline was with Jeremy, Jeremy was the only one who knew he loved her back.

The truth was, Jeremy had lost his mind the other day. He was not testing her, no. He had fantasized that she was still alive…

Yet, that was all it was. A fantasy.

Now, he was awake.

He would not fantasize the woman before him to be the one in his heart.

Madeline took Jeremy's quietness as silent admittance.

Softly, she scoffed. "With that being said, I shall accept your invite, Mr. Whitman. After all, offending you would do no good to my days in Glendale."

Reluctant as Madeline seemed, Whitman Corporations' anniversary was an event she needed to attend!

After all, she was going to reveal the other side of Meredith in front of the celebrities gathered.

After accepting Jeremy's invitation, Madeline quickly mailed it off anonymously to someone else.

After that, she went to the counter of a store to pick up the gown she had ordered from the internet.

What a small world it was. After entering the store, Madeline was met with the sight of Meredith who was being served enthusiastically by several assistants. She did not even realize Madeline's presence.

"These are all the latest styles from last week, Miss Montgomery. Especially these few here, I'd say they match your aura very well." The shop assistants praised with smiles.

Meredith took the dresses to check the price tags. "This won't do. This is too cheap for a person of my status. Don't you have something more expensive?"

"Yes, yes, of course! This way, please!" Elated by Meredith's desire for more expensive outfits, the shop assistants immediately brought her to a side for more options.

"What about this style, Miss Montgomery?"

"This here is this season's limited evening gown, Miss Montgomery. Its price is also very fitting of your status! I'm sure you'd be the center of everyone's attention should you wear this to the Whitman Corporation's 50th anniversary!"

"Indeed! You'd match Mr. Whitman with this evening gown, Miss Montgomery!"

Meredith smiled arrogantly after being put up on a pedestal with the shop assistants' singing her praises after praises.

However, she still felt rather unsatisfied. Her gaze wandered until it fell on a mannequin as if she had been enraptured by the outfit it wore.

"Why haven't I seen this dress before? I like its unique style. I want to try it on," Meredith ordered.

The assistants smiled awkwardly. "The gown has already been pre-ordered by another client, Miss. Montgomery."

"Then give her another one from another warehouse." Meredith was displeased. Desire was apparent in her gaze as it bore holes into the gown.

"I…" The assistant was placed between a rock and a hard place. This dress was handmade, so it was not cheap. It had to be ordered from overseas half a month before purchase, so this was the only one in the entirety of Glendale.

Hearing her, Meredith's expression fell slightly while the possessiveness in her eyes flared.

"I want this dress. You can just tell the client their pre-ordered gown hasn't arrived yet. You should wrap this dress up for me if you want me to continue shopping with you."

"I…"

"What are you still waiting for? Are you telling me a casual customer is more important than long-term ones like me?" Madeline urged them, displeased.

The shop assistants shared a glance before breaking out into fawning smiles again.

"Just a moment, Miss Montgomery. I'll wrap it up for you now," a shop assistant said as she took the dress.

"It makes sense how Madeline lost to you, Miss Crawford. How could she possibly match your bossiness? She was never your opponent to begin with."

Meredith had not expected such a sentence to come from behind her as she waited happily for the shop assistant to wrap the dress up for her.

Her expression darkened as she whipped her head around. A few shop assistant's gazes fell on her as well.

"Vera Quinn?" Meredith's gaze turned sinister, but the smile remained on her face in the public setting. "It's you? I never thought you'd be able to afford something from such an expensive shop. Maybe selling jewelry does come with quite the salary, huh?" She mocked.

"You're right. It really isn't easy earning money. I'm not you, after all, Miss Crawford. I don't get to spend my family wealth without working for it."

"…" The corners of Meredith's lips twitched as distaste settled on her face. The fake smile she put on disappeared instantly as she turned to glare impatiently at the shop assistants. "Wrap it up already!" She quirked an eyebrow at Madeline. "Jeremy's still waiting for me for lunch!"

"Yes, yes, of course! One moment, Miss Montgomery," the shop assistants replied, wrapping up the gown and handing Meredith the bag.

Sparing an arrogant glance at Madeline, Meredith reached out to receive the shopping bag only for Madeline to take it neatly before Meredith's fingers could touch the bag's handles.

"What are you doing, Vera Quinn?" Meredith roared in anger.

The shop assistants were shocked as well, immediately standing on Meredith's side to point fingers at Madeline's behavior. "What are you doing, Miss? This belongs to Miss Montgomery! How could you take other's things?"

"Other's things?" The corners of Madeline's lips quirked meaningfully. "Do you like this gown, Miss Crawford? What a shame, I like it too."

"Hmph. You like it too? Just because you like it doesn't mean it's yours!" Meredith smirked mockingly.

The assistants chuckled as well, a belittling gaze in their eyes. "This is a six-figure dress, Miss. You're not the only one who likes it. We like it too. But liking it doesn't mean it belongs to you! Please put the gown down, Miss, or we'll have to call security."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0197

Staring at the snobbish shop assistants and the arrogant Meredith, Madeline casually pulled out a card and threw it at the face of the shop assistant who had threatened to call security. "Pick it up and take a look, then tell me whether I'm allowed such a dress or not."

Taken aback by Madeline's temperament, the shop assistant quickly picked up the card. Reading the words atop, her expression immediately shifted into an embarrassed one. She flushed red as she bowed and apologized to Madeline.

"I'm sorry, I'm so sorry! I didn't know you're Miss Quinn! I'm sorry, really! Please forgive me!"

Seeing their colleague's reaction, the other salespeople came over to read the card Madeline had thrown down.

Their expressions shifted immediately at a glance as they began apologizing to Madeline.

Meredith was stunned to see the shop attendants suddenly apologize to Madeline, treating her with respect.

"What are you doing? Why are you so polite to her?" Meredith rolled her eyes in disagreement. "What's so shocking about this woman's name card anyway?"

Meredith smirked as she disdainfully reached out to take and read the card that was in the assistant's hand.

"Hmph. In the end, she's just a person who sells jewelry. What's so great…" Meredith's face fell amidst her mocking words, doubt and unwillingness to believe the truth bleeding out of her eyes as she stared at Madeline. "You're this brand's honorary member?!"

Pinching the faint purple VIP card in her hands, Meredith's eyes were filled with suspicion and doubt despite the words 'Vera Quinn' boldly engraved on it.

Meredith had become an honorary member of many luxurious stores ever since she became the oldest daughter of the Montgomery family. She wanted to become one for this store to further elevate her taste, yet she found herself unable to meet their requirements just yet.

She had never expected the woman she hated so much to fulfill such requirements, though!

Madeline's lips curled as she turned to face Meredith's fuming face. "So can this jewelry seller take the gown now?"

With that, she plucked the card from Meredith's hands and turned elegantly.

"Wait!" Meredith walked forward to stop Madeline. "So what if you have that card, Vera? Let me tell you, someone has already pre-ordered that dress long ago." She crossed her arms and smirked. "If I can't have it, neither can you!"

Staring at Meredith's ugly selfishness in the face, Madeline's lips tugged into a victorious smile. "I think you're mistaken. The one who can't have it is you, Meredith Crawford. The gown has been mine since half a month ago."

"What?" Meredith's smile hardened.

An assistant hurriedly explained. "That's true, Miss Montgomery. Someone has already pre-ordered the gown half a month ago as we've mentioned earlier and that person is… Miss Vera Quinn."

"…" Meredith was speechless.

"So can I go yet?" Madeline smiled at the sight of Meredith Crawford being close to blowing up.

The store members quickly stepped forward to form two lines as they bowed respectfully to bid Madeline farewell. "Have a nice day, Miss Quinn. Please come again."

Madeline raised the corner of her lips prettily, her mirthful gaze sweeping over Meredith's frustrated expression.

"From the behavior you've shown during this short period of time, Miss Crawford, I'm starting to understand why Mr. Whitman's refusing to get married."

"What... What are you talking about? What do you mean, Vera Quinn?"

"I'm speaking in English. Don't you understand, Miss Crawford? That doesn't make sense, unless you're telling me that we're not the same kind?"

"..." Meredith was close to exploding, but to protect her image of a saint, she clenched her teeth and refrained herself.

Madeline spared her a glance before turning around casually.

'You're angry, aren't you, Meredith?

'Don't get too angry. We've only just started.

'I'll take back every single thing you owe me!'

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0198

Meredith returned to the Montgomery household with a belly full of anger. Seeing her return, the housekeeper poured her a cup of tea and brought her a plate of snacks.

"What's wrong, Miss Meredith? Here, have some fruits to chase away the anger." The housekeeper fawned over her smilingly.

"Who are you to poke your nose into my business?" Meredith rolled her eyes, displeased. "Where's my mother?"

The sound of a car drifted in from the door after she asked, and the housekeeper shot a gaze toward the door. "I believe Madam is back."

With that, Meredith immediately stood. "Tell my mother I'm in my room when she asks."

Giving the order, she picked up her bag and rushed up the stairs.

The housekeeper acknowledged and stared at Meredith's retreating figure with hatred in her eyes.

"You're Brittany's indirect killer, Meredith Crawford! Brit would still be living happily and easily as the oldest daughter had you not suddenly appeared and stole her spot!"

Having said that, she sensed Eloise' steps approaching.

"Where's Meredith, Diana? Is she back yet?" Eloise's voice drifted over.

While the housekeeper was around Eloise's age, she was no match for the other in terms of physique or temperament.

Turning around to face Eloise, she replied respectfully, "Miss Meredith has just returned. She should be in her room."

Eloise nodded and turned to walk up the stairs with a smile.

"Look what Mom got you, Meredith? Only my daughter is worthy of such beautiful jewelry in all of Glendale. With this, I'm sure you'll become the center of everyone's attention during the Whitman Corporation's 50th anniversary celebration."

Eloise spoke while she walked into Meredith's room. Stepping inside, she dropped the jewelry box in shock at the scene within the room.

"Meredith! What are you doing?" Eloise rushed forward to take the fruit knife away from Meredith. "What happened, Meredith? Who bullied you? Tell Mom. I'll never let anyone harm my precious daughter!"

Eloise's heart raced in worry and fear as she pulled a 'suicidal' Meredith into her arms.

She had lost her precious daughter once already 20 years ago, and she refused to lose this precious child again.

Meredith leaned sorrowfully into Eloise's chest, trying her best to squeeze tears from her eyes. "It hurts, Mom. I'm so tired… Why is my relationship with Jeremy so difficult? It used to be Madeline, now there's a Vera Quinn too. I…"

"Vera Quinn?"

Eloise's mind supplied her with a face of a woman who looked exactly like Madeline.

"What did that woman do to you?"

"She humiliated me in public, made fun of me, and mocked how Jeremy would never marry a woman like me. She's always with Jeremy, even using Jack to get closer to him. I think Jeremy has feelings for her too…"

She lifted her eyes that had gone red from all the tears. "My feelings for Jeremy are too deep, Mom. I fell for him the moment I saw him when we were kids. I really can't live without him. I'd rather die if it means that I can't be with him…"

"Don't think that, silly child. It won't be the end of the world! Mom can't lose you again!" Eloise comforted her daughter with distress as her eyes darkened. "Vera Quinn is just a shameless b*tch. I can't believe she'd seduce Jeremy even when he already has a fiancée. Don't worry, Meredith, your mom will get her back for you!"

"No, Mom. Don't go." Meredith quickly pulled Eloise back.

"I can't just sit and watch when others bully you like this, Meredith. You can't be too kind. Kindness will only make the bullying worse."

"I know you love me, Mom. But she'll definitely tell Jeremy if you bother her and I don't want Jeremy to be sad."

Meredith wiped off a tear as she grasped Eloise's hand in hers.

"I have another way to get Jeremy's heart back, Mom. Will you help me?"

There was no way Eloise would reject her daughter. "Tell me, Meredith. What's your plan? Mom would do anything to make you happy."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0199

The day of Whitman's 50th anniversary arrived in the blink of an eye.

Madeline lazily gave herself a spa treatment before finally plopping herself in front of the vanity to start doing her makeup.

After that, she donned herself in the gown that Meredith could only wish to own, picked up her designer purse, and got into a car toward Glendale's first-ever luxurious six-star hotel.

Rows of street lamps glowed as the night began to darken. Staring at the reflection on the windows in the car, her red lips curled as she raised a hand to rearrange the baby hair around her forehead.

The beauty of the small smile gracing Madeline's lips was reflected in the rearview mirror, causing the driver to almost run a red light.

It was the first time he had seen such a beautiful woman.

At that moment, the main entrance of the six-star hotel was already packed with people.

Reporters fought each other for first-hand material while various passersby also stopped to collect small gifts.

Guests with the invitations entered the hotel to arrive at the floor of the celebration hall.

It was an outstanding sight, for numerous celebrities had come to attend the celebration of Whitman Corporation's 50th anniversary.

Despite not getting to wear the gown she wanted to, Meredith had still dressed in a way that gave off a dignified and generous aura.

She was attending the celebration as the future Mrs. Whitman, after all.

Not to mention the highlight of the night! She would not allow mishaps when it came to her appearance!

Donned in a tailored black suit for the night, Jeremy elegantly entered the venue.

Under the warm glow of the chandelier that danced on his attractive features, coupled with the tailored suit that accentuated the man's physique, Jeremy seemed to ooze with princely dignity and grace.

The ladies there stared at him, trying to approach and flirt only to back down at the cold deterrence in the man's eyes.

Whereas Meredith seemed to take the chance to walk by Jeremy's side, greeting people here and there as his wife.

She loved these events for the envious gazes these women would shoot in her direction.

Standing by Jeremy's side signified her exceptional status and fame!

Sweeping over his surroundings, Jeremy pursed his lips in distaste. "Why are there so many reporters?"

Meredith's eyes shone as she quickly answered with a smile, "A 50th anniversary is a big day for Whitman Corporation. It makes sense that reporters are here to witness this grand event."

"That still doesn't explain why we have entertainment reporters here," Jeremy replied faintly, lowering his gaze to look at his watch.

Although displeased at Jeremy's act, Meredith kept the smile on her face. "Are you waiting for someone, Jeremy? Is it Miss Quinn?"

Jeremy did not answer. Instead, he pulled out his phone and walked to the side to make a call.

Meredith pinched the stem of the wine glass in infuriation just as Eloise walked over to her side. "I've already told the reporters, Meredith, and Jeremy's mother too. All there's left to do is announce the date of the wedding. Old Master Whitman's bound to pressure Jeremy when the reporters write about it and there won't be a way for Jeremy to walk out of this."

Meredith's smile returned at her mother's words of assurance. "Thank you, Mommy."

"Silly child. Who else would I help if not my daughter? I'm here for you, no matter what."

Meredith took Eloise's hands gratefully. The smile on her face was bright, yet the one in her heart was sinister.

'Yes. Exactly, Eloise Patton. Just like that. I'm your daughter, never forget that!'

At the same time, Madeline received a call from Jeremy just as she was about to alight the vehicle.

After hanging up, she stepped out of the car.

From a distance, Madeline watched a familiar silhouette march his way into the hotel. The man arrogantly fished out the invitation and walked inside.

From afar, the corners of Madeline's lips tugged.

Wonderful.

Tonight's main witness had taken the bait.

Madeline smiled, satisfied. She took elegant steps to the hotel.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0200

All eyes fell on Madeline from the moment she got off the car…

Inside, Jeremy was frowning. A deep look flashed in his icy eyes as he found himself frustrated by Madeline not picking up his call.

Suddenly, he felt a tug at his pant legs.

Looking down, Jeremy was faced with Jackson's indifferent expression.

"Where's Big Sis Vera? Is she not here yet?" Jackson was very much looking forward to Madeline's arrival.

Jeremy felt his heart grow distant as he stared at his son.

The sight of Jackson would always remind him of how he had destroyed the ashes of his and Madeline's daughter.

His heart raced as frustration bubbled each time the memory of Madeline's last words as she tugged on his collar replayed in his mind.

"Jack," Meredith's voice sounded.

The hand on Jeremy's pants tightened as the light in his eyes vanished. He let go to flee, only to be caught by Meredith in the end. "Where are you going, Jack?"

With a fake smile plastered on her face, Meredith gripped Jackson's small wrist tightly and lifted her head to smile gently at Jeremy.

"Your mother is asking us to go over, Jeremy. She said she has something important to announce."

Jeremy's cold gaze lifted slightly. "Announce? Announce what?"

Meredith blinked her eyes innocently. "I don't know either. Maybe it's to do with the corporation? Perhaps we should head over first."

Staring at his mother who had already walked on stage in confusion, Jeremy's long legs began to walk.

With Jeremy already taking the bait, Meredith tugged Jackson harshly. "Come on!"

Jackson tried his best to struggle against the hold, but all efforts were futile for his strength was no match for Meredith's.

Mrs. Whitman had taken the stage. Seeing Meredith walk over with Jeremy and Jackson in tow, she took the mic and began. "Dearest guests and reporters, I would like to thank you for your attendance today. I'm Jeremy Whitman's mother. Tonight, I would like to take this opportunity to announce some wonderful news, and I'd like all of you present to witness such a moment."

"Wonderful news?"

"Could it be Young Master Whitman and Meredith Crawford's wedding?"

"It has to be!"

The audience began to whisper among themselves. Jeremy's eyes darkened at the sound of the rumors while Meredith's smile grew.

Jeremy and her wedding date was finally going to be announced!

The moment she had been waiting for had finally arrived!

Mrs. Whitman smiled and spoke, "Indeed. The announcement I'm going to make will be about this marr—"

"Who's that?"

"Why does she look so familiar?"

"Could it be that woman from the auction?"

The ballroom erupted into a rambunctious frenzy, interrupting Mrs. Whitman just as she was about to unwarrantedly announce details of the wedding.

Everyone's gaze fell in the direction of the ballroom doors to see a woman in a luxurious gray gown taking light and elegant steps toward them.

Her dress flowed fluidly behind her every step.

Everyone was stunned as they set eyes on Madeline's flawless appearance.

From her soulful eyes to the joy exuding from her pink cheeks, Madeline's beauty made one feel an indescribable way.

While beautiful faces were hardly a scarcity in the guests' lives, they could not help but find Madeline's beauty exceptionally breathtaking. It was impossible to tear their eyes from her!

Everyone was curious about where Madeline had come from. The woman was smiling calmly while walking over to a crushed Meredith and Jeremy, who had his eyes fixed on her. Stopping in front of him, she smiled. "I'm here, Jeremy."

Jeremy's eyes constricted as he stared at the mesmerizing woman in disbelief.