

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0301

Madeline smirked, irony apparent in her eyes.

‘How can you still say such a thing, Jeremy Whitman?’

‘Be it the person I used to be or the person I am now, what did I do to deserve Meredith’s bullying?’

‘Is everything she does just correct in your eyes?’

Madeline’s fingers tightened around the stem of the glass while Jeremy remained deep in thought. After a while, he raised his deep gaze to stare at her.

“I owe it to her,” he replied.

Madeline frowned in confusion. “What do you owe her?”

Staring at Madeline’s clear and sparkling orbs, Jeremy’s gaze trailed to stare at the horizon across the sea before them.

“I couldn’t fulfill what I promised her. So I thought perhaps I could make it up to her in another way.”

Madeline scoffed lowly at his reply.

‘You can’t fulfill the promise you made to Meredith, so instead, you’re now trying to make it up to her?’

‘But Jeremy, since when have you fulfilled any of the promises you made me? And since when did you make up for those you could not keep?’

‘You disregarded me when I told you how we met when we were young and trampled over the promise you made.’

‘I’m sorry, I’m afraid I cannot do that.’ Madeline smiled lightly, her eyes staring straight ahead. ‘Everyone must face the consequences of their actions.’

‘Didn’t you say you want to thank me for saving you the other day? You can thank me by not pressing charges,’ Jeremy replied in a heartbeat. Madeline’s eyes widened in shock as a cold and ironic scoff laid at the tip of her tongue. Her eyes settled on the rather attractive features in front of her.

‘Oh, Eveline Montgomery.’

‘This is the man you fell and yearned for the past dozen years? This very man who cannot even tell right from wrong?’

‘Very well then. I shall grant your wish.’ Madeline placed the glass down, her tone heavy with mockery.

‘You must love Meredith Crawford a great deal to go to such lengths for her. So stop beating around the bush and get married already. The two of you surely are a ‘match made in heaven’!’

She made sure that her tone when she said ‘match made in heaven’ was dripped with irony.

Madeline turned around coolly after and made her way to leave, only to have Jeremy pull her back by her wrist.

‘I won’t let your sacrifice be for naught.’ His deep voice drifted warmly by her ear. ‘Anything you ask for in the future, Vera, I’ll do it with no questions asked.’

“You’re really going all out for Meredith.” A mocking smile graced Madeline’s features. “Remember the words you just said. It’ll be too late when you regret them in the future.”

Regret.

This very word again.

Jeremy felt his heart jolt as he stared at the alluring features in front of him, his gaze meaningful.

He refused to do anything that he would regret in the future.

The night grew and the bottle was finished, mostly by Jeremy.

As far as Madeline was concerned, he had called her out to get drunk over Meredith.

What was so good about Meredith that gave Jeremy the need to have and protect her?

Sure, he had said that he would void their engagement. Yet everything Jeremy said and done since then was still for Meredith.

Madeline found it ridiculous.

If this was how true love looked like, then true love was preposterous.

Lifting her wrist to look at her watch, Madeline realized that it was getting late. Her phone rang from inside the car, but as she opened the door, Jeremy suddenly pushed her inside.

Madeline frowned in displeasure, her tone grumbling. “Jeremy. What are you...”

She paused suddenly as she was met with Jeremy's deep eyes mere inches away just as she turned around. The influence of alcohol was potent in them. He was most certainly drunk.

The distance between them was almost non-existent, and she found herself unable to escape as he pressed her between himself and the car.

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“You fancy me, don’t you?” His seductive tone drifted into her ear with warmth. “I can feel it.”

His tone was decisive, and confidence was the only thing in his peach blossom eyes that had glazed over.

Madeline found herself slightly at a loss with how close they were and the words he was saying.

“You’re drunk,” Madeline responded calmly, though doubt was flashing in her eyes.

Was he actually drunk, or was he just pretending?

“It’s nice being drunk. At least then I get to see her...” He smiled, the ‘her’ spoken so quietly that she almost missed it.

The night wind blew past them, ruffling the wisps of his bangs. His eyes were gentle, tinted with fondness and adoration under the hazy colors of the night that Madeline had never seen before.

He stared at her, then closed their distance even more. The scent of wine tickled her face with every breath of his.

“I missed you so much...” he suddenly proclaimed, staring at her.

Madeline’s heart shook and she was about to push him away. However, the man only reached over to caress her face.

Skin met skin, and she stared into Jeremy's eyes, stunned. There was a subtle flicker of light within that had given her cheeks a warm flush.

"Let me go, Jeremy."

"No. I'll never let you go again..." he muttered as his fingertips continued to trace her brows. Every touch was gentle like he was touching his beloved treasure.

Madeline was at a loss and her heart began to thump erratically in her chest.

She had no idea what Jeremy was thinking, but she was certain that his eyes were filled with so much tenderness that she might just fall for him again if she stared any longer.

Once again, she reached out to push the man away, only for Jeremy to lean down to press his cold lips against hers, mingling their heated breaths.

Madeline's eyes shot wide open. She never expected Jeremy to kiss her.

His eyes closed as his thick lashes fluttered, falling into two sets of shadows under the street lights.

His expression had never been more serious.

Getting the feeling that Jeremy was about to deepen the kiss, Madeline immediately turned her face to the side.

His lips were planted on the side of her cheek instead. He then buried his head in the crevice of her neck as he leaned weakly against her. "I've missed you so much..." he murmured. His eyes and heart were filled with Madeline Crawford in his drunken haze, the very Madeline Crawford who he realized too late he was in love with...

Madeline felt that she would have fallen had it not been for the car behind her supporting her up.

A person's weight doubled when they were drunk, and Jeremy had just drifted off to sleep during the absurdity of the situation.

The autumn wind began to blow, clearing the flush and warmth on her face.

The first light of dawn broke through the horizon, waking Jeremy from his dream. Opening his eyes, memories of the night before slowly surfaced in his mind. Madeline had felt so real, and the warmth of their kiss seared in the back of his head.

He took a look at his surroundings and realized that he had fallen asleep in his car. His clothes were unkempt, and Vera was nowhere to be found.

Alighting the car, he was met with a familiar silhouette meeting the morning wisps of autumn wind just as he turned around. Barefoot on the sand, the woman's flushed cheeks and fair elegance was a replica of the woman in his dreams.

‘Madeline.’

He muttered the name internally and made his way toward her.

Seeing Jeremy make his way over, Madeline turned her back against the sea and smiled at him. “Awake?”

Jeremy nodded, his eyes slightly apologetic. “Did I... accidentally do something improper to you last night?”

Madeline furrowed her brows in distress. “I suppose the phrase ‘alcohol is a precursor to sex’ isn’t entirely wrong.”

Jeremy's expression immediately changed. "You mean..."

"How do you plan to take responsibility, Jeremy?"

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Jeremy's pupils contracted. "You mean, last night, we..."

Madeline nodded before he could finish speaking.

Distress immediately surfaced on Jeremy's features.

He admitted that he was infatuated with the woman in front of him, but he was also clear that such infatuation was an extrapolation of the yearning he felt for Madeline.

He meant it when he said he wanted to marry her, but he had never thought of engaging in any form of skin-on-skin relationship with another woman after Madeline.

He had approached Vera out of selfishness. He wanted to stare at the features of someone who looked exactly like Madeline a little longer, just so he could ease the guilt within him.

Yet right now...

He felt like a b*stard.

He claimed that he loved her, yet he found himself unable to withstand the allure of another woman in his moment of drunkenness.

"Look at you. You seem distressed. Why? Because I remind you of the ex-wife you hated so much? You must feel disgusting and dirty."

Madeline's frigid words brought him back to reality.

Staring at her innocent features that were glowing under the morning light, she looked just like 'her'. He found himself unable to describe such angelic beauty with the word 'dirty'.

While he could not remember every detail of the night before, Jeremy admitted that he had a nice dream last night—one that involved the warmth of Madeline's body.

Staring at the complex feelings swimming in Jeremy's eyes, Madeline's lips quirked into a smile before they were pressed into a cold line.

"I get it. Please don't look for me ever again, Mr. Whitman. Our relationship ends here."

She brushed past him just as her cold tone fell.

Jeremy immediately snapped back from his thoughts. "Vera."

He ran after her in big steps to pull the woman who did not even spare a glance behind her back.

Madeline pulled her arm out of his grasp and continued to make her way forward. She must have stepped on something, for she felt a sharp stab of pain shoot up from the bottom of her feet, causing her to bend forward instinctively.

Chupse!

"What's wrong?" Jeremy reached out to support Madeline's arm in concern. Seeing the frown on her face and how she was tiptoeing on her right foot, he immediately held her foot and squatted to take a look.

Amidst the white sand was a sharp shard of glass, its tip tinted with blood.

Without a second thought, Jeremy immediately went to hold Madeline by her waist. “Let me have a look at your wound first.”

“I don’t need your help.” Madeline pushed him away, tiptoeing her way forward by herself.

Jeremy could not help but be reminded of Madeline as he stared at the woman’s stubborn figure.

That was just how strong she was. She would stubbornly hold her head up no matter how horrid the torture she was suffering.

Quickly reining his thoughts back, he took wide steps to catch up to Madeline and carried her horizontally with a hand on her waist.

“What are you doing, Jeremy Whitman? Put me down!” She protested, distaste apparent on her features.

Paying Madeline’s struggle no heed, Jeremy continued to make his way along the street with her in his arms. His expression was unchanging.

He walked purposefully along the path that led to April Hill’s small town.

Madeline stopped fighting back as well, for the path reminded her of the scene from more than ten years ago.

Her foot had also been pierced by a shard of glass back then, and a 12-year-old Jeremy then piggybacked her to the town’s health center.

She remembered how he had comforted her the entire way as well as the promises he made to protect her from then onward.

In the end, not only had he not given her the slightest protection, but he even took part in causing her pain.

Her eyes reddened without her noticing. She never expected such details of the past to still mean so much to her.

Jeremy lowered his gaze to find Madeline's eyes brimming with tears. He was confused and stunned. His heart was clenching inexplicably at the sight.

For a moment, Jeremy found himself unsure whether the pain in his heart was for the Madeline he had loved a little too late or for the woman currently in his arms.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0304

The two fell silent and the atmosphere around them turned inexplicably weird, though not uncomfortable.

The center was over 500 yards away. It took Jeremy about three minutes to carry Madeline over.

It had almost been 20 years and the health center was still there, albeit renovated.

The two never expected to see the very same doctor, who despite being at the age of retirement now and having a head full of white hair, she remained at her station out of a passion for her work.

She recognized Jeremy the moment he carried Madeline into the clinic.

“I remember you, young man. Your features are very distinctive.” The doctor smiled warmly as she treated Madeline’s wound, dressing it in no time.

Madeline smiled gratefully. “Thank you, Doctor.”

“You’re welcome.” She squinted and readjusted her reading glasses as she analyzed Madeline. “I knew that the two of you would end up together.”

Madeline was stunned. Pushing the gloom down, she wore a confused expression instead. “You knew?”

“Yeah! This young man had piggybacked you over so nervously back then too. You could see the worry on his face. He was sweating all over since he ran all the way under the scorching summer sun! I always thought the two of you looked good together when you were young. It’s been years now but you two left quite the impression on me!”

Madeline did not expect to find someone else who remembered the past.

However, this person was not Jeremy.

Jeremy had forgotten about it long ago.

She lifted her gaze to look at Jeremy who was standing by the side and was shocked to see the man's brows that were furrowed sharply. His expression showed that he was deep in thought.

‘What’s this? Are you remembering a piece of the past you hate, Jeremy?’

‘Are you remembering the ex-wife who you promised to protect forever?’

“Alright, young man. It’s time to bring your wife home. She’s alright now. You should’ve gotten married already, right? It must be nice, being together with your childhood friend.”

Childhood friends.

What immense irony those two words brought.

Sure, their lives were deeply intertwined, and to call them childhood friends was technically not a lie. She had also become his wife, but while the doctor had guessed the first half of it correctly, she did not guess the ending right.

Jeremy carried Madeline in his arms again.

Walking the same path he took, he had a dazed look in his eyes as he stared forward.

The doctor's words echoed in his mind.

The doctor was right. He was indeed the boy years ago, but the girl back then should have been Meredith, no?

Could the doctor have misrecognized Madeline for Meredith since they looked alike? That had to be it.

"You can put me down now. I'll hail a ride back from here," Madeline spoke lightly, "Let's just pretend last night never happened."

Jeremy stopped mid-step and turned to Madeline with a complicated look in his eyes. "I've already told you I want to marry you. That's not going to change, even if last night never happened."

Jeremy was determined. "Your wedding with Felipe won't be held as planned, because I'll make you my wife before that can happen."

His tone allowed no protests, and his aura held a dominance that oozed from between his brows.

He then sent Madeline back to her apartment and even carried her upstairs in all unscrupulousness.

Madeline took a bath after he left. Standing in front of the misty mirror, she wiped it to stare at herself. Her angelic and carefree eyes were now tinted with newfound complexity and scheming.

She smiled, knowing that she was one step closer to getting her revenge.

...

Jeremy's heart calmed when he returned home and found that everything had now reverted back to how they originally were. The things that were thrown away earlier in the day were restored as well.

The only thing that brought him displeasure was the fact that Meredith was still sitting expectantly in the room.

Realizing he had returned, Meredith approached him softly to greet him, her gaze full of hurt. “Where did you go last night, Jeremy? You must think that I’m tainted now, right? Do you not want to see me anymore?”

Jeremy stared indifferently at Meredith’s face, suspicion growing in his eyes as the doctor’s words echoed in his mind. “When we first met years ago, you gave me a rainbow seashell. I remember giving you something back. Do you still have it?”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0305

Meredith was stunned and slightly anxious. “Why are you asking me this so suddenly, Jeremy?”

“Did you lose it?” Jeremy pressed on coldly.

“No! How could I?!” Meredith immediately ensured, saying, “It’s something you gave me, so I made sure to keep it really well.”

Jeremy stared at Meredith with doubt in his eyes. “Where is it?”

“...” Meredith halted before breaking into a gentle and small smile. “Are you wondering if I yearned for you all those years? Of course, I did. That’s why everything you gave me is in safekeeping. I can take it out for you now if you don’t believe me!”

With that, she ran out the door.

Half an hour later, Meredith returned with a small bookmark made from a leaf in her hands.

The leaf was real, for it was laminated between two pieces of plastic—still whole and unbroken after all these years.

“Look, Jeremy.” Meredith handed the bookmark over with a sweet smile on her face, her tone sounding meaningful. “I really miss how it used to be back then, Jeremy. Back when I was the only one in your heart.”

Jeremy reached out calmly to take the bookmark as he listened to Meredith’s words.

Indeed, it was the one he had made all those years ago.

Meredith was indeed that girl.

Shoving the suspicion back into his chest, he placed the bookmark aside.

Meredith let out a slight exhale of relief.

Meredith had someone investigate Jeremy's whereabouts on her way back, having felt that Jeremy was suspicious about something. She found that he had made a trip to April Hill.

It was highly probable that suspicion had risen within him due to something or someone there.

Thank goodness that she found the diary she had stolen from Madeline at home and the bookmark was pressed between its pages, or who would have known what sort of trouble Meredith would find herself in.

Now that Jeremy's expression was no longer as frigid, Meredith decided to play the emotional card and forced upset tears to fall from her eyes.

"I'm sorry, Jeremy. I shouldn't have gone into your room without your permission. Forgive me, please?"

She slowly lifted her hands to hold Jeremy's arm.

"I really want to stay here. I'm so afraid that someone might just come up behind me and take advantage of me. I'm terrified..."

"But with you and Jack, the people I love most, here, I feel like I can slowly forget the pain."

Jeremy pulled his arm back coldly at her words.

“Stay if that’s what you want.” His lips parted emotionlessly.

It did not matter whether Meredith lived here or not, not when the last clean spot had already been tainted.

Meredith was elated. “Really, Jeremy? Then this family of ours won’t need to be separated anymore!”

She skipped over to Jeremy with an affectionate look in her eyes. “I just knew you wouldn’t dump me like that, Jeremy. You promised to take care of me forever...”

Forever.

An indescribable smirk tugged at the corner of Jeremy’s lips at the word.

...

Madeline relayed everything about the night before to Felipe, leaving nothing out as the latter listened silently by the floor to ceiling windows. He was deep in thought.

“He believes me. He thinks that something happened between us, so he was determined when he said he’ll marry me.”

An ironic glint sparkled in Madeline’s beautiful eyes as she stared at Felipe’s lithe figure.

“Jeremy has always refused to believe anything I told him back then and opted to believe Meredith instead as she would frame me time and time again. So now, I’m going to give them a taste of how it feels to be played and framed.”

Her words fell, bringing the duo into a short lapse of silence.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0306

Felipe turned around a few seconds later, concern tinting the gentleness on his chiseled features that were enhanced by the warm rays of the setting sun.

“I just want to ask you one last time, Vera. Are you sure that this is what you want? It wasn’t easy escaping the claws of a monster. Are you sure you want to be caged by him again?” His tone was warm like the winds of spring, but in his eyes held a fierce glint.

Madeline hesitated for a confused moment before a revengeful flare shone in her eyes.

“I can take the pain and humiliation they gave me, but I’ll never forgive the two of them for teaming up to destroy the ashes of my precious child. The death of my child is something I must avenge!”

Madeline balled her fists as hatred imprinted itself deeply onto her gentle features. There was a sharp and strong-willed look swimming in her eyes.

After being gifted with rebirth, taking revenge was the top goal that gave her the determination to continue living!

Felipe did not persuade further as he took in the determination in her eyes.

Instead, he raised her hands to place a gentlemanly and loving peck at the back of them.

“Promise me that you’ll take care of yourself no matter what. Should any problem arise, I want you to look for me.”

Madeline was stunned for a moment and the cold anger in her eyes slowly melted away under Felipe's gentle warmth.

She broke into a smile, locking gazes with the glistening eyes in front of her.

"Thank you, Felipe. I promise I'll come back to you after I take my revenge, then we'll go back to F Country with Lillian where we'll live simply and happily together."

"Alright." Felipe smiled faintly, pulling Madeline gently into his embrace.

With her warm figure held close, the corners of Felipe's lips lifted vaguely. He was hiding a dark secret within.

...

Satisfied, Meredith began to live in Jeremy's villa. Her attitude toward Jackson had undergone a complete 180 change to persuade Jeremy into marrying her. She would go to great lengths to pretend and fake how close and intimate their mother-son relationship was.

She would wake up early on weekdays to make breakfast for Jackson before sending him to school herself.

Jackson, however, did not like Meredith's fake pleasantries. They only made him dislike her more.

Meredith would not stop searching for topics to engage Jackson in as they rode to the kindergarten while the latter remained silent the entire time.

Meredith spared the baby face a displeased glance.

Oh, how Meredith wished to strangle this bastard son of a bitch.

She should have killed him all those years ago. Now, he was the eyesore he was today.

Meredith rolled her eyes in distaste when she saw Jackson looking at the display on his phone. The boy tapped on an app that listed a bunch of figures that Meredith could not understand before the screen showed a small moving red dot in the end.

She found that the appearance of the red dot brought along a hint of a smile on Jackson's expressionless face.

The car pulled to a stop just as Meredith wondered what it was all about.

Meredith looked out to realize they had already reached the kindergarten.

"We're here, Jack. Come on, Mommy's going to send you..." Meredith smiled before turning her head only to realize that Jackson had already alighted the car himself.

She glared at him, feeling pissed. When she followed after him, she realized that there stood Madeline by the kindergarten gates.

As surprised as she was to find that Jackson was walking toward Madeline, she was baffled to find that his reticent baby face was smiling widely because of that woman.

Meredith immediately ran over to pull Jackson back.

At that moment, a car began to speed uncontrollably toward the kindergarten gates.

Someone shouted and Madeline turned to look in that direction. The first thing she saw was Jackson's crescent-eyed smile that warmed her heart. Madeline was about to greet him when she realized the uncontrolled car was currently making its way to where Jackson was.

“Ah!” Meredith exclaimed. Her first reaction was to throw Jackson away and turn back to hide.

The car was about to hit Jackson. Madeline felt her heart drop as she ran instinctively to the boy. “Jack!”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0307

Madeline ran toward Jackson without care, completely disregarding the danger of the situation. Her body made the instinctive decision to protect Jackson, even if it meant getting hurt in the process.

Holding Jackson in her arms, Madeline had not the time to run. She prepared herself to get hurt as she felt the car coming into contact with her body.

In the nick of time, someone shrieked, thinking that a horrible accident was about to occur. However, the car suddenly came to a stop.

Meredith swore as she stared at the scene from afar.

Oh, how she had hoped the car would rid her eyesores, both Vera and Jackson, from her life with this accident!

The car braked, and Madeline felt the world around her grow silent.

Carefully, she opened her arms to stare at the little boy buried in her embrace. She could not help the sudden burn around the corner of her eyes.

“It’s alright now, Jack. Big Sis Vera promised you, didn’t she? I promised to protect you, so I will.”

Madeline raised a hand to pat Jackson’s small head affectionately.

The little boy lifted his innocent orbs that were glistening with complicated emotions within.

“Mom...”

He was calling her that again.

Madeline was stunned, her heart tightening and clenching in her chest.

She held Jackson tightly in her arms again.

Meredith was horrible to him, which was why he hoped to have a mother that loved him. He could not help but call her ‘Mom’ every time he found himself upset or in peril.

“Jack!” Meredith’s fake concern drifted over. “Let go of my son, Vera Quinn! Who let you touch him?”

Madeline had just lifted her gaze when she felt a strong push from Meredith as she pulled Jackson away.

“Are you alright, Jack? You almost scared Mommy!” Meredith held Jackson tightly in mock concern.

Jackson frowned. Pushing Meredith away, he turned to run back to Madeline, immediately fishing out his handkerchief to dress Madeline’s scratch when he saw her leg.

Madeline was stunned, warmth trickling into her heart once more.

The child may not have said anything, but his actions were more than enough to move Madeline.

“Bid Sis Vera’s alright, Jack. Don’t worry.”

She reached out to pat Jackson’s head, but Meredith swatted her hand away.

“Don’t touch my son!” Meredith warned fiercely. “Did you think I wouldn’t know how you’re trying to use Jack to get closer to Jeremy? I won’t let you!”

Bracing through the pain of the scratch, Madeline slowly stood.

Standing on her feet, she stared elegantly at Meredith whose aura was slowly weakening.

“You disregarded your son’s life just to save your own. Wow, Miss Crawford, I never expected people like you to exist in this world.”

Meredith’s expression shifted into mortification as she pulled Jackson’s hand and changed the subject. “I’ll bring you to the hospital, okay, Jackson?”

Jackson frowned as he was dragged away, evidently not wanting to go with Meredith.

Madeline was about to stop them, but the traffic police had just arrived.

The main culprits of the accident were a young couple who had been quarreling over a petty matter. It was thanks to the girlfriend taking the steering wheel and stepping on the brakes did the accident end before lives were taken.

The couple apologized repetitively to Madeline, regretful of their preposterous actions.

Regret always came a little too late.

Jeremy had just arrived at the company when he saw the news about a horrible car accident at the gates of a kindergarten.

He had never cared much about the happenings on the news, but for some reason today, he could not help but click in to understand more.

Reaching his eyes was the scene right before the car crashed. He watched how a familiar-looking figure had run without care toward a small boy in uniform with a small yellow hat perched on his head.

The body of the car promptly covered the figure, making it seem like a collision occurred.

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The video ended.

“Vera.”

Jeremy rewatched the video twice as his heart thumped loudly in his chest. Quickly putting on his blazer, he dialed for Madeline.

The call was left unanswered.

He then sped to the location of the crash. Jeremy received a call just before he arrived.

Jeremy felt his heart calm greatly at the caller ID.

Tapping on his Bluetooth earphones, he answered the call nervously. “Vera?”

“It’s me.”

A familiar voice echoed through, soothing the taut hold over Jeremy’s nerves.

He met Madeline ten minutes later, his gaze heavy as he scanned her unharmed appearance. He pressed on, asking, “Are you really alright?”

Madeline stared calmly at the scratch on her leg. “It’s a small issue. Rather than worrying about me, Mr. Whitman, I’d rather you worry about your son instead.”

Jeremy's brows furrowed. "Jackson?"

"Yeah. I have to ask you, is Jackson really Meredith's son?" Madeline inquired confusedly.

"I was shocked to see her leaving her son to be hit by a car and make a run in the face of danger."

Jeremy's sharp brows furrowed deeper. Remembering the video he watched, it dawned on him that Jackson was the boy Madeline had risked her life to protect.

He did not remember seeing Meredith in the video, though.

"Let me send you home." Jeremy walked up to help Madeline, reaching around her shoulders naturally.

"I'd like you to bring me with you instead if that's alright? Meredith just brought Jackson away. I'd like to know if he's alright."

Jeremy stared at the attractive side profile in front of him and nodded. "Alright, I'll bring you over to my place."

Jeremy kept glancing at the rearview mirror the entire ride, suddenly interested in whether she was actually doing alright.

In a way, she meant differently to him than others.

Madeline entered the villa again. Walking through the doors, she could not help but be reminded of how Meredith had framed her for pushing her down the stairs and how Jeremy forced her to kneel an entire night in the rain after a violent beating in prison.

How cold he had been to the child she was pregnant with, and how limitlessly he had allowed this wicked woman to do whatever she wanted.

He had watched from the sidelines how she suffered under the harsh pitter-patters of the rain.

“A penny for your thoughts?” Jeremy’s baritone voice sounded by her ear.

Madeline reeled in her thoughts and smiled. “I was just thinking if I should let you in on a piece of great news.”

“Great news?” Jeremy’s eyes squinted slightly to meet Madeline’s mirthful ones.

The car stopped before the gates that very moment and out came Meredith and Eloise with a cold-looking Jackson in tow.

Upon entering the courtyard, Meredith was stunned to find Jeremy and Madeline standing together. She quickly ran over.

“What are you doing at my house, Vera Quinn?” She interrogated, her tone sounding harsh.

Jeremy turned to look at Meredith with displeasure. “Watch your tone. Vera is my guest.”

“Vera?” Meredith felt anger ignite within her. “Why did you bring this woman into our house, Jeremy? And why are you calling her name so affectionately?”

“Are you questioning me?” Jeremy parted his lips to ask coldly, his gaze piercing and fierce. “How about you answer me first? What were you doing when Jack was about to be hit by a car? You’re his mother.”

“I... I was about to save Jack, but I twisted my ankle!” Meredith opened her mouth to give an excuse.

“You twisted your ankle?” Madeline smiled at the absurdity of the situation. “At least try to make your lies logical, Miss Crawford.”

“It’s you again, Vera Quinn. You’re the one spreading rumors about me in front of Jeremy!” Meredith sounded wronged. “I wouldn’t have twisted my ankle if you hadn’t pushed me! I would never have let the car hit Jack! You have to believe me, Jeremy! Don’t let yourself be fooled by this woman’s lies!”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0309

Meredith looked at Jeremy with her charming almond-shaped eyes that were filled with grievances as she said angrily, “Jeremy, Jack is our precious son. I wouldn’t allow him to be hurt at all as if my life depended on it. How could I have abandoned him?”

Just then, Eloise slowly walked over with Jackson. Her contemptuous gaze was directed at Meredith. “Miss Quinn, I heard that you’re about to marry Jeremy’s uncle, so why are you still hanging around here all day long with my daughter’s fiancé? Have your parents never told you that it’s shameless for you to do this?”

Faced with Eloise’s sarcasm, Madeline merely gave a tranquil and composed smile. “You’ve asked a good question, Mrs. Montgomery. My parents didn’t teach me this because not long after I was born, they brought someone else’s child home and abandoned their biological daughter due to their moment of negligence.”

When Madeline mentioned her life experience all of a sudden, Jeremy looked at her unexpectedly.

Seeing the elegant smile on her beautiful face, he felt a prick in his heart for some reason.

Eloise and Meredith were respectively taken aback.

‘It’s actually so similar to Madeline’s life experience?’ Meredith thought silently.

However, Eloise was a little lost, and her face no longer carried the contemptuous smile.

Sensing the changes in Eloise’s expression and Meredith’s face, Madeline’s pretty lips twitched.

“Although my biological parents didn’t teach me this, the person who raised me later on did, so now it’s my turn to question you, Mrs. Montgomery. Since you’re so accomplished, why was this daughter of yours brought up to be so despicable, indecent, and so indifferent toward family affection that during a dangerous moment, she would abandon her own son to escape alone? It seems that your upbringing isn’t much better, Mrs. Montgomery.”

“You, what nonsense are you talking about here?!” Eloise said angrily, “You dare slander my daughter like this? You’d better apologize to Meredith immediately. Otherwise, I will have to look into it till the end!”

“Mom...” Meredith’s eyes reddened as tears of grievances started to pool. “Jeremy, did you hear that? I’ve tolerated this Miss Quinn time and time again, but she provokes and vilifies me non-stop. She continues to slander me to this day. The reason why I have suffered so much harm is all because of her. Why is my life so bitter...”

Listening to Meredith’s crying voice, Eloise comforted her distressingly, then pointed a finger at Madeline.

“Vera Quinn, you planned for my daughter’s humiliation! You shameless woman! You’ll do everything possible to interfere with Jeremy and Meredith’s relationship just to get him, you...”

“The one who has been pestering isn’t Vera. It’s me.”

Suddenly, Jeremy’s low and cold voice interrupted Eloise intensely.

His eyebrows were tightly furrowed while his face was stained with frost.

“This matter ends here. No one is allowed to mention it again.”

“What? This woman asked someone to kidnap Meredith and you just want to forget it?” Of course, Eloise could not accept it. Her eyes were full of anger as she said, “I will never let Meredith be bullied in vain! Meredith, don’t worry. I will definitely seek justice for you!”

Meredith's eyes flickered. In order to avoid suspicion, she could only continue to play the victim. "Justice be the will of the people. I believe one day people who have done bad things will be severely punished!"

When she said this, she looked at Madeline firmly.

Madeline opened her mouth meaningfully, "Miss Crawford is right, and I also believe that some people will soon be punished for their evils."

"..." Meredith was stunned and began to avoid Madeline's gaze with a guilty conscience.

"Since Jack is okay, then I can rest assured." Madeline smiled gently and looked at Jackson who had been looking at her. "Goodbye, Jack."

Jackson looked at her. His big bright eyes were flashing with emotions of wanting to speak, but in the end, he still did not.

"Are you leaving?" Jeremy's gaze was deep.

"Should I just stay here and continue to be cursed by others, then?" Madeline smiled, feeling that Eloise's eyes were still full of disgust.

Although she kept telling herself not to care anymore, in the end, Eloise was still her closest relative and she could not completely ignore it.

"I'll drop you off." Jeremy offered.

Meredith's face sank. "Jeremy, Jack and I had just received quite the shock. Are you still going to leave us be?"

“Mr. Whitman, you can stay. Don’t worry about me, an outsider.” Madeline glanced at Jeremy, then turned around freely.

“Hmph, consider her an acquaintance!” Eloise rolled her eyes.

Meredith was also very satisfied, but she was only happy for a few seconds as she soon saw Jeremy quickly walking toward Madeline.

“Jeremy!” she shouted, but Jeremy completely ignored her.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0310

Madeline, who had not gone far, smiled quietly.

This action of retreating to advance was very successful, and sure enough, it was her who Jeremy cared more for now.

Jeremy kindly opened the car door for Madeline.

Madeline got into the car and saw Meredith bursting from anger in the rearview mirror. She felt happy thinking about it.

After the car started up, Madeline said while looking embarrassed, “Although I’ve promised you to no longer pursue the kidnapping case, it seems that they’re going to sue me instead? A robber acting like a cop. I can’t bear this kind of grievance.”

“I won’t allow this to happen.” Jeremy promised.

Madeline looked at him with interest. “You’re really working hard for Meredith.”

Jeremy’s eyes sank when he heard the words. He wanted to deny it, but in the end, he did not say anything.

After a moment of silence, he seemed to have thought of something. “You told me just now that you have good news to tell me. What good news is it?”

Madeline raised her delicate eyebrows and smiled carefreely. “This matter...” she said faintly, looking at Jeremy’s profile with beautiful, clear eyes.

“I want to go to your house tonight and have another taste of the candlelight dinner you made me back then. Then, I’ll tell you what the good news is.”

Jeremy’s eyes flickered when he heard her words. When he saw the red light in front of him, he almost rushed past it.

Lifting his eyes to meet Madeline’s crooked smile, his heartbeat was inexplicably fast for some reason.

Jeremy brought Madelene around and finally went to the supermarket. The two were like newlyweds. She picked out vegetables while he carried the shopping basket for her.

After they were done shopping, Jeremy returned to the villa with Madeline.

Once they had put away the purchased ingredients, Jeremy received a call from the company and had to head back for a bit. He offered to let Madeline into his room to wait for him to return.

Madeline went.

Upon entering the bedroom, an unspeakable ambivalence sprang up in her heart the moment she stepped in.

She should hate it here.

However, seeing the furnishings and displays in the room looking almost exactly the same as three years ago, she was in a daze.

The outdated but simple dresses were still hung in the closet while the sheets had not been changed. She had bought them herself, but the color was much lighter now.

She had been full of joy then, but in the end, the day when he could gently and peacefully hold her to sleep on their wedding bed did not come...

Suddenly, there was movement downstairs, interrupting Madeline's thoughts.

She went out to look downstairs and saw Meredith opening up the ingredients she and Jeremy had bought with a smile on her face. Then, she started to fiddle with them.

When it was becoming dusk, Meredith was almost done preparing all the dishes. She had also set up a candlestick on the table. It looked like she was going to have a candlelight dinner with Jeremy.

Madeline then heard Meredith calling Jeremy, but the phone call did not get through and she switched to leaving a voicemail instead. Meredith suppressed her voice and said in a pretentious tone, "Jeremy, it's Meredith. I've prepared a candlelight dinner for us. When are you coming back? We haven't had dinner together for a long time. I'll wait for you to come back. You need to have dinner with me tonight no matter what."

Meredith hung up after speaking shyly. Then, she ran back to the guest room.

Madeline walked downstairs slowly. She walked into the kitchen, looked at the sumptuous dinner table, and smiled.

Not long after, Meredith came.

Seeing Madeline sitting in the kitchen, Meredith's expression suddenly changed. "Why are you here? Who allowed you to sit here?!"

Madeline raised her eyes leisurely and saw that Meredith was wearing a sexy dress that exposed some of her chest. It was obvious that she wanted to seduce Jeremy.

She was also obviously wearing very expensive perfume, but because she had sprayed on too much, it smelled pungent and cheap.

Madeline raised her eyebrows proudly and looked at Meredith with a gloomy expression. “I will be the mistress of this house soon, so why can’t I be here? What about you? Why do you keep loitering here? Do you want me to drive you off personally?”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0311

Hearing that, Meredith did not feel angry this time but smiled instead.

“Vera Quinn, I think you’ve finally gone mad. You dare say this to me without any embarrassment?”

“I wouldn’t be crazy even when you’ve become crazy,” Madeline retorted without being surprised, “Things have already reached this point. Do you still think Jeremy will want you?”

“Bah! Stop dreaming! Do you think that Jeremy will want you even if he doesn’t want me?” Meredith folded her arms and sneered proudly, her eyes full of confidence, “Vera Quinn, let me tell you this. No matter how much you change your appearance, the woman Jeremy loves the most will always be me. I’m irreplaceable!”

Seeing Meredith’s confident and arrogant appearance, Madeline smiled. “Irreplaceable?” she repeated the word meaningfully. She smiled and picked up the expensive red wine, pouring a little to half of it into the glass in front of her.

“A mean, dirty, snake-hearted woman like you is indeed rare in the world. You can indeed be regarded as an ‘irreplaceable’ wonder,” Madeline said leisurely, holding up the wine glass and swaying it gently. She then took a sip.

“B*tch! How dare you say that to me?!” Meredith’s face turned dark in an instant. Hearing Madeline cursing her and then seeing her drinking the wine so leisurely, she was even more annoyed. “I prepared that for my candlelight dinner with Jeremy. How dare you drink it?!”

All of a sudden, Meredith stretched out her hand fiercely and pushed Madeline’s hand that was holding the wine glass. A little of the red liquid spilled out, and a few drops splashed onto Madeline’s magnolia-white dress.

Seeing that Madeline's skirt was dirtied, Meredith let out a smirking laugh.

“Hmph, Vera Quinn. I advise you to save your time. With your face looking exactly like that slt Madeline, you're destined to be trampled under my feet just like how she was! You're the same as that btch. You aren't worthy of being my opponent. You're not even worthy to lift my shoes... Ah!”

Meredith had not finished her words of triumph when suddenly, a cold liquid was poured on her face.

She screamed before opening her eyes wide in shock, only to realize that Madeline had poured all the red wine in the glass on her face!

“You...” Meredith became angry all of a sudden. Her chest was rising and falling sharply.

Her evil face was covered with red wine and the liquid ran down her cheeks across her unhealed wound, dripping drop by drop onto her body and dress.

“This wine tastes good. Have you tasted it properly? If not, I can pour you another glass.” Madeline smiled leisurely, holding the bottle of red wine with her slender and fair hands. Then, she tipped the mouth of the bottle right above Meredith's feet.

Meredith quickly took a few steps back while looking incredulously at Madeline who was ‘pouring her wine’ with a smile on her face.

“What's wrong? Don't you like red wine? Then, you should be satisfied with your own dishes, right?”

Seeing Meredith looking at her dumbfoundedly, Madeline quirked her eyebrows. She picked up a few of the dishes that had been carefully made by Meredith and poured them all in front of the woman.

“What about these? Do you like them?”

Meredith gritted her teeth. Seeing that not only the outfit she had specially prepared to seduce Jeremy tonight was ruined but also the table of dishes that had been fed to the floor, she gritted her teeth with anger. Her face seemed to be distorted and she looked as if she was about to burst.

Seeing Madeline looking at her with a funny look filled with provocation, Meredith clenched her fists suddenly.

“Vera Quinn, you b*tch!”

She cursed and rushed toward Madeline.

Madeline smiled lightly, picked up the glass, and threw it at Meredith’s feet.

Crash! The cup shattered suddenly as shards of glass scattered all over.

“Ah!” Meredith was startled and she retracted the steps she had just taken abruptly. She staggered back two steps and ran into the cabinet behind her.

She never expected that Madeline would throw the glass at her!

“You! How dare you dare throw it at me?!” Meredith was incoherent and acting violently. “Vera Quinn, I think you’re becoming really tired of life! Alright, since you want to die, I will then fulfill it for you and have you suffer the misery of being neither able to live or die like that b*tch Madeline!”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0312

Meredith's eyes suddenly surged with strong killing intent. The look in her eyes was as if she wished she could slash Madeline with a thousand swords.

She grabbed the pair of scissors from the cabinet, pointed the sharp end toward Madeline, and rushed at Madeline murderously.

Meredith was full of anger and was trying her best to teach Madeline a bloody lesson.

However, Madeline was not afraid. She even tried to dodge.

She stretched out her hand calmly, seizing the opportunity to grasp Meredith's hand that was waving the scissors around.

Meredith's almond eyes widened. She raised her other hand to sneak an attack on Madeline, but Madeline saw through it in a glance. While stopping Meredith, she unceremoniously raised her hand toward Meredith's face and sent a loud slap.

With a slap, Meredith then exclaimed in pain.

The knife wound on her face had not even healed yet and she was also drenched in red wine. After getting slapped, a fiery pain burned within her flesh.

“My face!” she exclaimed, suddenly raising her angry eyes.

She did not want to meet Meredith's arrogant and cold eyes at this moment after raising her head. She could not help her trembling body.

“What’s wrong? Finally tasted the ache of having salt sprinkled on your wound?” Madeline chuckled.

“You... Vera Quinn, you’d better let go!” Meredith was angry, annoyed, and eager to break free. “Vera Quinn, you listen here. You’d better let go of me immediately. Otherwise... Otherwise, I’ll definitely make you regret this!”

“Regret?” Madeline quirked her lips as she smiled, but not only did she not let go, she even tightened her grip around Meredith’s wrist.

From those beautiful eyes suddenly burst forth sharp, piercing rays of light. “Meredith, you should listen to me clearly. I’m not the Madeline who would allow herself to be trampled on or taken advantage of.

“I already know about everything you did to Madeline. I may look the same as Madeline, but that doesn’t mean you can succeed with me through the same means!”

Madeline raised her beautiful eyes coldly and arrogantly. With a sharp tone, she said, “Meredith, look at how you are now. Whether it’s your appearance or your heart, everything about you is dirty and ugly. Do you think Jeremy would still want you like this?”

She sneered, her eyes full of ridicule.

“Let’s not talk about the throne of being the young lady of the Whitman family. You don’t even have the qualifications to enter the Whitmans’ gate!” Madeline sneered, shaking off Meredith’s wrist.

Meredith took two steps back in a daze. Her originally murderous aura and anger were completely crushed by Madeline’s own aura.

She touched her stinging cheek while staring at Madeline. She gritted her teeth fiercely but could not refute with a single word.

Just then, from the entrance hall came the sound of the doorbell. Meredith raised her head abruptly to see that it was Jeremy. She immediately put away all her hostility, put on a mask of weakness from having been humiliated, and ran toward him crying.

Jeremy was puzzled when he saw Meredith running toward him.

She seemed to be well dressed but was somehow covered with red wine stains. Her hair was messy as well. She looked particularly embarrassed.

“Jeremy...” As soon as Meredith came over, she threw herself directly into Jeremy’s arms and hugged him tightly.

Jeremy’s eyebrows narrowed. He felt dissatisfied, and when he was about to push Meredith away, she started crying in his arms.

“Jeremy, why? I’m already like this, so why does Miss Quinn still want to trouble me? She had already set me up to be kidnapped from the hospital before, asking those men to insult and humiliate me! She said that I’m dirty and not worthy of you. She even tossed the dishes that I had made specially for you to the ground and made fun of me for not being worthy to cook for you. Moreover, she hit me. Huhuhu... Miss Quinn is terrifying, Jeremy...”

As soon as Meredith’s accusation sounded, Jeremy caught a figure in the light.

He raised his deep eyes and saw Madeline not far away, but his eyes were suddenly filled with worry. He pushed Meredith, who was holding him tightly, away and strode toward Madeline.

“Vera, what happened to you?”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0313

Meredith did not expect that Jeremy would push her away so simply. She was dumbfounded!

She heard Jeremy calling out Vera's name nervously. The worry and concern in his tone clearly belonged to her alone!

Now, however, he was giving it to another woman.

What made Meredith even more astounded was that she was actually seeing Madeline sitting on the ground at this moment with a helpless and weak expression, as if she had been pushed down by someone.

“Why are you sitting on the floor?” Jeremy walked quickly toward Madeline before kneeling down. The corners of his eyes and eyebrows were dyed with sadness and a rare tenderness.

Madeline slowly raised her beautiful eyes and glanced at Meredith who was behind Jeremy.

“If I said that this noble Miss Crawford pushed me down, would you believe me?” She looked at Jeremy's deep eyes innocently.

When Meredith heard this, she clenched her fists violently and defended herself angrily. “Vera, what are you talking about? How could I have pushed you? It was you who provoked me and destroyed the dinner I prepared for Jeremy. You even hit me!”

She then said in a frail tone while crouching next to Jeremy and holding onto his arm, “Jeremy, don't be fooled by this woman. She bullied me! I didn't even lay a finger on her, Jeremy. Don't you believe me?”

Meredith looked at Jeremy deeply, looking forward to his satisfactory response to her.

However, instead of paying attention to Meredith, Jeremy stretched out his hand and gently lifted Madeline up.

“Ow!” Madeline frowned.

Jeremy looked at the area where she had been bruised in the morning because of the car accident. “Does it hurt?”

“A little.”

“I’ll take care of it for you,” Jeremy said as he put his arms around Madeline’s shoulders. He helped her sit down on the sofa tenderly and with so much care.

Meredith could not believe what she was seeing. Her eyes were filled with envy, jealousy, and burning hatred.

Seeing that Jeremy had brought out a small medicine box and was preparing to treat Madeline’s wounds personally, Meredith could no longer maintain her always soft, dignified, and gentle demeanor.

“Jeremy, do you really not believe me but instead believe this demon of a girl?” Meredith pointed at Madeline angrily. “Can’t you tell that she’s acting?!”

Jeremy’s long fingers that were holding the alcohol pads paused. “Acting? The car accident in the morning was an act? Vera’s desperate effort to save Jackson was also an act? Is the wound on her foot also an act?” he asked in a cold voice. His indifferent tone was like the cold winter wind in Meredith’s ears.

Meredith opened her mouth but was speechless.

Madeline raised her delicate eyebrows as her mouth formed a dimpled smile. “Miss Crawford, I know you always think that I want to steal Jeremy from you, which is why you’re always targeting me. Whatever one does, the heavens are watching. What wicked things you have done, surely you know it in your heart. Jeremy knows it too. You cannot just simply tarnish my name with just a few words.”

“You...” Meredith was so angry that she almost jumped to her feet.

Her eye sockets were splitting, but she could not choke out a word.

She had always been the one setting others up. Since when was it the others’ turn to set her up and make her the one to feel aggrieved instead?!

‘How dare you, Vera Quinn?!’

Meredith gritted her teeth and stared at Madeline’s smiling face, wishing to bore through her face!

“You should go and reflect on what you have done,” came Jeremy’s order of chasing away his guests.

Meredith clenched her fists unwillingly. Her heart was full of anger, but in the end, she could not release it. Instead, she wept while feeling aggrieved. “Jeremy, we’ve been together for so many years, yet you actually refuse to believe me. I’m heartbroken!” she said before covering her face and running away crying.

Unmoved, Jeremy continued to treat Madeline’s wounds without even sparing a glance for Meredith.

Madeline had been watching, however. Watching Meredith’s resentful yet aggrieved figure running away really made her feel so happy.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0314

‘Meredith, finally you know what it’s like to not be trusted by the man you love.

‘Everything that I’ve done today is nothing compared to the humiliation and set-ups you imposed on me in the first place.

‘Of course, what I want to give back to you is much more than that.’

“I always seem to hurt you lately.” Jeremy’s low, husky voice sounded softly. “But I promise that this situation will never happen again.”

Madeline turned her head to look over and he happened to look up.

Their two pairs of eyes met inadvertently. He had eyes as deep as the sea that looked as if they were rippling with dizzying vortexes. All of Madeline’s attention was drawn to him at once.

Madeline’s heartbeat quickened somehow. She even felt a warmth slowly spreading from her ears to her cheeks.

She looked at the unmatched, handsome face in front of her in a slight daze as her heartbeat accelerated. Soft ripples gradually dispersed from her initially clear and charming eyes, making her look coquettish for a moment.

Seeing Madeline looking at him obsessively with blushing cheeks and droopy eyes, the rhythm of Jeremy’s heart also began to beat irregularly.

The face in front of him was exactly the same as that woman's in his memory. He felt so moved at the moment.

However, he recalled clearly that these were two different people. He would not be moved. Yet, the change in rhythm made him delusional and dazzled.

He seemed to really be harboring a subtle affection for the person in front of him.

“Why do you keep looking at me like that?” he asked in a low tone.

Madeline was startled. She felt that her breathing and heartbeat were all messed up. She was almost overwhelmed by that once familiar fervor.

Then, she remembered something.

“I had a sip of the red wine that Meredith had prepared for you earlier. I think she might have drugged the wine in order to keep you for the night. I'm feeling dizzy now.”

Madeline relied on her tenacious will to express clearly the suspicion in her heart.

Upon hearing this, Jeremy seemed to instantly have thought of something. A touch of sorrow suddenly revealed itself on his handsome face, and unpleasantness spread between his brows.

Six years ago, he believed that Madeline had used drugs to fabricate a relationship with him. No matter how Madeline explained and told him that Meredith was actually the instigator, he did not believe a single word.

Now, he realized that he was wrong yet again.

Deeply oppressed by a strong sense of guilt, Jeremy suddenly felt his breathing becoming difficult.

What exactly did he wrong her for? Could he count all the evil deeds he had committed against her?

Even if he could count them, how could he atone for them?

As Jeremy was in a trance, he saw that Madeline had stood up unsteadily.

Her footsteps were clumsy as if she was drunk.

Jeremy hurriedly got up and embraced her in his arms.

Falling into the familiar yet unfamiliar embrace, Madeline suddenly felt even more fervor. His unique scent that lingered around the tip of her nose was like feathers falling into her heart, tickling it.

“Let me go. I have to go back...”

“Do you think I’ll send you back to Felipe in your current state?” His husky voice drifted into her ears with an unspeakable numbness.

Madeline looked up with her eyes as gentle as a pool of water. “What do you mean? Don’t tell me you want me to stay with you like this if you’re not going to let me go back?”

Hearing this, Jeremy’s voice was slightly muted. “We already did it once, so why not do it again? What’s important is that it’ll ease your current situation.”

“...”

Without waiting for Madeline’s answer, Jeremy quickly picked her up and walked toward the bedroom...

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0315

Looking at Jeremy, he really did not seem to be joking, but Madeline did not think about really having another relationship with Jeremy again. On that night spent in April Hill, she had simply used his drunken state to deceive him.

She would not allow herself to be played by this cold-blooded man again.

Madeline wanted to break free, but her consciousness was slowly slipping away. She even felt her body gradually changing.

The drug had dampened her senses, making her lean unconsciously into Jeremy's chest.

She was about to lose control of her gradually slipping consciousness as she took in the cold fragrance and the warm feeling of his body.

Meredith had really gone all in. She had only taken a sip and did not expect the drug to be so effective.

Sensing Jeremy carrying her into the room, Madeline, with the last traces of her clear-headed willpower, grabbed his collar firmly. "Jeremy, let me go..."

She had said, but she found her voice to have become unusually charming. She was obviously trying to reject, but the tone made it sound like an invitation instead.

Jeremy glanced at the ever more charming girl in his arms and continued to move forward.

"Quickly put me down! Jeremy, you can't..."

Madeline was still murmuring when she suddenly felt cold all over.

Jeremy had put her into the bathtub. “Don’t be scared. I won’t force you to do anything you don’t want to do.”

His gentle voice was like a stream of refreshing spring water flowing through her warm heart. His words really surprised her.

“Hang in there. It’ll be alright.”

His comforting words sounded with unprecedented tenderness, and like a tranquilizer, Madeline’s worries were calmed.

He took off her coat, and just as he was about to take off her dress, Madeline pinned his hand.

“I can do it myself, so get out.”

Feeling the heat coming from her palm, Jeremy nodded lightly. “Call me if there’s anything. I’ll be outside.”

“Okay.” Madeline nodded strenuously and released her clenched hand.

After seeing that Jeremy had turned around and closed the bathroom door, Madeline immediately turned on the cold water and drenched herself all over...

On that autumn night, a cool breeze blew. Then, it started to rain.

Jeremy stood in front of the windowsill, listening to the sound of the shower coming from the bathroom. His thoughts drifted far away.

The past was gradually flooding his heart like the dense rain outside the window.

He recalled that Madeline had once approached him with evidence that could prove her innocence. However, he had not hesitated to destroy the evidence in order to protect Meredith.

She asked him while in tears whether he thought it mattered or not if she was dead.

He had sneered and questioned her back, “Are you dead then?”

Thinking about it now, what he said at the time must have brought her pain that pierced her heart. At this moment, however, the pain was piercing his heart a thousand times more.

It was only after she died did he realize how important she was to him.

‘Madeline, I regret it.

‘But you didn’t even give me a chance to regret it.

‘I’ve lost.’

He smiled bitterly while looking at the rainy night sky. His eyes heated up quietly.

Clank!

Suddenly, there was a heavy crash in the bathroom. Jeremy instantly withdrew his thoughts and rushed directly into the bathroom without thinking.

As soon as he entered, he saw Madeline sitting drenched in the bathtub with her expression looking lost.

His gaze changed as he picked her up worriedly. Her drenched dress hugged her graceful figure tightly, and the instant the warmth from his palm was passed to her body, Madeline could not help but shudder.

“Vera, how are you?”

He called out her name, and unconsciously, there was a trace of anxiety in his voice.

Madeline shook her head. “I’m alright. Let me shower for a while more. I’m much better already.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0316

Madeline reached out and pushed him away just in case, but Jeremy did not let go of her. He took off his shoes and stepped into the bathtub while hugging her.

Madeline was surprised that Jeremy actually made such a move.

Cold, flowing water was continuously falling from the shower. It quickly wetted his clothes.

Yet, he was unmoving and was as steady as a rock. He hugged her, letting the cold water soak through his body...

As time passed, Jeremy, who sat behind Madeline, was gradually losing his focus and blankly staring at the familiar appearance. He involuntarily hugged her a little tighter.

“Madeline...” he could not help but whisper softly.

Madeline suddenly opened her beautiful eyes that were gradually recovering consciousness. Cold water droplets dripped from her curled eyelashes, falling silently on the back of her hands.

Although Jeremy’s voice was inaudible, Madeline heard it.

Madeline.

“What intimate affection. Jeremy, I used to wish you could call me like that.

‘But all those expectations and wild wishes of mine have long been torn to pieces along with my heart. They can no longer be put together.’

...

The next day, Madeline woke up and found herself sleeping on Jeremy’s bed. Much to her surprise, the clothes she was wearing had been changed. She was now wearing a loose bathrobe and was naked inside!

She got up suddenly and saw the obvious mole on her slightly exposed left chest. She quickly gripped the loose neckline.

What had happened?

When did she fall asleep last night? When did she change her clothes? She had no recollection of it at all.

If Jeremy had changed her out of her dress, then he must have seen the mole on her chest...

Click.

The door was pushed open just then and Jeremy walked in elegantly, already well dressed. He did not seem to be in the disoriented state he was in when he accompanied her in the bathtub last night. At this moment, he was charismatic—still the noble, elegant, and unattainable President Whitman.

After Jeremy walked in, his slender eyes glanced vaguely at Madeline’s hand that was gripping tightly at her neckline. He parted his thin lips slightly, “You’re awake. Are you still feeling uncomfortable?”

Madeline steadied her emotions and looked at him calmly, “When did I fall asleep last night?”

“Around early morning,” he answered naturally.

“Were you the one who changed my clothes?”

He met her questioning eyes openly. “Don’t worry, I don’t have the habit of taking advantage of others. I helped you put on the bathrobe first, only then did I take off the soaked dress.”

Madeline looked at Jeremy dubiously and smiled a little. “Then, please leave first. Let me wash up.”

“Okay.” He nodded. “I have all the new toiletries and clothes ready for you.”

“Thanks.”

“We don’t need to be so courteous toward each other. You’ll soon be the lady of this house.” He smiled faintly before turning around and walking out.

Madeline sat on the bed, thinking for a moment. After that, she changed into the clothes that Jeremy had prepared before she went to the bathroom to wash up.

She pulled open her neckline. Her eyes narrowed as she looked at the mole on her left chest in the mirror.

What he said just now should be true. Otherwise, he would have questioned her angrily. How could he have kept his composure?

If he knew that she was still alive, he would definitely settle her quickly. He would have never kept silent.

This was not his style of doing things.

Madeline relaxed after thinking about this.

After washing up, Madeline went downstairs and found that breakfast was ready.

The dining hall had already been tidied and cleaned up. There was none of the red wine or dishes that were spilled on the ground from last night.

Jeremy pulled the chair for her chivalrously and both of them sat down facing each other.

He took a sip of milk gracefully. Seeing Madeline eating her breakfast calmly, he opened his mouth slightly and said, "Although I've already tried to avoid the possibility of offending you last night, I still inadvertently saw a mark on a certain part of your body."

Madeline suddenly stopped in the middle of picking up the milk as her heart skipped a beat.

What did he mean? Was he implying that he had actually seen the mole on her chest? Did he know she was his damned ex-wife?

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0317

Despite feeling surprised on the inside, Madeline still maintained an elegant and calm smile.

She lifted her picturesque brows and showed a slightly confused expression. “Is there a special mark on my body? How come I don’t know of it? So, what did you see?” she asked calmly, but her heartbeat had started to become tense.

His deep black eyes were looking at her own as his lips curled up slightly. “There’s a pale pink butterfly at the back of your left waist.”

His low, husky voice carried the languidness and casualness of the early morning hours.

“I think it should be a birthmark.”

Madeline quietly heaved a sigh of relief upon hearing his answer. She curled her lips and smiled faintly. “It’s a birthmark.”

“A very special birthmark.”

“So what if it’s special? I was still abandoned by my biological parents.” Madeline lowered her gaze and ate her breakfast quietly.

The morning halo shone through the glass window and scattered on her sweet, elegant face. Her dense eyelashes fluttered gently with the blinking of her eyes. There was an unspeakable sense of loneliness hidden deep in her flowy and beautiful eyes.

For some reason, Jeremy could not help but feel a pang of pain in his chest as he watched the woman in front of him looking down silently.

The smile on his face disappeared while his expression became much more solemn. “You said previously that your parents lost you due to their neglect and took in the wrong child. Have you looked for them over the years?”

“I found them,” Madeline replied without looking up, “But they much prefer that phony now. As for me...”

Madeline laughed a little sarcastically. “As for me, they don’t even want to see me, let alone acknowledge me.”

There was a long silence after her voice fell.

After breakfast, Jeremy sent Madeline back to her apartment.

Felipe had waited for Madeline all night. Seeing that she was finally back, he quietly let go of the worry in his heart.

Madeline did not tell Felipe that she had been drugged last night, for fear that he would worry.

However, Felipe still noticed that the outfit Madeline was wearing was not the same one she wore when she went out yesterday.

“Did you stay with him all night?” Felipe asked tentatively.

Madeline made an excuse, saying, “I stayed there to piss Meredith off.”

“You slept in his room? You two—”

“No.” Madeline interrupted, her tone becoming colder. “I’ll never let him touch me again. How could I still have expectations for a man who drove me to hell?”

She curled her lips. Her dimples looked sweet, but the smile that she revealed was full of mockery.

“Felipe, don’t worry. I know what I’m doing.”

“Then, that’s good.” Once the worry in Felipe’s eyes faded, they then regained their former fluid tenderness. He held her hand gently. “Although it’s fake, it still makes me uncomfortable to see you staying with him.”

Although his words were a bit vague, Madeline understood clearly upon hearing him.

“From the moment I saw Jeremy driving you out of the car and you falling on the side of the road in the wind and rain, I was determined to protect you.

“Girls are all treasures left on earth by God and should be cherished, especially a girl who is as great and as perfect as you,” Felipe said softly.

The tenderness of his eyes permeated everywhere like hot spring water from underground, surrounding her traumatized body and mind drop by drop.

Madeline looked at Felipe’s eyes dazedly. She wanted to respond but hesitated to speak.

Seeing her struggle, Jeremy only smiled. He reached out his hand and gently stroked her head.

“The 10th of the coming month is Old Master Whitman’s 80th birthday. Whether or not Jeremy is interested in you depends on what he’ll do this time.”

Madeline lowered her gaze and pondered.

This was an amazing opportunity.

Perhaps, it was about time.

Madeline still had lingering fears thinking of what happened last night.

Fortunately, what Jeremy saw was just the butterfly-shaped birthmark on the back of her waist. If he had seen her chest at that time, her identity would be exposed.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0318

On the other side, Meredith had hired people to keep an eye on Jeremy's villa all night. Knowing that Madeline had been in Jeremy's bedroom all night, the more she thought about it, the angrier she got!

She had gotten rid of Madeline completely after all the trouble three years ago, but who knew there would be a woman who looked so much like Madeline.

The main thing was that this woman was not as easy to deal with as Madeline.

Meredith stood in front of her mirror. Looking at the unhealed scar on her face, she became more upset.

She had almost used up all the methods available, yet Jeremy was instead becoming colder toward her. She also knew that only by continuing to play the role of 'Little Linnie' would it be possible to snatch Jeremy back.

Firstly, she needed to treat the wound on her face.

Madeline was thinking when she suddenly felt a little itch on the back of her left waist. She scratched it a little but realized it was getting itchier, so she took a look in the mirror and found a red patch.

In order to pretend to be Madeline and become the daughter of the Montgomeries in the first place, she had not forgotten to tattoo a fake, butterfly-shaped birthmark on this part of her body.

However, as she had been too impatient back then, she randomly searched for a tattoo shop. Who knew that after only three years, not only had the color faded, but she was also suffering from itchiness due to her allergy.

Meredith desperately scratched it in distraught when she suddenly heard the sound of the door opening.

“Meredith, are you in the bathroom?” Eloise’s voice was approaching.

Meredith put down her dress hurriedly and came out of the bathroom casually.

“Mom,” she called out obediently, but her mood showed dejection.

“Meredith.” Eloise patted her shoulder, feeling sorry for her. “Silly girl, don’t think about the unhappy things. Those aren’t your fault.”

Meredith bit her lip, feeling aggrieved. “That Vera Quinn got so many rascals to bully me but nothing is happening to her. I didn’t think Jeremy would not look into this matter just to protect her. The more I think about it, the more heartbroken I am.”

“I’ll definitely pursue this matter for you!” Eloise assured. “I think Jeremy might just be confused for the moment. Just now, the manager of D.W called me and said that Jeremy went to order an evening dress. The size of the dress is the size you usually wear!”

Meredith was a little surprised upon hearing it. “Jeremy ordered an evening dress for me?”

Eloise smiled cheerfully. “The 10th day of the coming month is Old Master Whitman’s 80th birthday. I think Jeremy ordered that dress for you to wear on the day. He wants you to be his companion to the birthday banquet.”

“Is it true?” Meredith said with surprise. All her worries and dissatisfaction from before were wiped out in an instant.

Eloise nodded affirmatively. “Of course, it’s true. You’ve also said it before that you’ve been together with him for so many years now and even given birth to a child for him. He’s just been throwing tantrums with you these days, but the person he actually loves most has always been you!”

Listening to these words, Meredith gradually regained her confidence. The more she realized it, the more reasonable she felt it to be.

“So, just be happy these days and take care of your injury first.”

Meredith nodded repeatedly with sparkly eyes.

She seemed to be seeing herself wearing the evening dress that Jeremy had personally ordered himself. She imagined walking beside him radiantly and enjoying everyone’s envious eyes.

She would never miss the great opportunity to announce her marriage to him when the time came!

Meredith’s mood improved a lot. After the scar on her face had scabbed off, she hurriedly went to the beauty salon for a laser treatment. After applying foundation, the scar was basically invisible.

The day before Old Master Whitman’s birthday, the service assistant at D.W reported to her that Jeremy had personally picked up the evening dress and it should be given to her today.

Meredith looked at the photo. No matter the design or tailoring, the evening dress had quite a lasting charm. She could not wait to wear it right away.

Meredith waited and waited till it was dark, but Jeremy never contacted her.

She really could not wait any longer, so she called Jeremy, but no one answered.

She went to the villa to look for Jeremy, but he was not there either.

Meredith was anxious and annoyed. She had hired people to obtain Jeremy's whereabouts, but nothing could be found.

Early the next morning, Meredith put on heavy makeup with dark circles under her eyes and went to Whitman Manor with Eloise.

Many guests had already entered the yard one after another, talking and laughing with each other. The atmosphere was harmonious.

Meredith looked around, but she still did not see Jeremy.

Seeing Mrs. Whitman coming out, she immediately ran over to ask her. Mrs. Whitman saw her and was a little confused. "Jeremy called in the morning and said that he'd be bringing an important girl to meet his parents. I thought he was joking around and actually talking about you. But then, how could it be that he wasn't talking about you? Then, who is Jeremy bringing?"

Mrs. Whitman was puzzled and so was Eloise.

Meredith's expression changed instantly. She had a bad feeling all of a sudden.

As she was being apprehensive, there was movement at the gate. She looked up subconsciously, her eyes about to pop out the instant she saw the scene not far away. Her raging anger shot up to her throat!

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0319

Jeremy was dressed in a well-tailored black suit, his tall and stylish figure perfectly outlined.

His countenance was golden while his noble and elegant temperament was revealed in his gestures.

It was this side of Jeremy that Meredith had wanted to seize when she first saw him!

She had seized him with conspiracy and tricks for many years, but she did not expect this perfect man to be holding another woman's hand today.

Meredith angrily looked at Vera who was walking beside Jeremy. What was even more unacceptable was that she had thought that the evening dress Vera was wearing was one that Jeremy ordered for her, but it turned out that he bought it for Vera!

She had been looking forward to it for so long for naught!

In the end, reality hit her with a resounding slap!

Jeremy had always been a shining spot in the crowd. The guests in the garden noticed his appearance, and at the same time, they saw Madeline who was next to him arm in arm.

The woman in their eyes was not that devastatingly beautiful, but their eyes were still drawn to her involuntarily.

The dress was beautiful, but when worn on Madeline's body, it was just a foil.

Her figure was beautiful and graceful with an air of orchids. Her skin was like a porcelain vase that left a mild scent wherever she passed by. It was memorable.

Her smile was so casual, but it also looked really unique.

Some people could not help but whisper, “Isn’t that Vera Quinn?”

“The founder and designer queen of Miss L.ady.”

“She was a big star at the last business reception for Miss L.ady’s second anniversary.”

“She really looks like Young Master Whitman’s ex-wife. How did Young Master Whitman get together with her?”

“I heard early on that Young Master Whitman frequently went to First Crystal Street to look for her. It seems that their relationship is unusual.”

“I also heard that Meredith was kidnapped last month and that the few men had done something to her. Is it because of this that Young Master Whatman no longer wants Meredith and is now with this Vera Quinn...”

“Tsk...”

Meredith was already clenching her fists with anger when she heard all these kinds of speculative words coming from behind her.

She felt as if she was about to explode, but considering the current occasion, she had to endure it.

However, Eloise could not bear it anymore and walked straight over. “Vera Quinn.”

Madeline stopped, looked at the angry Eloise, and smiled politely. “Mrs. Montgomery, is something the matter?”

“I’m fine, but you won’t be soon enough!” Eloise said, suddenly raising her hand to slap Madeline’s face fiercely.

With a slap, Madeline’s face was turned to the side. She looked a little lost.

She laughed sarcastically. How could the pain on her face compare to the pain spreading in her heart?

She had no precaution just because she was facing her own biological mother and so, she ended up receiving the slap.

When everyone saw this, Meredith smiled secretly.

Jeremy looked at Eloise, displeasure apparent in his sharp gaze. “Have you gone mad? How dare you hit my partner?”

“Your partner?” Eloise chuckled. “Jeremy, I don’t want to lose my reputation in front of so many people for Meredith’s sake, but I’ll definitely deal with this vixen!”

Eloise said as she raised her palm, wanting to hit Madeline again.

Jeremy’s gaze sank as he subconsciously stretched out his arm to protect Madeline in his arms. With his other hand, he grabbed Eloise’s wrist.

“Do you dare to hit her again?”

He flung Eloise away angrily.

Eloise lost her focus and fell backward. Meredith hurried to support her anxiously.

“Mom, Mom, are you okay?” she said worriedly, tears coming to her eyes as she said, “Mom, forget it. Don’t worry about me anymore. I’m the one who is no longer in a relationship with Jeremy, so just let him and Miss Vera be together. It’s enough that I get hurt. I don’t want you to get hurt too.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0320

Eloise had always been willing to do anything for her daughter, but she felt even more distressed when Meredith said this.

“Meredith, don’t worry. Your mother will never allow you to be bullied so simply! I want everyone here today to take a clear look at Young Master Whitman who’s the richest and most powerful man in Glendale but truly an indifferent scumbag. And this one named Vera Quinn who’s also a despicable and shameless vixen!”

Gasp!

The guests were all shocked to hear Eloise’s words.

Hearing this, it seemed that Vera Quinn was meddling in between Jeremy and Meredith’s relationship, causing Meredith to be abandoned.

“Mom, don’t say it, don’t say it! It’s all my fault. It has nothing to do with Jeremy and Miss Vera. Let’s go!” Meredith burst into tears, her weak and weeping appearance looking pitiful.

Many people had begun to side with her. After all, they knew little about the history of the relationship between Meredith and Jeremy while Vera looked like a third party.

Most of the guests gradually felt distressed for Meredith and cast their contempt and disgust at Madeline.

Jeremy observed the change in the atmosphere around him. He looked back, looking at Madeline with concern.

“Are you all right?” He raised his hand and brushed her cheek lightly with his fingers.

Madeline smiled gracefully and calmly. “How could I not be fine just because of this slap? I’m not that weak.” She smiled, looking at Eloise and Meredith, and at the same time, feeling the others’ contemptuous gazes on her whole body.

“Mrs. Montgomery, everyone has to be responsible for what they do and say. You’ve hit me in front of so many people for no reason and you also called me as a vixen. Shouldn’t you give a reasonable explanation?”

She smiled lightly, her proud eyes sweeping across the hostile and questioning eyes around her while her tone changed. “The most annoying thing in my life has been being accused wrongly.”

She uttered the last few words very profoundly.

“Accused wrongly?” Eloise smiled contemptuously. “Have I wronged you? You are a vixen! And you’re cruel, mean, and shameless!”

“Mom, don’t speak anymore. Let’s go. We really can’t afford to provoke this young lady. I don’t want to suffer from a disaster like before. When I close my eyes now and think of it, they had each bullied me one by one. I’m so sad...” Meredith cried and stopped in her speech, but she was smiling in her heart while hoping that Eloise would continue to make things worse.

Eloise became even more distressed and hugged Meredith tightly, patting her back and comforting her.

Hearing Meredith’s words that were laced with implication, the people around them began to feel dissatisfied.

“It seems that the previous rumors about Meredith being bullied by several men by turns were true. If that’s the case, then she is really miserable.”

“Listen to Meredith’s implication. Did Vera ask someone to do it?”

“It must be. I didn’t expect this Vera to have the beauty of a goddess but a poisonous heart. She is really vicious!”

“Not to mention how Young Master Whitman would abandon Meredith for this kind of woman.”

There was a lot of discussion going around. Meredith leaned in Eloise’s arms and cried while laughing secretly. She was going to ruin Vera here today! She was going to take her revenge!

However, at this moment, she felt a cold current around her.

“I’ve said not to mention the matter again. Why are you still bringing it up on this occasion?” Jeremy’s voice reached her ears coldly.

Meredith’s heart trembled and she was a little scared.

“Jeremy, are you blaming Meredith? How can you actually say this? Things have already reached this point and yet you still defend this vixen! If it wasn’t for the vixen’s plan, how could Meredith have been bullied? Meredith is obviously a victim. Not only do you not feel sorry for her and refuse to seek justice for her, but you’re still protecting this witch!”

Eloise glared at Jeremy angrily, disappointment and resentment clear in her gaze.

“What a waste of Meredith’s love for you! Jeremy, where is your conscience?”

Jeremy’s brows furrowed. His handsome face was already covered with frost and there was a stream of coldness shooting out from his eyes. “This matter has nothing to do with Vera, so don’t put any unnecessary charges on her head,” he spoke with a cold tone. Glancing at Meredith who was full of grievances and tears, he suppressed the anger in his heart.

“I’ll say it again, this matter ends here. No one is allowed to mention it again.”

“Jeremy, what are you doing? How can you treat Meredith like this? This vixen really instigated the matter, so how can I just let it go? I’ll call the police and have her arrested now! I’ll let her pay the tragic price!”

Mrs. Whitman rushed forward, defending Meredith righteously. “Vera, you can’t just forget it!”

“Yes, you really can’t do that.”

After a long silence, Madeline opened her mouth. She met those scornful eyes and looked at Jeremy distressedly.

“Jeremy, I really don’t want so many people to be fooled by Meredith and I don’t want you to be accused of being a scumbag because of a woman like her, so I’ll have to violate my agreement with you and speak the truth of this matter.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0321

As Madeline's voice fell, the surrounding gradually became quiet.

The truth about this incident ?

Is what that was just said not the truth ?

Everyone was looking at each other all confused.

Meredith knew in her heart that she was the culprit, and when Madeline said this all of a sudden, she could not help but feel guilty.

When thinking about how she could fight back, Eloise stepped forward to defend her immediately.

“Vera Quinn, you really are an insidious woman. You just want to tarnish my daughter's reputation!”

Eloise pointed at Madeline with uncontrollable anger and rebuked.

“You spent money to hire those men to kidnap Meredith and had her suffer such cruel abuse. Not only that, but you also put this matter up onto the internet to cause such a fuss, which then hurt Meredith's reputation. I'll seek justice for my daughter today!”

“Mom...” Meredith hugged Eloise's arm tearfully and leaned against her very weakly. “Forget it, Mom. I don't want to push it anymore. I don't want Jeremy to be unhappy...”

“Jeremy, listen to this. Up to this point, Meredith still cares about you, but you!” Eloise hugged Meredith distressedly while fiercely shooting an accusatory gaze at Jeremy and Madeline. “For this vixen, you’ve allowed Meredith to be wrongly accused and haven’t even shown any concern for her. You’re not worthy of my daughter at all!”

“Jeremy, our future relatives are right. In any case, you can’t ignore Meredith. This matter must be investigated to the end!”

Mrs. Whitman seemed to be siding with Meredith.

On the other hand, Meredith cried whilst becoming more excited at this moment. “Mrs. Whitman, Mom, it’s enough that you both support me. Although I’m a victim, I really don’t intend to pursue this.”

Meredith swallowed twice and looked at Madeline.

“Miss Vera, the fault is mine. I made you unhappy. I was unlucky for what happened before. I won’t pursue this, so I also hope that you don’t anger my mother. Please...”

She cried, then looked at Jeremy again. “Jeremy, it’s my fault. It’s all my fault. Please don’t be angry with me. I promise you, I’ll never mention it again. Please don’t get angry with me, alright?”

With her humble request, her tears sparkled in her eyes as her appearance at the moment was as desolate as she was.

If it were not for Meredith’s true colors which she had already seen through, Madeline felt that she would become like the people around her—impressed by Meredith’s acting skills.

“Meredith, you’re in the right, so why did you apologize?” Eloise tried her best to defend her. “They are the ones who are wrong. You’re the victim!”

Clap, clap, clap.

After watching Meredith's performance, Madeline stretched out her hands and gently clapped.

The surrounding group of guests who were affected by Meredith's performance cast their righteous and indignant eyes at Madeline at this moment, but at a glance, Madeline was smiling leisurely as she said, "Miss Crawford's acting is as perfect as ever. How flawless."

Madeline chuckled and raised her eyebrows, her eyes looking firmly ahead.

"Victim? You're obviously the one who initiated it."

"Vera Quinn! Even with so many people here, you dare attempt to flip the situation around?" Eloise warned severely.

Facing Eloise's hostile gaze, Madeline suppressed her anger and smiled ironically.

"Mrs. Montgomery, the person who's confusing the rights and wrongs is your precious daughter."

"You..."

"I can tell you very clearly that if it wasn't for Jeremy who asked me not to look into the matter of Meredith kidnapping me, your baby girl would already be in prison by now."

"..." Eloise was stunned for a moment. "You! Vera Quinn, you're a criminal pretending to be the police!"

"Mom, I didn't. She's slandering me." Meredith also shook her head desperately as she quibbled, her eyes appearing weak. "Jeremy, you know I wouldn't do such a thing!"

She looked at the guests around her with pitiful tears.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0322

“I know all of you heard that I was kidnapped a while ago. Yes, I was kidnapped and humiliated by a few men. The mastermind of this incident is this Miss Vera Quinn. I didn’t want to look into this initially, but she has now turned the tables and is slandering me like this. I really can’t bear it.”

Meredith bit her lip and pointed at Madeline quickly.

“Vera Quinn, I want to denounce you!”

As her voice fell, the guests unanimously chose to stand on Meredith’s side.

“Miss Crawford, we all support you.”

“Vera Quinn, you’re so damnable!”

“Miss Meredith, don’t worry. All of us here support you in denouncing this woman!”

“Vera Quinn, with your character, don’t think that we will ever patronize Miss L.ady again in the future. I believe it will not be long before Miss L.ady will go bankrupt!”

“Shut up all of you!”

In the crowd, a cold voice struck out strongly and violently, interrupting the angry words that were being thrown at Madeline.

Everyone could not help but be stunned. They raised their eyes to see the expression and gaze of Jeremy who was next to Madeline at the moment.

Jeremy was standing beside Madeline, his sharp and treacherous eyes like a sharp sword that was sweeping coldly past those people who were against Madeline before finally falling on Meredith's tearful face.

Meredith's heart started to beat violently all of a sudden as her breathing became tense.

"Why do you have to humiliate yourself? I said before not to mention it anymore yet you still want to expose those scars again and again on such occasions."

"Jeremy, I didn't. I was forced. I don't want the person who harmed me to continue to get away with it." Meredith explained, feeling aggrieved. "Alright, I won't talk about it anymore. I won't speak of it again and I won't pursue it anymore."

She emphasized this, but internally, of course she did not actually want anyone to really pursue this matter either.

If they really were to look into it, they would only find out the truth of her being the mastermind behind the scenes.

"How can we not pursue it? Of course we must investigate it to the end!" Eloise said resolutely.

Jeremy sneered, his chilly eyes making Meredith more flustered. She deliberately pulled on Eloise's hand. "Mom, forget it. I don't want to pursue it—"

"Do you think it's still possible at this point not to do so? It's impossible." Jeremy interrupted coldly. He looked over at Meredith with that insipid gaze from head to toe till she felt chills all over.

“Seeing that we’re in the presence of acquaintances, I never planned on speaking the truth about this matter. I don’t care what outsiders may think or say about me,” Jeremy said as he glanced at Madeline.

“But you shouldn’t point your fingers at the person I care about.” He paused before glancing at Meredith with disappointed eyes. “Neither can you.”

“...” Meredith’s face turned pale for a moment, and she was completely panicking! “Jeremy—”

“I have investigated this matter clearly and the police have explained the situation to me early this morning. The four prisoners have already confessed to you instructing them to kidnap Vera, but later on, it was because you had refused to pay that the four b*stards became angry and dealt you the humiliation.”

“...” Meredith’s face became pale as she became more embarrassed. She did not expect Jeremy to already know of it!

Eloise listened with shock as she shook her head again and again. “Impossible! Meredith is the victim!”

“She’s the perpetrator,” Jeremy answered affirmatively without hesitation, “Vera is the real victim. I asked Vera not to pursue this matter to save your daughter’s reputation.”

“...” Eloise was tongue-tied and speechless. “How could this be possible? Why would Meredith do this? No...”

“Mom, please believe me. Of course, I wouldn’t do this!” Meredith struggled to quibble. “Jeremy, you’ve been deceived by Vera. She must’ve bought off those four people! If it really was me, the police would have come to arrest me long ago but they have no evidence to prove that I did it!”

“Do you want evidence? The evidence is here.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0323

Madeline spoke unhurriedly as she took out her mobile phone and showed a phone number on the screen.

Everyone looked over, and Meredith was stunned when she saw a string of numbers displayed on the screen.

She did not understand it at first, but after watching for a few seconds, her face went green as her eyes flickered.

Seeing her panicking and shirking, Madeline smiled comfortably.

“Miss Crawford, why aren’t you speaking? Do you find this number familiar? Of course, you’re familiar with it, because this is your foster mother, Rose Tanner’s, phone number.”

Madeline smiled and walked gracefully to Meredith. Her elegant and proud temperament had crushed Meredith in seconds.

“Miss Crawford, you’re indeed very smart. You were afraid that if the incident was exposed, you would draw fire to yourself, so you used your foster mother’s mobile phone to contact the four hoodlums. Now, the phone still retains the call records from the time. Even if they’ve been cleared, one can just go to the telecommunications company to check the records and it’ll be clear at a glance.

“Oh, there’s one more thing. Those hoodlums also have the habit of recording every time they make a transaction. So, do you want me to play the recording now for everyone present?”

“...” Meredith widened her eyes in shock, her face looking pale.

The guests who had just said they would support Meredith in denouncing Madeline were already staring at her angrily.

Who would have thought that plot would reverse like this!

They had said they wanted to support Meredith, but this was really a slap in the face. They had almost wronged the innocent.

Madeline looked at the scene around her with satisfaction and chuckled. “Meredith, do you still dare say that you’re the victim?”

“...”

“For the sake of your relationship, Jeremy was willing to sacrifice his friend, me, by wanting to help you. But you just don’t know what’s good or bad for you. You just had to unite with your good mother to condemn me and Jeremy on such an occasion. Are you satisfied with the result?”

As Madeline spoke, she looked at Eloise and Mrs. Whitman who looked embarrassed and shocked.

“Mrs. Montgomery, Mrs. Whitman, what now? Do you still want to look into this? Do you want to call the police? Or do you want me to call the police for you?”

“...”

“...”

Meredith never expected things to develop like this.

She pressed her lips together as she stared at Madeline fiercely with her eyes.

Feeling the suspicious and angry gazes around her, Meredith was panicking, but she did not know how to step down.

“Young Master Whitman, Miss Vera, please don’t accuse Meredith. She’s innocent!”

Suddenly, Rose emerged from who knew where.

She cried and ran over to Madeline while kneeling down. She pulled on Madeline's long skirt with both hands.

"I did it all, I did it all. It has nothing to do with Meredith. She doesn't know anything!"

Rose was crying, still clutching onto Madeline's skirt desperately.

The skirt was a one-shoulder and it was pulled on by Rose until it had almost fallen off.

Madeline subconsciously covered her chest with her handbag and said coldly, "Let go."

However, Rose did not listen and kept crying. "Miss Vera, if you have to blame someone, blame me. It was all my own idea. I hired the four hoodlums to kidnap you! Meredith wanted to stop me and that's why she went to the waste paper factory. I'm the one who harmed you and also Meredith. If you want to blame someone, please blame me!"

While Rose was crying, she gave Madeline's dress a vehement tug. With a swish, Rose tore down Madeline's skirt.

Jeremy took off his suit jacket with lightning speed and put it over Madeline's body.

His cold, dark eyes pierced through Rose. "Did you not hear her when she told you to let go? Get lost."

Jeremy kicked Rose's hand away unhappily, and in the next second, he hugged Madeline in front of everyone.

Meredith watched this scene in shock, unable to believe that Jeremy was treating Vera like this.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0324

He had never gotten so angry in front of others before, but today, he did it for Vera. He was breaking his usually regal and noble visage.

“Jeremy, you heard what Rose said. Meredith is the victim. She’s innocent!” Eloise suddenly emphasized. She would rather believe Rose’s explanation than Meredith’s despicableness.

“Aren’t you going to hurry up and let go of that woman? Where is Meredith’s place in this?”

Of course, Jeremy would not let Madeline go. Instead, he hugged her even tighter and glanced at the woman in his arms softly.

“I will never let go of this woman in my life. As for your daughter, I’ve already canceled my engagement with her. Don’t make me repeat it.”

As Jeremy spoke with such a leisurely tone, he hugged Madeline and turned directly into the house.

Eloise watched this scene dumbly, gritting her teeth with anger.

This scene was so offending, hateful, and embarrassing for Meredith!

Jeremy had completely denied their marriage in front of so many people, even publicly announcing his determination for Vera.

How could this be tolerated?

Jeremy hugged Madeline as they went directly to his room here.

Although he rarely came back to live here, there was always someone who cleaned the room. Madeline smelled a familiar fragrance as soon as she entered.

It was the aromatherapy kit she had personally blended. It had the effect of calming and aiding with sleep.

Mr. Whitman had gotten someone to buy two boxes for Jeremy as he experienced problems sleeping.

Madeline put on her dress again in the bathroom. When she returned to the bedroom, she saw Jeremy standing in front of the windowsill.

He was wearing a clean and pressed white shirt. The warm autumn sun was shining on his handsome face. His quiet appearance at the moment reminded her of the first time she had seen him in college.

However, he was no longer the man of the past.

“Do you blame me for what transpired just now?” Madeline walked behind him, saying with difficulty.

Jeremy turned his head. His alluring, slender eyes were softened by the autumn wind. “Perhaps I shouldn’t have allowed you to suffer this grievance from the beginning. Otherwise, there would’ve been no such thing as what happened just now.”

Madeline smiled. “What are you saying? That you feel bad for me?”

The man looked at her eyes deeply. “Didn’t you feel sorry for me just now as well?”

His voice was very low and the magnetic sound slipped into her ears in an ambiguous manner.

Looking at her picturesque face in the sun, Jeremy could not help but stretch out his hand and brush his fingertips across the corners of her eyebrows.

The person in front of him was Vera, but as he looked into her eyes and deep into his heart, it was completely Madeline.

“I’ve stated my position just now. Do you have anything you want to say to me now?”

Madeline smiled as she looked at him. “Do you really want to marry me?”

“Are you willing to now?” he asked, his gaze looking lost.

She smiled and shook her head slightly. “I won’t marry a man who doesn’t love me.”

Jeremy got back to his sense and the smile between his eyebrows disappeared. “Will you still marry Felipe?”

“Have you forgotten about the good news that I wanted to tell you the other day? The good news is that my marriage with Felipe has been canceled.”

Jeremy’s sword-like eyebrows scrunched. “If you’re not marrying Felipe and you don’t want to marry me, what exactly are you planning?”

Madeline smiled with her eyebrows curved. In the corner of her vision, she caught a glimpse of a figure who was standing in the corner of the yard. She smiled and stretched out her hand to grab Jeremy’s slightly loose tie. Lifting up her beautiful face, her smile was bright and spirited. “I’m thinking if it’s because I grew up to look the same as Madeline which is why I’m also destined to fall in love with the same man as her.”

Her soft voice fell into his heart gently like cotton.

Jeremy's eyes lit up. As he looked into those beautiful eyes that were as clear as water, his heartbeat sped up a little unconsciously. "Vera, are you really in love with me?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0325

Madeline pursed her lips and smiled, her intoxicating dimples blooming on the sides of her lips.

“Don’t you want me to fall in love with you? The truth is, you still love Meredith, right?” She pulled on his necktie with a hint of grievance in her eyes. “If this is the case, I’ll leave now and never see you again.”

Madeline pretended to be disappointed and let go of Jeremy’s necktie.

As soon as his neckline was loosened, Jeremy felt the warmth flowing away from his heart.

Seeing her turning around with disappointment in front of his eyes, he froze in a trance. It felt as if his heart was suddenly stabbed by an invisible needle.

“Don’t go.”

Jeremy grabbed Madeline’s wrist.

Madeline, who had not taken more than a step, stopped abruptly. At the back where Jeremy could not see, she quietly raised a triumphant smile.

It was just that she had not even enjoyed this victory for more than a few seconds before Jeremy suddenly used his force to bring her into his arms.

Madeline crashed into his chest unexpectedly. The familiar fragrance quickly surrounded her breath.

She used to like the smell on him and even longed to hug him to sleep every night. However, she had waited and waited until her heart sank like a stone. It was a hopeless ending...

Madeline curled her lips and laughed in mockery before looking up.

She did not expect Jeremy to be looking down at her. Madeline was a little perplexed when she inadvertently met his eyes that were as deep and blurry as the night.

She realized that Jeremy was looking at her very affectionately. Having seen his cold and ruthless appearance, his appearance at this moment made her feel lightheaded.

However, she noticed that the figure was still in the corner by the wall downstairs, looking at Jeremy and her.

She subconsciously thought that it was Meredith.

Only she would do such a sneaky thing.

She felt something cold on her cheek as she was thinking. It was Jeremy stroking her face.

Before she could react, she saw Jeremy's handsome face inching closer toward her. Suddenly, he pressed his lips onto hers in the next second.

"..."

Madeline suddenly clenched her fists, wanting to push him away. She wanted to resist but thinking of Meredith who was peeping at them, she forced herself to endure it.

He could have said that he was drunk the other day, but now, Jeremy had not drunk at all but still kissed her all of a sudden.

Madeline could not predict his behavior at this moment.

Back then, he never kissed her even when conducting husband and wife matters with her. He had only slept with her to vent his frustration.

Now, he was kissing her.

He was kissing a woman who looked exactly like the ex-wife he hated.

How ridiculous.

Although, perhaps it was not ridiculous after all. At least it showed that she succeeded.

Jeremy had indeed developed feelings for her. Otherwise, he would never kiss her.

.....

Old Master Whitman's 80th birthday was ruined just like that.

Relatives and friends left unhappily, but there was still a lot of discussions when they left.

Although Rose Tanner's appearance at the end had taken all the charges off her, no matter how they looked at it, they felt that Rose was deliberately trying to get Meredith off the hook.

Old Master Whitman leaned on his cane in the living hall, looking at Meredith who was still looking pitiful. He glanced at her contemptuously.

"Hmph, my grandson has finally recovered his senses and realized the scheming nature of this woman."

Meredith was taken aback. She understood that Old Master Whitman was calling her a two-faced bitch.

She gritted her teeth secretly, but her face was full of innocence.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0326

“Old Master Whitman, I know you have a deep misunderstanding toward me, but...”

“There’s no need to explain anything to me. You know very well what you’ve done.”

“...” Meredith was speechless.

Just then, Rose knelt down in front of Old Master Whitman with a plop. “Old Master Whitman, I did it all on my own. Meredith didn’t know about it at all. When she knew, she deliberately ran over to stop me. That’s why Meredith got into the accident. It was me. I was the one who caused Meredith trouble.”

She blamed herself whilst in tears.

“Old Master Whitman, if you want someone to blame, blame me. It doesn’t matter even if you send me to the police station, but Meredith is a good girl. I really don’t want Jeremy to misunderstand her. She has already suffered so much. Jeremy shouldn’t break her heart this time.”

“In fact, all of these mistakes are Vera Quinn’s fault!” Eloise pushed all the blame onto Madeline.

However, as soon as her voice fell, two intimate figures appeared by the stairs. Madeline’s sweet voice sounded leisurely.

“Mrs. Montgomery, you’re really a good mother. The facts and evidence have all been displayed clearly in front of you, yet you still want to deceive yourself and defend your good daughter who’s two-faced.”

Eloise's expression changed upon hearing this. Looking up to see Madeline walking beside Jeremy with a bright smile, she was angrier.

"Vera Quinn, if it isn't for you, a third party who's trying to steal Meredith's fiancé, why would her foster mother hire people to kidnap you? It's all because of you that Meredith had the accident. You really are despicable!"

"Despicable?" Madeline chuckled and walked toward Eloise. "On the contrary, I think Mrs. Montgomery is very pitiful."

"What... What did you say? I'm pitiful?" Eloise's eyes widened while her face, contorted by anger, no longer looked noble.

"Vera, whatever you want to do, do it to me. Don't hurt my mom." Meredith hurriedly went up to protect Eloise, putting on a good show to match her good daughter persona.

She quickly turned her weak gaze to Jeremy.

"Jeremy, I know you'll never believe me no matter how I explain it, so just assume that it's me. Please don't blame my mom. She did it for me too."

Meredith begged for mercy on behalf of Rose while Rose slapped herself twice, seemingly regretful.

"Meredith, I've caused you trouble. Jeremy, you have to believe in Meredith. She has been kind-hearted since she was a child and has never done anything immoral. She—"

"Shut up." Jeremy interrupted out of annoyance. He lifted his handsome but unfeeling face to look at Meredith. "I've told you not to mention this matter again. It's your own fault that it escalated to this now. You don't need to beg me. If you want to beg, then beg Vera. Whether or not we're looking into it all depends on her."

Hearing this, Meredith's expression froze and her eyes were almost overflowing with unwillingness.

Rose was suddenly taken aback. What? She was extremely reluctant to go as far as begging Vera!

However, if she did not beg, she might really have to go to jail!

She did not want to go to jail!

At this moment, Meredith suddenly walked toward Madeline and knelt down in front of her.

“Meredith!”

“Meredith!”

Eloise and Rose spoke in unison and hurriedly went to help Meredith up, but Meredith pushed them away firmly.

Meredith’s action had also surprised Jeremy.

She actually knelt.

“Miss Crawford, what are you doing?” Madeline pretended to be puzzled whilst saying, “Are you begging me?”

Meredith lifted her face, showing her tear-smudged makeup. Her eyes were firm when she said, “Yes, I’m begging you. Miss Quinn, I beg you not to pursue this matter. Please spare my foster mother. She only did it for me. If you want to vent your anger and pursue this matter, just come at me. I’m willing to shoulder everything by myself!”

“Gee.” Madeline sighed emotionally. “Miss Crawford, you really are filial. Your foster mother has led you to be humiliated by several men, yet at this moment, you’re still willing to kneel down and beg me on her behalf. I’m really touched.”

When Meredith heard this, happiness suddenly appeared on her face. Presumably, these people should also think that she was a loving and filial daughter.

She suddenly felt so smart. Not only would Rose not go to jail, but she had also sold a good persona.

“Then, does it mean you won’t pursue it anymore, Miss Quinn?” Meredith could not wait to ask.

Madeline nodded with a deep smile. “Since you’re so righteous, Miss Crawford, then I’ll help you. I won’t pursue your foster mother. You’ll shoulder this matter by yourself!”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0327

Following Madeline's words, the smile on Meredith's expression suddenly cracked. Her entire face became completely stiff.

What?

Did she hear wrongly? What was Vera talking about?

She just wanted to pretend and play a loving, righteous role in front of Jeremy and Old Master Whitman. She did not want to bear the blame on Rose's behalf!

She was just pretending!

Rose and Eloise were also dumbfounded. They did not expect Vera to be a ruthless character.

Seeing Meredith's surprised expression, Madeline smiled leisurely at Jeremy. "Jeremy, in that case, you can accompany me to the police station now."

Jeremy glanced at Meredith who was kneeling on the ground with a complicated look and nodded lightly. "Okay, I'll accompany you."

Madeline smiled happily and stretched out her hand to hold Jeremy's arm. Her arrogant, beautiful eyes swept across Meredith who was still kneeling by her feet.

"Kidnapping for extortion, intention to harm others... If sentenced for these crimes, it should garner a few years in prison, am I right? Miss Crawford, you must have never gone to jail before, right? Then, you can go in and

experience the darkness inside. I heard that some people would be surrounded and get beaten up after they go in. How scary.”

“...” Meredith’s face turned pale after hearing this.

Jeremy immediately thought of Madeline.

She had experienced countless sufferings and beatings in that dark place.

The scars and wounds on her body had existed so glaringly and vividly in his eyes.

“Vera Quinn.”

Before Madeline and Jeremy could take a few steps, Eloise’s voice sounded from behind them.

She slowed down her steps as her heart ached involuntarily.

Eloise walked toward her. Her face that should have been graceful and beautiful was full of resentment at the moment.

Madeline looked at Eloise calmly. “What’s the matter, Mrs. Montgomery?”

“I beg you,” Eloise opened her mouth and spoke the three words softly but with a strong unwillingness that invaded Madeline’s heart. “Miss Quinn, the Montgomerie’s will compensate for all your losses. I just hope that you won’t pursue this matter anymore.”

Madeline laughed. “Are you begging me as well, Mrs. Montgomery? Is it worth it?”

“It’s worth it because she’s my only precious daughter!”

Only.

Precious daughter.

Madeline looked at those eyes and suddenly found them to be so familiar.

This resoluteness and unwillingness were just like hers back then.

‘As it turns out, my eyes look like my mother’s.’

However, the woman in front of her did not seem to notice it at all.

Seeing that Madeline was just smiling without saying anything, Eloise seemed to have come to a decision. “Miss Quinn, if you think that an apology isn’t enough, then I can also kneel for you as long as you stop causing trouble to my daughter.”

As Eloise said this, she was really about to kneel down.

Madeline returned to her senses as her gaze sank. “It’s useless even if you kneel,” she suddenly said coldly, looking at Rose who was standing at the side, “She should be the one kneeling.”

“...” Rose was stunned and immediately received the cue from Meredith’s eyes. Although she was extremely reluctant, she rushed forward and knelt at Madeline’s feet right away. “Miss Quinn, it’s my fault! It’s all my fault! I beg you to disregard my wrongdoings. I beg you to let me off the hook this time. I won’t dare do it anymore!”

Her performance was very exaggerated, and of course, it was not a sincere apology.

“That’s enough.” Madeline glanced at her impassively. “I don’t want to look at you people right now.”

When Rose heard this, she immediately got up and ran over to pull Meredith up. “Meredith, Mrs. Montgomery, let’s leave first.”

Meredith was unwilling to leave like this. “Jeremy, may I have a few words with you?”

Jeremy opened his mouth indifferently. “Go ahead.”

“Can I talk to you alone?”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0328

Madeline let go of Jeremy's hand upon hearing this. She smiled generously before saying, "I'll wait for you here."

"Okay." Jeremy nodded, then turned around and went out.

Rose and Eloise also followed them out of the gate.

Seeing Meredith walking away with Jeremy, Madeline curled her lips and smiled happily.

'Meredith, what I want to give back to you is much more than this.'

'You'd better not fall so quickly.'

"If Madeline had half of your boldness, that child wouldn't have left just like that."

Old Master Whitman's sigh sounded softly from behind.

Madeline's heart soured. She felt the warmth of being cared for and missed.

She smiled and turned around to look at Old Master Whitman. "If Grandpa doesn't mind, you can think of me as Madeline."

Old Master Whitman looked closely at the exquisitely beautiful face in front of him and shook his head regretfully.

“No matter how similar you look, it’s just a similarity. At the end of the day, you’re not my granddaughter-in-law.”

“Perhaps I’ll be soon enough.” Madeline smiled. “Jeremy said he wants to marry me and I’m considering it.”

“What?!” Mrs. Whitman rushed downstairs. “Jeremy wants to marry you? Aren’t you going to marry Felipe?”

“Felipe and I have canceled our engagement.”

“...” Mrs. Whitman’s eyes widened. “I won’t agree to let you in. I feel annoyed seeing your face. You look so similar to that b*tch Madeline, so you won’t be good news.”

“Shut up,” Old Master Whitman scolded, feeling dissatisfied, “Madeline was your daughter-in-law at the end of the day. Even if she’s dead, it doesn’t change the fact that she’s the Whitmans in-law!

“Not to mention, those messy things in the past have nothing to do with Madeline at all. Everything was done by Meredith. Don’t tell me you don’t see it? If not, you’re seriously blind!”

“...”

Mrs. Whitman was lectured by Old Master Whitman. Of course, she was upset on the inside, but she did not dare to refute him.

“Miss Quinn, I advise you to think clearly about who you’re going to marry. Marriage is not child’s play. If you choose the wrong person, you’ll maybe end up on the same path of no return as Madeline,” Old Master Whitman solemnly said before going upstairs.

Mrs. Whitman glared at Madeline fiercely and lowered her voice. "Listen to me, Vera Quinn. No matter what, I will never agree to Jeremy marrying you. Unless the dead can come back to life, I will never let you into the Whitmans gate!"

Madeline let out a laugh upon hearing this. She looked straight at Mrs. Whitman. "Then, you have to take a good look and see if the dead can be revived."

"..." Seeing Madeline's subtle gaze at this moment, Mrs. Whitman could not help being startled.

She wanted to insult her back, but Madeline had already turned away unaffectedly.

Madeline walked to the gate and happened to see Meredith getting into the car before leaving with tears in her eyes. Jeremy, on the other hand, was walking over from the other side with a cold expression.

Seeing her coming out, the cold lines on his face were much softer.

This was because he would feel healed after seeing this face.

"Are you tired? I'll send you back."

"Okay."

Madeline nodded and did not ask what he and Meredith had talked about just now.

She initially thought that Jeremy was sending her back to the apartment, but the car was eventually parked in his villa's garage.

"I don't want you and Felipe to continue living together. From today onward, you'll live here with me."

Madeline leaned against the car. She glanced at the villa and pretended to be disgusted.

“This is your and your ex-wife’s house. If you sincerely want to marry me, shouldn’t you prepare a new house? I don’t want to live in a house where someone has died.”

Upon hearing the word ‘died’, Jeremy knitted his eyebrows. He suddenly stared deeply at Madeline. “She’s not dead.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0329

Madeline's heartbeat became erratic all of a sudden, but she calmly put on an expression of surprise and confusion. She looked up to meet Jeremy's black eyes.

“What? You're saying your ex-wife isn't dead?”

She pinched her eyebrows together before laughing.

“You're not suspecting that I'm your ex-wife Madeline again, are you?”

When her voice fell, Jeremy also laughed. A gust of autumn wind blew, faintly blowing at the mysterious color that was surging in his eyes. He looked at Madeline and said profoundly, “Some people are alive, and she's dead. But some people are dead, and she's still alive.”

After listening to these words in silence, Madeline curled her lips.

“Are you trying to tell me that your ex-wife lives in your heart?”

Not only did she laugh, but her laughter was full of irony.

“Everyone knows that Madeline is the woman you hate most.”

“Everyone knows?” Jeremy chewed on these words as the irony in his faint smile became stronger than that of Madeline's.

Yes, everyone knew. Everyone knew that Madeline had been madly in love with him.

However, nobody knew that he had also loved her.

Even he himself knew it too late.

It was also too late for him to say “I love you” back to her.

At Madeline’s request, Jeremy sent her back to her apartment.

Not long after, Madeline saw that someone had broken the news about what happened during Old Master Whitman’s 80th birthday on the internet.

Many netizens went to Meredith’s Twitter to curse her.

The more powerful netizens dug out all of Meredith’s dark history, including photos from when she was a student in college and high school. Even her elementary school photos had been dug up.

Even though Meredith had immediately spent money to deal with these dark histories after she knew of it, parts of the content still got screenshotted.

Whitman Corporation.

Jeremy received a push notification right after a morning meeting.

He seldom paid attention to these boring entertainment gossips, but seeing that the title had mentioned Vera and Meredith, he clicked into it and took a look.

He saw the photos of Meredith when she was a student, one of which was taken with him.

However, other than the photos with him, there were also a few photos of Meredith with other men. Two of which were intimate photos of her and Tanner Long.

In the photos, Meredith and Tanner were very close. There was even one of Meredith kissing Tanner's cheek.

Jeremy was stunned when he saw that photo.

A burst of physical disgust that was accompanied by shock arose.

His finger quivered as his thoughts were suddenly pulled to a faraway place...

It was raining heavily that day. She was sitting in his car, telling him that Meredith had actually dated Tanner and that Meredith had a baby with him.

She also said that Meredith was not carrying his child at all and that her miscarriage was just an act plotted by herself.

Yet, at that time, he had strangled her neck and warned her not to slander Meredith again.

He still remembered that at the time, she did not even struggle at all but merely smiled with tears in her eyes before saying to him, "Jeremy Whitman, if I told half a lie, then I might as well die."

He cursed her mercilessly in response, saying, "Then go and die."

In the end, he chased her out of the car and drove away, leaving her in the heavy rain, letting the wind blow and the rain fall...

After that, she really died.

He regretted it.

Jeremy opened his sore, red eyes, which were now on the brink of tears.

The heavy rain from that day seemed to be falling in his heart at this moment, drowning his heartbeat.

He laughed at himself and felt that both Madeline and Ava were right. He was deaf and blind.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0330

Just because of a promise made when he was young, he protected a woman who had long gone bad like a fool. Meanwhile, he cut the flesh off the woman he loved piece by piece.

Jeremy picked up his phone again and saw the contents on the screen. There was a post that had photos of Meredith from when she was a child.

When he and Meredith reunited, he had asked to see photos of her from her childhood days. However, Meredith said that the photos were lost because she had moved houses.

Now, some netizens had actually dug up photos of her when she was a child.

Jeremy stretched out his fingers and tapped lightly at the title.

Thump, thump.

There was a knocking on the office glass door.

Jeremy looked up and saw that it was Ken Baker. “Come in.”

He put down his phone and hid his emotions from a moment ago. They would continue to remain unknown to anyone.

Ken walked toward the office desk and gave a straightforward report, saying, “Mr. Whitman, I’ve kept a close eye on Felipe for a while now. He hasn’t been acting strange, but yesterday, he quietly met with two veterans from Whitman Corporation’s board of directors.”

“Felipe has always gone his own way since young and never bothered to rely on the Whitmans’ money and power. He’s not even willing to get involved with the Whitman family, so why would he suddenly contact people from Whitman Corporation’s board of directors?” Jeremy said lightly, pondering for a few seconds.

He always felt that Felipe definitely had a secret and that Old Master Whitman knew this secret really well. Yet, Old Master Whitman never wanted to bring it up.

He only knew that Old Master Whitman was always avoiding Felipe.

Although Felipe always looked like a gentleman, underneath his gentle eyes, it was hard to guarantee that there would not be a torrent.

“This is the birth certificate of Vera’s daughter, Lilian, and the information of the local hospital. It took so long to get an answer because the investigation was a little difficult.” Ken handed over another folder.

Jeremy paused for two seconds before receiving the folder.

The DNA test was already done. This report came in too late.

“You can leave. Continue to keep an eye on Felipe.”

“Okay, I got it,” Ken responded and left.

Jeremy held the folder but did not open it.

He could not calm down. On the path of Madeline’s slow journey toward death, he had cruelly aggravated her physical and mental pain, catalyzing her withering.

He walked into a flower shop in a daze and bought a bouquet of red roses as usual.

Just as he was about to get in his car, he heard a sweet voice.

“What a coincidence.” Madeline walked over leisurely.

Jeremy hid away his sadness and grievance, smiling gracefully.

“Vera? Why are you here?”

“Just passing by.” Madeline smiled brightly before pointing to the large bouquet of roses in his hands. “But you, why did you buy such a large bouquet of roses? Is it for me?”

Jeremy glanced at the bouquet in his hands and laughed a little. “If you like it, I can buy one for you now. It’s just that this bouquet isn’t for you.”

Madeline raised her eyebrows, pretending to be displeased. “Don’t tell me this is for Meredith? Red roses represent love. You indeed still love her.”

“Are you jealous?” Jeremy smiled, locking his gaze on Madeline as it suddenly became serious. “Red roses represent love, but do you know what red roses and the number of them represent?”

Upon hearing this, Madeline looked uncertainly at the large bouquet of roses. “There are about 99 flowers here, right?”

“Don’t 99 red roses mean you want the love to last forever?”

“Hmph, Jeremy, you’re still laboriously in love with Meredith.”

While Madeline was silently thinking, Jeremy opened the door to the passenger seat. “Don’t you want to know who these roses are for? Get in then.”

Madeline was dumbfounded. With a generous smile, she got into the car nimbly.

After a 20 minutes' drive, they finally arrived at the destination.

Madeline could not help but freeze while looking at the familiar scenery outside the window.

It turned out to be a cemetery.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0331

Madeline did not forget the time she had previously stumbled upon Jeremy buying a large bouquet of red roses. She had thought that he was seeing other women apart from Meredith.

After tailing him, however, she found that he had gone to the cemetery with that bouquet of roses.

It was inconvenient for her to continue following him at the time, so she did not know the reason why Jeremy brought roses to the cemetery. She could not find out even though she had tried researching it.

She also did not pass by here coincidentally today. Instead, she had always been observing his every move in secret.

After discovering that he had gone to the flower shop again, she then deliberately showed up to make it seem that it was a coincidental encounter.

As she was in the midst of her thoughts, Jeremy opened the car door for her.

Madeline quickly came back to her senses and got out of the car.

She pretended to appear curious by looking around. It was then she saw Jeremy already holding the bouquet of roses in his hands the moment she turned her head toward him.

It turned out that he had really been planning to give flowers to someone in this cemetery.

“Does the person you want to give flowers to work around this area?” Madeline asked with confusion.

Jeremy lowered his gaze and smiled, “She’s resting here.”

“...” Madeline’s heartbeat suddenly quickened.

“If you don’t mind, you can come with me,” Jeremy said and turned around.

He went ahead through the path. He had already familiarized himself with this path that he could walk along it with his eyes closed, and he was currently indeed walking down this path instinctively because all his thoughts at the moment were occupied by the past.

He scoffed at his own stupidity for bringing Madeline irreparable injury and insurmountable regrets.

Madeline had always loved him so much.

Her love was like a flower blooming in the dark corners of the night, forbearing and tough.

At first, he could have harvested this flower that was blooming specifically for him, but he had left her alone and cold in this barren land instead...

Madeline followed behind Jeremy without a word.

With every step forward, Madeline’s heart jumped inexplicably.

She looked toward the direction of her grandfather’s cemetery subconsciously, her mind recalling the day when there was a storm of rain and snow. On that day, Jeremy had brutally chiseled the tombstone and scattered her and their child’s ashes.

She would never forget his cold-blooded eyes at the time or his cold look when he said that he would never regret his decisions.

Madeline could not help but clench her fists. She was currently feeling as if the blood in her entire body had been ignited by hatred.

Seeing his tall and good looking back ahead of her, her fingertips trembled. There were already flames set in her eyes.

‘Jeremy, all I did was love you. Why did you have to treat me so cruelly?’

‘You can hurt and insult me, but why didn’t you at least let our child off the hook?’

‘Are you really that heartless?’

‘Or is there only that evil woman Meredith in your heart? Is that why you’ve lost even your most basic humanity?’

Madeline was feeling full of hatred, and without noticing that Jeremy had stopped, she knocked into him.

After she regained her balance, she raised her eyes to find that Jeremy was somehow looking shocked. That face of his had tensed up with a scary aura.

Right when she looked toward his line of sight, she saw Jeremy striding toward a particular grave in quick steps.

Madeline caught up, only to see that the cemetery in front of him had been severely damaged. The tomb was chiseled open and the once complete tombstone was smashed to pieces, making it impossible to recognize the owner of the grave.

Just as she was about to question him, Jeremy threw away the roses in his hand and started looking around for something in the desecrated grave. It was as if he had suddenly lost his mind.

His expression was extremely awful. The anxiety and panic between his eyebrows were something Madeline had never seen before.

Madeline's heart hurt slightly as she looked at the man who was going almost insane.

She was certain that the owner of this grave had to be a woman.

From Jeremy's reaction right now, she could conclude more so that he really cared about the person who was resting here.

She could not help but laugh, and there was a hint of bitterness and mocking in it.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0332

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 332

It turned out that Meredith was not Jeremy's favorite.

It turned out that his favorite was already dead...

"What are you looking for? Do you want me to help you look for it?" Madeline opened her mouth and said calmly. She saw Jeremy's movements pausing momentarily as if he had only just realized the existence of another living person here.

He stood up slowly, his good-looking appearance covered with indescribable grief and sadness along with a trace of fear while his eyes were filled with a fierce, terrifying light and murderous intent. He looked as if he was afraid that he might not be able to recover something again.

Madeline became even more confused and she asked again while she walked toward him, "Are you alright? What's going on here?"

"I'll send you home first." He finally spoke, and there was no warmth nor emotions that could be sensed from his tone, only the horrifying chill that radiated from him.

Madeline was sent back to the apartment. In the past, Jeremy would usually wait for her to enter the building before he left. Today, however, he drove away immediately after Madeline got out of the car.

She stood in her spot with confusion. Looking at the leaving car, her gaze narrowed.

Who was the woman resting in that grave? She was so important to him that he almost went crazy when he saw that the grave had been destroyed.

On the other side, Jeremy was speeding as he drove straight through the Whitmans' gates.

Before the housekeeper could make an announcement, Jeremy had already rushed into the living room with a hostile aura.

At the same time, Meredith was drinking afternoon tea and looking at jewelry with Eloise leisurely. When they saw Jeremy appear all of a sudden, both of them were taken aback.

"Jeremy." Meredith was shocked and ran up to him with a face full of surprise. "Jeremy, you're here to look for me, right?"

Jeremy looked at the face in front of him, his eyes filled with coldness. "You did it, didn't you?"

"..." Meredith looked bamboozled with an innocent expression. "Jeremy, what are you talking about? What did I do? I've been with my mother these days and haven't been anywhere else."

"Jeremy, what do you mean by this? Rushing here all of a sudden to throw accusations. Is it because Vera has said something again? That b*tch really likes to cause trouble!"

“I wasn’t talking to you. You’d better shut your mouth and don’t let me hear any more slander toward Vera.” Jeremy did not even look at Eloise, his sharp and cold eyes glaring only at Meredith. “I’ll give you a chance to confess. Were you the one who had someone carry out that matter at No. 97, Peace Street?”

He said the address straightforwardly, which was the location of the cemetery.

Meredith’s eyes widened, filled with confusion. “What No. 97, Peace Street? Jeremy, I really don’t know what you’re talking about.”

Jeremy’s cold eyes were then filled with disappointment. He then sneered, “Looks like you aren’t going to admit it, hm?”

“I... I really don’t know anything, Jeremy...”

“If you don’t confess the truth to me before the night ends, you’ll have to consider the consequences carefully.”

After Jeremy dropped these words, he then turned away coldly.

“Jeremy, Jeremy!” Meredith chased after him as he went out, but Jeremy was still walking away decisively.

Madeline’s grave had been destroyed. Her urn and the wedding ring he had placed behind the tombstone were also missing as well.

He really could not think of anyone else who would hate Madeline so much apart from Meredith.

Madeline was already dead and her ashes had become his only memory of her. Now, however, even that was missing.

The sky had started to turn gray without his realization after he returned to the villa.

He was fidgeting, his thoughts being violently tugged in all different directions. He seemed to be looking a lot more haggard once the afternoon passed.

He looked at the kitchen and it was as if he could still see Madeline cooking there while wearing an apron. She turned around suddenly, smiling as she said to him, “Jeremy, dinner is ready.”

Her smile was really beautiful with her sweet dimples and curved eyebrows, but as he reached out his hands, she disappeared.

That was merely his fantasy.

His eyes reddened, and his thoughts went back to the moment they first met—the moment when their gazes collided.

In fact, every small action of hers had already marked themselves in his heart ever since the beginning.

However, she no longer existed and everything was a luxurious dream of his in the dark night.

Suddenly, some movement was heard from the entrance. Jeremy raised his red but cold eyes.

He had not closed the door because he knew that someone would come.

Sure enough, she came before dark.

Meredith had a heavy expression on her face, and when she saw the handsome but gloomy man sitting on the sofa, she walked to him step by step with a quickened heartbeat. After taking a deep breath, she threw caution to the wind and said, “You’re right, I was the one who had someone do it. I instructed someone to destroy that b*tch Madeline’s grave!”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0333

As soon as Meredith said what she said, she felt a chilling, violent wave envelop her entire body in an instant. She felt cold and could not help but shiver.

While she was still thinking about what Jeremy would do to her, she suddenly felt a tight grip around her neck. In the next second, she lost the ability to breathe freely.

“Je... Jeremy...”

Meredith widened her eyes in shock, looking at the man who was choking her neck in disbelief.

How could it be?

How could he treat her this way?

He was actually strangling her for that b*tch Madeline!

“Do you know what you’ve done? Do you think that you can just do whatever you want because of my liking and my spoiling you?” His cold voice swept toward her like a cold wind, his gaze full of murderous intentions. Meredith felt that she was about to be strangled to death. She was feeling highly discomforted as she could not breathe.

However, no matter what she said, Jeremy would not let go. Instead, he even tightened his fingers one by one. His eyes were dark and treacherous at the moment, looking as if he was Satan who was about to engulf her entirely. His ice-cold aura was fear-inducing.

“Jeremy, I... It hurts, please let me go. Jeremy, Jez...”

Jeremy only let go of Meredith the moment she had almost lost her last breath.

She sat weakly on the ground, greedily breathing in the fresh air.

Unexpectedly, the phrase ‘Jez’ was the word that moved him the most in the end.

Sure enough, he was very emotionally attached to Madeline.

As Meredith thought about it silently, tears welled up in her eyes.

She was feeling fear, panic, jealousy, and even more hatred!

She hated that Madeline occupied Jeremy’s heart, whether it was at the beginning or even now.

In fact, there had only ever been Madeline in Jeremy’s heart from beginning to end.

“Give her back to me, then I won’t pursue this issue further.” Jeremy’s voice came from above Meredith’s head without any warmth.

Meredith gasped for a while, pretending to be in pain. Her superficial tears accompanied her performance as she said, “Why... Why are you treating me like this?”

She stretched out her hand to hold onto Jeremy’s trousers as she cried.

“Jeremy, the woman you love has always been me! Why are you treating me this way now?”

Jeremy then frowned in annoyance and said, “I don’t want to repeat these words again. I’ve said that I had only a muddled interest toward you since childhood, but that’s not love.”

“That is love!” Meredith cried heartbreakingly. She stood up as she grabbed Jeremy’s trousers, saying,

“Jeremy, can we start again? I will listen to you about everything in the future. Let’s let the past be the past.”

“Jeremy, you won’t fall in love with others, let alone Madeline. You hated her the most. She was unchaste, despicable, and shameless. She crawled into your bed through any means in order to get to you, so how could you fall in love with her? It’s just because she’s now dead that you’re only feeling a little sympathetic. How can sympathy be regarded as love? The one you’ve always loved is me!”

Meredith held Jeremy’s arm tightly as if she was possessed, desperately emphasizing that the one Jeremy loved was her.

Jeremy’s anger had already been ignited upon listening to her slandering Madeline.

It was just that he did not want to throw his tantrum at this time.

He suppressed his anger and said coldly again, “Give me back her ashes and the ring. Otherwise, you’ll handle the consequences at your own risk.”

He warned her again. His patience was already long lost from his dark eyes.

Meredith stopped her tears after hearing his sentence.

“Jeremy, are you really going to treat me so coldly? Do you really not have even a single ounce of feelings for me at all?”

Jeremy sneered softly, “It’s better to ask yourself about whatever you’ve done. The fact that you can stand here now is already my greatest tolerance toward you. If it weren’t for us being acquainted since our young age, you would already be in jail.”

“...”

Hearing this, Meredith suddenly felt like a deflating ball. She felt completely numb.

After a while, she laughed with a sorrowful smile. “Well, I can return Madeline’s ashes to you, but I have a request.”

Seeing Meredith’s desolate look at this moment, Jeremy suddenly recalled scenes of their childhood friendship.

Thinking of the girl’s innocent smiling face back then, his heart softened again for no apparent reason.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0334

“Go on.”

“Fulfill your promise to me back then. Take me as your wife,” Meredith continued without hesitating.

In an instant, a deep frown was plastered across Jeremy’s face. He looked at Meredith with his eyes that were filled with emotions.

“Jeremy, you know that I love you. I’m crazily in love with you. I can’t live without you. I knew I wanted to stay with you forever after I saw you for the first time.”

Meredith looked at Jeremy sentimentally.

“Jeremy, you’re the only hope for me to continue living. If I don’t have you, I’d rather die. If you don’t want to fulfill your promise, then I’ll leave this world along with Jack. If you die, you’ll never find Madeline’s ashes.”

Looking at Meredith’s determined gaze, Jeremy chuckled lowly. “Are you threatening me?”

Meredith shook her head and looked at him aggrievedly. “How would I dare to threaten you? I just want to be with the man I love. So, I’m willingly turning into the kind of evil woman who would do anything to get their way in your eyes.”

After she said that, Jeremy’s eyes became cold. “I’ll grant your wishes.”

Meredith widened her eyes when she suddenly got his answer. “Jeremy, really? Are you really agreeing to marry me?”

Jeremy flung Meredith’s hand away. “Give me back Maddie’s ashes before I change my mind.”

The delight in Meredith’s eyes was destroyed.

She scoffed and lowered her empty hands.

She had been waiting for the day he would finally agree to marry her, but the reason he agreed was because of Madeline who had already turned into ashes.

Meredith laughed at herself. “Jeremy, even if you hate me or blame me, I won’t return Madeline’s ashes to you before we have the wedding.”

After she said that, Jeremy’s icy glare pierced through her.

Meredith shook from fear. However, she looked into Jeremy’s eyes with a sad look. “Jeremy, I love you, despite you already changing your mind...”

Jeremy scanned Meredith’s face with a murderous glare. Then, he walked out with the door slamming shut behind him. His long and lean body walked past her like a gust of wind.

In the night, he slammed down on the accelerator and sped forward. He drove all the way to where Madeline used to live.

Her presence and scent were long gone in the house. However, he still longingly walked over every nook and cranny in this house she once lived in. Perhaps he thought he would be able to feel her warmth once more like this.

He flipped through Madeline's diary and was delighted at the love and determination she had for him shown through her words. After a few seconds of joy, tears started welling up in his eyes.

He looked at the neon lights outside the bustling city and felt his heart getting colder...

Madeline stood in front of the french window at night, unable to forget the crazy thing Jeremy did in the morning.

She did not look into who the person sleeping forever in the grave was. She also did not know what Jeremy meant by those roses.

At this moment, her phone rang.

She looked at the caller ID and saw that it was Jeremy.

Madeline hesitated for a while before picking up. When she was about to say something, she heard Jeremy's deep and drunken voice. "Maddie..."

Her eyes darkened as her grip on the phone tightened as well.

"Where are you? Where did she hide you..." Jeremy continued. He sounded like he was drunk.

Madeline recomposed herself and said calmly, "Jeremy, are you drunk? Where are you?"

After she said that, she was only greeted with silence.

Madeline looked at the screen of her phone in confusion. Was he really drunk?

No.

Even if he was drunk, it would be impossible for him to call her name.

She would never appear in his drunken dreams.

She hung up the phone and contacted Felipe who was not home yet to find Jeremy's location.

After a while, she received Felipe's text.

Looking at the address on the screen, Madeline was in disbelief.

He was there!

How was it possible?

She ran out of the door and headed to the destination. Standing in front of the apartment and looking at the closed door, Madeline lifted her trembling hand slowly before pushing the door open.

Married by Mistake Chapter 335

After Madeline pushed the door open, she could smell the stench of alcohol.

It had been three years. She never thought that she would come back to this place. What shocked her even more was when she pushed the door open, the decorations and renovation were still the same as back then.

Everything in front of her eyes was the same as three years ago. There were not many changes.

Madeline walked forward slowly with puzzlement. The apartment was not big, so when she walked in, she spotted Jeremy right away.

He was leaning against the sofa while sitting on the floor. His eyes were closed, making him look lazy and carefree.

The collar of his white shirt was opened and his collarbone was showing.

His cheeks were red while his pale lips were wet. It seemed as if he had just drunk some wine. On the coffee table in front of him were two bottles of opened wine.

Madeline looked curiously at the man who appeared drunk.

'Jeremy, what the hell are you doing?'

'Are you here to drink your sorrows away?'

Madeline walked over with caution. "Jeremy."

She called out softly, "This is Vera. Why are you drunk here?"

Jeremy opened his dazed eyes when he heard her voice.

However, when he looked at the smiling face through his dazed eyes, the alcohol in his eyes evaporated immediately. They became crystal clear in an instant.

He sat up immediately and pulled Madeline into his arms.

Madeline was caught off guard and got pulled into his embrace. He was holding her tightly.

His body temperature was high, almost burning her through his shirt.

Madeline wanted to escape from him but Jeremy only tightened his grip on her. It was as if he was trying to melt her into his body.

"You're back. It's good now that you're back. It's good..." he muttered in her ear, his cheek pressing up against hers tightly. He nuzzled against her as he muttered his longing for her.

"Please don't leave me again, okay?"

His low and gentle voice was filled with pleas.

Madeline lifted her eyebrow, and she was sure that Jeremy was mistaking her for another woman.

It was either Meredith or the woman Jeremy wanted to give the roses to.

“I’m sorry. It’s all my fault. Please give me another chance. Give me another chance to love you, okay?”

Jeremy’s apologies lingered in her ear. He was holding her with his fingers in her hair. His warm hand was caressing her head softly.

While they were intertwined in each other’s arms, he buried his head in her neck like he was longing for her, or perhaps, he was lusting for her. He had a satisfied grin on his face now.

“I never had the chance to tell you this, but I finally have the chance now.”

When Madeline was about to push Jeremy away and stand up, she heard him saying that.

She stopped in her tracks, and then, she heard Jeremy’s deep voice gliding into her ears.

“I love you.”

‘I love you.’

These three words traveled into Madeline’s ears clearly.

She froze as her heart skipped a beat.

For some reason, she felt tears stinging the corner of her eyes.

He said the words 'I love you'.

Madeline curled the corners of her lips in amusement. As she was smiling, her eyes were wet with tears.

She remembered back when she was blind, Jeremy had pressed her roughly against the floor right here before grabbing her hand and forcing her to sign the divorce papers.

She would never forget what he had said to her. He said, "Are you still so naive to think that I have feelings for you even until now?"

He had also said, "Madeline, listen here. I've never liked you, let alone loved. Not even a little bit."

Tears blurred her vision just like back then.

However, she did not let the tears flow down her face.

Madeline made up her mind and pushed Jeremy away.

Jeremy could not fight back at all. He collapsed on the floor after Madeline pushed him away.

She looked at the man who looked like he had fallen asleep. There was resentment and hatred in her eyes as she clenched her fists tightly.

She was about to leave when she saw something next to Jeremy's hand.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0336

She walked over to take a look and saw that it was her diary. The page where it was on was filled with her past love and determination for him.

Madeline scoffed when she recalled herself back in the days. She was so stupid and dumb.

She grabbed the diary before turning around to leave. However, Jeremy pulled her back again.

Madeline stumbled and fell on the floor, crashing into Jeremy's firm chest.

His eyes were dazed, but he was still looking at her emotionally.

“Don't go, okay? Don't leave me again.”

“Jeremy, let me go. I'm not the person you're thinking of.” Madeline struggled to escape, but Jeremy simply smiled and stared straight at her. He was hugging her even tighter now.

Madeline could not escape from his grip no matter how much she struggled.

He was pressed up against her lovingly before eventually falling asleep.

Madeline was sweating from all her struggling. However, she still did not manage to escape from him. In the end, she also closed her eyes and fell asleep in exhaustion.

The first ray of sun shone into the room, waking Jeremy up with a frown. He opened his eyes and saw the woman who was in a deep slumber in his arms. He lifted his hand and caressed her beautiful eyebrows, nose, and lips.

His fingers traveled along her face before stopping at the opened collar of her shirt.

Madeline was woken up by a strange sensation. Upon opening her eyes, she was met with Jeremy's icy ones.

"I'm sorry I did something inappropriate to you again last night," he said. "Don't worry, I'll take full responsibility."

"By taking responsibility, do you mean you'll marry me?" Madeline sat up slowly. "I've already said that I won't marry a man who doesn't love me."

"What if I say I do love you?" Jeremy stared straight at the stunning face in front of him. "Give me some time. I'll settle the wedding preparations."

He promised without even giving her the chance to reject.

Madeline's final goal was to marry Jeremy. However, she did not expect it to happen so soon.

Even though she did not know what Jeremy was thinking about, she was sure that he had fallen for her.

After she went back home, she told Felipe about her progress.

Felipe looked at her and said the same thing. "Vera, I hope you can think about this clearly."

"I must marry him," Madeline said firmly, "I'll only be able to make him pay the worst price like this. I want him to never have any peace, be it in his relationship or career."

When he saw the fire of revenge in Madeline's eyes, he stopped advising her.

However, after a while, she received notifications from a few viral tweets on her phone.

The Marriage of Jeremy Whitman and Meredith Crawford.

Glendale's Most Affluent Young Master Is Marrying Miss Montgomery.

When Madeline saw these, she clicked inside curiously. However, she noticed that this was from verified sources, so it meant that this was real.

He was marrying Meredith?

How did it become like this?

Madeline felt a dull ache in her heart, and suddenly, her phone rang. When she answered the call, she heard Meredith's victorious voice. "Vera, I'm sure you've already seen the news online. I'm going to marry Jeremy in three days."

Meredith's tone was arrogant and lofty. It was evident that she was telling the truth.

"Hmph, do you think you can seduce Jeremy just because you look like that b*tch Madeline? Let me tell you, Jeremy is utterly disgusted with your face. Do you think you can even compare to me?"

"I'm discussing our marriage in Whitman Manor. Jeremy loves me so much. He told me that we'll plan the wedding according to my wish. So, I'll be the only Mrs. Whitman in this lifetime! And you should just get as far away from us as possible!"

Beep.

Before Madeline could say anything, Meredith hung up the phone.

Madeline held the phone in her hand, her mind filled with Meredith's victorious and provoking words. She narrowed her eyes as a sinister glint appeared in them.

Everyone in Whitman Manor was making wedding preparations happily.

Madeline just got out of the car when she received Jeremy's call. His voice was deep. "Vera, I have something to tell you. Where are you now?"

"I have something to tell you as well," Madeline said slowly, "I'm in front of Whitman Manor."

She hung up the phone and walked in.

Jeremy was being pestered by Meredith to choose a wedding gown. When he heard that, he stood up and looked out of the door.

"Jeremy, what's wrong?" Meredith blinked and looked at him. After she said that, she saw someone at the entrance.

Eloise and Jeremy's mother were happily discussing the wedding. However, when they saw Vera, their faces fell.

"What are you doing here?" Jeremy's mother asked angrily.

"Vera, you're not welcomed here. Get out now!" Eloise chased her away.

Meredith stood up as well. She was not as arrogant as she was on the phone and looked super vulnerable now. "Miss Quinn, Jeremy and I are getting married soon. I hope you can stop harassing us."

Madeline looked coldly at the three women in front of her. Then, she walked straight to Jeremy. “Jeremy, I’m pregnant.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0337

“What?”

“What did you say?”

Eloise and Jeremy’s mother stood up immediately, their faces filled with shock.

“Vera Quinn, repeat what you said!” Jeremy’s mother yelled.

Madeline scanned Meredith’s face and saw that her eyes were widened while her jaw was hanging loosely from shock. Then, she lifted her head to look into Jeremy’s unreadable black eyes.

“Jeremy, I’m carrying your child.”

She smiled and handed him a report.

“I went for some tests this morning at the hospital and this is the proof from the doctor.”

Jeremy looked at Madeline and took the report.

It was stated on the report that she was already three weeks pregnant.

“Let me see!” Jeremy’s mother snatched the report from Jeremy’s hand and looked at it closely.

Eloise came over to look at it as well. After they saw the result, their faces darkened instantly.

When Meredith saw this, she stared at Madeline with envy and jealousy. After a few seconds, she bit her lip. Her eyes looked hurt and they were filled with devastation.

“How is that possible?” Her voice was soft. “How...”

When Eloise saw Meredith sobbing sadly, she crumpled the report in her hand angrily and threw it on the floor.

“Vera Quinn, you vixen! You..”

“Shut up.” Jeremy interrupted coldly. He looked at Eloise, his gaze like sharp knives. He reached out his hand to hold Madeline’s hand. “Let’s go.”

Madeline smiled and looked at Meredith who was scowling at her. Then, she chuckled softly. “Okay.”

When Jeremy’s mother saw this, she ran forward to stop them. “Jeremy, what are you doing? You’re going to marry Meredith soon. How can you leave with this woman now?”

“Jeremy, one second you’re calling off the wedding with Mer, then you’re marrying her again. Now, you’re still entangled with this woman. What do you think of Meredith?” Eloise’s face was green from anger. “You have to give Mer an explanation today!”

“I don’t have the obligation to explain anything to you,” Jeremy said coldly. He looked at Madeline with his bottomless eyes and held her hand before walking forward.

“You...” Eloise was tongue-tied from anger. “How could my daughter fall head over heels in love with a man like this?”

Jeremy’s mother was embarrassed. She shifted the blame away hurriedly. “This Vera Quinn is even more despicable than Madeline! Mer, don’t worry. I’ll always side with you.”

Meredith's eyes were red from her pretentious grievances. Then, she ran out and saw Jeremy opening the car door for Vera before driving away.

She clenched her fists and gritted her teeth. Then, she smirked sinisterly.

“Vera Quinn, do you think you can defeat me by doing this? Hmph, just you wait. My wedding with Jeremy will definitely go on in three days!”

...

Jeremy drove for a while with Madeline with neither of them saying anything.

Jeremy saw Madeline's dispirited gaze from the rearview mirror. He braked slowly and stopped the car at the side of the road.

“Give me some time. I'll give you a complete family.” Jeremy looked at Madeline who had been quiet the entire time.

“You mean you'll definitely marry Meredith in three days?” Madeline asked flatly. “You said you'll take responsibility. Is this how you're going to take responsibility?”

She deliberately looked at him in agitation. Then, she turned around and got out of the car.

Jeremy got out of the car hurriedly as well. “Vera.”

Madeline ignored him and kept walking forward.

Jeremy chased after her, grabbing Madeline's wrist. Then, he pulled her in front of him.

Her beautiful eyes appeared in his vision again, making his heart beat erratically. His usual icy gaze had become softer all of a sudden.

“Vera, I genuinely want to marry you.” His eyes looked serious. “Give me some time to take care of this.”

“Really?” Madeline chuckled softly. “Mr. Whitman, it’s not like no one else wants me. I don’t need you to marry me as if you’re giving me alms. Since you love Meredith so much, then I shall help you accomplish your aim. As for the child in my stomach, I’ll take care of it.

“I’m happy to know you. It’s my fault that I have the same face as Madeline. It’s not your fault that you resent this face so much.”

She smiled unaffectedly before lifting her hand to tidy Jeremy’s collar. Suddenly, she stood on tiptoe and got closer to his face.

“I hope you’re happy. Forever.”

Her sweet voice sounded like it was drenched with honey, her words flowing into his ears like the spring water in the mountain. Then, it landed right on his heart.

Jeremy was taken aback, then his heart sped up.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0338

He lifted his head and saw that Madeline had already hailed a cab. Then, she got into the car and left.

Jeremy was dispirited for a few seconds before he chased after her.

He called Madeline, and though the call went through, she did not answer.

Madeline looked at the darkened phone screen and smirked.

She was making concessions in order to gain advantages.

She did not mean it when she wished him that. She could not let the two people she hated the most live carefreely.

Jeremy could not contact Madeline, so he became anxious.

It did not matter what the reason was, but he knew he could not lose the woman who had the same face as Madeline.

Even though he was obstinately clinging to the belief that this was the reason he could not let go of Madeline, he also realized the subtle change in his heartbeat whenever he was with Vera.

The feeling was the same as when he met Madeline for the first time in university.

Madeline went back to her apartment, and after a while, someone was ringing the doorbell.

Madeline saw Jeremy through the peephole.

His handsome face was magnified through the peephole—still as handsome as ever.

Madeline was satisfied when she saw the anxiousness in his eyes.

She did not open the door. She listened to the doorbell ringing continuously as she sat on the bar table quietly to enjoy her coffee.

Madeline knew very well that Jeremy cared about her more than Meredith at the moment.

However, why did he suddenly agree to marry Meredith?

There had to be a reason for that.

When she was contemplating it, the screen of her phone lit up again. It was from an unknown number.

Madeline walked to the french window and answered the phone. Then, Meredith's cold and arrogant voice sounded.

“Vera, don't think I don't know what you're doing. You want to use your pregnancy to stop my marriage with Jeremy, huh? Let me tell you now that there's no f*cking way!

“Jeremy will go to the wedding dress fitting with me tomorrow. That dress is worth about seven digits and Jeremy made that especially for me! As long as I want something, Jeremy will definitely give it to me!

“Don't even think about having a chance to stick your foot into our relationship. Listen closely, Jeremy is my man. I'll end whoever dares to steal him away from me!”

After she heard Meredith's threats, Madeline chuckled carefreely. "Meredith, you listen here as well. I'll definitely stick my foot into your relationship. You have to get past me if you want to marry Jeremy."

"You... B*tch!" Meredith cursed, "Vera, I'll never give you the chance to do so!"

Beep.

After Meredith yelled at her, she hung up the phone in frustration.

The doorbell was still ringing. She pondered for a while before opening the door.

When the door was opened, Jeremy's eyes lit up.

"Vera."

"Mr. Whitman, you and I have nothing to do with each other anymore. Please stop bothering me," Madeline said coldly before closing the door.

Jeremy reached out his hand to stop the door as he looked at her intensely. "You asked me before if you're destined to fall in love with the same man as her just because you look like her. Let me answer you now... Me too."

'You look like Madeline, so I started having feelings for you subconsciously.'

However, Madeline did not understand the deeper meaning of this sentence.

"Jeremy, I don't understand."

“You don’t have to. You just have to know that I genuinely want to marry you.”

“Really?” Madeline asked curiously.

“Truly,” he said confidently. However, he lifted his eyebrow. “I have to complete my process of marrying Meredith first though.”

“Why?” Madeline looked at him in confusion. “Why do you have to marry her?”

Jeremy looked into Madeline’s huge confused eyes before pressing his lips together. “Do you really want to know? Alright, I’ll tell you.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0339

As he spoke, there was melancholy in his eyes all of a sudden.

After staying quiet for a few seconds, Jeremy said, “I owe it to her.”

“You owe it to her?”

“You owe it to her?”

“Jeremy, you owed me as well, but you forgot about it.”

Madeline laughed and did not ask anymore. She said slowly, “Alright, if that’s the case, I won’t make it more difficult for you. However, if you say you’re serious about marrying me, then you should prove it.”

When he heard this, the melancholy on Jeremy’s face disappeared slightly. “What do you want me to do? I can do anything as long as it’s within my power.”

Madeline smiled. “Easy. Go to a place with me tomorrow. I’ll tell you where we’re going when you pick me up tomorrow morning.”

“Okay,” Jeremy answered without hesitating.

For some reason, looking at the smile on that face in front of him, Jeremy felt more cheerful than before.

Jeremy went back to his house, and the moment he entered, he saw Meredith running toward him.

“Jeremy, you’re finally home.” Her face was filled with worry and she was evidently flustered. “I was so scared that you wouldn’t come back.”

Jeremy walked around her coldly as he spoke in a sarcastic tone, “Why aren’t you preparing for the wedding? Why are you here?”

“You’re my groom. Who will I go to if I don’t come to you?” Meredith walked in front of Jeremy shyly. “Jeremy, I’m finally going to become your bride. I’m so happy.”

Jeremy looked at her and smiled superficially. “As long as you’re happy. If you’re done being happy, remember to give me back what belongs to me.”

“...” The smile on Meredith’s face froze while her shy look from earlier had disappeared as well. She knew that Jeremy was talking about Madeline’s ashes.

He was very concerned about Madeline indeed.

Thankfully, he did not have a clue that Madeline was the little girl he had been thinking about for the past ten years.

If he knew about that, he would be crazily in love with Madeline.

Meredith was secretly relieved. Then, she smiled flatteringly.

“Jeremy, I know you’re still blaming me. It’s fine. As long as I can marry you and become your wife, I’m willing to be misunderstood,” she said understandably before frowning.

“However, Jeremy, don’t get fooled by that Vera Quinn. She’s not a good person. She’s in a relationship with your uncle one second, and in the next second, she claims to be pregnant with your child. It’s fine if she looks the same as Maddie, but they’re also equally fickle.”

“Enough,” Jeremy said in agitation. His sharp gaze scanned across Meredith before he continued, “Just because I’m not saying some things out loud doesn’t mean I don’t know about them. Stop challenging my patience. My patience for you has a limit.”

“...” Meredith was speechless. Her body went cold after Jeremy looked at her with an icy gaze.

‘Has he seen my dark past online?’

‘Did he also see the intimate photos of me and Tanner?’

‘No.’

‘Jeremy hasn’t seen them. If he has, he would’ve questioned me about it.’

She thought about it wishfully and put on her aggrieved mask again.

“Jeremy, I’m sorry. I won’t say things like that to upset you again.” Meredith apologized. Her eyes looked extremely pitiful. “Jeremy, the staff from the bridal shop called me. We can go for the fitting tomorrow. I’ve been waiting for this day for so long.”

“I’m not free.” Jeremy rejected her coldly. Then, he turned around to go upstairs.

Meredith’s smile cracked. “Jeremy, if you don’t have time tomorrow, I can change it to the day after.”

“I don’t have time the day after as well. If you want to try on wedding dresses, you should go yourself.”

“...”

Meredith wanted to keep pestering him, but looking at his cold figure. She chose silence.

She clenched her fists and gritted her teeth. Her heart was filled with dissatisfaction and anger.

However, she managed to suppress them.

It was fine. If he did not want to go to the fitting with her, then she would go herself.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0340

She would become his wife in three days anyway.

When the time came, the entire Glendale and even people all around the world would witness the live broadcast of their grand wedding!

When Meredith thought about this, a smile appeared on her face again.

That night, Meredith did some self-care, and the next day, she headed to the bridal shop.

This brand of wedding dresses was well-known all around the world. She told the staff about the dress Jeremy pre-ordered. It had just arrived by air yesterday and was worth around seven digits.

Before she met Jeremy, Meredith could never imagine that she would be able to wear such an expensive wedding dress.

Now, aside from her status as Miss Montgomery, she was also going to be the madam of an influential family who was second to none.

She was ecstatic.

Since she had revealed what she was going to do before this, when Meredith arrived at the bridal shop, there were a lot of journalists surrounding her who wanted to interview her.

“Miss Montgomery, you’re going to marry Mr. Whitman in two days. How do you feel?”

“I heard you’re going to try on a wedding dress that cost seven digits, is that true?”

Meredith looked into the camera happily. “Jeremy ordered the dress for me. The rhinestones on it are all real.”

“Why didn’t Mr. Whitman come to the fitting with you?”

“You guys know that Jeremy is busy. He has to manage such a huge transnational corporation. I won’t occupy his time for something as minor as a wedding dress fitting. Men’s work centers around the world outside while women’s work centers around the home, so I don’t mind.”

When Meredith said this, the journalists and passersby all praised her for being understanding.

Meredith listened to those praises happily. Then, she turned around and entered the shop with her assistant.

“Miss Montgomery, when you walk out in the dress later, the journalists will definitely snap a lot of pictures of you. They’ll all report this without restraint,” said Meredith’s assistant, Amy.

Meredith raised her eyes arrogantly and considered herself unexcelled in the world. Her gentle and kind image had disappeared at this moment.

“Of course. Those people have never seen such an expensive wedding dress before. Even after working to death for an entire year, they won’t even be able to make enough money for one rhinestone on my dress!”

“Yes, of course.” Amy agreed.

She had worked with Meredith for some time already, so she knew Meredith’s temper and personality.

Meredith was not the dignified and easy-mannered Miss Montgomery in front of everyone. She was more like a common character behind everyone’s back. She was narrow-minded and loved to be pretentious.

If it was not for the hefty salary, Amy would have stopped working for her a long time ago.

At this moment, Meredith sauntered into the shop. When the staff saw her, there were awkward expressions on their faces.

“M-Miss Crawford, why are you here?”

Meredith’s face fell. “What are you talking about? Of course, I’m here for the fitting.”

“But...”

“No buts. Where’s the dress? I want to try it on now.” Meredith barked her order.

After she said that, the curtain in front of her was pulled open with a ‘woosh’.

Meredith and her assistant, Amy, looked over at the same time. A graceful figure of a woman appeared in their vision.

The dress on the woman was sparkling with brilliant lights and vibrant colors under the lights of the chandelier.

Meredith widened her eyes in shock. “Why is this dress on another person? Were you people dropped on the head when you were born? That’s my dress! How dare you let another woman try on my dress that cost seven digits? Do you not want to work here anymore?”

The staff looked at each other in dismay after they heard that. “Miss Crawford, this...”

“And you! How dare you wear my dress?! Take it off now, if not...”

“Your dress?” Suddenly, the woman in the dress said slowly.

When Meredith heard her voice, she was taken aback.

She widened her eyes in disbelief. When she saw the woman turning around slowly, her eyes were about to start bleeding when she saw the gorgeous face appearing in her vision.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0341

“Vera Quinn!”

“Uh-huh,” Madeline smirked. She ran her fingers over the sparkling rhinestones on her dress. “Jeremy has such a good eye. He even knows all of my measurements.”

“W-What did you say?”

“What? Don’t you know the human language?” Meredith smiled and sashayed forward. The staff hurried over to help her with her dress.

She looked like a queen when she gracefully walked forward until she was in front of Meredith. “Do you really think that this dress belongs to you?”

“...” Meredith was so angry that her eyes almost fell out of their sockets. “Vera Quinn, take this dress off right now. This is a present from Jeremy to me. I’m going to wear this on the day of my wedding. Who are you to wear my wedding dress?”

She glared at Madeline overbearingly. Then, she scoffed all of a sudden.

“Vera, why are you doing this? I know you like Jeremy, but he’s my fiancé. Plus, we’ll be married in two days, then we’ll be husband and wife. What you’re doing right now is exactly what a mistress would do, do you know that? You’re a failure as Miss L.ady’s founder and designer!”

Meredith deliberately increased the volume of her voice to let the staff hear her.

However, Madeline smiled calmly. “Speaking of mistresses, how can I compare to you, Miss Crawford?”

Meredith’s face fell when she heard that. When she was about to fight back, she heard Madeline say, “The entire Glendale knows that Jeremy divorced his ex-wife, Madeline, three years ago. However, you already have a two-year-old child with Jeremy. Isn’t this the solid evidence of you being a shameless mistress?”

After she finished saying that, Meredith’s face fell. Then, she saw the staff around her gossiping about her. She could not contain her emotions anymore.

“You! Vera, shut up! I want you to take that dress off right now! Immediately!”

Meredith changed the topic angrily and barked out her orders.

“You lot! Go and get that dress off of her now! You should know that Jeremy was the one who ordered this dress for me and this b*tch has no business wearing it!”

The staff looked at each other and frowned in awkwardness.

“Miss Crawford, actually, this dress...”

“You useless good-for-nothings! I’m asking you to do something and you’re being so finicky. If you’re not going to do it, then I will!”

Meredith reached out her hand in anger, wanting to rip the dress away from Madeline’s body.

However, the moment she reached out her hand, Madeline grabbed her wrist.

Meredith was taken aback. Then, her eyes met Madeline’s arrogant eyes. She was grinning!

“Meredith Crawford, be careful with your words. If you dare to call me names again, I won’t go easy on you.”
Madeline warned before pushing Meredith’s wrist away forcefully.

Meredith stumbled backward and widened her eyes in anger. “Vera Quinn, you...”

“If I remember correctly, you intentionally called me yesterday to tell me that Jeremy will come to the fitting with you. You even said that he ordered a wedding dress that cost seven digits for you.”

Madeline interrupted with a smile, quirking her brows in arrogance.

“However, I’ve been here for so long. Not only have I yet to see Jeremy here with you, but there’s no dress that belongs to you here either. You keep saying that I’m not worthy, but I think you’re the one who’s not worthy of this, Meredith Crawford.”

“You...”

Meredith was speechless after what Madeline said. Her face was green and she wanted to attack Madeline.

However, at this moment, Meredith felt a cold breeze coming from one side.

“Stop.”

Jeremy’s icy voice was like the cold air in a hot summer—it came crashing down all of a sudden. Meredith retracted her hand and was beyond shocked.

After recomposing herself, Meredith put on a weak and sad mask before turning around.

When she turned around, she saw Jeremy in an English-style tuxedo.

His elegant and self-restraining aura was emitting from every pore on his body. His flawless face was even more handsome now.

Meredith finally came back to her senses after a few seconds of staring.

“Jeremy, you’re here!” Meredith exclaimed happily while smiling victoriously. “I knew you’d come. How could you let me try on the wedding dresses myself?”

As she said that, she looked at Meredith provokingly.

“Miss Quinn, do you see this? Jeremy’s here to accompany me to try on my wedding gown! Can you take off the wedding dress that doesn’t belong to you now? I can stop pursuing this matter for Jeremy’s sake.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0342

Madeline smiled sweetly when she saw Meredith's pleased grin.

"Miss Crawford, are you delusional? Jeremy's here for me."

???

Meredith's expression froze, and there were a lot of question marks above her head.

However, at this moment, she saw Vera reaching out to Jeremy with a smile on her face. The man she loved walked over to Vera as he held her hand.

"Jeremy?" Meredith could not believe what she was seeing. She felt as if there was a rock on her chest that made her unable to breathe.

Madeline smiled bashfully and reached out to tidy Jeremy's collar.

"Jeremy, you look so charming today. No wonder Miss Crawford here was willing to climb into your bed even though she'd become the mistress."

"You! Vera Quinn, what did you say?" Meredith's pretentious expression cracked. "You're the one who seduced my fiancé, you b*tch!"

She lifted her hand angrily to slap Madeline.

Madeline faked being scared and leaned against Jeremy, her frightened expression eliciting Jeremy's anger and urge to protect her.

He grabbed Madeline's wrist, his eyes looking frigid. "You even dare to bully Vera in front of me, so just how many times did you threaten Vera when I wasn't around?"

Meredith was stunned. She was unconvinced no matter what.

"Jeremy, I didn't! I've never bullied her. She gave me no choice. Ever since her appearance, she's been targeting me. She even wants to steal you from me. Now, she stole the dress that's rightfully mine. How can I just let this happen?"

"I'm not an object. No one can steal me away just as they wish."

These icy words escaped his thin lips. Then, he spread out his arms.

"I bought this dress for Vera. I didn't even know you'd be coming today. Stop making a fuss."

"What? Jeremy, what did you say? You gave her this dress?"

Meredith was completely dumbfounded, and at the same time, she could feel a fire burning in her chest.

She looked at the woman in Jeremy's arms in resentment. However, she saw Vera smiling at her.

Meredith took a deep breath. She was going to explode!

"Jeremy, don't be mad. You said we'll take our wedding photo happily today. Stop caring about irrelevant people." Madeline smiled and grabbed Jeremy's arm. Her arrogant eyes scanned across Meredith who was about to vomit blood from anger.

“Alright, let’s go take our photos.” Jeremy nodded. His gaze softened when it landed on Madeline’s face.

He let Madeline grab his arm as they then turned around at the same time. The staff quickly went over to carry the dress for Madeline.

“Miss Crawford, so what now? There are so many journalists out there waiting for your fitting, but now...”

Meredith’s assistant, Amy, reminded her worriedly.

Meredith’s pupils constricted. There were so many journalists out there. If Jeremy walked out with Vera, she would become the joke of the century!

She clenched her fists and narrowed her eyes. It was as if she was bracing herself.

“Jeremy!”

Meredith chased after them and stopped in front of Madeline and Jeremy.

Jeremy knitted his brows together. “Don’t force me to get someone to pull you away.”

He sounded impatient.

Madeline smiled and watched. She wanted to see what Meredith had up her sleeves.

However, Meredith only glared at Madeline furiously. Then, she looked into Jeremy’s cold eyes.

“Jeremy, I won’t allow you to take wedding pictures with this b*tch!” Meredith’s tone was firm. She was not begging at all.

Jeremy looked at her coldly. Then, he grabbed Madeline's hand and walked past her.

When Meredith realized that she was being ignored, she was frantic.

“Jeremy, if you walk out with this woman right now, then don't even think about finding Madeline's ashes!”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0343

Meredith yelled at the two figures in front of her.

Madeline almost stopped walking at the same time as Jeremy.

What did she just hear?

‘Ashes?’

‘My ashes?’

She was taken aback as her mind wandered.

Back then, she had already lost her eyesight when she went to Jeremy and Meredith’s engagement party.

In order to cut all ties with him and to let go of her obsession with him, she consented to giving everything back to him—including her ashes.

Even though she did not die in the end, her ‘ashes’ was still there.

However, did Jeremy not destroy those ‘ashes’ way back then?

She stopped reminiscing when she felt Jeremy’s grip tightening.

It seemed like he was holding back something.

Meredith ran in front of Jeremy quickly with melancholy in her eyes.

“Jeremy, please don’t force me, okay? The things I’m doing now are all for you.”

Meredith was making herself look worthy of the greatest admiration.

Madeline lifted her head to look at Jeremy. There was a murderous cold glint in his eyes, but he did not get angry with Meredith.

Madeline quickly turned something over in her mind before saying with a smile, “Jeremy, I’m happy that you’re able to come to the fitting with me. I don’t want to do anything that’ll put you in an awkward position.”

Madeline smiled understandingly and reached out to straighten Jeremy’s tie. Then, she looked into Jeremy’s deep eyes.

“I’m happy that I got to know how you feel about me.”

She turned around after she said that. She gestured to the staff to help her remove the dress.

“Vera,” Jeremy called out to her. Looking at her beautiful back, he wanted to say something but stopped himself.

Madeline turned around to look at him with a small smile. She looked into his eyes and said, “I’ll wait for you.”

She smiled, and when she saw Meredith’s sinister smirk from the corner of her eyes, she walked away carefreely.

...

After Madeline got home, she kept replaying what Meredith said in her head.

Three years ago, she was pronounced dead. Then, Felipe faked the evidence of her death skillfully.

She also knew about Jeremy snatching her 'ashes' from Ava.

However, what else could he do with her ashes aside from releasing his anger with it?

He despised her so much.

When she was alive, he hated her body. After she died, he would definitely hate her 'ashes'.

However, based on what Meredith said, it seemed that her 'ashes' was currently with Meredith?

On the other hand, Jeremy's reaction just now was also pretty thought-provoking.

He was compromising because of that?

What was going on?

On the other side, despite successfully stopping Jeremy and Madeline from taking their wedding pictures, Meredith knew this would definitely infuriate Jeremy.

Even if they were to break up or struggle for life and death, she would not allow Vera to get close to Jeremy!

The next day, Madeline went to her shop as usual.

When she got there, she received an urgent parcel from a delivery guy.

When she opened it, she saw that it was a wedding invitation from Meredith.

Madeline smiled when she looked at this.

This woman was so unbridled. She never learned.

At this moment, her phone rang.

Madeline figured it was from Meredith, and it was indeed her when Madeline answered.

“Vera, did you get the invitation? Remember to get here on time. I’m expecting your presence.”

Meredith’s tone was strange. It was evident that she was feeling pleased with herself.

Madeline said slowly, “Miss Crawford, you’re inviting me to your wedding so sincerely, but I just hope you won’t regret it when the time comes.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0344

“Regret? Hmph, the only person who’s going to regret is you! Vera, I warned you before. You’re not my competition at all. So what if you’re carrying Jeremy’s child? He won’t care! I have a trump card in my hand, so how will you compete with me? Hahaha...”

Meredith’s savage cackle lingered in Madeline’s ear.

Madeline hung up the phone without saying anything. She looked at the name of the bride on the invitation card as she narrowed her charming eyes.

She would be there on time tomorrow.

Three days went by quickly, but these three days were extremely tormenting to Meredith.

The internet was filled with headlines about her and Jeremy. After all, she was the one who exposed the time and location of her wedding to the media with a fake identity. She was hoping she could blow up news of this as much as possible.

The reason was that she had been waiting for this day for too long.

As long as she got married to Jeremy and became Mrs. Whitman, she believed that with her tactics, Jeremy would never divorce her.

It would be impossible!

Meredith woke up early on the day of her wedding.

The weather report said that today would be sunny, but it was drizzling.

Meredith was unhappy at first. However, when she thought about how she was going to marry Jeremy soon, she felt better.

The stylist styled her perfectly according to her wishes.

Meredith was clearly dissatisfied with the dress she bought at the last minute.

She wanted that dress that cost seven digits. However, as long as Jeremy did not nod his head, she would not be able to wear it.

After she got dressed, Meredith got into the car and drove to the hotel impatiently.

‘Hmph, Madeline, Vera, who are you to go against me?’

‘At the end of the day, Jeremy still belongs to me.’

Meredith thought about this deviously as her smile became wider and wider.

It was supposed to be a clear and refreshing fall, but it started raining all of a sudden. Madeline looked at the raindrops on the car window and smiled.

The car stopped in front of the hotel. Madeline held up an umbrella and sashayed forward elegantly.

She did not intentionally dress up. She was wearing something simple. It was just that her elegance came from within.

It was not the time for the ceremony yet, so Madeline walked in alone with the invitation card.

She looked at the hall that was luxuriously decorated and recalled her wedding with Jeremy back then.

Even though he was reluctant to marry her, she had fantasized and longed for their sweet future together.

She still remembered how his cold fingers had lifted her hand when they were exchanging rings. She still remembered the warm throbbing of her heart until now...

‘Jeremy...

‘I loved you so much, so why did it end in this way?’

As her mind wandered, Madeline felt someone tugging her clothes.

She came back to her senses and lowered her head. Then, she was met with a pair of beautiful eyes.

“Jack.”

Madeline exclaimed happily. The little guy was wearing a branded little tuxedo. It seemed as if he was going to be the flower boy.

However, he did not seem happy. There was no smile on his beautiful face. On the other hand, there was more sadness and melancholy.

“Vera, can I stay with you?” The little guy looked at her expectantly.

Madeline smiled. "Of course, but your daddy and mommy are going to get married soon. Aren't you going to toss the flower petals for them?"

"I want you to be my mommy," suddenly, the little guy blurted out.

Madeline was shocked. She caressed his head and said, "Jack, do you really hope that I can be your mommy?"

"Yeah."

Madeline smiled mysteriously. "Maybe your wish will come true soon, Jack."

"Really?"

"Jack! What are you doing over there? Go to your mother!" Eloise's voice sounded.

Madeline lifted her head and saw Eloise scowling at her.

"Hmph, how shameless. She even came to the wedding," Eloise scolded and turned around with Jackson.

"Jack, don't talk to her. Your mom will be upset."

Madeline smiled when she heard that, and there was an ominous glint in her eyes. "You must be over the moon, Mrs. Montgomery. However, have you ever heard of the saying 'don't celebrate too soon, things could still go wrong'?"

Eloise stopped walking and scoffed. "Of course, I'm ecstatic. My darling is getting married today and it's great news! Something going wrong? I think you're the mistake, you vixen! Vera Quinn, I'm warning you. Don't try to cause trouble. If not, I'll ask someone to kick you out!"

Madeline's heart ached. When she looked into Eloise's resentful gaze, she smiled. "Since you're so happy, then let me give you a present. However, it's not an item. It's just a statement."

She stopped and looked at Eloise seriously. "Meredith Crawford is not your biological daughter. She's an impostor."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0345

Madeline told her the truth immediately.

When Eloise heard that, she did not get angry. On the contrary, she smiled.

“Vera Quinn, I know what you’re trying to do. You’re trying to incite disharmony between me and Mer. I’m her mother, so I know very well whether she’s my daughter or not. Don’t even think about inciting disharmony between us!”

After Eloise said that firmly, she grabbed Jackson’s hand to walk away.

“Sometimes what you see is not necessarily the truth,” Madeline said to Eloise’s back. “Mrs. Montgomery, if you don’t want to regret it in the future, then you should think about what similarities that person who died three years ago had with you.”

Eloise stopped in her tracks. Then, she heard Madeline’s voice loud and clear.

“When I was outside Meredith’s hospital room, I indeed heard Rose saying that your real daughter is already dead.”

“Shut up!”

Eloise turned around furiously, her eyes looking at Madeline with animosity.

“Vera Quinn, today is my daughter’s wedding day, so I don’t want to curse you. However, if you continue to slander my daughter, I’ll never forgive you!”

After Eloise warned her, she walked away.

The thorn in Madeline's heart hurt faintly.

"I'm right in front of you. Why do you have no feelings toward me at all? We're related by blood but you can't even feel it?"

Looking at Eloise's back, Madeline smiled bitterly.

After spacing out for a while, she turned around and walked away.

Just like an inevitable clash between opposing factions, when Madeline turned around, she saw Meredith holding a bouquet of flowers while wearing a white dress as she walked forward.

When she saw Madeline, Meredith walked faster. The smile on her face widened even more.

"I didn't expect you to show up," Meredith smiled and said weirdly. There was hostility in her eyes. "Vera Quinn, how can you have so little shame?"

Madeline smiled slowly. "Having a sense of shame requires a conscience. Unlike you, Miss Crawford. You're shameless."

"..." Meredith's face fell. "Vera, why are you still pretending to be strong at this moment? Jeremy and I will become husband and wife with everyone around the world as our witness. You, on the other hand..."

Meredith lifted her head up high and snorted.

"You can only f*ck off."

“Do you think everything will end when you’re married to Jeremy?” Madeline asked slowly. When she saw Meredith’s expression changing, she smirked. “Back then, Madeline also married Jeremy, but I think you know better than anyone what happened in the end.”

“Hmph, how dare you compare me to that b*tch? She’s not even worthy to kiss my foot!” Meredith rolled her eyes. “Jeremy hates Madeline, so she deserved to die, unlike me. Jeremy has been in love with me for more than ten years! He wanted to marry me a long time ago!”

After Meredith finished saying that, her assistant, Amy, ran over and announced.

“Miss Crawford, Mr. Whitman is here.”

Meredith’s eyes lit up. “Got it. Go prepare.”

“Alright,” Amy answered and looked at Madeline before walking away.

Meredith displayed her best smile and peered at Madeline while feeling pleased with herself. “I’m going to marry Jeremy soon. You should watch closely, Vera Quinn.”

After she finished saying that, she heard footsteps behind her as she turned around.

“Jeremy,” Meredith called out sweetly. Then, she lifted her dress and walked over to Jeremy.

Madeline lifted her gaze nonchalantly. “Jeremy.”

She smiled bashfully and looked at the handsome, elegant man in front of her.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0346

Jeremy looked at Madeline. Then, under Meredith's expectant gaze, he walked past her and went straight to Madeline.

Meredith stood on the red carpet, dumbfounded. She was frozen in place.

"Why are you here?" Jeremy walked toward Madeline, her beautiful face reflected in his gentle eyes.

"Miss Crawford invited me," Madeline answered with a smile. She lifted her hand to straighten Jeremy's tie. "Miss Crawford told me that you've been waiting for this day. She also said that you'll be her man soon, so I shouldn't have any more wishful thinking and should get lost as soon as possible. However, I love you so much, so how would I be willing to let you go?"

"..." Meredith's face darkened after she heard that.

When she saw Jeremy lifting his eyebrow coldly, she quickly explained herself. "Jeremy, don't listen to her. I never said those things."

"You're so irresponsible, Miss Crawford. If you can say it, why can't you admit it?"

"You..."

"I'm not like you. I said I love Jeremy, so I won't give up so easily."

"..." Meredith widened her eyes while feeling lost. She could not believe that Madeline would say something like this.

Madeline smiled and looked at Jeremy again. He did not say anything and was just looking at her intensely.

She accepted his inquisitive yet complicated gaze confidently. Then, she stood on tiptoe and pressed her lips gently on his cheek.

When the kiss landed, Jeremy felt his heart tighten as an unknown feeling enveloped his heart.

“Go fulfill your promise with her. I’ll wait for you.”

After Madeline said that, she pulled her hand that was on Jeremy’s tie away.

Meredith was completely dumbfounded when she saw that.

She would never imagine that Madeline was able to do this.

Then, Madeline walked over carefreely to Meredith. “Why are you so shocked? Aren’t you the one who knows how I feel the best, Miss Crawford? Didn’t you get between Jeremy and his ex-wife’s marriage in the name of love? You even forced Madeline to her death. I’m just learning from you now.”

“...” Meredith felt as if her mouth was filled with blood. She could not say a single word.

She wanted to strangle Madeline to death now. However, at this moment, she could only grip her dress tightly and swallow this rage.

The most important thing right now was to get married to Jeremy!

The room was almost filled with guests by now. The journalists were also surrounding the scene.

Madeline made her way to the last row and sat down alone.

After a while, she saw Jeremy appearing at the place where he would read his vows later on.

He was very good-looking and tall, undoubtedly the most perfect man in everyone's eyes.

However, Madeline would not be moved by him anymore.

Her heart had already been smashed by him. She would be in pain whenever she thought about the feeling of loving someone deeply.

In a blink of an eye, the master of the ceremony appeared and announced the bride's arrival.

Madeline saw Meredith holding Sean's arm with a sweet smile on her face as she walked toward Jeremy slowly.

That was her biological father, yet he was spoiling such a devil.

When she walked past Madeline, Meredith did not forget to look at her with a proud look. It was as if she was saying, 'Vera, I'm going to be Mrs. Whitman soon. Who are you to compete with me?'

Madeline smiled. She watched as Meredith walked in front of Jeremy shyly, her eyes filled with deep passion.

Everyone was giving them their blessings. After the master of the ceremony finished talking, Meredith could not wait to say 'I do'. Then, she looked expectantly at Jeremy.

The master of the ceremony asked, "Mr. Whitman, do you take this bride as your wife, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish her as long as you both shall live?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0347

After the master of the ceremony finished saying that, Meredith blushed. She looked at Jeremy longingly.

‘Jeremy, hurry up and say you do!’

‘I’ve been waiting so long for this day!’

Meredith’s heart raced. She felt as if she was going to get to the pinnacle of her life.

Also, she noticed that Jeremy was smiling at her warmly. There was a softness in his eyes that she had never seen before.

Meredith was sure that she had this in the bag!

However, at this moment, someone’s phone started ringing.

It broke the atmosphere, making Meredith unhappy. However, she noticed it was Jeremy’s phone.

Jeremy suppressed what he was feeling before and took out his phone.

When he saw the caller ID, he lifted his head to look at Madeline who was sitting in the last row.

“Jeremy, my stomach is hurting all of a sudden. I don’t know if something’s wrong with our baby. I don’t think I can continue watching this. I have to go to the hospital.”

Madeline's voice sounded very despondent from the other end of the phone.

Meredith was standing next to Jeremy. Although the others could not hear it, she could hear everything that was being said on the phone clearly.

She saw Madeline getting up and leaving from the corner of her eyes. At the same time, Jeremy turned around.

“Jeremy!” Meredith grabbed him frantically. “Jeremy, the ceremony isn't over yet, don't...”

Before Meredith could finish, Jeremy pushed her hand away.

He frowned and strode in the direction where Madeline left in.

“Jeremy! Where are you going?” Jeremy's mother was shocked.

“Jeremy! Jeremy!” Meredith called out to him frantically. She was about to vomit blood from anger.

“W-What's going on?”

“Based on Mr. Whitman's expression, I guess something serious has happened.”

The guests were all confused.

Those journalists quickly ran over to get some exclusive news.

Madeline deliberately slowed down at this time as she wanted to let Jeremy catch up to her.

She heard the familiar footsteps getting closer to her. Madeline continued walking to the entrance of the hotel.

It was still drizzling.

A gust of wind blew past her and the coldness went straight to her heart.

When she was about to walk into the rain, she felt warmth on her back.

“Vera.” Jeremy placed his coat on Madeline. “I’ll go to the hospital with you.”

Madeline looked into Jeremy’s eyes in delight. “Jeremy, I’m happy that you’re so concerned about me.”

She leaned into his arms with a touched expression on her face. Then, she smirked in secret.

Jeremy carried her bridal-style and walked to the parking lot.

Madeline saw the journalists and Meredith running over to them. She lifted her brows and smiled proudly.

‘Meredith, you should know clearly who’s the loser here.

‘Your good days will be coming to an end.’

Madeline smiled and leaned against Jeremy’s chest weakly.

His musky scent enveloped her. It was the same smell from her memory, but it was unable to elicit any emotions from her anymore.

...

The viral tweet of Jeremy abandoning Meredith at the wedding and leaving with another mysterious woman in his arms quickly made headlines.

Everyone was guessing who this mysterious woman was.

However, some reliable sources exposed that the woman was Vera Quinn.

After a while, Vera's Twitter page blew up.

Meredith bought a bunch of haters to curse and swear at Vera on her profile.

However, after a while, everything about this news could not be found anymore.

After Jeremy asked Ken to remove the trending tweets, he handed a glass of warm water to Madeline.

“Are you sure you don't want to go to the hospital?” Jeremy asked worriedly.

Madeline smiled and shook her head. “I think it's because I didn't want to see you marrying another woman, that's why I started to feel unwell. I didn't want to hear you say ‘I do’.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0348

Looking at those beautiful and lively eyes in front of him, Jeremy's thoughts started to wander.

He never wanted to say 'I do' anyway.

When the master of the ceremony asked him that, he recalled the time he married Madeline. That was why he had smiled and also why his gaze became softer.

When Madeline saw Jeremy deep in thought, she called out to him, "Jeremy, what are you thinking about?"

After she said that, Jeremy's phone rang.

"I need to take care of some things. I'll be back soon." Jeremy said after looking at the caller ID.

"Go ahead."

Jeremy nodded, and when he was about to close the door behind him, he lifted his gaze to look at the woman who was leaning against the headboard of the bed. There was a thought-provoking look in his eyes.

Madeline got out of bed when she heard the engine of the car.

She did not expect Jeremy to bring her back to his place.

However, she was glad. Jeremy abandoned Meredith and carried her away with so much concern. This was better than she expected.

Madeline was smiling even wider now.

Meredith had to be livid right now. Her face had to be contorted into such an ugly look at this moment.

...

Jeremy arrived at Whitman Manor where everyone was looking at him with criticizing looks. On the other side, Meredith was crying so much that her eyes were red. She was also gasping for air.

“Jeremy, you’re too much! You abandoned Mer at the wedding and carried that Vera Quinn away. How is Mer going to live now? How will those tabloids write about this?” Eloise questioned him with a horrible expression on her face.

“Jeremy, you went overboard! Go and comfort Mer now.” His mother reminded him.

“Mom, Mrs. Whitman, please stop blaming Jeremy. It’s not his fault.” Meredith sobbed while saying, “Jeremy, I’ll be fine as long as you’re happy.”

“Did you hear that, Jeremy? My daughter is so kind to you but how do you treat her? You’re not worthy of Mer!” Eloise was furious.

“If I’m not worthy, then I shall leave,” Jeremy said straightforwardly and coldly. Everyone at the scene was beyond shocked.

“Jeremy, w-what do you mean?” Eloise asked.

Jeremy looked at Meredith and was startled. “I already gave you a wedding and I did what I promised. Don’t let me see any comments attacking Vera online. This thing between you and me ends now.”

“...” Meredith’s eyes were wide. She could not believe the person who was talking to her so coldly right now was Jeremy.

“I don’t have anything to tell or explain to you people. Stop harassing me.” After he said that, Jeremy turned around and left.

After spacing out for a few seconds, Meredith ran out quickly.

“Jeremy! Jeremy! Don’t go!”

She ran in front of Jeremy and was sobbing heavily.

“Jeremy, don’t do this to me. Don’t...”

Jeremy had no emotion in his eyes as he looked at the woman who was crying heavily in front of him.

If this was before, he would have been heartbroken.

No.

That was not it.

He had only thought he was heartbroken.

When Madeline was gasping for her last breath in his arms, the feeling he had then felt like a million ants gnawing on his heart.

“Jeremy, you know that what I want isn’t a wedding. I want to be with you forever! Don’t leave me, okay? I can’t lose you! I really can’t be without you!”

Meredith cried and held onto Jeremy.

“Don’t make me do things that I hate.” Jeremy indifferently pushed Meredith, who was clinging to him, away. Then, he walked off.

Meredith looked at the man who was walking away and gritted her teeth. Her eyes were red as she braced herself. “Jeremy, do you really want to cut all ties with me?” Her tone sounded eerie.

“It sounds like you’re threatening me.”

“Jeremy, why would I threaten you?” Meredith chuckled in self-mockery. “I just want to remind you that Madeline’s ashes are still with me. If you don’t want me anymore, then I’ll die with Madeline’s ashes!”

After she said that, Meredith was surprised to see an indifferent smile on Jeremy’s face.

“If you like to hide those ashes so much, then you can keep them. Stop harassing Vera. This is my last advice to you.”

What?

Meredith’s jaw dropped open.

Did he not care about Madeline’s ashes anymore?

He could go as far as to not want Madeline’s ashes anymore all because of Vera?

H-How was that possible?

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0349

Meredith could not accept this ending. She refused to believe this as well.

No, Jeremy had to be retreating for the sake of advancing!

‘Jeremy must be pretending to not care so that I’ll stop using Madeline’s ashes as a bargaining chip.’

When Meredith thought about this, she found that it made sense.

However, when she came back to her senses, Jeremy had already driven away.

Meredith was unconvinced. She had gotten so close to becoming Mrs. Whitman, but she was still disqualified. She would not let this go no matter what!

She clenched her fists angrily. “Vera Quinn, you b*tch! Just you wait!”

Eloise came out of the house just in time because she was worried about her daughter.

However, she did not expect to see Meredith clenching her fists and saying those heinous words.

Eloise’s worried heart fell.

This was the first time she saw such a sinister expression on Meredith’s face. In her mind, Meredith was soft and gentle. Other than that, she was loving and sensible. How could she have such a sinister expression?

Eloise recalled what Vera said to her not long ago. ‘Meredith Crawford is not your biological daughter.’

Her heart started to race. However, Eloise rejected that idea after a few seconds.

“No way. It’s reasonable for Meredith to be mad. It’s all Vera Quinn’s fault. That vixen is so despicable!”

Eloise found Meredith a reasonable excuse, and at the same time, she reassured herself.

...

After Jeremy went back to his place, the house was empty.

He walked into the bedroom and saw a note on the nightstand.

Jeremy reached out to grab the note and saw the beautiful handwriting on it. ‘Jeremy, I’m happy today. I thank God for allowing me to meet you.’

It was such a simple sentence yet it was so amorous to Jeremy.

Plus, it was signed off with three words. ‘Missing you, Vera’.

There was an unknown delight in Jeremy’s dark gaze.

Madeline was about to tell Felipe her next step when she received a call from Jeremy.

She looked at the screen of her phone and pressed on the silent button.

The more she longed for him to call her back then, the calmer she would be when she received his phone call now.

What one could not get easily would always be on their minds.

It was too late when Madeline finally knew this.

Jeremy called her three times but Madeline did not pick up any of them.

After a while, Madeline received Jeremy's text. There were only four words. 'I miss you too'.

When she saw this, Madeline curled the corner of her lips. A sarcastic smile appeared on her charming face.

Felipe saw the words on her screen as well and smiled superficially. "Perhaps everything would have been different if Jeremy had said those words to you back then."

Madeline smiled. "Unfortunately, there are no ifs in this world."

"Mommy, Mommy. Daddy."

Lillian's adorable voice called out to Madeline and Felipe. Then, she ran over happily.

Madeline smiled gently and benevolently at her. Then, she picked Lillian up.

"What's wrong, baby? Are you hungry?"

"Um..." Lillian shook her head and handed her a notebook. "This is for mommy and daddy. The teacher gave me this. Everyone in the class has one."

Madeline looked at it. “It’s a parent-child activity. It’s happening this Saturday.”

“The teacher said everyone’s daddies and mommies will be there.” Lillian looked at Madeline with her crystal-like eyes.

Felipe reached out his hand and caressed Lillian’s head. “Mommy and Daddy will go with Lillian as well.”

“Yay!” Lillian clapped in delight. She turned around and kissed Madeline. Then, she reached out her arms toward Felipe. “Daddy, hold me. I want to kiss Daddy too.”

Felipe smiled warmly and took Lillian into his arms.

Lillian then planted a kiss on Felipe’s face.

Felipe’s eyes were filled with love. He had always treated the little girl in his arms as if she was his daughter.

Madeline felt warm when she saw this scene.

However, whenever this happened, aside from gratitude and thankfulness toward Felipe, Madeline would also feel apologetic.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0350

She could not reciprocate Felipe's feelings even though he was such a nice gentleman. After seeking her revenge, the only thing she could give him was mutual respect and a promise to accompany him.

The next morning, Felipe received a phone call and went out.

After Madeline bathed Lillian, the doorbell rang.

To her surprise, she saw Jeremy standing at the door looking travel-worn when she opened the door.

When he saw the look of surprise on her face, Jeremy walked in front of her. His eyes were solemn when he suddenly reached out his hand to pull her into his arms.

Madeline was shocked. "Jeremy?"

"I miss you so much."

He answered her and held her even tighter. It was as if she would disappear from his world forever if he let go.

He would not allow her to disappear.

There was a sarcastic smile on Madeline's face.

"Jeremy, we literally have the same face. Back then, you would look at it in disdain, but now, you're missing it so much?"

‘Hmph.

‘How preposterous.

‘How would I forget how you left me so many scars on my body with no mercy?’

Madeline held Jeremy while she faked being touched. “Jeremy, I miss you too...”

When he heard her response, he opened his twinkling eyes and tightened his grip on her.

She did not want to let Jeremy come in, but at this moment, Lillian walked in.

When she saw Jeremy, she was delighted.

“Hello, nice mister. You’re Jackie’s daddy. I remember you!”

When Jeremy saw the tiny human in front of him, he felt a gush of warmth in his heart. He squatted and caressed Lillian’s cheek.

“I remember you too, little Miss Lillian.”

Madeline froze when she was pouring a glass of water.

He had investigated her.

That was why he knew Lillian’s name.

However, the fortunate thing was Felipe had made some changes to the DNA report. That was why Jeremy got rid of his suspicion toward her.

As she pondered, she saw Jeremy picking Lillian up.

He was a cold person and was unapproachable. However, there was a warm smile on his cold and resolute face at this moment.

On the other hand, Lillian had always resisted strangers. However, she was only so close to Jeremy.

Was it because they were connected by blood?

‘If it’s really because of blood relation, then why can’t my birth mother feel my presence?’

Madeline spaced out, and the hot water burned her.

At the same time, Eloise’s finger was also cut by the metallic part of the jewelry when she was choosing accessories for Meredith in a shop. There was a thin bloody line on her finger.

The manager kept apologizing to her and took care of her wound for her.

After a while, Eloise left the shop with two jewelry boxes.

Eloise knew that Meredith was feeling down these few days. Her groom had left with another woman during her wedding ceremony.

She wanted to invite Meredith to come with her so that she would feel better. However, Meredith said she was not in the mood. As her mother, Eloise understood. As such, she came out alone to buy some jewelry to surprise her.

As long as her daughter was happy, she would not mind a wound on her finger.

However, when she was about to call the driver to drive her home, she saw Meredith and Rose walking to the elevator while holding hands.

She wanted to call out to Meredith, but it would look bad to yell in public, so she decided to call her instead.

The call went through, and she saw Meredith taking out her phone.

She thought Meredith would pick up the phone, but she saw her looking at the caller ID with disdain instead. Then, Meredith tossed her phone back into her bag and continued walking into the elevator with Rose. They were chatting happily in the process.

Eloise was stunned when she saw that. She could not even react as she was holding her phone.

However, she quickly found an excuse for Meredith. It was because she was not in the mood. It was because Meredith was raised by Rose, so that was why they were so close to each other.

Despite that, Eloise still felt uneasy. She saw the elevator stopping on the third floor. She followed them to the third floor as well. However, she eventually lost Meredith and Rose.

She looked for them in every shop. Finally, when she walked past a tattoo shop, she heard Rose's voice.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0351

Upon taking a closer look, it was indeed Rose.

She was puzzled. This was a tattoo shop, so what were Rose and Mer doing here?

Was Mer here for a tattoo?

Was it because she was so in love with Jeremy that she wanted to tattoo his name on her body?

After contemplating, she was about to walk in.

However, when she stepped forward, she heard Rose talking happily to someone on the phone. “Don’t worry, I’ve asked someone to ask about this a long time ago. The owner of this tattoo shop is very skilled, so the Montgomeries will definitely not notice. Plus, Mer is just doing a touch-up. Nothing will go wrong.”

When Eloise heard this, she stopped in her tracks.

‘The Montgomeries won’t notice?’

‘What can’t the Montgomeries see?’

Eloise’s heart was racing. She was feeling frenetic.

Half an hour later, Meredith and Rose walked out.

Eloise was hiding at one side. When she saw Meredith, she only saw that she was in high spirits. There was no trace of sadness on her face.

She watched in disbelief as Meredith walked further away. Then, she came back to her senses and walked into the tattoo shop.

Eloise found a photo of Meredith on her phone and asked the staff there. “What did this woman do just now?”

The staff rejected her with a serious look on his face. “We can’t reveal our customers’ confidential information to protect their privacy.”

Then, Eloise generously took out 500 dollars in cash. The staff’s eyes lit up as he took the money. “Oh, that woman. The color on her tattoo has faded, so she’s just here for a touch-up.”

Tattoo? Touch-up?

Eloise was confused.

‘Does Mer have a tattoo?’

She had never seen any tattoos on Meredith in all these years of interacting with her.

Was it on some intimate part of her body? Was that why Meredith did not want her to find out because she was worried they would lecture her?

When she thought about this, Eloise felt that it was reasonable. However, she felt slightly devastated.

“You stupid child, so what if you have a tattoo? How would I blame you?”

Eloise let out a sigh of relief. She did not think too much about it and was not bothered about why Meredith had purposely not answered her phone just now.

Half an hour later, Meredith and Eloise went back to Montgomery Manor together.

Eloise went to Meredith's room like nothing ever happened. She gave her the expensive jewelry that she bought just now.

Even though Meredith had been living the life of a rich young lady, she was still as avaricious as before. She could not hide her joy.

"Mom, you're so good to me." She played her part as an obedient daughter.

Eloise patted her shoulder to comfort her, saying, "You're my only daughter. So no matter what you do, I'll always support you and protect you."

Eloise was hinting at her. She was hoping that Meredith would tell her about her tattoo and not just depend on her adoptive mother, Rose.

Of course, Meredith would not understand the hidden meaning of this sentence. She put on her gorgeous jewelry and packed a few sets of clothes.

"Mom, I've thought about it. Even though my wedding with Jeremy was cut short, everyone still knows that we're married. So, from this day onward, I'll be moving in with him."

Eloise's expression changed. "Mer, do you truly like Jeremy so much? He's not worthy of you."

"Jeremy is the man I love the most in this lifetime. He's amazing. He's just confused by that Vera Quinn. One day, Jeremy will finally realize that I'm the woman who deserves his love the most," Meredith said sensibly, "Plus, I want to give Jack a complete family."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0352

After Meredith said that, Eloise did not stop her.

Meredith brought her luggage to Jeremy's place. She did not have the keys, so the maid opened the door for her.

The maid had heard about Meredith and Jeremy's wedding. When she saw Meredith, she called out flatteringly, "Madam, you're back."

Meredith was delighted when she heard that.

Even though their wedding was ruined, she still got her status.

Who in Glendale did not know that Meredith Crawford was Jeremy's wife?

Meredith sauntered upstairs. When she wanted to go into Jeremy's room, she realized that it was locked.

At this moment, noises were coming from downstairs. "Sir, you're back. Madam has just come back as well."

"Madam?" Jeremy frowned while looking at the smiling woman next to him.

The maid felt awkward when she looked at Madeline who was holding Jeremy's arm.

"You should go get the groceries." Jeremy dispatched her to do something.

“Alright, Sir,” the maid answered before leaving.

The huge house plummeted into silence in an instant. However, the silent atmosphere was broken by Meredith’s pretentious voice.

“Jeremy, you’re back...”

Meredith’s voice lost its confidence toward the end.

When she saw Jeremy holding Madeline’s hand intimately, Meredith’s face turned dark.

“Oh, so you’re the ‘madam’ she’s talking about?” Madeline smiled and lifted her eyebrow. “So what madam are you supposed to be?”

The corners of Meredith’s lips twitched as she tried her best to control her emotions. She walked over to Jeremy aggrievedly. “Jeremy, even though our wedding was interrupted, we’re still married,” she said, glaring at Madeline furiously. “I’m Mrs. Whitman. Not just in name only, but also in reality.”

“Not just in name but also in reality?” Madeline laughed before lifting her head. “Jeremy, I’m a little thirsty. I want to drink that signature milk tea from that shop down the road. Can you buy it for me now?”

“Of course,” Jeremy answered without even thinking. His eyes scanned across Madeline’s face as gently as flowing water.

When Meredith saw that Jeremy was ignoring her but treating Vera’s nonchalant words as an imperial edict, she felt such a heavy pressure on her chest that she almost could not breathe.

On the other hand, Madeline was smiling as she watched Jeremy turn around.

“Vera Quinn!”

After Jeremy left, Meredith finally exploded without holding herself back.

“Vera Quinn, you absolute b*tch! How shameless can you be? How dare you seduce my husband so brazenly?”

Madeline turned around indifferently when she heard Meredith’s desperate shrieks. “So what if I’m brazen? It’s much better than being a two-sided b*tch like you. You’re doing one thing in front of people but doing the complete opposite behind their backs. The most important thing is that Jeremy likes me like this.”

“You...” Meredith was trembling with anger. “You b*tch! You seduce my husband like it’s the inevitable and right thing to do! You witch!”

“If I’m a witch, then what kind of beast are you, Meredith?” Madeline asked. “I reminded you over the phone that day. I told you you’d regret it if you want me to show up at your wedding. However, you proudly insisted that I can’t compete with you. Can you see the results now?”

Meredith widened her eyes as she came to a realization. “I knew it! Vera, I knew all about it. You already had a plan! You already had a plan to ruin my wedding with Jeremy. You had planned to steal Jeremy away from me! Why do you have to steal my man away from me? You b*tch! Why do you want to steal my man?”

Meredith was furious, and she yelled as she tried to hit Madeline.

However, the moment she lifted her hand, it was stopped mid-air. In a flash, Madeline flicked her wrist away and slapped Meredith across the face loudly.

Madeline grabbed Meredith’s wrist forcefully as a sharp glint appeared in her eyes. She looked extremely overbearing. “Why? You’re seriously asking me why? Meredith, did you already forget what you did back then?”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0353

Meredith widened her eyes as she looked at the woman in front of her while at a loss. She was beyond shocked when she saw the piercing and proud gaze staring back at her.

“You... Vera, what do you mean? What does my past have to do with you?”

“Does it not?” Madeline put her face closer to hers. “Look at my face. Without going against your conscience, can you say that what you’ve done in the past has nothing to do with me?”

“...”

Meredith’s heart was racing.

The face in front of Meredith reminded her of Madeline, the woman she had forced to her death.

Her eyes widened, and she was petrified.

“Y-You... Madeline...”

Madeline smirked when she saw Meredith’s horrified expression.

“Why? Do you finally remember what you did? Do you remember how you shamelessly stuck your foot into Madeline and Jeremy’s marriage? Do you remember how you harmed Madeline with all your ruses and caused her to carry all those burdens even until the day she died?”

Madeline's spirited eyes were filled with icy rage. Hatred was burning in her heart and it was slowly burning its way to Meredith's body.

"So, there's no need for you to feel so aggrieved now. You destroyed someone else's marriage back then, so you should've known that it'll come back to bite you in the *ss."

When she heard those words and saw that face, Meredith went from frenetic to seething with anger.

She pulled her hand back, her eyes looking sinister. "Vera, you indeed came prepared. You even looked into my past!"

Meredith ground her teeth. "If I hadn't seen how you seduced Jeremy with my own two eyes, I would have thought that you're that penniless and wretched b*tch Madeline Crawford who deserved to die!"

She scoffed and rolled her eyes. Then, she looked at Madeline with a wretched look. "Hmph, so what do you want to do now? Are you going to scare me with that face? Do you think I'm scared of you? Even if that btch isn't dead yet, I have the power to make her die one more time! And you will be the same! If you dare to go against me, I'll strangle you to death just like how I strangled Madeline's bastard child!"

It turned out that Meredith was the one who killed her child.

Madeline felt debilitating pain in her heart. That indescribable hatred made her want to strangle this devil in front of her right now.

At this moment, the door was pushed open with a loud bang.

Meredith's heart skipped a beat. She felt a gust of frigid air crashing against her.

She turned around quickly, and when she saw Jeremy's furious face, coldness started creeping up from the bottom of her feet.

“J-Jeremy,” Meredith stammered, “W-Why are you back so soon?”

Jeremy’s face did not carry a hint of warmth. He walked over slowly with seething anger and an icy aura. An invisible storm was also following behind him. Meredith’s face lost its color gradually.

“What did you say just now?” Jeremy said slowly.

Meredith felt herself shaking. She felt that this was the calm before the storm.

“I... T-This b*tch slapped me just now!” Meredith changed the topic and touched her face aggrievedly. “Jeremy, you have to stand up for me.” Meredith complained while looking weak. However, she noticed that Jeremy was only staring at her with a cold look. Meredith became frenetic.

“J-Jeremy, I was just babbling. This woman was trying to infuriate me and that’s why I made it all up! I just wanted to scare her! I was hoping she’d know her place and leave you.”

“Your way of scaring someone is so unique, Miss Crawford. Back then, you wanted to disfigure me just like how you disfigured Madeline with a knife. Just earlier, you said you wanted to strangle me to death like how you strangled Madeline’s child. Jeremy, I’m so scared.”

Madeline ran over to Jeremy and leaned against him in fear.

Her intense aura before this became soft in an instant.

Meredith was beyond shocked when she saw Madeline’s sudden change in attitude.

This Vera Quinn was even more of an expert than she was!

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0354

Back then, she was the one playing this kind of role to get Jeremy's trust and pity, but now...

Meredith watched as Jeremy pulled Vera into his arms comfortingly. His tone was filled with an intense desire to protect her.

“No one will be able to touch a single hair of yours as long as I'm here!”

“Jeremy, she's just pretending! That woman is just acting!” Meredith exclaimed angrily.

“I'm happy to watch even if she's just acting.”

“...”

Jeremy's answer froze Meredith. At the same time, it stunned Madeline. However, it made Madeline smirk in secret.

‘Meredith, you're finally getting what you deserve.’

“Jeremy, we've been together for so many years and you don't even trust me! You'd even go as far as to trust this witch! I'm so heartbroken. Boo-hoo...”

Meredith covered her face and sobbed. Suddenly, she ran upstairs and into the guestroom.

Actually, what she was doing right now was running away from Jeremy's accusations.

If Jeremy asked her about the child he had with Madeline back then, she would not know how to answer him.

Back then, she had hired someone to induce labor on Madeline. Then, she kept that premature child that she stole as her own.

After Madeline was released from prison, she lied to her that Jeremy was the one who killed the child.

After Jeremy knew about Madeline's delivery in prison, Meredith hired someone to fake a report to make him believe that the child died from some complications during the birth.

Only Rose, Jon, and she knew about this secret. She would not allow a fourth person to know about this!

Madeline had an anxious expression on her face downstairs. "Jeremy, I've sacrificed so much just to be with you. I'm so scared that Meredith will do something extreme to hurt me. Did she really strangle your child with Madeline to death back then?"

Jeremy felt a pang of pain in his heart. He looked into her suspicious yet concerned eyes with an intense gaze. "If I tell you I'm not sure, will you believe me?" he asked her back.

On the surface, Madeline looked curious, but there was already a sarcastic smile in her heart.

"Jeremy Whitman, how dare you tell me you're not sure?!"

"I saw with my own two eyes how you had asked someone to break open the tombstone and crush the child that I carried for ten months into dust. You didn't even leave the child's ashes alone and now you're telling me so nonchalantly that you're not sure?"

"You should live with me from now. Don't leave my sight. I'll protect you."

The man's gentle voice caressed her ear.

Madeline recalled that particular memory that was filled with hatred. She looked at the second floor. "Will Meredith stay here as well?"

Jeremy smiled gently at Madeline. "Trust me, you'll become the only matriarch of this house soon. In addition to that, you'll also become my only wife."

The only matriarch and wife ?

Madeline laughed. She found it ironic, and at the same time, pathetic. However, she would still put on this act until the very end. "Okay, I believe you."

"No, Jeremy, the only person I believe is myself.

"I believe that soon enough, I'll let you and Meredith get the punishment and retribution you deserve!"

She looked at him as she swore in her heart. Then, he grabbed her hand.

"I want to take you to a place now."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0355

The moment Madeline came back to her senses, Jeremy led her out of the door.

Madeline was curious when she looked at his profound gaze.

Where was he taking her?

Meredith stayed in the guest room for some time before she heard the sound of a car engine.

She looked out from the balcony and saw Jeremy driving Madeline away.

She grabbed her bag while mumbling curses. Then, she called a car to go back to the Crawford family home to discuss her next move.

After getting more information from Meredith, Rose and Jon started screaming profanities at Vera. Then, there were looks of worry on their faces.

“How dare that bitch slap you?! She even barged into the house to steal Jeremy from you! She’s even more despicable than Madeline! Trust that I’ll rip her into pieces with my bare hands!” Rose glared and clenched her fists angrily. “Mer, is that woman carrying Jeremy’s child? If it’s true, then you should kill that bastard child immediately!”

“Of course, I know that!” Meredith already had a plan for this. “But it’s like Jeremy’s been possessed. He’ll listen to everything that bitch says!”

“Why?” Jon was curious.

Meredith gritted her teeth and said reluctantly, “That bitch Madeline is dead, so he has placed all of his longing and love on Vera instead!”

“Jeremy only cared about me the most this entire time. However, now that the bitch is dead, he told me that he has never loved me. He only has the innocent fondness of when he first met me when we were kids toward me. Hmph, fondness? That fondness is also toward Madeline and not me!”

When Rose saw Meredith shaking from anger, she came up with a plan. “Mer, don’t be mad. Don’t you have another bargaining chip at hand?” She lifted her eyebrow. “That brat Jackson is the best bargaining chip now.”

“That b*stard child?” Meredith asked in disdain. “I should’ve strangled him to death back then! He’s just a sore sight now.”

“If he’s such a sore sight, you should make him disappear! However, you have to push all the blame on that wh*re. That way, you’ll be killing two birds with one stone!”

When Meredith heard that, there was an extremely sinister glint in her eyes.

“Mom, you’re so smart. There’s a parent-child hike this afternoon. That b*tch Vera will definitely show up. That’ll be such a good opportunity!”

There was an evil smirk on her face.

She was an expert in shifting the blame to others after killing someone!

...

Madeline did not expect Jeremy to bring her to that familiar cemetery when he said he wanted to take her somewhere.

He bought another bouquet of fiery red roses. However, this time, he gave the flowers to Madeline.

Madeline did not count how many there were. She glanced at it and guessed that there were about 99 roses like last time.

She held the roses while leaning against the side of the car. She smiled and said, “Jeremy, are you taking me on a date here?”

Jeremy looked at her and said, “I never thought that this place was scary. Until that day three years ago when a woman stood in front of me and told me that she’d give everything back to me, including her ashes. It was then I finally realized that a person’s death is the scariest thing in this world.”

Madeline’s heart started racing after she heard that.

‘Is he talking about me?’

‘Did he realize the terror of ‘death’ from my death?’

‘Hmph.’

‘Jeremy, are you afraid of death?’

‘Then, have you ever thought that my child would also be scared when you killed it?’

She lifted her gaze with a pejorative smile.

Under the glow of the sunset, the man's eyes looked dazed and deep.

"Vera, you truly love me, right?"

Madeline smiled bashfully and answered without thinking, "Of course. Of course, I 'love' you."

Jeremy smiled. He looked at the breathtaking beauty in front of him. Then, a glint appeared in his eyes.

"That's enough for me."

The evening mist hung low when Jeremy brought Madeline back to his place.

When he opened the door, the smell of food spilled out from the kitchen.

"Jeremy, you're back. I made dinner." Meredith smiled and walked out.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0356

When she saw Jeremy back with Madeline, the smile on her face froze. She displayed a sad expression on her face.

“Jeremy...”

“Vera and I have already eaten. You should eat on your own,” said Jeremy coldly. He looked at Madeline, then said, “Let’s go back to our room.”

“Jeremy!” Meredith chased after them and stopped him. “Jeremy, I know you have a deep misunderstanding toward me. You might even suspect that I’ve done a lot of things to hurt Maddie back then. However, I have a clear conscience.”

“Miss Crawford, your conscience was eaten by a dog a long time ago, so how can you have a clear conscience?” Madeline asked slowly.

Meredith frowned as a fire of rage burned in her heart. However, she had to endure this for the sake of carrying out her plan.

“Jeremy, there’s a parent-child hike in Jack’s kindergarten this Saturday. It requires the parents to take part with the children. No matter what misunderstanding you have with me now, at the end of the day, Jack is still our child. I hope you can take part in that activity with me and Jack.”

“You can just go by yourself.” Jeremy rejected straightforwardly.

Meredith's expression froze. When she wanted to beg Jeremy to agree to this, she heard Madeline saying, "Jeremy, you should go. I'll take part with Lily as well. When the time comes, we can be together again. Just think of it as accompanying me, okay?"

After Madeline said that, Jeremy nodded quickly. "I'll do anything as long as you're happy."

"Jeremy, you're so good to me."

Madeline smiled sweetly at Jeremy as she grabbed his arm.

Meredith was shaking from anger when she saw this.

When she saw the pleased smile on Madeline's eyes, the murderous aura in Meredith's eyes became more and more intense.

...

On Saturday, Madeline wore a tracksuit and brought Lillian to the kindergarten.

Initially, Felipe wanted to go with them, but last night, he received an important phone call and had to fly to F Country that very night.

It was still early, but the entrance of the kindergarten was very lively.

There were four classes in the kindergarten. There were about 200 to 300 people including the parents of the children.

Madeline brought Lillian onto the bus. After a while, she received Jeremy's text.

She turned around and saw Meredith and Jackson. They were standing next to Jeremy sweetly as they were in line to get onto the bus.

However, Jackson looked dispirited. His hand was being tightly held by Meredith. He even looked kind of down.

This child did not like noisy places and would only lock himself in a dark corner somewhere to nurse his wounded little heart.

Madeline felt a pang of pain in her heart. Suddenly, she had an urge to run down the bus to hug Jackson. However, the bus had already started moving.

Half an hour later, the bus stopped in the outskirts of the town that was famed for having the most spectacular view in Glendale.

This place was suitable for family activities like picnics and tracking.

It was the middle of fall, and the air was refreshing. It was the perfect time for activities.

Looking at Lillian's happy smile, Madeline suddenly felt as if she was not a good mother.

She had been neglecting her daughter for the sake of revenge.

Even though she hated her daughter's father, she could not deny the fact that Lillian was her only hope to continue living. Furthermore, she came to be because of Jeremy.

"Ew, Lillian, so it's true that you don't have a daddy!" Suddenly, a little boy pointed at Lillian and laughed with a smug look on his face. That little brat even placed his hands on his hips while targeting Lillian with his words. "Lillian, you liar. You said your daddy is handsome but you don't even have one!" The little boy stuck

out his tongue at her in a mocking manner. “Look at my daddy. He’s the most handsome man!” He pointed in one direction.

Lillian frowned with wide eyes. “I’m not lying. I have a daddy. My daddy is super duper handsome!”

“You don’t! You don’t have a daddy. If you do, where is he? You liar! I only pulled your braid last time and you lied to me that your daddy is strong. You even told me to stop bullying you, but in reality, you don’t have a daddy!” The little boy stuck out his tongue at her again.

The little brat was saying such words arrogantly. After he said that, he reached out to grab Lillian’s braid again. Madeline quickly ran over to stop him, but then, she felt something warm behind her. Then, a hand stopped the brat’s hand that was reaching toward Lillian before Madeline could act on it.

“Ouch, it hurts!” the little brat yelled in exaggeration. He lifted his head to take a look and was horrified by the man in front of him.

“F*ck! Who are you? How dare you touch my son?!” The brat’s father came over while cursing.

Jeremy lifted his handsome face and carried Lillian into his arms. “I’m Lillian’s father, Jeremy Whitman.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0357

When Madeline heard Jeremy's introduction, she was taken aback. She lifted her gaze and saw Jeremy holding Lillian. His angry eyes were staring straight at the man who was charging over.

"Daddy! It's him! He bullied me!" That brat ran behind the man hurriedly. Then, he pointed at Jeremy and started complaining about him.

The man rubbed his hands together as if he was about to start fighting Jeremy. However, when he saw Jeremy's face, he wilted instantly. "M-Mr. Whitman! It's you!"

Jeremy was indifferent toward the man in front of him. Plus, he also had no memory of him. However, the man started introducing himself with a flattering smile. "Mr. Whitman, I-I'm an employee of the engineering department on the 16th floor in your company. You must have no idea who I am, but I've seen you before. I didn't think that we'll be brought together by fate!"

"Oh, is this little girl your daughter? No wonder she's so pretty. She inherited all of your excellent genes. Just look at her nose and mouth, they're the same as yours..."

When she heard that, Madeline interrupted angrily. "Sir, your eloquence is horrible. Why don't you teach your son the most basic manners instead?" Madeline scolded the man. When the man was about to fight back, he saw Madeline walking next to Jeremy and taking Lillian into her arms.

"Oh, is this your wife, Mr. Whitman? How dignified and easy-mannered. You're right to lecture me, Mrs. Whitman. I'll teach my little brat a lesson when I go back!"

The man smacked the brat's head and darkened his face.

“You scoundrel, hurry up and apologize to that little girl. If you bully her again, I’ll spank you until your butt falls off!”

At this moment, the brat was not as arrogant. He lifted his anxious gaze and stammered, “I-I’m sorry, I won’t do it again...”

“Mr. Whitman, a-are you satisfied?” The man smiled flatteringly.

Jeremy glanced at him with an icy glare. “Spare the rod, spoil the child. I’m blaming this on you. You’ll receive a warning letter next week. If you receive two of them, you should just hand in your resignation letter.”

The man’s face went white. He suddenly felt like an idiot for exposing his identity and causing himself trouble. “M-Mr. Whitman. Mr. Whitman, let me explain...”

Jeremy turned around indifferently and walked toward Madeline. When he got near to her, he heard Lillian’s cute voice asking, “Mommy, the handsome mister said that he’s Lily’s daddy. Do I have two daddies now?”

Madeline’s expression changed. Then, she smiled. “Of course not. Remember, Lily, you only have one daddy. His name is—”

“His name is Jeremy Whitman.”

“...”

When Madeline was interrupted, she lifted her gaze. She saw Jeremy walking over to her with a gentle look on his face.

He was also wearing a tracksuit today. His elegance and temperament did not lessen at all. The autumn wind blew on the hair in front of his face. In that instant, he looked like a teenager.

Jeremy walked in front of Madeline and caressed Lillian's head.

"Lillian, from now on, I'm your daddy."

"Are you my daddy, beautiful mister?" The little girl blinked her huge eyes.

"Yes." Jeremy nodded, his eyes extremely serious.

Madeline placed Lillian on the ground and smiled gently at her. "Lillian, go play with your friend. I'll go find you later."

"Okay," Lillian replied obediently and ran away innocently.

"You'll get married to me soon and become my wife. I'm not wrong for saying that Lillian is my daughter, right?"

Jeremy's explanation sounded from behind her.

Madeline suppressed the dissatisfaction in her heart and looked into his eyes with a smile.

"Yeah, but Lillian is still young. I don't want her to be troubled by the business between us adults."

Jeremy nodded while looking pensive. There was a huge grin on his face. "I didn't notice this before, but after what the guy said, I realize that Lillian does kind of look like me."

"..." Madeline rolled her eyes. "That man's just trying to curry favors with you. Lillian is Felipe's daughter, so how would she look like you? However, maybe you two do look slightly alike because you and Felipe are uncle and nephew."

Jeremy looked at Madeline with a small smile after she said that. There was a deeper meaning behind his eyes.

She smiled. "Jeremy, are you jealous?"

Jeremy lifted the corners of his lips, and there was an ominous glint in his eyes. They were glued on Madeline's charming face.

"Your heart is with me, so why would I be jealous?"

"It's good if you think that way," Madeline said gladly, "Right, why aren't you with your son? Even though I don't like Meredith, Jackson is still a likable child."

"Do you like Jackson?"

"Yeah, I do." Madeline admitted it.

She was fond of Jackson from the bottom of her heart. She felt sorry for that child as well.

Looking at the smile on Madeline's face, Jeremy fell into deep thought. Then, he said, "Since you're so fond of Jack, then I'll help you get custody for that child."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0358

His answer surprised Madeline. However, his serious expression told Madeline that he was not joking.

“I’ll do anything for you as long as you’re happy.”

“Jeremy, Jeremy!”

After Jeremy said that, Meredith barged into their vision while looking all frenetic and anxious.

Madeline looked behind her subconsciously. However, she did not see Jackson.

“Jeremy, Jack’s missing again!”

Meredith ran in front of Jeremy with her eyes red.

“It’s all my fault. I didn’t watch Jack properly. Jeremy, you should scream at me. It’s all because of my negligence. I was so focused on watching you that I neglected Jack. Boo-hoo...”

Madeline despised Meredith’s pretentious acts. “Miss Crawford, there’s no use in crying. If you’re really concerned about this child, you won’t keep losing him from under your eyes.”

“Vera, he’s not your child, so that’s why you’re able to say such things. Jack is my and Jeremy’s child. You’ll never be able to understand this feeling!”

“Enough.” Jeremy frowned and interrupted coldly. “The most important thing right now is to find him.”

Meredith pouted and did not say anything more.

“I’ll go look for him as well.” Madeline looked at Jeremy, then quickly walked toward Lillian.

She told Lillian what was going on and entrusted her to her teacher. Then, she went to look for Jackson.

However, after looking everywhere, no one was able to find Jackson.

It was a refreshing and chilly fall day, but in the afternoon, the weather changed and the sky became grey. It seemed as if it was going to rain.

Aside from Jackson’s teacher, the other teachers and parents all brought the children back.

Indeed, it started raining after a while.

The more time passed, the more anxious Madeline felt.

She was scared. She was worried that she could not find Jackson. She was worried that something might happen to Jackson in the wild.

When she recalled Jackson’s helpless and uneasy eyes from that night, Madeline felt her heart rising in her throat.

“Jack, are you here? It’s me, Vera,” Madeline called out to the vast emptiness ahead of her. She was drenched all over by rainwater.

Vera walked toward the jungle that was headed to Pinwheel Road.

“Jack, are you here?”

After she finished saying that, she heard Meredith's sobs from a distance.

"Jack, don't scare me. Jack..."

Madeline stopped in her tracks before running to the steep incline where Meredith was.

Meredith was squatting next to the steep incline. There was a pendant in her hand as she sobbed at the foot of the steep incline.

"Meredith, why are you crying here?"

"Jack fell!"

"What?" Madeline felt her breathing hitch as an indescribable fear overwhelmed her heart.

She did not have time to think. She turned around quickly.

However, the moment she moved, Meredith grabbed her. "Vera, I know you hate me, but I'm begging you to please save my son. Jack is still a child. If you want to hate someone, you should just hate me!"

"I have to get someone to help Jackson. If not, do you think we can save Jackson with just the two of us?"

"No!" Meredith stopped her.

"Why?"

"Because..." Meredith said, the expression behind her eyes changing. They looked extremely malicious. "Because that damned child has been waiting for you down there!"

After a string of her evil laugh, Meredith pushed Madeline forcefully into the steep incline.

Madeline realized that this was just a ruse, so she grabbed Meredith's arm. However, since it was raining and the ground was wet, Madeline slipped and fell after losing her balance.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0359

Jeremy heard some noises coming from the forest. Then, he saw Meredith's figure as it flashed past.

He looked around but did not see Madeline anywhere. Suddenly, his heart started beating erratically.

He tried to call Madeline's number, but there was no signal on his phone.

Looking at the misty forest in front of him, Jeremy started feeling more and more uneasy.

Meredith wanted to kill Jackson, then shift the blame to Vera. However, she changed her mind at the last minute and decided to kill both of them.

She might as well, right?

Meredith smirked when she recalled her plan.

She knew Jeremy would look for Madeline after he got here.

Jeremy indeed went looking for Vera first. Then, using this opportunity, Meredith fed Jackson some water that was mixed with crushed sleeping pills. After that, she asked a man who was pretending to be a parent to suffocate Jackson before abandoning his body.

No one would know about her evil plan.

This was the outdoors where there were no cameras. Plus, there were so many children and parents here. Who would notice the man bringing Jackson away?

At this moment, she was sure that Jackson was already dead.

However, she was not entirely sure if Vera was dead after she fell from the incline.

Even if she was not dead, she would not be able to get up. There was no signal in the forest. As long as no one found her, she would die from her wounds or even hunger.

Meredith was elated. She would be able to sleep at night now that she had gotten rid of the obstacles in her life.

When she was feeling pleased with herself, Jeremy's tall figure appeared in front of her.

"What are you doing in the forest?"

Jeremy's icy voice poured down from her head to her toes.

Meredith was stumped for words. She was also feeling frenetic.

"Did Jeremy see me with Vera just now?"

Meredith rolled her eyes before she started sobbing. "Jeremy, boo-hoo... Vera is so merciless. Not only did she frame me in order to get you, she even went after our child. She's so inhumane!"

She cried as she was about to go into Jeremy's arms.

Instead, Jeremy grabbed her shoulders. "What did you say? Speak clearly!"

He lifted his sharp gaze that felt like arrows.

Meredith hid her franticness and started making up a story. “Jeremy, it’s all Vera’s fault! No wonder she asked you to join this activity. It’s because she planned to use this opportunity to ask someone to kidnap Jack. Vera must’ve already harmed Jackson by now!”

Meredith sobbed and continued, “I noticed there was something amiss with Vera, so I followed her. I saw her talking to a man in the forest. She even gave the man a large sum of money. Then, I went over to question her. I didn’t expect her to admit it so fast. She even wanted to shut me up forever by pushing me down that steep incline. In the end... In the end...”

Meredith pretended to look terrified as tears rolled down her cheeks uncontrollably.

Jeremy could feel his temples throbbing. He even felt that it was getting hard to breathe.

“What happened in the end? Tell me!” He roared. His eyebrows were already twisted into a knot.

Meredith shook and said, “In the end, she accidentally fell down the incline!”

“What did you say? She fell?” Jeremy’s hands that were on Meredith’s shoulders fell lifelessly. There was a storm in his charming eyes.

He turned around and went straight into the autumn rain that was getting heavier and heavier.

His heart was empty all of a sudden. The feeling of when he lost Madeline three years ago appeared in the bottom of his heart again. It felt as if his heart had plunged into a bottomless abyss.

Meredith clenched her fists as she watched Jeremy leave.

She did not expect Jeremy to care about Vera until this extent. He even ignored the safety of his own son so that he could go inside the forest to look for Vera.

“Hmph, it’s good that she’s dead.” Meredith gritted her teeth. Then, a sinister smile appeared on her face.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0360

She was so impressed with her decisiveness.

Indeed, the best ending would be Vera dying.

If not, Jeremy would never return to her as long as this woman was alive.

Jeremy looked for her along the steep incline. However, he could not pinpoint where Madeline had fallen from.

He felt as if he was going insane. He could not focus. He could not think nor deduce.

It was as if the rain was falling straight into his heart, interfering with his emotions.

The more time had passed, the more danger she would be in.

Jeremy went back to where Meredith was. His handsome face was drenched with rainwater and it was filled with coldness.

At this moment, Meredith got out of a car. Eloise had arrived unbeknownst to him. She hurried out of the car to hold the umbrella for Meredith.

Meredith ran in front of Jeremy and asked, her voice all choked up from crying, “Jeremy, have you found Jack’s body?”

Jeremy's eyes darkened. There was a fit of intense anger in his eyes. "Body? How are you so sure that Jackson's dead?"

"V-Vera was the one who admitted this! She told me that she wanted to kill me and Jack so that she'll be able to have you all to herself," Meredith said confidently, "I didn't expect her to be so vicious. However, perhaps she has to suffer the consequences of her bad deeds, so that's why she fell."

"Jeremy, are you happy now? You killed your own son for a heartless wh*re!" Eloise accused Jeremy with her eyes red from crying. "My poor nephew. He's just five and he's been killed. Jack..."

Jeremy scanned Eloise's face with a grim expression on his face. Then, he looked at Meredith's devastated face. "Do you think that I'll still believe your one-sided story?"

"..." Meredith stopped crying as she lifted her stumped face.

Eloise was livid. "Jeremy! You're too much! How can you say that to Mer?! Do you think Mer's the one who killed Jack?"

Meredith's heartbeat accelerated as she cursed in her heart.

She was indeed the one who killed him.

When she thought about that in secret, Meredith received a bone-chilling gaze from Jeremy.

"Tell me. Where did Vera fall from?" he asked furiously. The patience in his eyes was diminishing gradually.

"Jeremy, y-you're still concerned about that wh*re at this moment!"

“Shut up, I’m not talking to you!” Jeremy’s eyes were icy. The brutality in his eyes was getting more and more intense. “If Vera is hurt in any way, I’ll make you sure you get back what’s coming for you twice as much!”

“What...

“Jeremy! Jeremy, are you insane?” Meredith could not handle this anymore. “You’re ignoring our child’s safety for the sake of a wh*re who stuck her foot into our relationship! You’re so concerned about a Jezebel who is scheming to seduce you! She killed our son! Vera Quinn is a vile rat out-and-out!”

“Daddy.”

Suddenly, a childish but deep voice called out amidst Meredith’s emotional rant.

Meredith widened her eyes in shock. She looked at the person who appeared in front of her eyes in disbelief.

Jackson!

He was fine!

“Jack!” Eloise started crying in happiness. “Jack, you’re fine! Thank God!”

Jeremy narrowed her eyes and looked at the tiny figure in the rain.

Jackson’s clothes were drenched and his face was pale. There was a calmness on his doll-like face. However, there was a hint of worry and disturbance in his huge eyes.

Jeremy strode over to him and squatted. “Jackson, you’re fine.”

When he looked into his father's narrow eyes, Jackson said, "Please save Vera."

Jeremy's eyes lit up. "You know where Vera is?"

Jackson nodded. He looked at Meredith who was looking frantic at one side. "I saw Mommy pushing Vera down the incline with my own two eyes."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0361

What?

Meredith was flabbergasted when she heard Jackson saying that.

It was fine that the little brat survived, but what did he say? He saw her pushing Vera down the incline?

The rain was pouring outside, but it was not as violent as the storm in Jeremy's eyes.

Meredith saw Jeremy standing up, and there was a layer of frost on his face. The temperature of her body plummeted when she saw that.

“Jeremy, it's not real. Jack had a misunderstanding!” Meredith tried to explain herself. “Vera was the one who wanted to push me, but she fell accidentally. I'm innocent!”

“Mer, don't be emotional. I believe you!”

Eloise comforted Meredith pitifully. Then, she turned around and walked toward Jackson.

“Jack, let Granny see if you're alright. Vera is so heartless. She even took action against such a young child. Jack, tell Granny how did that woman bully you?”

Jackson frowned, his thick eyebrows knitting together tightly. “Vera is a good person,” he said seriously. Then, he turned to look at his father. “Daddy, go save Vera now.”

Jeremy scanned Meredith's face with a biting cold gaze. There were flames of anger in his eyes, making him look as if he was going to burn Meredith alive.

Then, she followed Jeremy and Jackson into the forest. The father and son duo had the same expressions on their faces. They were both worried about Vera.

How was this possible?

Why was that brat okay?

Meredith was distraught. However, Eloise was next to her, so she was unable to leave to find out what happened.

She could only curse viciously in her heart. She cursed that Vera was dead after falling down the incline.

A lot of time had passed. Jeremy and Jackson found the spot where Madeline had fallen from, but they could not pinpoint where exactly she was.

"Daddy, give me your phone."

When Jeremy was feeling agitated, he heard Jackson saying that to him.

He lowered his head and saw that the little guy had a serious look on his face. His eyes held the same worry and anxiety that were in his eyes.

Jeremy naturally trusted Jackson, so he handed over his phone.

After Jackson got the phone, he turned on the GPS and started operating it expertly.

His chubby fingers moved swiftly across the screen. After a while, a glaring red dot appeared on the screen.

It was less than ten meters away from where they were!

When Jeremy saw the joy on Jackson's initially glum face, he was curious. "Is that red dot Vera's location?"

Jackson nodded. He then turned around without hesitating while looking at the red dot.

"Let me. You should stay here." Jeremy stopped him and took back his phone.

Jackson grabbed Jeremy solemnly. "I want to go with you."

Jeremy was taken aback. He had never seen such determination in a five-year-old child's eyes before.

He did not stop him. Then, they walked down along the bushes of the incline.

After they got to the bottom of the incline, they saw a lake.

Jackson found a sparkling and translucent item among the grass while following the red dot.

He squatted and picked up the crystal bracelet.

"Vera..."

"Is that Vera's bracelet?" Jeremy recognized the bracelet. He remembered that Vera had the same bracelet on her wrist recently.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0362

“I gave this to Vera,” Jackson said softly.

Jeremy looked at the little guy in front of him with a strange look on his face. “Did you put a chip in the bracelet?” he asked, but he did not get an answer.

Jackson stood up and looked at the lake. The peaceful surface of the lake was disrupted by the rain, and Jackson’s eyes were blank.

However, at this moment, Jeremy removed his coat and jumped into the lake without hesitation. He wanted to look for her...

Time passed and the sky was dark.

The rain had stopped and the search continued.

It was early fall, so the chilly night breeze attacked them both. When the breeze blew past their wet clothes, the coldness went straight into their bones.

It had been six hours since Vera fell, so Meredith knew she got this in the bag.

There were so many professional divers yet they still could not find Vera. She had to have met her demise.

Meredith was elated. She wanted to leave, but when she saw Jeremy still standing there, she felt perturbed.

She wanted to tell him to go home, but she did not dare to get close to him when he was like this.

When she looked at his cold eyes, she could feel a bone-chilling coldness.

However, after thinking about it, she still made the first move timidly.

“Jeremy, you’ve been in the rain this whole time and you’re drenched. You should go back first. If not, you’ll get sick.” Her voice was soft as she expressed her concern.

Jeremy turned a deaf ear. There were no emotions on his handsome face.

Meredith put on an act of a saint. “Jeremy, please believe me. I didn’t push Vera. She wanted to frame me, so she’s now suffering the consequences of her own actions.”

After she finished saying that, she saw Jeremy glaring at her.

Meredith’s heart skipped a beat. She could not look into Jeremy’s eyes any longer.

That was the look he had when he was waiting outside the door after Madeline was rushed to the emergency room. Back then, his eyes were also horrifying. They were so dark that they looked like they would devour everything in their path. They looked so scary as if just his gaze alone would slice her into a million pieces.

“You best pray that she’s safe and sound.” His words were icy while his eyes were like sharp knives. “If anything happens to her, I’ll bury the person who harmed her next to her.”

He was not joking. At this moment, his heart felt as if it had plunged into a bottomless abyss, and that feeling was telling him just how much he cared about that missing woman.

“...” Meredith took in a sharp breath, her face turning white from fear. “Jeremy, it’s not me. I didn’t...” She sobbed shakily. “Jack, do you know you’re going to kill me with what you said? How can you say that I was the one who pushed Vera? You’re just five and you’re already lying. What’ll happen to you when you grow older?”

Jackson looked at Meredith who was blaming him with an indifferent look on his face. "I didn't lie."

"Jack, you're still spewing nonsense! What kind of drug did that Vera feed you? How can you side with her?" Eloise said in devastation, "Mer is your mother. Will you only be happy if you see your parents fighting?"

"Vera is a good person," Jackson said slowly, "Mommy hates me, so she wanted to throw me away, but I escaped. I saw with my own two eyes that Mommy pushed Vera."

After Jeremy heard this, he lifted his icy gaze. "You even wanted to throw this child away?"

"No! I didn't!" Meredith shook her head and denied hurriedly.

"How is that possible?" Eloise denied. "Mer gave birth to Jack after carrying him for ten months. How could she do something like that? Jack, are you crazy? How can you slander your mother like this?"

Meredith cried aggrievedly. "Jack, why are you doing this to me? Why are you making up such lies to falsely accuse me?"

"The liar isn't Jackson. It's you, Meredith."

In the night, a soft voice sounded all of a sudden.

Jeremy's silent heart soared instantly. He lifted his eyebrows and saw a poised figure appearing in the quiet night.

"Vera!" he called out. His voice sounded like he had found something he lost.

Her beautiful face was reflected in his dark black eyes while his heart slowly found its initial rhythm.

Meredith lifted her frozen face in disbelief. Her legs almost gave out when she saw the owner of the voice getting closer and closer.

What shocked her the most was the person Vera was holding captive. When Meredith saw that person, she felt as if she was done for.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0363

When Jackson saw that Madeline was safe and sound, his large eyes shone brightly.

He did not say anything. However, the relief he felt was written on his face.

“Vera Quinn, you did so many cruel things and you’re still safe and sound! You even have the guts to saunter back here!” Eloise pointed at Madeline and shouted, “What crimes do you want to accuse my daughter of now?”

Madeline lifted her crystal-like eyes. “Mrs. Montgomery, do you want me to die so much?” she asked with a smile. Her eyes looked bottomless as she continued, “I’m afraid that you’ll never feel peace again if I did die, Mrs. Montgomery.”

“Hmph, a woman like you will not be remembered even if you’re dead. Why would I feel uneasy if you’re dead?” Eloise peered at her coldly. “Vera, I advise you to stop what you’re doing. Persisting in evil brings about self-destruction!”

“You should tell that to your precious daughter, Meredith,” Madeline said, throwing the man she was holding captive to Meredith’s feet.

The man yelled out in pain before trying to get up and leave.

“Jeremy, don’t let him run away.”

After Jeremy heard that, he extended his long leg and tripped the man effortlessly.

The man collapsed on the ground and wailed out in pain. “Let me go! Let me go now! I won’t run away, okay?”

Madeline approached him and pointed at Jackson. “Tell them what you did to this child a few hours ago.”

The man was scrawny and looked weak. He looked at Jackson, then at the people around him. Suddenly, he shook when he was met with Jeremy’s cold glare.

“I-I kidnapped that kid,” he stammered and admitted it.

“Why did you kidnap him?” Madeline asked again.

“S-Someone paid me to kidnap him. She told me to kill him.”

“What?” Eloise’s expression cracked. “Who gave you money to do that kind of thing? Tell us!”

Meredith gritted her teeth while panicking. She stared at the man and could not imagine what she was going to hear next.

“It’s... It’s...”

The man stammered and looked at Meredith.

A sinister glint flashed across Meredith’s eyes. “You’re the one who kidnapped my son! You rascal!”

She squatted down emotionally to hit the man. She was also muttering to herself.

Madeline watched quietly as Meredith put on a show. “Meredith, stop acting. You’re the one who bribed this person. You made an excuse saying that Jack was missing, but in reality, you’re the one who asked this man to kidnap Jack.”

“Vera Quinn, God is always watching! You’ll get your retribution for falsely accusing me like that!” Meredith stood up quickly and stared at the man on the ground like she had a clear conscience. “A straight foot has no fear of a crooked shoe! Alright, tell us. Tell everyone who was the one who asked you to kidnap my son!”

After she said that, the man was stunned for a few seconds. Then, he lifted his head and looked at Madeline.

“I-It’s her. She’s the one who asked me to do all those things. She gave me money so that I’ll accuse this woman. However, if I really did those immoral things, I’d get struck by lightning and split into two halves!”

After the man said those sternly out of a sense of justice, he took out an envelope and tossed it to Madeline’s feet.

“I’m giving you your money back!”

Madeline did not expect the sudden plot twist. However, she was not worried.

“Vera Quinn, what else do you have to say?” Eloise was fuming. There were sparks of anger in her eyes. “You’re so despicable! I’m going to call the police right now and make you repent for your sins in prison! Don’t even think about getting out!”

“Jeremy, did you hear that? It’s all a trap set by Vera. Even the person who she bribed couldn’t take this anymore.” Meredith continued pursuing.

Jeremy turned his head coldly. “Really?” he asked in an icy tone. There was a sharp glint in his narrow eyes.

Meredith was slightly taken aback as her conscience was guilty. “Jeremy, do you still not believe me?”

“It’s indeed pretty hard to believe,” said Madeline slowly.

Meredith and Eloise glared at her. “Vera, we’re at this stage already and you’re still...”

“You said that this is the money that I bribed you with, correct?” Madeline interrupted calmly. She pointed at the thick envelope at the side of her foot. Then, she asked the man, “And I was the one who gave it to you?”

“Yes!” The man asserted arbitrarily. “It’s you! You’re the one who asked me to kill that child! However, I thought that the child was too cute, so I couldn’t do it. That’s why I let him go. I thought this would end here, but you still want me to slander an innocent person. I really can’t do it.”

“You’re so kindhearted,” Meredith said sarcastically, “However, why would someone so kindhearted take someone’s money to do that kind of thing?”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0364

“...” The man was speechless.

Madeline slowly took out a tissue from the pocket of her waterproof tracksuit. Then, she bent down and picked up the envelope from its corner.

“Did you call the police, Mrs. Montgomery?” She smiled, her eyes turning into crescent moons.

Eloise glared at her. “Vera, the police will be here soon. Don’t even think about quibbling about this.”

“You should leave the chance of quibbling to your precious daughter.” Madeline shook the envelope in her hand. “Thank you for giving me the evidence. I think the fingerprints of the dealer should be on this.”

“...”

“...”

The man’s expression froze as he looked at Meredith subconsciously.

On the other hand, the corner of Meredith’s lips were twitching. She looked as if she was at a loss.

Madeline smiled wider when she saw their expressions. “Mrs. Montgomery, you can hire a lawyer for your daughter now. I’m curious about what you’re going to tell them when they ask you why your daughter’s fingerprints are on the envelope?”

“What nonsense are you spewing? How would Mer’s fingerprints appear on the envelope?” Eloise denied in certainty.

“You’ll know if it is soon enough.” Madeline did not want to argue with her anymore. She handed the envelope to Jeremy. “Jeremy, I feel safest if you’re the one who’s holding on to this.”

She looked at him with gentleness in her eyes. “When I fell from the incline, I was so scared that I won’t be able to see you again.”

Jeremy looked at her with a gentle gaze. There was an unreadable profoundness rippling in his eyes. “No, I won’t let you disappear from my life.”

Meredith’s eyes almost fell out of her sockets when she watched Madeline and Jeremy bill and coo at each other.

After a while, the police arrived.

After they were updated on the situation, the police told everyone that they had to go into the station to make statements.

Madeline got into the car without hesitating. On the other hand, in order to show that she had nothing to hide, Meredith also quickly got into the police car.

When she got into the place that gave her the most nightmares, Madeline felt oddly calmer.

She was not the weak and helpless Madeline Crawford anymore.

Even if someone decided to harm her today and push her down a cliff, she would still be able to climb up from the abyss.

After taking her statement, the moment Madeline got out of the room, Jeremy took a clean coat from his car and draped it across her shoulder. At this moment, Eloise and Meredith also came out from another room.

She was setting when Meredith saw that Jeremy was about to leave while holding Madeline's hand, but in order to make Eloise stand up for her, she pretended to be sad and lowered her head.

Eloise pulled Meredith over when she saw that. "Jeremy, Mer is your wife and you're billing and cooing with this woman so brazenly. Who do you think Mer is?"

Madeline stopped in her tracks when she heard that. "If Jeremy doesn't take me away, then should he take your precious daughter away?" she smiled and asked. Then, she lifted her gaze. "Meredith, do you still think that you can leave tonight?"

"Vera, what do you mean?"

After Eloise said that, two police officers walked in front of Meredith.

"Meredith Crawford, you're involved in an attempted murder. Please cooperate with our investigation."

Meredith made a surprised expression. "Officer, did you make a mistake? I didn't do such a thing!"

"My daughter would never do that! Did you investigate it thoroughly? You can't arrest someone because of someone's one-sided story!"

"Madam, you're slandering us and questioning our abilities by saying that. Of course, we'll only arrest someone after we have sufficient evidence," the officer said seriously.

"Evidence? What evidence? That envelope?"

"Of course, it's not just the fingerprints on the envelope," Madeline said slowly. She took out a phone from her pocket and opened a video. Then, Madeline and Meredith's voices from the forest sounded from the speaker of the phone.

Meredith's eyes were wide when she heard the conversation as her expression froze. Eloise's expression also started changing rapidly.

Madeline lifted her gaze, her eyes looking stern. "Meredith, you didn't expect this, right? I recorded everything!"

"..."

"I knew you wouldn't be so kind, so I came prepared. If I wasn't worried about Jack, do you think you would have had the chance to push me down the incline? You're so heartless. It's understandable why you would want to kill me, but you didn't even want to spare your son!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0365

“H-How is that possible...” Eloise could not accept what she was hearing from the conversation on the phone.

Meredith’s sinister and malicious words... How she had called Jackson ‘that damned child’...

“No! It’s impossible! That’s not Mer’s voice!” Eloise denied in certainty. “Vera Quinn, how dare you fake evidence?! You must’ve had someone pretend to be Meredith!”

Meredith came back to her senses. She did not expect that when Vera got close to her, she had already started recording.

However, she would not admit to her dirty deeds with just this.

“Mom, you have to believe me. That’s not me. That person in the video is not me!” Meredith denied. “Jeremy, someone must be trying to harm me. That video must be fake! Why would I want to harm Jack? He’s our flesh and blood!”

Meredith turned around and looked at Madeline with tears in her eyes.

“Vera Quinn, you really can do anything just to get Jeremy. That man has already pointed you out and you still want to twist the truth to blame me. The woman who’s talking in the video isn’t me!”

“I knew you’d say that,” Madeline said calmly, “However, maybe you don’t know about voiceprints that like fingerprints, everyone’s voiceprints are unique. Everything will come to light after we run some tests on the video.”

After Madeline said that, Meredith’s tears stopped. Her jaw dropped, and she had no comebacks.

Voiceprints.

Such a thing existed?

“Run the tests, then! I refuse to believe that Mer would do this kind of thing!” Eloise sided with Meredith until the very end. “Mer, I believe you!”

“...” Meredith was completely stunned. Before this, she was still confident and arrogant, but now, all of those were gone.

Madeline chuckled lightly. “Can’t you see, Mrs. Montgomery? Your precious daughter has such a guilty conscience that she can’t even speak anymore.”

“...” Eloise turned around after she heard that. When she saw Meredith’s pale face, she had a bad feeling in her heart. “Mer...”

“Continue your conversation tomorrow. Meredith Crawford, follow us now.” The police urged. Even though they were at the entrance of the station, the police still produced a pair of handcuffs as a formality. Then, they cuffed Meredith before taking her inside.

Meredith looked as if she had been jolted awake from a dream. She stared straight at the handcuffs while shaking her head violently. “I’m not going to prison! I didn’t do it! I was wrongfully accused!”

“Jeremy, trust me. Vera was the one who framed me! Mom, you have to save me! I didn’t do it!”

“Mer, Mer!” Eloise was frantic, and she immediately called Sean.

Madeline stood where she was calmly and looked at Meredith who was still yelling about her innocence while in handcuffs. There was a pleased smile in her lively and clear eyes.

Meredith was taken to custody quickly as all of the evidence that they gathered were against her.

Even the short man was starting to accuse Meredith of being the true mastermind behind Jackson's kidnapping.

Eloise refused to believe that her precious daughter was a merciless vile woman who would even harm her own child.

"There must be some misunderstanding! That wh*re Vera must've pulled some strings!" Eloise was still insisting that Meredith was innocent. She was sure that Madeline was the one who framed Meredith.

"Sean, Mer is our daughter. We made a mistake when we took home the wrong child back then and caused her to miss out on more than 20 years of motherly and fatherly love. You have to get her out of there no matter what!"

Sean patted Eloise's shoulder to comfort her. His aged but handsome face was filled with melancholy.

"I've asked my friends in the station and they told me there's irrefutable evidence of this. Mer really premeditated Vera's murder. She also bribed someone to kidnap Jack."

Eloise widened her eyes in disbelief. "No, that's impossible! Our daughter won't do such a thing!"

"Maybe it's our fault." Sean blamed himself. "If Mer had grown up next to us in the past 20 years, she wouldn't have wandered onto the wrong path. Her adoptive mother kidnapped Vera before and caused Mer to suffer so much. Perhaps this time, it was her idea as well."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0366

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 366

Eloise started crying when she heard that. “It’s all my fault. My body was in a horrible condition after I gave birth to Mer. You were busy taking care of me and that’s why we neglected Mer...”

Sean grabbed Eloise’s shoulders in devastation and said, “Don’t cry, Ellie. Don’t worry, Mer is our only daughter. I’ll make sure she gets home safe and sound.”

Jon and Rose hurried to the police station to visit Meredith after knowing that something had happened to her.

When Rose saw Meredith in a prisoner’s outfit while looking unkempt in the conjugal room, she was utterly stunned.

It was as if she saw that her money tree was about to fall.

“Mer, Mer, how are you? What happened?”

Meredith looked at Jon and Rose impatiently. She said with a clear train of thought, “There’s no use saying anything now. Eloise and Sean are the only ones who can save me now.”

Jon and Rose looked at each other. “Mer, did that b*tch Vera do this?”

When Meredith heard Vera’s name, she clenched her fists and slammed them down on the table. She growled, saying, “That b*tch! I’ll make sure to make her life a living hell when I get out.”

“How dare she do this to you? I’ll make her life a living hell as well!” Rose rolled up her sleeves aggressively. “Mer, don’t worry. I’ll definitely avenge you.”

“You’re not her opponent. That woman is smarter than Madeline.” Meredith gritted her teeth as an ominous glint appeared in her eyes. “No matter what method you use, you have to get Jeremy to see me!”

Rose nodded and agreed.

After they left the station, they went to see Jeremy instantly. However, they could not find him.

On the other hand, news of Meredith’s attempted murder went viral and it started trending immediately.

Meredith’s magnanimous and kind image was completely crumbled.

What infuriated the netizens the most was how Meredith could even do that to her child.

Jackson was such a cute and good-looking child. How cruel could a person be to do such a merciless act?

Especially when Meredith was still showing off her child on her Twitter to gain followers.

Meredith’s Twitter page blew up with all of the comments screaming at her.

As Meredith had been taken to custody, she could not hire paid posters to side with her.

In the police station, Meredith was waiting for Jeremy to come to see her while feeling frantic. Finally, when someone from the station told her that someone was here to see her, Meredith deliberately tidied her hair and clothes. Her eyes were filled with longing.

However, Meredith's expression changed immediately when the door of the conjugal room opened and she saw the person walking in. Her gaze turned sharp and hostile in an instant. She glared at Madeline who was approaching her like a wild beast.

"Vera, you!"

Madeline walked to the front of the table elegantly while clicking her heels. She smiled. "Of course, it's me. Did you think you could get a chance to see Jeremy?"

"You..."

"Jeremy's very busy. However, even if he has the time, he won't come to see you." Madeline sat down carefreely.

Meredith was in handcuffs while wearing a prisoner's outfit. Her hair was also messy and she looked wan and sallow. She could not compare to Madeline now.

Even the aura from her bones had been completely defeated.

"Vera Quinn, you snake! Why do you have to go against me?" Meredith was seething. She had lost control of her emotions.

Madeline lifted her eyebrow and smiled widely. "You need to ask yourself this question. Why do you keep slandering me, harming me, and wanting to kill me?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0367

Meredith scoffed in disdain. “What bullsh*t is that? When did I do all those things to you? You’re the one who’s seducing Jeremy with this face of yours. You’re the one who did all of these things. So even if I want to harm you in the future, you have only yourself to blame.”

“Myself to blame?”

“You were the one who brought trouble upon yourself! You btch! You’re as cheap as that btch Madeline. Both of your deaths would not be regretted!”

After Meredith’s shrieks, Madeline did not hesitate to slap Meredith across the face.

Meredith was stunned for two seconds. When she was about to curse at Madeline, Madeline yanked her collar, and in that instant, she found that it was difficult to breathe.

Meredith lifted her head and was met with Madeline’s sharp eyes. Then, there was a cold glint flashing in them. Meredith could not help but tremble.

“I brought trouble upon myself? My death won’t be regretted? How can you say these inhumane words until this day?”

Madeline’s words were as cold as ice while her eyes were as sharp as knives.

“Six years ago, you drugged Jeremy and accused me of those inexistent crimes. You made everyone think that I shamelessly climbed into his bed because I wanted to get my hands on him.

“Because of your one-sided story and countless meticulously planned traps, I was wrongfully imprisoned for three years. I was locked up for more than a thousand days where I was tortured mercilessly by those people you hired. You even inhumanely induced labor on my unborn child! In the end, I didn’t even get a chance to see my child before she was killed by you adulterous pigs!

“And do you think I don’t know about you killing my grandfather?”

Madeline yanked Meredith on her collar. Her eyes were red and it was as if sharp knives were shooting out from them. They were stabbing mercilessly at Meredith who was already stunned.

“All of my pain came from you and Jeremy, and you have the nerve to tell me that I brought them upon myself?”

Madeline scoffed mockingly before letting go of Meredith’s collar. “Meredith, you’re the one bringing trouble upon yourself that you’re now faced with such an ending.”

“...”

After she finished saying that, the conjugal room plunged into silence.

Meredith was speechless and dumbfounded.

After Madeline’s invulnerable condemnations and questionings, Meredith’s face looked like a neon light. The colors on her face changed continuously. In the end, the light went out and her face was pale and lifeless. She looked like she was in the doldrums and had wilted completely.

“How is this possible... That b*tch Madeline is already dead. Impossible. I disfigured her. Your skin can’t have recovered so perfectly. It’s impossible...”

Meredith was in disbelief. She could not accept the powerful, classy, and gorgeous woman who was standing in front of her.

She kept denying it. However, looking at those unique and spirited eyes in front of her, Meredith had to believe what was going on.

“You... M-Madeline... Are you really Madeline?”

Madeline smirked as she lifted her arrogant eyes. “That’s right. I’m your good sister Madeline Crawford. You ruined my marriage, stole my husband, and killed my grandfather as well as my child.”

!!!

Meredith’s body shook as her shocked eyes grew wide again.

She could not believe the fact that Madeline was still alive.

What she could not accept the most was that not only was Madeline stunning, but she was also rich and had her own company and career!

Meredith could never compare to that!

Meredith finally understood why after Vera appeared, she had been hanging around her and Jeremy.

She came back with a purpose and it was revenge!

“Madeline, don’t feel so pleased with yourself! Who do you think you are? So what if you’re alive? If I could kill you once, I can kill you again!” Meredith’s eyes were red as she screeched. It was as if she would be stronger than Madeline this way.

“But I didn’t die. So, this means that you don’t have the power to kill me.” Madeline smiled nonchalantly.

“Y-You...” Meredith was shaking from anger. Then, she started stammering, “Madeline, do you think you can destroy me like this? If Jeremy knows you’re the person he despises and resents the most, he’ll never forgive you!”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0368

“Go and tell him then.” Madeline scoffed. “Do you think he’ll believe you or me?”

“...” Meredith’s eyes became lifeless. She had nothing to say to that.

She did not dare, or rather, she would never tell Jeremy the truth!

If Jeremy knew that Vera was Madeline, not only would he not believe Madeline, but he would even be happy and surprised. He would use all of his power to pamper her, love her, and dote on her.

Jeremy loved Madeline, especially after she ‘died’. His love for her had always been prejudiced and he had kept it in the deepest part of his heart.

When she saw that Meredith was speechless, Madeline smiled. “Or perhaps you can tell your current parents. You can tell them that I’m Madeline. However, do you have the guts to do that?”

“...” The corners of Meredith’s lips twitched. The aggressive glint in her eyes wanted so badly to crush Madeline into fine dust, but to be honest, she did not have the power to do so.

Plus, she could not tell Eloise and Sean that Vera was, in fact, Madeline.

Meredith did not forget that three years ago, Madeline had already known she was the real Miss Montgomery.

Smack!

While Meredith was spacing out, Madeline tossed a phone in front of her.

“Have you seen this? The internet is filled with scoops about you and your dark past. Jeremy also announced on his official Twitter page that your marriage with him is ineffective. He said that you two never even got a marriage certificate. You’re not his wife. So from the looks of it, he doesn’t love you that much as well.”

“Madeline, you she-devil!” Meredith was fuming. She wanted to attack Madeline, but her movements were limited.

Madeline took back her phone carefreely and stood up gracefully. “Yell at me. Go on. I’m not Madeline Crawford anymore anyway.”

She smirked. Then, all ten of her long and slender fingers pressed down on the table. Her strong aura was suffocating Meredith.

“Meredith, your ‘good’ days are starting soon. The last step of your complete fall from grace is the verdict from the judge.”

“...”

Madeline said with a grin before turning around calmly.

“Madeline, you witch! What do you want? What the hell do you want?”

When she heard the shrieks behind her, Madeline felt it sounded like the last struggle of a person who was about to die.

She turned her pretty face around slightly and smiled. “I’ll get you back for what you did to me before. However, you’ll have to experience double of it all.”

Madeline sashayed away carefreely after she said that.

Meredith glared at her back with a wretched look on her face. The blood in her body felt like it had been frozen. Her face was white and she looked dispirited. She was also mumbling to herself.

“Madeline... It really is you...”

Madeline walked out of the detention center. The sky after the rain was exceptionally blue and clear.

She had carried too much pain and hatred in her heart for the past six years. She could finally release some of them today.

‘Grandpa, your Linnie will avenge you soon.

‘Darling, Mommy will execute everyone who was involved in your murder.

‘And Jeremy, you’re next,’ Madeline thought. When she was about to leave, a familiar sports car stopped in front of her.

When the door of the car opened, an elegant and stoic man walked toward her slowly.

Madeline curled the corners of her lips. Speak of the devil.

‘Jeremy Whitman, it’s your turn now.’

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0369

Madeline gave him a half-hearted smile. “Jeremy, are you here to visit Meredith? Are you still unable to let go of her?”

Jeremy walked in front of her, his charming eyes looking into her exquisite ones. “The person I can’t let go of now is you.”

“Really?” Madeline looked into Jeremy’s eyes as if she was surprised. “If that’s the case, I’m so happy.”

“Of course, it’s true.” Jeremy reached out his hand. “As long as you’re willing, I’ll be responsible for you from now on.”

Madeline looked at Jeremy’s outstretched hand. The joints of his fingers were evident. They were long and fair, looking pleasing to the eyes. She used to long for the warmth of his palm so much back then.

When he saw Madeline staying quiet and looking at his hand, a hint of undetectable uneasiness appeared on his face. “Are you not willing?”

Madeline looked at him and smiled. She placed her hand into Jeremy’s and said profoundly, “Why would I not? I’ve been waiting for this day for so long.”

‘Yes, so long.’

Jeremy then brought Madeline back to his place.

When she saw Jackson who was having his meal, Madeline could not help but feel relieved.

She walked over to him. “Jack.”

Jackson lifted his crystal-clear eyes all of a sudden. “Vera.”

“Jack, thank you for testifying for me so bravely.” Madeline smiled and caressed the little guy’s head. Looking at his pinkish face, she could not help but feel heartbroken.

Meredith was able to give birth to such a beautiful and sensible child, but she was not even the least bit grateful for him.

“Vera, you have to be safe and sound.” Jackson’s tone was solemn. After he said that, he took out a crystal bracelet from his pocket.

Madeline’s eyes lit up and she was a little surprised. “I thought I lost this bracelet.”

Perhaps he was influenced by her smile, so the little guy smiled for the first time in forever. Two of his little canine teeth were showing.

He reached out his hand and grabbed Madeline’s wrist. “Let me help you put it on.”

“Okay.” Madeline lifted her hand cooperatively.

She looked at Jackson with a gentle gaze. The little guy lowered his head and had a serious look on his face. His long and thick eyelashes moved along with his eyelids, looking so lovable.

Madeline could not help but reach out her hand to place it on Jackson’s cheek. “Jack, if I do something that upsets your daddy in the future, will you be mad at me?”

Jackson finished putting on her bracelet for her the moment she finished saying that.

The little guy lifted his head. There was amusement in his pristine and huge eyes.

When he was about to say something, Jeremy walked over. When he saw Jackson and Madeline interacting intimately, he interrupted abruptly. “Jackson, do you like Vera? Do you want Vera to be your mother?”

Madeline was shocked. However, she saw Jackson nodding. “Yes, Mommy.”

She heard Jackson calling her ‘Mommy’ again from his tiny lips. It felt as if a stream of spring water was flowing across her heart—it was so sweet.

She knew she liked this child from the bottom of her heart.

However, she did not expect this child to like her so much as well.

Perhaps he had never felt any motherly love from Meredith while Madeline was able to give him just that.

...

Meredith was charged instantly. The court had scheduled a time for a hearing.

Even though the judge had not come up with a verdict yet, Meredith’s reputation was already ruined.

The stocks and shares of Montgomery Enterprise were also affected because of her.

Madeline sat in her office and read about the news on Montgomery Enterprise. Her eyebrows were tightly knitted together.

She knew that when Madeline was officially convicted, Montgomery Enterprise's reputation and stocks would be affected again.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0370

After all, Meredith was the young lady of the Montgomery family and was well-known by everyone.

When Madeline saw the photos of Eloise and Sean being harassed by the media online, she felt a dull ache in her heart.

“Dad, Mom...” she muttered. Then, she thought about Jackson.

“I’m just like you. I’ve never felt the love of a mother before as well...”

Knock, knock, knock.

Knockings came from the glass door of her office.

Madeline lifted her head and saw the sales manager looking at her frantically.

“Come in.” Madeline gestured. “What happened? Why are you so frantic?”

The sales manager ran over hurriedly, her voice sounding urgent. “Miss Vera, there’s a man and a woman in the shop. They said they want to demand an explanation from you. T-They keep saying that you’re a homewrecker... If you don’t go out now, they’ll destroy the shop!”

Madeline got up calmly. “Don’t panic, I’ll go take a look now.”

She put on her suit jacket before walking downstairs while clicking her heels on the floor.

From a distance, Madeline could hear the familiar voice of a woman screeching in the shop. “Vera Quinn, you homewrecker! Get out now!

“You shameless wh*re! You seduced my daughter’s husband and even wrongfully sent my daughter to prison! I need to teach you a lesson today! Do you really think my daughter will just stand there and let you bully her?

“Vera Quinn, get out now!”

“I’m here.”

Madeline strode into the shop, her tall and slender figure standing at one side.

The staff, the customers, and also some passersby who just wanted to watch what was going on all looked toward the source of the voice. Then, they saw Madeline walking over in an overbearing manner while in a dress and a white suit jacket.

Her face was stunning. Even though she looked poised and alluring, there was also a tyrannical aura on her face. She looked valiant and domineering.

When Rose and Jon saw Madeline, they were shocked. She had the same face as Madeline, but even they had to admit that Vera was more charming and daring than Madeline.

“Are you the people who are calling me a homewrecker and a wh*re while claiming that you’ll destroy my shop?” Madeline asked calmly.

From the way they insulted her, Madeline was sure that these two still did not know that she was the same Madeline who they used to step under their feet and humiliate.

Perhaps they had not visited Meredith after she went to see her. If not, Meredith would have told them.

“It’s us!” Rose glared arrogantly while rolling up her sleeves. “You shameless wh*re. I’m going to stand up for my daughter, Meredith.”

When everyone heard that, they finally understood that they came because of Meredith.

However, was Meredith not Miss Montgomery? Was this Mrs. Montgomery? No, Mrs. Montgomery was graceful and noble, so how could she look like this? These must be Meredith’s adoptive parents.

The people watching started gossiping among themselves. Rose used this opportunity to add fuel to the fire. “Everyone, I’m Meredith’s adoptive mother. I want to tell everyone the truth! Actually, those statements and exposé on the internet are not real! My daughter was framed by this homewrecker!”

Jon also started fanning the flames. “My wife is telling the truth. This homewrecker is the real culprit!”

“You guys know Jeremy Whitman, right? He’s the young master of the richest family in Glendale and the president of Whitman Corporation. He was in love with my daughter until this wh*re’s appearance!”

Rose was getting more and more emotional as she went on. Her spit was flying all over the place.

“In order to get her hands on Jeremy, this wh*re framed my daughter countless times. She even caused Mer to be tarnished by a group of thugs! Not only that, but Mer is also stuck in the detention center right now because of her. So tell me, do you think this homewrecker deserves to be yelled at? Even if I lose my life today, I’ll definitely avenge Mer!”

As Rose was saying that, she wiped away her tears as if she was devastated. When those people started pointing and accusing Madeline, she felt even more confident.

“Everyone, you have eyes, so you must denounce this homewrecker with me today!”

Jon pointed at Madeline while feeling indignant at the injustice. “Vera Quinn, there are so many people here, so I’m curious to see how you’re going to explain yourself!”

Madeline finished listening to Rose and Jon’s insults. Then, she lifted her intense and piercing gaze. “Are you done? If you’re done, then it’s my turn.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0371

After Rose and Jon were taken aback by Madeline's sharp gaze, they scoffed.

“Vera, what else do you have to say?” Do you think everyone here is an idiot and will be fooled by just a few words from you?”

After Madeline heard that, she smiled. “Since everyone isn't an idiot, do you think you can pin those crimes on me based on your one-sided statement?”

Rose was stunned. Suddenly, she felt as if what she said had come back to bite her in the bottom.

“Vera, you...”

“Shut up!” Madeline interrupted coldly.

Rose trembled. When she met Madeline's frigid glare, she could not help but feel fearful.

“You keep saying that you want to seek justice for your precious daughter Meredith, but just ask yourself, does Meredith even have the right to talk about justice?”

“You...”

“You keep saying that I framed and harmed Meredith, even causing her to get tarnished by a group of thugs. Do you have proof? You don't, but I do!”

“...” Rose's face was flushed white. She then averted her gaze due to a guilty conscience.

The two of them knew the truth clearly. The people at Old Master Whitman's birthday party also knew about this.

“Do you want me to play that hideous video of you kneeling in front of me while begging me not to call the police for everyone to see?”

When Rose heard this, her face turned from red to green. She felt extremely embarrassed.

Madeline scoffed. “You and Meredith worked together to get someone to kidnap me. In the end, Meredith refused to pay them so they were infuriated. She suffered the consequences of her own actions while you were an accomplice. So where did you get the audacity to stand here and twist the truth to slander me? Do you believe that I'll call the police right now to get to the bottom of that incident?”

What ?

The corner of Rose's lips twitched. Her expression changed and she started feeling anxious.

Madeline continued in a laid-back manner, "The reason Meredith was brought away by the police is that there's sufficient evidence proving that she attempted murder. She's in the detention center now because she brought this upon herself. The law will punish a woman who's capable of harming her own child."

She then looked at Rose with a grin. Rose was on the brink of an emotional breakdown.

"I don't think you're here to avenge Meredith. You're here to solidify her crimes. No wonder Meredith ended up this way. It's all because of you evil dimwits."

"B-Bullsh*t!" Rose was starting to not make sense. Her fingers were pointed at Madeline shakily. "Don't be fooled by this homewrecker. Mer was falsely accused! This homewrecker is the true culprit!"

"Jeremy has already announced his relationship with Meredith. They aren't dating or married, so if that's the case, my relationship with Jeremy is right and proper. It's none of anyone's business," Madeline smiled and said in a composed manner.

"On the other hand, I heard that your daughter Meredith stuck her foot in her sister Madeline and Jeremy's marriage. I'm afraid she's the real homewrecker that you keep yammering about."

"Y-You..." Rose was speechless. She could not form any words right now.

Suddenly, she regretted everything. Back then, Meredith told her she was not Vera's opponent and she did not believe her. She insisted on coming out and going against Vera head-on. Now, she had shot herself in her own foot.

"Damn it! What a stupid and vile old woman. Does she really think we're all idiots who can't see the truth?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0372

She curled the corners of her lips and smiled. “I’m sorry for causing a bad shopping experience. As compensation, I’ll be giving a 20% discount on all jewelry in the shop.”

The customers who were here were elated. Naturally, they would be fonder of Madeline.

Madeline smiled and settled things with her customers. Then, she grabbed her bag to go to the parking lot.

She drove all the way to the place that she was most familiar with.

She waited for ten minutes before seeing Rose and Jon walking over while cursing under their breaths.

Madeline smirked and sped toward Jon and Rose.

When Jon and Rose heard the sound of the car, they lifted their heads. Then, they saw a white car speeding toward them.

The car was going very fast and was getting closer and closer to them.

Jon and Rose felt their souls leaving their bodies. They did not care about anything else and just wanted to get out of there.

However, it was too late. The car was about half a meter away from them and would crash into them in the next second.

“Ah!” Rose screamed in fear and fell to the ground.

At the next second, with a sharp screech, the white car stopped in front of them.

Rose and Jon gasped for air and were still in a panicked state. When they saw the car door opening, Rose decided to blackmail the driver for some money. She started yelling at them.

“Is that how you drive? Don’t drive if you don’t know how to! Could you afford it if you had run into me? Do you know who I am? Do you know who my son-in-law is?”

“I only did that because I know who you are.” Madeline’s calm voice went into Rose and Jon’s ears.

The two of them looked at her in shock.

“V-Vera?”

Madeline closed the door carefreely and strode in front of Jon and Rose overbearingly.

“You made a fuss in my shop and ruined my reputation. Do you think you can just get away like that?”

Rose’s pupils constricted. She dragged her heavy body and stood up challengingly.

“Vera Quinn, what do you want? Let me tell you, this is our territory!” Jon glared and threatened.

“You’re still trying to talk to me in that tone? Do you want to accompany your precious daughter in prison or do you want your daughter to stay in there longer?”

When Jon and Rose heard that, they shut their mouths.

Rose shifted her gaze, then suddenly, she said flatteringly with a grin, “Miss Quinn, you’re kind and benevolent, so don’t quibble over this with an uncultured common person like me. Yes, it was my fault. I’m inhuman for targeting you this entire time. I hope you can be lenient and let me off the hook.”

She even fake-slapped herself a few times.

“Miss Quinn, if you don’t mind, my house is right in front. We can sit down and talk if there’s anything that needs to be discussed. What do you think?”

Madeline nodded in satisfaction. “That’s more like it.”

Rose led the way and gave Jon a look.

Madeline opened her messaging app to look at it before following them.

The house was still the same as before. However, the renovation was different.

It was evident that Meredith had received a lot of benefits from the Montgomeries.

Madeline sat in the living room while Jon and Rose went into the kitchen. They said they were going to make her tea.

However, when they went inside the kitchen, Rose’s hypocritical smile disappeared. There was a sinister glint in her eyes as she dropped some pesticide into the tea.

“Hmph, who asked her to be so arrogant? I want her to never have the chance to speak again!”

She stirred the tea with a teaspoon and smiled hypocritically. Then, she handed the tea to Madeline respectfully. “Miss Quinn, this is made from our own tea leaves, so its taste is pretty unique. Please have a taste.”

Madeline took the cup with a smile. After taking a sniff, she said, “It indeed smells very unique. I have to taste this properly, then.”

She said and lifted the cup. Then, she moved it closer to her lips.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0373

Jon and Rose started straight at Madeline when she lifted the cup to her lips and was about to taste the tea. They were waiting expectantly for Madeline to drink it.

Madeline's lips were about to touch the rim of the cup, but all of a sudden, she lifted her gaze and there was a sharp glint in her eyes.

Jon and Rose were startled. When they were trying to figure out what Madeline was thinking about, she flung her right hand and the tea splashed onto both of their faces.

Even though the water was not at its boiling point, it was at least 150 to 160 degrees Fahrenheit.

Jon and Rose wailed in pain while their faces were burnt red.

“You! Vera, what the hell are you doing?” Rose took a piece of tissue to wipe her face angrily. Her face at this moment was terrifyingly red and malevolent.

“Do you think I'm stupid? Do you think I don't know that you'd put something in the tea?” Madeline asked in an icy tone. Then, she threw the cup at Jon and Rose's feet.

With a smash, the cup broke into pieces. Jon and Rose dodged away from it as they were scared to get hurt by the pieces.

Rose and Jon had been splashed with hot water and were almost smashed with the cup in such a short period of time. They could not come back to their senses after a long while.

After they came back to their senses, Madeline was already standing in front of them. “How’s it? Is the tea delicious?”

Rose’s brain registered what was going on as she rolled up her sleeves furiously. Her face looked sinister. “Darling, shut the door!”

When Jon heard that, he quickly ran over to shut the door.

Rose bared her teeth as she glared at Madeline. “How dare you be so unbridled even when you’re in our territory?! Vera, I’m going to let you see what I can do!”

She lifted her hand and slapped in the direction of Madeline’s face.

Madeline reached out her hand and grabbed Rose’s wrist tightly. There was an icy glint in her eyes. “The moment I opened my eyes again, I swore that I would never let anyone hurt me anymore!”

She swung away Rose’s wrist coldly.

Rose was stuck in a daze when she saw Madeline’s murderous gaze. She stumbled and crashed into the sofa before falling on the broken shards of the cup. Finally, she came back to her senses and started barking orders at Jon.

“Darling, get that b*tch! I’m going to kill her today!”

Jon had an aggressive look on his face. He pounced at Madeline while making threatening gestures.

Madeline reached out her hand calmly, and with the three tactics that Felipe taught her to fight against sexual predators, she managed to take Jon down. Then, she pushed him onto Rose.

“Ouch!”

Rose wailed in pain. Her bottom was bleeding profusely.

How could Jon have expected himself to lose against such a tiny woman? He got up from the floor to get a weapon.

However, when he placed his hand on the floor to support himself, a high heel stepped right on the back of his hand.

He lifted his head in disbelief as he met Madeline’s cold gaze instantly.

She was towering over him, stifling him with her monarch-like temperament.

“Does it hurt?” Madeline asked with a smile. “However, how could this force compare to the pain of you stepping on my fingers and trying to crush them under your feet?”

When Jon heard that, he was stunned. “W-What are you talking about? When did I step on your hand?”

“No?” Madeline chuckled lowly. “It was just a few years ago. Have you gotten Alzheimer’s so soon? If you do, then let me help you remember.”

Madeline restrained her gaze and waved her hand. Then, with a loud smack, fingerprints slowly appeared on Jon’s right cheek.

Jon was stunned.

Rose also widened her eyes in shock.

“H-How dare you slap my husband?”

Madeline lifted her cold gaze. “So what? Do I have to ask for your permission? Did you ask for my permission when you slapped and kicked me again and again?”

“...”

“...”

After Madeline questioned them, Jon and Rose’s eyes were as wide as saucers.

The air around them plunged into silence. However, Jon and Rose were disturbed. Then, a storm started in their hearts.

“W-What did you say?” Rose pointed at Madeline with shaky fingers, her eyes filled with disbelief.

“What did I say? Don’t you know the human language?”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0374

Madeline lowered her head to look at the horrified faces. Then, she narrowed her eyes, the flames of hatred in them piercing through them relentlessly.

“I treated you like my own parents. I willingly gave my Hematopoietic stem cells to Meredith to save her life, but what about you two? I never had any excessive expectations and thought you would thank me for what I did to Meredith, but I never expected you to bite the hand that fed you either!”

“...”

“...”

“I’ve never framed anyone. I’ve also never done anything that would harm you, but all of you worked together to harm and torture me again and again!”

“I was in so much pain and you still kicked me in the chest. You turned a blind eye when I fell on the floor vomiting blood. You just left me there hanging on to dear life in the rain!”

Meredith listed out all of their crimes, her eyes looking malicious.

“You people don’t have the most basic humanity! You’re not human at all!”

After she said that, Jon and Rose’s brains finally registered what was going on.

Rose stared straight at Madeline, her eyes slowly widening from the shock.

“You... Madeline! You’re Madeline! You’re not Vera Quinn, you’re Madeline Crawford!”

Madeline lifted her brow. “That’s right. I’m that Madeline who you longed to kill every day.”

!!!

It felt like lightning had struck down on them. Rose and Jon’s eyes were about to fall from their heads.

“Y-You’re not dead!”

“The people who harmed me are still well and alive, so why would I die?”

“You...” Rose’s eyes were red from anger. “You’re still well and alive, you b*tch! No wonder you’ve been targeting Mer the moment you arrived. Tell me, what do you want? Let me tell you, Mer has Jeremy and the Montgomeries behind her back. If you dare to do anything impulsive, you’ll—”

“Aw, are you still dreaming?” Madeline chuckled and interrupted. “Do you still think Jeremy will help your precious angel? In regards to the Montgomeries, you should know very well who’s the real Miss Montgomery.”

“...”

Rose started to stammer as she could not find any comebacks.

She pushed Jon angrily. “What are you waiting for? Get her!”

Jon got up hurriedly to get a weapon to attack Madeline.

“You btch! Madeline, you btch! If we could push you to the verge of death back then, we can make you wish you were dead today too!”

Rose's eyes were filled with hostility. When she saw Jon coming over with a knife, she endured the pain on her bottom and pounced at Madeline.

After Madeline dodged from her, she heard the familiar rumbling of a car engine outside.

It was almost time.

She stood there motionlessly. Jon thought Madeline was scared, so he used that opportunity to put the knife against Madeline's neck.

“Don't move!”

Bang!

A few seconds after Jon threatened her, the door was kicked open by someone.

Jeremy saw Jon holding the knife against Madeline's neck and there was a cold tide behind his icy glare.

Madeline secretly smirked but still displayed a terrified expression. “Jeremy, save me. They want to kill me...”

“Damn it!”

Jeremy spat out these two words that were laced with murderous intent from his thin lips.

Jon trembled when his eyes met Jeremy's icy ones. Before he could say anything, Jeremy ran over to him and kicked him away.

Jeremy pulled Madeline into his arms, his narrow eyes filled with worry.

“Vera, are you okay? Are you hurt?”

At this moment, the knife fell and stabbed into the back of Rose’s leg.

“Ouch!” Rose wailed in pain again. She lifted her head to see Jeremy holding Madeline with so much gentleness and worry. She forgot Meredith told her that Jeremy had been in love with Madeline the whole time. She blurted out in arrogance, “Jeremy, don’t trust this woman. She’s not Vera Quinn! She’s that b*tch, Madeline Crawford!”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0375

“Jeremy, I’m telling the truth. That b*tch is Madeline!” Rose pointed at Madeline and shrieked through gritted teeth.

Jon chimed in, “Jeremy, my wife is telling the truth. Vera Quinn is that b*tch you despise the most, Madeline Crawford!”

“Shut up!” Jeremy’s tone was frigid, and there was a thick layer of frost in his eyes. “How dare you attack Vera to vent on Meredith? I will make you pay dearly for this.”

After he said those bone-chilling words, Jon and Rose’s pupils constricted. It felt as if a bucket of cold water was poured from above their heads. In an instant, their body temperatures dropped.

“Vera, let me take you home.” Jeremy’s voice changed. Even his eyes were gentle and warm like they had been caressed by a gentle spring breeze.

Madeline leaned against Jeremy’s chest in shock, her eyes looking lovely. “Jeremy, it’s so good to be able to see you now. I was so scared that I’d be murdered by them.”

“You... Madeline, you btch! Stop acting!” Rose roared angrily and emphasized once again. “Jeremy, she’s really that btch, Madeline! She admitted it herself just now!”

“Jeremy, I didn’t say that. They want to exonerate Meredith from her crimes, so they want to kill me because I’m the most important witness,” Madeline said softly. The horrifying sharpness that Jon and Rose saw in her clear and alluring eyes just now was gone. There was only the vulnerability of a weak woman.

“Madeline, y-you...” Rose was so mad that her face was now bright red. When she was about to say something, she saw Jeremy holding Madeline’s shoulder gently before turning around.

Madeline leaned against Jeremy's chest and did not forget to turn around to look at them with victory in her eyes.

When she saw Jon and Rose almost exploding from anger, she smirked.

Madeline got into Jeremy's car. In those three years of staying in F Country, Madeline got a driving license. However, she did not let Jeremy know about this. She also would not let him know that she was the one who drove here.

Before she arrived at this place, she sent a message telling him that Jon and Rose brought her here. She asked him to come quickly to save her.

Everything went smoothly and he came just in time.

Jeremy brought Madeline back to his place. She held onto his arm and leaned against his chest with a terrified look.

"Jeremy, I'm so afraid. Are they trying to use your ex-wife's name to hurt me because I look like her?"

"I won't let anyone hurt you." Jeremy comforted in a soft voice. He lowered his gaze to look at the woman in his embrace.

"I feel much safer with you next to me." Madeline looked at Felipe's message discreetly as a small smile appeared on her face. There was a pleased look in her lively eyes. "Jeremy, I'm still a little scared. Can you stay with me for a little longer?"

"Of course." Jeremy nodded before tightening his arms around her.

...

After cleaning up their wounds, Jon and Rose went to the detention center to visit Meredith.

When they saw Meredith, Jon and Rose told her everything that happened just now without missing out on a single detail.

They thought that Meredith would be surprised, but she already knew about this before them.

Meredith gritted her teeth as a murderous glint shone in her eyes. “That b*tch. She planned all of those traps to let me walk right into them!”

Rose touched her injured bottom, feeling perturbed. “I didn’t expect that b*tch to still be alive. She even went through a complete transformation. It’s like she’s a completely different person. The worst thing now is that Jeremy trusts her completely while you’re stuck in here, Mer. What should we do now?”

When Meredith heard that, she clenched her fists. There was a trace of unwillingness in her eyes. “Jeremy trusts her because of her btch face!” she said before looking at Rose and Jon. She warned solemnly, saying, “Don’t let Jeremy know that the btch is Madeline. If not, we’ll all be finished.”

“...”

When Rose and Jon heard that, they looked at each other.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0376

“Have you already told Jeremy that the b*tch is Madeline?”

“N-No! Plus, it seems like that b*tch doesn't want Jeremy to know that she's Madeline.” Rose denied it when she realized that she could not let Jeremy know about this.

After Meredith heard that, she let out a sigh of relief.

“There will be a hearing in two days. Eloise has already hired the best lawyer for me. I should be able to get out of here soon.”

Rose's eyes lit up. “Really?”

“Of course.” Meredith snorted. “It seems that Madeline doesn't plan to tell the Montgomeries about her real identity.”

Jon and Rose looked at each other in confusion. “Mer, doesn't that b*tch already know that she's Eloise's daughter? Since she has already exposed herself to us, then why won't she acknowledge that Eloise and Sean are her parents?”

“If you're in her shoes, would you still want to go back to your parents after you've been attacked, yelled at, and ignored by them?” Meredith rolled her eyes.

“I think she resents Sean and Eloise.”

Jon and Rose felt that it made sense after Meredith's analysis.

At this moment, the door of the conjugal room opened and two officers walked in.

Jon and Rose thought their time was up, but they did not expect the two officers to walk over and handcuff them.

The three of them were startled. "Officer, w-why are you arresting us?"

"Mr. Whitman was just here to make a report. You two are involved in an attempted murder."

"..."

"..."

Rose and Jon were stunned for a few seconds. Then, they remembered what had happened just now.

"Officer, we didn't! We've been wrongfully accused!"

"Mer, you have to ask Eloise to save us! Mer!"

Mer watched as Rose and Jon were taken away by the officers. In the next second, she was brought away by the officer as well.

She could not imagine how deep Jeremy's feelings for Madeline were. He could protect Vera even without knowing that she was Madeline and it was all because of her face.

She was so jealous!

"Madeline!" She spat out her name through gritted teeth. She wanted so badly to crush Madeline into dust.

After knowing that Jon and Rose had been locked up, Madeline felt pleased.

She went to make a statement at the station, proving that Jon and Rose did have the intention to harm her. After signing her name, Madeline was about to leave when she ran into Eloise at the entrance.

She remembered that she had also run into her at the entrance last time. However, Eloise was hostile with her back then. She still looked elegant and noble, yet she did not look too well. There were even dark circles under her eyes.

Madeline turned around silently to prevent any unnecessary conflict. However, the moment she turned around, she heard Eloise calling out to her in a gentle and friendly tone that she had never heard before. "Miss Vera."

Madeline felt her heart tremble. She could not believe that Eloise would call out to her in such a soft tone.

She stopped in her tracks and turned around. She smiled nonchalantly. "Can I help you, Mrs. Montgomery?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0377

Eloise walked in front of Madeline slowly, her smile looking amiable. “I wonder if I could have the honor of inviting you to have dinner at my place tonight?”

Madeline frowned. “Am I hearing things? Are you inviting me for a meal at your place, Mrs. Montgomery?”

“Does she know something?”

“Is that why she’s inviting me to her home in such a friendly manner?”

However, Madeline immediately saw a hint of reluctance in Eloise’s eyes.

Madeline understood now. Eloise was only doing this for Meredith.

Heh.

How pathetic.

“My birth mother is willing to give a half-hearted invitation to a woman she despises for the sake of a heartless she-devil.

“Miss Vera, I hope you can forgive me for what I’ve done in the past. I’m sincerely inviting you to be a guest in my home.” Eloise had a smile on her face while waiting for Madeline’s reply.

Madeline felt that it was too ironic. She wanted to reject her.

However, she could not do it.

The person in front of her was her mother who brought her into this world—despite her hatred toward her or how she could not even sense the existence of her biological daughter.

“Alright,” answered Madeline. When she saw an unrestrained smile on Eloise’s face, she felt emptiness and ridiculousness in her heart.

After Madeline left, Eloise walked into the station. Then, she went to visit Meredith in the detention center.

Madeline started to feel anxious when she heard that Eloise had invited Madeline to dinner at the house.

She did not know what Madeline was planning. Madeline was not the halfwit she used to be. It was difficult to predict what she was thinking about.

However, Meredith made up her mind to complain about Madeline first no matter what. “Mom, I know you’re doing this for me, but I’d rather rot in jail than see you and Dad curry favors with Vera.”

Meredith grabbed Eloise’s hand in devastation, her eyes filled with tears.

“That woman is so scary. Mom, you and Dad have to stay away from her. If not, she’ll harm you as well!”

Eloise felt at ease when she heard those ‘warmhearted’ reminders.

She caressed Meredith’s hair, feeling even more heartbroken when she saw the haggardness and exhaustion on Meredith’s face.

“Mer, don’t worry. Mom and Dad know what to do. We’ll definitely get you out of here. It doesn’t matter if we lose everything.”

“Mom...”

Meredith cried while feeling touched. However, she still shook her head violently.

“I know you guys are doing this for me, but Vera isn’t a kind person. She caused me to be wrongfully imprisoned and even had my adoptive parents arrested. She hinted multiple times that I’m not your real biological daughter as well. She’ll definitely incite disharmony between our relationship when she gets to the house tonight...”

“Mer, don’t worry. I believe that you’re my biological daughter. The birthmark and DNA report all proved that you’re mine. I won’t be fooled by that Vera Quinn.”

When Meredith got that ensuring answer, she secretly let out a sigh of relief.

She had been waiting for Eloise to say this!

...

Despite being unwilling, Eloise still ordered the maids to prepare a whole table of food to serve Madeline.

At dusk, Jeremy drove Madeline to the front door of Montgomery Manor.

The housekeeper, Diana, was eyeing Madeline from the dark. Her eyes were filled with hostility.

“You b*tch.

“You killed my Brit.

“I want you to go accompany Brit tonight!”

“Jeremy, I’ll go in now. I’ll see you later.” Madeline waved at Jeremy.

The man looked at her warmly and nodded. “I’ll come to pick you up.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0378

“Okay.”

Madeline smiled softly. After she watched Jeremy’s car leaving, she turned around and walked in.

This was not the first time she came to Montgomery Manor, but it felt different this time.

The previous time, she came here all dressed up to outshine Meredith. However, she was dressed casually today.

She strode into the house, and some of the maids were astonished when they saw her.

Even though she was dressed casually and did not have any makeup on, she still looked elegant and poised.

They knew she was Miss L.ady’s designer, Vera Quinn. She was also the woman who was recently entangled with Miss Montgomery.

They did not expect Vera to be the important guest Eloise told them about. The maids were curious.

She was Miss Montgomery’s rival, so why was she the important guest?

After Madeline walked in, she saw Eloise and Sean.

They were dressed casually as well. However, their clothes and jewelry were all expensive branded goods.

Eloise smiled and greeted her, saying, "Please sit, Miss Vera."

"Thanks." Madeline sat down indifferently. She looked at the delicious food in front of her, and yet, she had no appetite.

Sean opened a bottle of wine that cost six digits and poured it for Madeline.

"I'm happy to see you tonight, Miss Quinn. Please forgive us for the misunderstanding and wrongdoings we've done in the past."

Forgive.

Madeline smiled and lifted the wine glass.

Forgive was such an easy word to say, but it was even more difficult to do than flying.

When Eloise saw that Madeline was not talking, she looked at Sean nervously.

Sean patted Eloise's hand to comfort her. Then, he said, "I know Miss Quinn has a lot of artistic attainments when it comes to jewelry designing. My wife, Ellie, is also well researched in this field. Coincidentally, our company is hosting a big jewelry project and we're looking for a professional as our guide. If you're willing, Miss Quinn, you can name your price."

Indeed, they were trying to tempt her with benefits. At the end of the day, this was all for Meredith.

Madeline smiled. "Money isn't that important to me. Plus, I'll marry Jeremy soon, so reputation will be readily available for me as well."

"..." Sean and Eloise were speechless.

Madeline placed her wine glass down and walked into the living room.

Eloise and Sean followed her. “Miss Vera, do you want to tour around the house?”

Madeline nodded. “This place is so beautiful. When I was watching television as a kid, I would see the children on television living in such luxurious and beautiful houses, so I would also fantasize about living in such houses and having parents who love me. It must be such a spectacular feeling.”

Eloise felt something tugging at her heartstrings when she saw the melancholy in Madeline’s face.

She walked next to Madeline. “I remember you mentioning about your parents before, Miss Vera. I think they’re—”

“They lost me,” Madeline continued profoundly, “Just like how you lost your flesh and blood back then. My absent-minded parents lost me the same way.”

“...”

After Eloise and Sean heard that, their heartbeats accelerated.

When they saw Madeline’s huge eyes that were filled with complicated emotions, they started to feel uneasy for no reason.

“I didn’t expect you to have such a similar experience with my daughter,” Eloise lamented, “However, thank God me and my husband found our precious baby who had been missing for so many years.” As she spoke, a happy smile appeared on her face.

Madeline knew Eloise was talking about Meredith.

She felt a pang of pain in her heart. An unknown ache was taking over her heart.

“Miss Vera has both reputation and money now, so I think you’ll have a lot of channels to find someone. Have you not found your birth parents after so many years?”

When Madeline heard Eloise’s question, she came back to her senses and looked into her smiling eyes. “I’ve found them.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0379

When Sean and Eloise heard Madeline's answer, for some reason, their hearts skipped a beat. The two of them asked at the same time, "You've found your parents?"

Madeline nodded and smiled. "Yeah, I've found my birth parents."

When Eloise got such an affirmative answer, she smiled.

At this moment, her smile came from the bottom of her heart.

"That's good. It's good that you found them. You'll be able to reunite with your family if that's the case."

"Reunite with them?" Madeline rolled those words off her mouth and scoffed ironically. "I won't even have the chance to reunite with them."

Eloise frowned. "Why?"

"They can't recognize me even when I'm standing right in front of them. They don't want to acknowledge me either."

Madeline looked straight at Eloise and Sean. The two of them were visibly taken aback.

Madeline smiled and broke the eerie atmosphere. "Maybe I'm just unfortunate. My parents lost me when I was small, then I was abandoned by my boyfriend after I grew up. Thankfully when I was at my lowest, I met an exceptional man who's one in a million."

Sean and Eloise looked at each other. They knew Madeline was talking about Jeremy.

The room plummeted into silence again. At this moment, the housekeeper, Diana, walked out with three bowls of soup.

“Madam, Sir, Miss Quinn, please have some soup.”

Eloise introduced quickly, saying, “Miss Vera, this is Diana’s famous clam chowder. It’s delicious and good for you. Have a taste.”

“Alright.” Madeline quickly turned around and went back to her seat.

Even though she knew Eloise and Sean were just hosting her because of Meredith, it was such a rare reunion for the three of them.

Despite it being a hypocritical show of affection, it was still rare for her.

She picked up the spoon. When she was about to take a sip, her sharp sense of smell told her that there was something wrong with the chowder.

When Eloise saw Madeline putting down her spoon, she asked curiously, “Miss Vera, why aren’t you drinking it? Is it not to your liking?”

“I’m afraid you have to ask Diana about this,” Madeline said as she looked at the housekeeper who was standing at one side.

When the housekeeper’s name was mentioned, her expression changed.

Eloise and Sean were still puzzled when the housekeeper took out a fruit knife from behind her back and was about to stab Madeline with it.

Eloise and Sean were shocked when they saw the sharp knife approaching Madeline. They ran in front of Madeline to stop Diana.

“Diana, what are you doing?” Eloise stood in front of Madeline. “Miss Vera has no beef with you. Why do you want to kill her with a knife? Are you crazy?”

“Miss Vera? She’s Madeline Crawford! She killed Miss Brittany and changed her name so she could get away with her crimes! I must avenge Miss Brittany today!”

The housekeeper was extremely hostile, and her eyes were filled with hatred. She wanted so badly to chop Madeline into a million pieces.

Madeline finally understood. The woman who she saw hiding at the corner crying heavily while looking at Brittany’s photo was the housekeeper.

“She’s not Madeline! Madeline died a long time ago!” Eloise emphasized. “Put the knife down.”

“She is Madeline!” The housekeeper insisted. She waved the fruit knife again. “Madam, please get out of the way. Don’t you want me to kill this cold-blooded woman to avenge Miss Brittany?” the housekeeper said while charging toward Madeline and waving the fruit knife.

Madeline knew she could dodge from her safely. However, she did not expect Eloise and Sean to stand in front of her.

This surprised her.

Despite Sean and Eloise not knowing what was going on, at this moment, Madeline clearly knew that these two were the closest people to her.

She had never experienced protection from her parents. However, at this moment, she felt it.

“Ah!”

Clang!

“Ellie!”

While Madeline was spacing out, she heard Sean screaming frantically.

She lifted her gaze and saw blood pouring out from the back of Eloise’s arm.

“Madam! Madam, I didn’t mean to do that. I didn’t want to hurt you!” The housekeeper apologized hurriedly.

Sean carried Eloise to the garage quickly.

Madeline followed after them without hesitating.

Sean rushed to start the car while Madeline was looking after Eloise in the backseat. Blood poured from Eloise’s wound. Madeline felt as if her heart had been sliced open when she saw the long and deep wound on Eloise’s arm.

She removed her coat and wrapped it around Eloise’s wound.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0380

“Mrs. Montgomery, don’t fall asleep. We’re almost at the hospital.” Madeline grabbed Eloise’s shoulder, and when she saw Eloise almost losing consciousness, she kept trying to talk to her.

Her heart was speeding as she was extremely anxious. The corners of her eyes were also wet with tears.

“Mer...”

Suddenly, Madeline heard Eloise calling Meredith’s name.

Her heart was already aching. Now, it was one disaster on top of another.

At this moment, Eloise started pleading weakly.

“You’re also a mother, Miss Vera. I hope you can empathize with me as a mother. The hearing is tomorrow and I’m begging you to please let Mer off the hook. What she did was wrong, but as her parents, we’ve committed an even bigger crime. We didn’t educate her since she was small. Miss Vera, I’m begging you, please?”

Madeline pressed her lips together as she sobbed, her eyes wet with tears.

“Mrs. Montgomery, she’s not worthy of this.”

“She is. She’s my only daughter.”

Madeline bit her lip after she heard that. “She’s not. She’s not your biological daughter.”

“I know you’d say this tonight.” Eloise smiled superficially. “However, I must tell you that she is. She’s my biological daughter.”

After she said that, the car stopped moving.

Sean quickly carried Eloise into the hospital.

Madeline’s white shirt was stained with Eloise’s blood and even her hands were covered with blood.

She walked into the hospital. Since Eloise had lost too much blood, she was sent to the emergency department.

When she was in the elevator, Madeline received a call from Jeremy.

When he knew that Madeline was in the hospital, he canceled all of his online meetings and rushed to the hospital immediately.

When he saw her covered in blood, Jeremy’s heartbeat became erratic.

“Vera!”

He looked uneasy as he grabbed her shoulders frantically.

“I’m fine. This is Mrs. Montgomery’s blood.” Madeline explained.

Finally, Jeremy noticed Sean standing at one side.

After knowing what was going on, Jeremy looked at Madeline. His restless heart finally calmed down.

He never wanted to experience that unbearable pain again.

The door of the emergency department opened at this moment. A nurse quickly ran out and Sean stopped her. “How’s my wife?”

“Mrs. Montgomery’s wound is too deep and she has lost a lot of blood. She’s unconscious right now. Since her blood type is rare, the blood bank doesn’t have the one she needs. I’m about to go get some in our branch. It’ll take at least two hours.

“It can’t be helped.”

“It can.” Madeline walked over. “I can donate my blood to Mrs. Montgomery.”

“You?” Sean looked at Madeline in astonishment.

Jeremy’s eyes lit up.

“Stop wasting time. I’m going to donate blood now.”

Madeline turned around quickly while Jeremy and Sean followed after her.

After asking for some relevant information, Madeline quickly went through the procedure of giving blood. After a while, she donated 500cc of blood.

Jeremy removed his coat and draped it across Madeline’s shoulders.

When Sean saw Madeline giving so much blood for Eloise, he did not know what to say.

When she was about to leave, a nurse walked over. When the nurse saw Madeline, she was surprised.

“Oh? It’s you?”

Madeline was taken aback. She felt that the nurse looked familiar.

“You are...”

“Did you forget? When Mrs. Montgomery was losing too much blood during her surgery, her daughter refused to donate. Thankfully, you donated 500cc of your blood and it saved Mrs. Montgomery.”

The nurse slowly brought back Madeline’s memory.

Before she could deny it, the nurse said to Jeremy, “Mr. Whitman, I remember your son getting hurt and needing blood three years ago. Then, a kind woman donated her blood to him. Back then, you asked me who it was. Here, it’s this woman. She’s very beautiful, so I never forgot about her.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0381

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 381

After the nurse said that, the air around them felt incredibly stifling.

Madeline smiled calmly and said, "I think you must be talking about Madeline."

"It's her..."

Sean's shocked exclamations sounded in her ear.

Madeline turned around and saw regret as well as an apologetic look on Sean's handsome face.

"I didn't think that she was the one who gave blood to Ellie. I even..."

He had thought Madeline was bullying Meredith back then. As such, he yelled at Madeline angrily.

He had said to her, "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!"

Sean was stunned. He placed his hands over his eyes in remorse.

Madeline donated so much blood for Eloise and Jackson in secret back then.

However, she did not say anything. She only endured all of their evil words and reprimanding.

At that moment, Sean felt like he had committed the worst sin possible.

Now, even if he wanted to apologize, he did not have the chance anymore.

Madeline was dead.

“What’s wrong, Mr. Montgomery?” When Madeline noticed the worry and look of apology on Sean’s face, she asked softly.

Sean came back to his senses and smiled while hiding the uneasiness in his heart. “It’s fine. Thank you for giving blood to my wife, Miss Quinn.”

“Saving a life is like fighting against fire. I can’t just ignore someone in danger.” Madeline smiled. When she turned around, she saw Jeremy in a dispirited state.

The melancholy in his eyes was even more intense than Sean’s.

Madeline smiled bitterly.

She never expected them to thank or repay her by doing so. However, she did not expect them to give her such debilitating pain either.

Those words spewed at her back then were like invisible knives. They had sliced her skin repeatedly.

She still remembered the pain she felt back then.

After receiving Madeline’s blood, Eloise successfully averted danger.

Madeline let out a sigh of relief.

She was her birth mother, after all. She would be lying if she said she did not care about her.

Sean thanked her again and questioned, “Miss Quinn, how do you know that my wife has the same blood type as you?”

Madeline smiled and said, “After I came to Glendale, I saw a lot of information about Madeline and Meredith online. I know they have the same blood type, and I heard Meredith gave blood to Mrs. Montgomery as well. So, naturally, I was able to predict that my blood type must be a match with Mrs. Montgomery’s too.”

Sean was taken aback when he heard that.

Sean still remembered what the nurse said just now. She said Meredith refused to give blood back then. Eloise was only safe all thanks to Madeline.

Meredith had refused.

She had refused to give blood.

Which meant that she never gave blood to Eloise. However, when that happened, he remembered Meredith telling him that she was the one who gave blood to Eloise.

It seemed that Meredith was lying.

His allegedly kind and warmhearted daughter was telling such lies. On the other hand, she even slandered Madeline’s conduct.

Sean was obviously defeated. When Madeline told him she was leaving, he was still standing in place in shock.

Jeremy drove Madeline back to his place. On the way, Madeline leaned against the seat and fell asleep from exhaustion. When she woke up, it was dawn.

She noticed that she was lying in the bed in her old bedroom. Her blood-stained clothes had been removed and she was wearing her old pajamas.

Madeline grasped the front of her pajamas in concern. Thankfully, she had worn a tank top underneath her shirt just in case. Unless Jeremy had deliberately pulled down her tank top, he would not have been able to see the mole.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0382

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 382

Madeline got out of bed and cleaned herself up. When she was about to look for Jeremy, she heard noises from the balcony.

She looked over and saw the man standing there alone. Jeremy's tall and slender back looked frail.

There was a cigarette between his long fingers. The tip of the cigarette lit up and dimmed simultaneously, looking desolate in the morning sun.

Perhaps he heard footsteps, so he turned around and saw Madeline walking toward him. He narrowed his eyes into a grin. "Why don't you sleep more?"

"I'll wake up if I get enough sleep." Madeline smiled. When she saw Jeremy in yesterday's clothes, she asked, "You didn't sleep for the entire night?"

He curled the corner of his lips. His eyes were as dark as night as they were glued on Madeline's fair and gentle face.

"It's been difficult for me to fall asleep for the past three years."

A glint flashed across Madeline's eyes when she heard that.

Jeremy extinguished his cigarette and walked in front of her.

The unique smell of tobacco from his body surrounded her slowly.

“Vera, do you think a person will be forgiven after they apologize for the mistake they made?”

Madeline thought about what happened last night when she heard that.

That nurse had made him think about what happened a few years ago.

Perhaps he did not expect the woman who he thought to be evil to do something like that in secret. Therefore, that was why he reckoned that he was wrong.

Madeline smiled. She lifted her hand to caress Jeremy’s face in concern. “Jeremy, what’s wrong? Why are you asking that question all of a sudden?”

Jeremy held her hand that was on his face.

His hand was cold, and the slight temperature in his hand enveloped hers. “You won’t leave me, right?”

“Why would I leave you for no reason?” Madeline asked with a slight smile. “You must be tired from staying awake the entire night. Go have some rest. We need to go to the court later. Meredith’s hearing is today,” Madeline said, turning around after retracting her hand.

When her hand left the source of warmth, the faint temperature disappeared as well.

Jeremy looked at Madeline’s back. The expression in his eyes was getting more and more peculiar.

...

Meredith's hearing started at ten in the morning.

After a while, Meredith was brought out.

She was wearing a blue and white striped prisoner's outfit. Despite having tidied herself up, she still could not hide the freckles and dark circles on her face.

At this moment, she looked completely different from the image of a socialite from a wealthy family that she had built.

Meredith was brought to the dock. When she saw Sean, she had already readied her tears before looking at him. She was curious about why Eloise was absent.

After scanning across the gallery, she saw Jeremy. Meredith started sobbing even harder now.

The lawyer Eloise hired for Meredith was exceptional. After a while, the circumstances were reversed and Meredith was about to be announced as not guilty.

When she saw this, Meredith used this opportunity to cry out a grievance, "Your Honor, I was wrongfully accused! Someone is framing me!"

She looked at Jeremy after she said that.

"Jeremy, do you see this? I'm innocent. I never did anything that'll go against my conscience."

"Of course, you've never done anything that went against your conscience. You don't even have one anymore."

Madeline's cold tone sounded in the court.

Meredith lifted her gaze and saw Madeline walking over with a powerful aura. She was dressed in a simple yet elegant suit.

Madeline's appearance quickly trumped how Meredith looked right now.

Meredith gritted her teeth and clenched her fists as she scowled at Madeline.

Madeline walked to the witness stand and bowed to the judge. "Your Honor, I'm the victim of this case, Vera Quinn. I have solid evidence that can prove Meredith Crawford did plan to harm me and her son, Jackson Whitman."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0383

When Meredith heard that Madeline had more evidence, Meredith started to panic.

“Your Honor, don’t trust this woman. She’s trying to frame me! I’m being falsely accused by her!” Meredith pointed at Madeline and shrieked emotionally. “I’m really innocent, Your Honor!”

“Defendant, please calm down. If you continue to make noise, the court will charge you with contempt of court,” the judge said seriously.

“...” When she heard this, Meredith shut her mouth quickly.

However, she was nervous. She did not know what Madeline’s solid evidence was.

At this moment, the police brought Jon and Rose inside.

Meredith looked at Jon and Rose anxiously. She knew something was not right.

Just as she expected, Jon and Rose were testifying against her in court!

“Your Honor, my adopted daughter, Meredith Crawford, was indeed the person who planned this. She was discussing this with us at our home,” Rose said. She did not dare to look Meredith in the eyes.

Jon made a full confession at one side as well. “We wanted to stop Meredith, but she did not want to listen. She said Vera Quinn stole her man and she had to teach her a lesson. She bribed some thugs to kidnap her son so that she could blame it all on Vera Quinn. Then, she decided to kill Vera Quinn and end things once and for all in a blind fit of rage.”

!!!

Meredith widened her eyes in shock. She almost started vomiting blood from anger.

“You two...” Her chest was heaving violently. “You two are crazy! How can you say something like that?”

Rose and Jon looked at her nonchalantly. “Mer, now that it has come to this, we can’t wrongly accuse the innocent anymore. Vera is truly innocent.”

“...” Meredith was so angry that her entire body was shaking.

Although she had indeed planned to get rid of Jackson and Madeline, this idea was given to her by Rose.

Now, there were witnesses and evidence present. Meredith did not have any more comebacks. Even if her lawyer was glib-tongued, he would not be able to turn the circumstances around at this stage.

Plus, Meredith was indeed guilty.

The judge quickly came up with a verdict—12 years of prison time.

Meredith started wailing emotionally. “I’ve been wrongfully accused! I want to appeal! I will definitely appeal!”

Of course, she could not accept the charges. She could not even stay one day there, let alone 12 years!

What would she have to compete against Madeline after 12 years?

Madeline smirked as she watched Meredith get brought away by the marshals. The joy in her eyes showed how pleased she was to be able to finally vent her anger.

‘12, Meredith. You deserve this.

‘Do you think 12 years is enough?’

‘I will make you pay for what you did to my grandpa and my baby soon!’

After the dismissal of court, everyone had left including Sean who left unbeknownst to anyone. Jeremy was the only one sitting there.

He was looking down, his eyebrows tightly knitted together.

Madeline walked in front of him. “Are you feeling sorry for Meredith? Are you blaming me for being too merciless?”

“She deserves this,” Jeremy said softly.

“Then why do you look so down?”

Jeremy smiled superficially after hearing that. Sarcasm escaped from his lips as he said, “If she’s guilty, then I’m equally guilty.”

Madeline lifted her gaze. “Is the reason why you think you’re guilty because you didn’t take care of Meredith well enough and that’s why she ended up like this today?”

Jeremy looked at Madeline’s cold face profoundly. “I did neglect one person. However, that person isn’t Meredith,” he said and stood up. He then held Madeline’s hand. “Let’s go.”

Madeline was making guesses at what he was saying after he gave her such a vague answer.

Maybe the person he was talking about was the woman who was sleeping forever in the grave.

However, who was that woman ?

...

On the other side, after Sean left the court, he went straight to the hospital.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0384

Sean returned just as Eloise's wounds were redressed. She immediately rushed forward to ask, "How did it go, Sean? How's Meredith—"

"Evidence is conclusive. The judge ruled Meredith a 12-year time in prison."

"No!" Eloise's expression paled as her vision went black. She almost fainted over.

Sean immediately went to hold her. "We've done everything we can, Eloise."

"So what? We still couldn't save our precious daughter in the end!" Eloise cried heartbreakingly. "The lawyer said he could 100 percent guarantee that Meredith would be able to get out of it! How could it end like this?"

"Vera came out with a final piece of evidence and Meredith's foster parents suddenly came forward to testify against Meredith as well."

"What? That Vera Quinn again!" Fury flared in Eloise's eyes. "To think that I had invited her over for dinner last night, hoping she would let Meredith go. I can't believe how cruel she is! Why did she have to force Meredith to a corner? I should never have held Diana back last night! This would never have happened if she had died!"

"Have you gone mad from the anger, Eloise? How could you say such a thing?" Sean felt both shocked and exasperated. "Don't you know who donated blood to you last night? Had it not been for Vera, you wouldn't be well and alright here now!"

Eloise was stunned by his words.

Eloise clenched her teeth when she remembered Meredith's current situation and replied disdainfully, "I don't need her to save me! How much did she donate? I'll just give it back to her!"

"You may be able to return hers, but how will we return Madeline's?" Sean asked dejectedly.

Eloise stared at Sean in confusion. "Madeline? Why are you reminding me of that wretched woman? Death is the smallest penalty for all the horrible things she has done. What can we possibly owe her?"

Sean frowned bitterly and sighed. "You lost an unexpectedly huge amount of blood during an appendicitis surgery you did three years ago, do you remember?"

"Meredith and her foster mother even told you that Meredith was the one who donated the blood that brought you back to safety, but that was far from the truth. Meredith wasn't the one who donated the blood at all. In fact, she actually rejected to do so."

"What... Why?" Eloise's eyes widened in disbelief. "What are you saying, Sean? Why would Meredith refuse to donate blood to me? And... And if it wasn't Meredith, then whose blood was it?"

"It was Madeline's."

"..." Eloise was gaping in shock. She felt the air around her suddenly turn into a vacuum, making it hard for her to breathe. "What... What are you saying, Sean? After all those horrible things she's done, why would Madeline donate blood to me? You must be mistaken!"

"I'm not. I contacted a friend to help me check too. From the records back then, Madeline had saved not only you, but she saved our grandson, Jackson, as well."

Sean exhaled a long sigh, leaving the guilt and regret he felt to simmer in the silence around them.

“It seems like we’ve been left in the dark for too long, Eloise. I can’t possibly imagine how many wrongdoings our daughter has done behind our backs. It’s all our fault for not being there to nurture her. She’s been led completely astray by her foster parents.”

“...” Eloise was still dazed while her eyes were blankly staring ahead. “It can’t be. It can’t. It just can’t...”

Eloise could not bring herself to accept the truth, yet the evidence that was laid bare in front of her had guilt and remorse bubbling from within anyway.

Both Madeline and Vera had saved her without asking for repayment, yet all they got were such horrible words in return...

Sean persuaded her to rest and heal, but Eloise could not hold back the need to see Meredith.

Eloise turned to Sean just before she alighted the car. “Won’t you come with me? Meredith’s still our daughter, after all.”

“I don’t think I’m ready to meet such a daughter yet.” Sean frowned conflictingly. “She may be our only daughter, but her actions...”

Eloise understood without Sean needing to say more, so she turned and got out of the car herself.

Eloise still found it impossible to believe that this was Meredith’s true appearance now that she had calmed down, but Eloise admitted that Meredith had indeed taken it too far.

As a mother, she felt the responsibility to rein Meredith back.

After walking inside, she was informed by the police that someone else was currently visiting Meredith.

When she asked him, she found that it was none other than Rose and Jon.

Thanks to a small tip from Sean, Eloise was allowed in.

However, she was met with Meredith's agitated shouts just as she arrived at the door of the conjugal room. "Are you happy now that I'm in jail? You've gone mad! How could you betray me?"

The corners of Meredith's eyes were dyed red as she glared at Rose and Jon.

Eloise had never seen such a ferocious look on her.

Rose explained herself with her head drooped down. "We didn't have a choice. It was either you or us."

"Then it should have been you!" Meredith banged on the table harshly.

"Calm down, Meredith. Being upset won't get you anywhere. Just hold off for a little longer, okay? I'm sure Eloise and Sean will get you out of here," Rose brushed her off exasperatedly.

Meredith ground her molars together impatiently. "Just who are my parents, you or them? I can't believe you'd indict me just to save yourselves. Did I not bring you enough advantages these few years from the Montgomeries? How could you betray your biological daughter? Or are you telling me that you've forgotten that I'm your daughter after all the luxuries you've sucked off me!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0385

Eloise felt her body freeze at the words Meredith had shouted.

Her hand trembled as it pushed hard at the door to the conjugal room.

The three inside jolted at Eloise's sudden arrival.

"Mrs. Montgomery... What are you doing here?" Rose shot up from her seat to look uneasily at Eloise.

Meredith looked calm now that the wave of shock had passed. "Are you here to see me, Mom? What happened to your hand? What's with the bandages?"

Her tone was now kind and the look in her eyes was delicate, leaving no traces of the dominance and bossiness that were there mere moments ago.

Eloise could not care less about Meredith's false concern and greetings, for her eyes were currently boring into that ever-so delicate-looking appearance. "The words you just said, did you mean them?"

Meredith was stunned. She deduced that Eloise must have heard the words she shouted earlier in unrestrained anger.

"You've misunderstood, Mom. It's just..."

"I did not misunderstand!" Eloise interrupted icily, a mist of wet anger tinting her eyes. "You've been lying to me this entire time! You were never my daughter! I can't believe I let myself believe this horrid lie you fed me!"

“We didn’t lie, Mrs. Montgomery. You’ve misunderstood us.” Rose frantically insisted. “Meredith is your daughter. Don’t you remember her birthmark and the DNA test? Both of which prove that she is yours and Mr. Montgomery’s daughter!”

“Birthmark?” Eloise suddenly scoffed self-deprecatingly. “Now I know why the two of you went to that tattoo parlor the other day.”

“...”

At that, Meredith and Rose turned to share a look.

They had not expected Eloise to know of such a thing.

“It was never a birthmark, but a tattoo! You had someone tattoo a birthmark on you!” Eloise saw through their lie.

Both Meredith and Rose were lost for words.

“The DNA test must be fake as well then. You must have tampered with it too.” Eloise stared furiously at Meredith whose eyes began to harden and grow fierce. “You’re an abomination, Meredith Crawford! I saw you as my own daughter and defended you time and again after all the despicable things you’ve done. Hell, I even helped you deal with Vera and thought to pull you out from whatever horrendous place you must be in, but instead, what I get is you teaming up to lie to me?”

“That’s not true, Mrs. Montgomery. It’s just a misunderstanding...”

“Forget it. You don’t have to explain anymore.” Meredith interrupted Rose coldly as she raised her dark and sinister gaze to meet Eloise’s furious ones. “You’re right. I’m not your daughter.”

Eloise felt her heart clench and her mind buzz at Meredith’s admittance.

She admitted it.

She was not her daughter!

“So Vera has been telling the truth the entire time.” Eloise could not feel more regretful. Remorse and guilt ate away at her as she recalled the horrible things she had told and done to Vera.

Meredith scoffed condescendingly. “You’d better think of a way to get me out of here, Eloise Patton. Or you can give up on seeing your daughter ever again!”

Eloise’s eyes flared at the words. “You know where my daughter is?”

“Of course, I do. Where else would I get that gold pendant anyway?” Meredith smirked casually before slowly standing again. “We’re done here. Now if you could escort me back please, Officer?”

Eloise dashed forward like an unsheathed sword as Meredith made a move to leave. “Don’t go, Meredith. Tell me where my daughter is!”

Meredith chuckled coldly without care. “Get me out of here, then maybe I’ll tell you. You’d better not tell the whole world about this, or I’ll make sure you’ll never see your daughter again.”

“Meredith Crawford! Meredith, you stand right there!”

Eloise wanted to stop her, but Meredith had already turned and left.

Reading the room, both Rose and Jon also made their way to leave as well. Eloise quickly chased after them.

Sean, who was waiting for Eloise, watched as Rose and Jon suddenly dashed out as the jail doors opened with Eloise hot on their tails.

Realizing something was wrong, Sean immediately got out of the car and ran over.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0386

He approached to support a panting Eloise lovingly. “What happened, Eloise?”

Eloise’s eyes were red as he pressed a hand above her aching heart. “I just found out that Meredith... She... She was never our daughter...”

“Wha-What are you talking about?” All color drained from Sean’s face.

Sean felt his body shiver as Eloise retold the entire incident.

With Eloise in tow, they went to talk to Meredith again, but it was to no avail as she refused to speak.

Meanwhile, Rose and Jon were nowhere to be found. They had seemingly vanished into thin air.

The two returned home in the end, the emptiness of the huge villa suffocating them.

Eloise searched through Meredith’s room for a lead, but all she could find was the gold pendant she had made years ago for their newborn.

The name ‘Eveline’ could still clearly be seen on the pendant.

The afternoon sun was bright, a stark contrast to the gloom over Eloise and Sean’s heart.

Eloise’s heart clenched painfully as tears streamed uncontrollably down her cheeks.

Not even Sean's comforting words could bring an end to her tears.

While Sean was not doing any better, there seemed to be a glimmer of relief within him.

He was relieved that such a wretched woman was not their daughter. He was relieved that their daughter was still alive.

Knock, knock, knock. A maid suddenly knocked on their room door. "Sir, Madam. Mr. Whitman and Ms. Vera are here."

Eloise and Sean immediately lifted their heads, the former's eyes flaring with a prayer of hope. "Perhaps Vera would know something."

With that, she wiped off her tears and ran down the stairs, ignoring the pain in her hand.

Madeline and Jeremy entered the living room to find Eloise dashing down the stairs messily with Sean following right after.

What was going on?

Meredith shared a confused look with Jeremy before turning back to smile at them. "I heard you got out of the hospital, Mrs. Montgomery. Jeremy and I are here to see you."

Eloise's rushed footsteps turned into elegant ones at her words as she reined in her emotions to give a kind smile. "Sean told me you were the one who donated blood to me, Miss Vera. Thank you. You've kept me from a life-threatening situation."

Her eyes turned to look at the floor in shame as she spoke frankly.

“Yet I kept thinking that you were trying to pick on Meredith, and I even foolishly claimed that I didn’t need your blood.”

Madeline was shocked at the words she heard.

Eloise smiled kindly as she approached them.

“Please, Miss Vera, come take a seat. I’d like to apologize for what happened yesterday. Don’t worry, I won’t let it happen again.”

Madeline smiled as she glanced at Jeremy. “With Jeremy here, I’m sure no danger could make their way to me.”

With that, she turned and sat. Lifting her eyes again, they zoned in on the gold pendant in Eloise’s hands.

One look was enough for Madeline to recognize the pendant. It was the one her grandfather had given her, the one with her birth name on it.

Then, her eyes trailed up to Eloise who looked nothing short of exhausted. Her complexion was dull while her eyes were red as if she had been crying moments ago.

Perhaps she was worried about Meredith.

Madeline thought out loud in a mocking tone, “Are you sad because of what happened to Meredith, Mrs. Montgomery? It doesn’t matter what you think of me. Even if you’re adamant about me picking on Meredith on purpose, I don’t regret what I’ve done, and I’d do it again in a heartbeat. Meredith deserves the punishment for her actions.”

Madeline watched Eloise huff self-deprecatingly at her words as tears began to trickle from the corner of her eyes.

Madeline was shocked to see such a reaction, but Eloise lifted her gaze to meet the others there. “I’m so sorry, Miss Vera. I was a fool to refuse your advice and question your intentions when you were merely telling the truth. Meredith really isn’t my daughter.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0387

Madeline's eyes flickered with interest as she stared at Eloise, whose tears were streaming freely, in shock. "Why would you say so, Mrs. Montgomery?"

"Eloise and I heard Meredith admit it herself." Sean sighed, his brows furrowing tightly. "I can't believe that she stole the identity."

Madeline was rather confused at the turn of events.

Why would Meredith admit to not being the eldest daughter of the Montgomery family?

Doing such a thing gave her no advantages.

"I would never have heard her conversation with Rose and Jon had I not gone to visit her at the detention center."

Eloise scoffed self-effacingly, and it dawned on Madeline that Eloise had overheard something that was never meant for her to hear.

A lie would always be a lie. Finding out the truth was only a matter of when.

It felt ironic, and she heard Eloise let out a chuckle.

"I thought that I had finally found my daughter after so many years. Sean and I drenched her with love these three years we thought she was ours. I didn't even blink when I spent tens of millions on her as long as it made her happy."

Madeline was not surprised at the number at all.

Meredith had always been greedy for fame and wealth. Although most of the money she got her hands on was taken for her own personal use, a fraction of it had certainly gone to Rose and Jon as well.

“I don’t even care about the money. What hurts is how she took advantage of our love for her. She has been nothing but fake with us these three years. The only thing about us that mattered to her was the Montgomery family wealth.”

Eloise had finally seen through Meredith’s facade.

However, it was too late.

Madeline pondered silently, finding the absurdity of the situation hilarious.

‘My dearest mom and dad, during the time you took Meredith as your daughter, everything she has done, no matter how immoral, you took it in your stride and chose to forgive.

‘Your love and protection for her were no different to Jeremy’s at the very beginning. You’d stab and hurt me without a second thought and only cared about who was truly in the wrong.

‘The wounds may heal, but the scars will always remain.’

“Miss Vera.” Eloise suddenly reached out to grab Madeline’s hand, her expression on edge.

Madeline reined herself back to stare at Eloise’s hallowed look.

“You told me last time, Miss Vera, that you heard Rose Tanner say that my daughter died three years ago. Could you please recall again if you’ve heard her wrongly? My daughter isn’t dead, is she? She can’t be!”

Eloise's grip on Madeline's hand tightened.

Hope and expectations glimmered in the woman's eyes as she hoped of a reply that would put her at ease.

Madeline felt her previously calm heart skip a beat as she stared at the teary eyes before her.

"Miss Vera?" Eloise urged anxiously.

Madeline raised her gaze to meet Sean's sincere and pleading ones. Her heart calmed as a faint smile graced her lips.

"I couldn't hear that well since I was standing outside the door. I hear that Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery are well-known in the world of charity? I'm sure your daughter would still be well and alive, living off the blessings of your charitable works."

Eloise's shoulders slumped in relief at the words while Sean sent a grateful look at Madeline.

"That's great, Sean! Our daughter's still alive. Now we just need to find out where she is." Eloise turned to look at Sean excitedly.

Madeline watched quietly, her heart not feeling even a shred of the elation they felt.

It dawned on Madeline that Jeremy had gotten quiet ever since Eloise told them that Meredith was not the Montgomeries' true daughter.

Madeline turned her head to find Jeremy completely emotionless. His expression was frozen as if he was a mere ancient Greek sculpture. Had it not been for the swirl of emotions in his eyes, Madeline would think that he was hexed with a freezing charm with how quiet he was.

However, why was he acting in such a way ?

Eloise's emotional rollercoaster ride had caused the wound on her hand to seep with blood again.

Sean was quick to bring her to the hospital. Before they got in the car, Sean walked over to thank Madeline personally.

As grateful he was for the blood donation, he was more grateful for the white lie Madeline told earlier.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0388

Madeline watched the car drive off silently. Technically speaking, it was not a lie.

Their daughter was still alive.

‘The one who died was the silly and foolish Madeline Crawford, not your daughter, Eveline Montgomery.’

Jeremy had planned to bring Madeline to Whitman Manor after they visited Eloise.

However, he felt a change of heart at the sudden turn of events. “I just remembered that I have something important to deal with. I’ll send you home first and pick you up tonight?”

Madeline smiled kindly. “Go, Jeremy. I’ll wait for you to pick me up when you’re done.”

The corners of Jeremy’s lips quirked, but the smile was not one from the heart.

He was merely forcing out a smile.

Madeline had felt something was off about him ever since he heard that Meredith was a fake.

After alighting from the car, Madeline watched Jeremy turn the car around without a second glance backward.

It was a stark contrast to how he used to watch her leave before he made his way off.

Realizing something was wrong, Madeline hailed a ride to follow him.

She found that Jeremy had parked his car at the detention center.

Had he come to visit Meredith?

Madeline's eyes flickered with a cold glint as her lips quirked up into a mocking smile.

"You still love her, don't you, Jeremy?"

...

Meredith was jubilant when she came to know that Jeremy had come to visit her!

Oh, how Meredith wished that she could take a bath and do her makeup, but the detention center made having a good night's rest difficult.

Despite not liking how she looked without makeup, Meredith liked to think that she was rather gorgeous herself. Plus, with the trump card she had up her sleeve, Meredith was at ease.

Meredith's steps were light and easy. She even remembered to check her hair right as she arrived at the conjugal room.

Meredith felt her feet freeze as her eyes fell on the aloof expression of the man sitting not too far away when the doors opened.

She withdrew her smile and slowly made her way over. She could swear that the temperature around her dropped a degree with every step she took.

Meredith calmed her heart with everything she had and sat down in front of Jeremy.

Squeezing tears out of her eyes, she opened her mouth to sob. “You finally came to see me, Jeremy. I miss you so much. It’s horrible here. I think someone even hit me last night. They said that Vera is the one who told them to hit me. Jeremy, I’m terrified...”

Meredith sobbed. “Vera framed me, Jeremy, really. She even bribed my foster parents to testify against me. This woman isn’t easy, Jeremy. Don’t let her trick you!”

“Trick me?”

Jeremy’s frigid baritone barked out the moment her words fell.

Meredith shivered while staring into Jeremy’s deep peach-blossom eyes.

The man was in a black button-up that was layered underneath a windbreaker. Frosty abstinence oozed off him in waves, chilling whatever it touched.

“Everything I’ve told you is true, Jeremy. Don’t you believe me anymore? Did you forget the promise you made to me by the sea? You said you’d protect me, love me, and even marry—”

“Hmph.”

Jeremy gave a cold snort.

Meredith shivered again in fear, losing the courage to continue her lie.

She stared frantically at the man before her, his emotions not something she could grasp. “What’s wrong, Jeremy? What—”

Interrupting Meredith's question, Jeremy stood suddenly, his tall and lean figure casting a shadow that covered the glisten of fake tears in Meredith's eyes. He reached out to grab Meredith by her collar, pulling her harshly toward himself.

Those sinister eyes of his drilled into Meredith. "You were never the girl I met by the sea in April Hill to begin with!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0389

Madeline watched the car drive off silently. Technically speaking, it was not a lie.

Their daughter was still alive.

‘The one who died was the silly and foolish Madeline Crawford, not your daughter, Eveline Montgomery.’

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However, he felt a change of heart at the sudden turn of events. “I just remembered that I have something important to deal with. I’ll send you home first and pick you up tonight?”

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Those sinister eyes of his drilled into Meredith. "You were never the girl I met by the sea in April Hill to begin with!"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0390

Staring down at her like a champion looking at the loser, the man oozed with a frightfully domineering aura.

“You wouldn’t waste my time unless you want a painful death coming your way.” He warned frostily.

Meredith coughed twice for the sake of it and raised her head with difficulty. “I... I know I shouldn’t have lied to you, Jeremy. But... But I promise, the love I feel for you is real. I love you, Jeremy, I really do—”

“Cut the bullsh*t,” Jeremy interrupted emotionlessly.

Meredith fell face-down on the ground and bit her lip. “Alright, I’ll tell you...”

Head down, Meredith’s eyes flashed with deceit. ‘If I can’t get this man, Madeline, then you can forget about getting a shred of his love as well!’

She clenched her jaw and swore internally before opening her mouth to say, “There was an elective I took with Madeline in my freshman year, and there was a girl with the nickname Linnie in that class. Madeline and I had accidentally taken a look at her diary, and we found out that she shared a past with you, Jeremy. So I...”

Meredith paused before continuing, “The girl transferred for some reason in the end, but I managed to steal her diary before she left. I think Madeline wanted to pretend to be that girl too, but she couldn’t because I was a step ahead of her.”

With that, she reached out to tug Jeremy’s pant leg and begged with newfound humility. “Please, Jeremy. For Jack, let me go...”

“How dare you speak of Jack? You were never fit as his mother at all!”

Jeremy kicked Meredith away coldly as his words fell. Then, he turned around to leave, bringing the cold he oozed with him.

“Jeremy, Jeremy...” Meredith wailed with her rigid throat, but the man slowly vanished from her vision anyway...

Leaving the detention center, Jeremy sped his way to the gates of a cemetery.

He lit a cigarette and stared sorrowfully into space.

Meredith’s words reminded him of something Madeline had told him six years ago.

Tears were streaming down her face while she lay by his feet, accusing him of turning back on the promise he made to her when they were young. He was shocked and mere moments away from believing that Madeline was indeed the girl years ago when Meredith had suddenly appeared with her sly words that convinced him Madeline was lying and that she was a wicked woman.

Yet the fact remained that Madeline was not such a woman at all.

She had given without a thought of repayment—a virtue hard to come by.

How could such a woman peek at the contents of another's diary, and then steal their identity?

Jeremy's heart thrummed erratically in his chest. After taking a long drag of the cigarette, he exhaled a puff of white smoke.

Then, he had an epiphany. It was an explanation that resolved every confusion and question mark in his head.

For a split second, he could not describe the flurry of emotions within him.

Just then, his eyes caught sight of a white figure slowly standing from what should be Madeline's grandfather's grave. Her figure was a replica of the one in his memories.

He thought about the same silhouette he had seen the last time, though he was not able to find out who exactly the woman who left the flowers was.

Jeremy's heart picked up its pace as he immediately extinguished the light and strode over.

After leaving flowers for her grandfather, Madeline stood and walked over to the grave to caress the name engraved on the tombstone.

"I know you've always wanted to help me find my parents, Grandfather, but now that I've finally found them, I don't know if I should acknowledge them or not."

She smiled but felt the corner of her eyes sour.

"It's almost hilarious how my dearest parents and the man I used to love the most had held dear the wicked woman who killed you, my child, and almost me.

"But don't worry, Grandfather. Linnie's really close to avenging you two!"

The thrilling rush of revenge flared in Madeline's eyes as the corner of her lips quirked into a smirk.

She turned around to light him a candle, only to find someone standing not too far from her the moment she turned around...

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0391

The man before her gave off an air of frost and avoidance, his chiseled features betraying nothing as he stared at her.

The wind blew strongly in the deep of autumn at the cemetery, caressing the cheeks of those who visited.

Madeline calmly gave a soft smile at the man who had appeared in front of her. “Why are you here, Jeremy?” she asked, her tone casual with a hint of surprise. However, she did not let out the nervousness she felt.

Jeremy walked over slowly before turning to look at the tombstone. “Why are you here? And who’s this? Why are you paying respects to him? This is your first time in Glendale, isn’t it? I didn’t know that you had relatives resting here.”

Madeline pretended to be shocked as she replied, “Don’t you know, Jeremy? Madeline was still technically your ex-wife. Don’t you recognize her grandfather?”

“My ex-wife’s grandfather?” He stared dazedly at the name engraved on the tombstone, the words ‘Grandfather of Madeline Crawford’ were indeed engraved on the bottom left corner.

“Why would you come and pay respects to my ex-wife’s grandfather out of the blue?”

“Sympathy, perhaps,” Madeline parted her lips to reply in a heartbeat as she stared at the flowers she placed. “I’ve been feeling sad for this Madeline Crawford as of late. The man she loved deeply doesn’t even like her, and she had died being known as the shameless woman who even your family thinks death’s the least amount of punishment for her crimes...”

She said with a smile before bending down to light the candle.

“Perhaps It’s because I look too much like Madeline and have fallen in love with the man she was smitten with, so I couldn’t help but sympathize with her past. I had someone help me look into her past connections. Knowing that her grandfather had passed away, I thought that maybe I could pay my respects for her.”

Madeline found no logical faults in her explanation.

Meanwhile, Jeremy stood stunned by the side. Staring at the flickering candle, his deep dark eyes seemed to have been lit by a bright flare as well.

“Oh, are you here to give roses to someone resting here too, Jeremy?” Madeline stood and smiled, brushing off non-existent lint and smoke out of Jeremy’s shirt collar.

“The strong wind’s giving me a bit of a headache. How about we return first?”

Jeremy turned to face Madeline’s crescent-eyed smile and nodded.

Madeline watched Jeremy quietly as they made their way back and realized that he had yet shown any burst of emotions on his face.

Did he believe the words she said?

Most likely.

He could not possibly stay silent if he suspected her, especially not with how much he hated her.

...

Headlines of Meredith’s conviction began to trend in newspapers a few days later.

Following that was the incident of Meredith stealing the identity of Montgomerie's eldest daughter.

Netizens were in outrage. As much as they felt for the Montgomery family, they were also heartbroken for Jackson.

Such a smart and brave child did not deserve such a horrible and wicked woman for a mother.

While reading the news, the Montgomery family's Twitter post about the search for their daughter caught Madeline's eye.

Within the passage of text was a description of a butterfly-shaped birthmark on their long-lost daughter's waist.

Madeline immediately tried to stop that from trending.

She could not let Jeremy see such a piece of news now.

At the same time, Madeline knew that she had to pick up the pace of her revenge.

Jeremy came to look for her just as she read the news and informed her of the date when he was going to bring her to meet his parents.

Madeline made sure to dress up that day and entered Whitman Manor with her arm linked with Jeremy's just as the sun set over the horizon.

Oh, how unwilling Jeremy was when she had stepped foot here back then.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0392

Yet here they were, with Jeremy happily bringing her through Whitman Manor's doors.

Perhaps this was what people meant by the future was unpredictable.

Mrs. Whitman, Karen Yalaman, immediately rushed forward to ask when she realized that Jeremy had arrived. "Is it true, Jeremy, the things I read on the internet? Did Meredith actually do all those things? Is she sitting for 12 years? Did she actually pretend to be the Montgomerie's daughter too?"

Jeremy frowned in displeasure. "I don't want to hear her name anymore."

"But..."

"I'm here today for my fiancée to meet my parents. I'd appreciate it if you didn't speak of depressing names and things," Jeremy interrupted coldly before lowering his gaze to look at Madeline. "My mom made these dishes herself. I hope you'll find them to your liking."

"What?" Karen's expression darkened instantly. "You told me we had an important guest over tonight, Jeremy. You even told me to make the dishes myself! You're telling me it was for this woman?"

Madeline quirked a delicate brow and smiled lightly. "It's nice to see you, Aunty."

"Well, it's not nice to see you, you witch!" Karen spared Madeline a disdainful glance. "Looking at you kills my appetite!"

"Vera will be your daughter-in-law soon, so would you please not use such a sharp tone?" Jeremy asked distastefully.

Mrs. Whitman paused before huffing and marching to Mr. Whitman. “Do you see this? Your son’s gone mad! I can’t believe he brought home a woman who looks exactly like his ex-wife. Why divorce that b*tch anyway if this is the case?”

That b*tch.

Madeline’s eyes flinched as she pursed her lips while taking in Karen’s insulting label for her.

Jeremy’s patience was running thin. “If you don’t want this daughter-in-law, then you can say goodbye to having this son as well.”

“...” Karen’s expression froze. Seeing Jeremy pulling Madeline toward the door, she frantically composed herself and hid away her targeting words as well as attitude. “Forget it, forget it. Meredith’s had her fun already, not to mention that she’s been pretending to be the Montgomeries’ daughter this entire time. You don’t love her anymore, right? Then Mom won’t care anymore. Be with whoever you want.”

Karen turned and walked toward the kitchen. “I’ll go check if the soup is ready.”

Madeline took her jacket off and placed her bag down. “I’ll be going to the bathroom, Jeremy.”

Jeremy nodded warmly at her. “Be careful, alright? You’re a pregnant woman.”

“Alright,” Madeline replied dotingly before making her way there.

Mr. Whitman, Winston, glanced at Madeline and placed the finance newspaper down. “This Vera Quinn looks a lot like Madeline, Jeremy. What are you thinking? Why marry a woman who looks so much like the one you hate?”

“Who said I hated her?” Jeremy fired back, leaving Winston stunned.

Winston's impression of Madeline was rather neutral, for he had only met her two or three times since he spent most of his time working overseas, but Madeline's appearance was something fresh in his mind.

While he had not seen much of Madeline, he had heard a lot of the wicked things the woman did from his wife and thus came to the conclusion that Madeline was not a good person and was someone his son despised to his bones.

Yet now...

Madeline had no actual need to use the bathroom, but Karen's words fueled the burning flares of hatred within her. She needed to calm down.

She had thought that this mother-in-law of hers would help her when Meredith framed her for stealing a bracelet. Ultimately, Karen had referred to her as their maid instead.

She had never once taken this orphaned daughter-in-law of inferior status seriously.

After recollecting her emotions, Madeline then turned to walk out of the bathroom only to meet face to face with Old Master Whitman who had just returned from the garden outside.

"Hello, Grandpa Whitman. We meet again," Madeline greeted calmly, her chest filled with genuine respect for the man in front of her.

Old Master Whitman replied meaningfully as he stared at the gorgeous features in front of him, "I was still in doubt before, but I'm pretty sure about it now."

Suspicion rose in Madeline's chest, but she wore an expression of befuddlement. "What are you talking about, Grandfather?"

Old Master Whitman lifted his intelligent gaze that was now glistening under the light. "It's you, isn't it, Madeline? I know it's you."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0393

Madeline was stunned for a second before a calm smile graced her lips.

“I think you might be a little confused about me, Grandpa Whitman. How could I be Madeline Crawford?”

The light in Old Master Whitman’s eyes dulled slightly, but his gaze was clear. “I won’t force you to admit it if you don’t want to, Madeline.”

“I’m really not Madeline, Grandfather.” Madeline denied with a smile. “Why would I get married to the man who hates me if I was Madeline? I would’ve learned the last time that throwing myself to a flame would only get me burned.”

Old Master Whitman was shocked to hear the news. His white brows were furrowed tightly. “Are you really getting married to Jeremy?”

Madeline nodded decisively. “Of course, I’m pregnant with Jeremy’s child too.”

At that, Old Master Whitman’s gaze fell on her flat stomach. He pursed his lips but made no further comment.

“Grandfather, Vera.” Jeremy walked over. “Why are you talking in front of the bathroom?”

Madeline smiled and walked over. “I bumped into Grandfather by coincidence, so we talked a little bit. He even joked about me being Madeline Crawford too.”

Jeremy’s brows furrowed with a subtle tint of invisible melancholy, though it was quickly replaced with a smile. He took Madeline’s hand in his. “Vera does indeed look a lot like Madeline, Grandfather, but I assure you that they’re not the same person.”

Madeline felt tranquility wash over her at Jeremy's reassurance.

It was evident that he held no doubts.

His grip on Madeline's hand was gentle.

"I've decided to marry Vera, Grandfather. The wedding is set to be held in half a month. That's why I brought Vera here, to formally meet the family."

Old Master Whitman hesitated as his eyes fell on Madeline, then on Jeremy. He shook his head with a sigh. "This is your sin and therefore your punishment to bear."

"..." Madeline grew silent as she mulled over the old master's words. The meaning was clear to her, but she prayed that Jeremy would not pay it too much heed.

At that moment, the maid came over to notify them that dinner was ready.

Old Master Whitman left for upstairs with the excuse that he had no appetite. Including Madeline and Jeremy, the dinner table was set for four.

Despite her grave distaste for Madeline's presence, Mrs. Whitman held back on picking on Madeline since Jeremy was there.

"I hear that you're Miss L.ady's chief designer, Miss Vera. It's rare to see such young talent." Mr. Whitman praised.

Madeline replied with a light smile while turning to look at the man by her side, "It's nothing in comparison to what Jeremy has already accomplished."

“True. Jeremy was already the CEO of a multinational corporation when he was still in school. There aren’t many who can compete with Jeremy when it comes to this.” Karen glanced pridefully at Madeline. “You’ve put in so much work to get close to Jeremy, so what else can it be if not for the fame?”

Jeremy’s hands slowly came to a halt at the words, the prawn still partially shelled in his hands.

Picking up on Jeremy’s displeasure, Karen immediately changed the subject. “My borscht should be done soon. I’ll go take a look.”

She stood as she spoke, unable to bear the displeased aura that Jeremy was giving off.

Placing the peeled prawn on Madeline’s plate, Jeremy spoke gently, “My mom loves cooking, and borscht is one of her best dishes as well as her most favorite one to make. Drink more, it’s good for you.”

Madeline nodded mirthfully. Staring at the peeled prawn on her plate, her smile grew ironic.

“Never in your wildest dreams would you have imagined peeling prawns for the woman you hate, huh, Jeremy?”

“I remember waiting for you every night when we were married with a table full of food, hoping that you would return to eat. Yet instead, you held the wretched woman in your arms and left me alone to fester in the dust.”

Right then, Karen walked out of the kitchen with a maid behind her bringing the soup.

st, but she wore an expression of befuddlement. “What are you talking about, Grandfather?”

Old Master Whitman lifted his intelligent gaze that was now glistening under the light. “It’s you, isn’t it, Madeline? I know it’s you.”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0394

The corners of Madeline's lips curled as a smudge of mischief bled from her eyes.

Just as Karen was about to sit, Madeline frowned and placed a hand over her chest, dry heaving.

Everyone's gaze fell unanimously on Madeline while Jeremy reached out to hold her with concern. "Are you alright, Vera?"

"Something smells bad. It makes me want to puke," Madeline replied softly, "It might be from the soup, Jeremy. I feel bad. I think I need to vomit."

"..."

Karen's expression immediately darkened. This soup was one of her proudest dishes. It was rich in antioxidants and vitamins. It was also her favorite soup to drink.

Yet what had this woman said?

The smell of the soup was bad and made her want to puke?

"Bring the soup away," Jeremy demanded.

The maid was stunned, then she nodded and complied.

“Wait!” Karen stopped her. “What are you trying to say, Vera? You don’t have to eat my food if you think it’s so disgusting! What are you trying to imply by complaining about how it makes you feel like vomiting? You’re doing this on purpose, aren’t you?”

“Vera’s pregnant. Nausea is a normal side effect. If she doesn’t like the smell, then we’ll get rid of it.” Jeremy’s tone was stern, his words brimming with his desire to defend Vera.

“...” Rendered speechless, Karen resorted to glaring at Madeline.

Madeline raised her mirthful gaze to meet Karen’s angrily rolling ones and quirked a taunting eyebrow.

The dinner ended quickly, for Madeline seemed to gag at every dish Jeremy placed on her plate after a few bites.

Karen’s expression soured with each time Madeline gagged.

Mr. Whitman had stepped aside to make a phone call after dinner while Jeremy went to the kitchen to make Madeline something as she hardly ate all dinner.

Madeline and Mrs. Whitman were left alone in the living room.

The maid walked over with a platter of dessert and fruits, only to have Madeline place the spoon back down distastefully. She then picked up her phone instead.

After sparing a glance at the kitchen, Karen finally flew into a rage seeing as Jeremy had yet to return. “You’re doing this on purpose, aren’t you, Vera? It’s one thing to not eat the dinner I made tonight, but it’s another to spoil it the way you did! What do you want?”

Madeline looked up slowly. “So what if I did it on purpose?”

She admitted casually, leaving Mrs. Whitman shocked since she had not expected it at all.

“You...”

“Your dishes were so tasteless and they smelled so horrible that I couldn’t even swallow a bite. I was already as polite as possible because Jeremy is here, or I would’ve complained about you already had we been in a restaurant instead.”

“What... What are you saying? How could you insult my cooking?”

“Cooking?” Madeline took a whiff of the dessert before she threw it on the coffee table in disgust, knocking over the hot water on the table onto Mrs. Whitman’s expensive dress.

Karen sucked in a breath as she stood and pointed a mortified finger at Madeline. “Have you gone mad, Vera? How could you splash hot water on me? I knew you were no good by your appearance, looking just like that btch Madeline! I just never expected that you would be even more abominable than that btch!”

Seeing Madeline remain unfazed as she ignored her words, Karen reached out to grab Madeline’s wrist harshly. “I suggest you listen to me, Vera Quinn. You’d better not offend this mother-in-law if you want to marry into the Whitman family, or I swear to God, I’ll make sure you end up just like that b*tch Madeline! You hear me?”

Madeline turned to look at her wrist that was being grabbed by Karen as the woman’s warning sounded in the air. She then broke into a meaningful smile and slowly got to her feet...

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0395

“Mother-in-law?” Madeline scoffed as she spoke, mockery apparent on her enchanting features. “How dare you call yourself a mother-in-law?”

“...” Karen’s eyes widened in shock.

Madeline tugged her arm back as her proud eyes swept coldly over Karen’s frustrated and infuriated expression. Frost suddenly permeated the air. “You’re the one who has to watch herself around me. I’m not Madeline Crawford, and I won’t allow you to walk over me and scold or hit me as you wish.”

“You...” Fury flared in Karen’s eyes as she raised an arm to give Madeline a lesson.

“Stop!” Jeremy’s icy tone shot through the air, freezing Karen’s hand mid-strike.

Madeline quirked a defined brow and parted her pink lips. “Do you not see how much Jeremy cares for me? Don’t offend me, do you understand?”

“...” Karen was too infuriated to speak.

A sliver of fear shone in Madeline’s eyes as she looked up and walked toward Jeremy. “Let’s go back, Jeremy. I don’t think Aunty wants to see me.”

Jeremy sent Karen a frigid gaze. “This will be the last time I repeat myself. Vera’s going to be your daughter-in-law very soon. It would do you good to change your attitude around her.”

“Jeremy! You... Don’t let yourself be blinded by this woman’s lies! She’s not as fragile and innocent as you think!” Karen pointed frustratingly at Madeline as she emphasized.

“All I’ve heard is you picking on Vera time and again. I also saw you raising an arm at her just now,” Jeremy stated indifferently as he placed Madeline’s jacket over her shoulders and took her hand. “Let’s go.”

“Hmm.” Madeline nodded, allowing Jeremy to interlock their fingers and bring her away.

Karen took a deep breath and ran after them to the car.

“Why would your mother lie to you, Jeremy? This woman really isn’t the kind and nice person you think she is! You’re going to regret getting married to her, just like when you married that b*tch Madeline!”

Jeremy’s grip on the steering wheel tightened at his mother’s words.

Raising the driver’s window in extreme displeasure, he hit the accelerator and left.

Looking through the rearview mirror, Madeline broke into a small smile at the sight of Karen stomping her foot angrily in the night breeze.

Jeremy made Madeline a bowl of noodles upon their return to the villa.

Perhaps it was the hunger, for Madeline found the noodles rather flavorful.

If they could go back in time and he had shown her even the littlest bit of warmth, they would never have ended up like this today.

Yet there were no such ifs in this world.

...

The following day arrived with Jeremy publishing the news of him getting married to a woman called Vera Quinn.

The internet was filled with thousands of comments blessing the couple, yet Madeline could not bring herself to feel a shred of happiness reading them.

These comments were once negative and filled with insults when she had married him years ago.

There was not even one person who blessed their union during that large-scale ceremony. Her innocent and hopeful prayers were the only thing there was.

Now that she had the blessings of the entire city, she no longer held the same youthful hopefulness of a bride-to-be.

Her phone rang as she read the comments.

Madeline picked the call up without a second thought after glancing at the caller ID. "Felipe," she greeted, paying attention to the words the man on the other end spoke before nodding. "Alright, I've got it."

Madeline hung up and grabbed her purse, leaving the house.

The unexpected guest she met as she stepped out had her stopping in her tracks.

Madeline's expression was one of annoyance as she took in Daniel's sudden appearance. "What do you want this time?"

"Are you free, Ms. Quinn? I'd like to bring you somewhere if that's alright," Daniel asked warmly, his voice making it seem as if he was pleading.

Madeline averted her gaze indifferently. "How many times do I have to tell you that I'm not Madeline Crawford? There's nothing for us to talk about."

With that, she walked away.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0396

“Ava’s been in a car accident. It’s not pretty. She wants to see you one last time before she goes.”

Madeline’s footsteps halted as her heart began to thrum erratically.

Taking a deep breath, she had a feeling that this could be a test from Daniel and Ava.

How could Ava suddenly get into a car accident? No way, she would definitely be alright!

Madeline thought to herself quietly as she stared at Daniel in annoyance.

“I don’t know this person you speak of. Please leave me alone.”

She hurriedly made her way off, but her heartstrings were pulled taut in her chest.

Daniel’s gaze was sorrowful as he stared at Madeline’s decisively retreating figure. “Do you have to be so heartless, Madeline? Ava was your best friend. Do you want her to leave the world without closure at all?”

Madeline heard Daniel clearly for she had not made it too far when he spoke. However, her heart was adamant.

Still, Madeline trembled as she took out her phone to inquire the moment she turned a corner.

They told her that a lady by the name of Ava Long had indeed arrived at the emergency room due to a car accident.

“Ava...”

Madeline's heart raced.

Hailing a taxi by the side of the road, she immediately made her way to the hospital Ava was admitted to.

Madeline arrived at a private hospital room after asking around the hospital staff.

The door was open, but she found herself not daring to walk in.

She was afraid to see what Ava would look like all injured.

She was even more afraid of having arrived a tad too late.

Balling her fists, Madeline still entered the room in the end.

Upon walking in, Madeline was dumbfounded by the sight before her eyes.

On the bed lay a person who no longer seemed to be breathing. The ECG showed a flat line.

Madeline walked over nervously, thinking that a closer distance would allow her to see the patient's face. However, she realized that their head had already been covered and hidden from sight when she arrived by the bed.

The entire bed was covered in a sheet of pure white.

Madeline's body froze where she stood as she reached out her shaky hands to lift the covers.

Ava's ashen complexion entered her vision, and Madeline felt the air get punched out of her chest. Her eyes burned as droplets of tears streamed from the corner of her eyes.

“Ava...” she murmured, a shaky finger tracing Ava’s still warm cheeks.

“Why? How did it end up like this?”

Madeline refused to believe her eyes.

She imagined the day of their reunion to be not too far from now, so why did Ava have to leave her at such a time?

Why did the Heavens have to take away the people she loved again and again?

What horrible war had she started in her past life to warrant such painful experiences in this life?

Madeline leaned down painfully, clutching Ava’s hand in hers. The sickening pale color on Ava’s cheeks tore her heart apart.

“I’m so sorry, Ava. Maddie’s late...” she whispered regretfully in Ava’s ear as she hugged her.

However, she then heard a low chuckle by her ear just as she finished speaking.

Still startled, Madeline was met with a familiar voice speaking next to her ear. “Are you finally admitting it now?”

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0397

Madeline's teary eyes widened. She was certain that she had not hallucinated that voice.

As she lifted her head, she stared at Ava's small grin while she smiled at her with her big eyes blinking. Ava was alive.

Madeline's heart was conflicted. Her feelings were mixed with a little frustration but also largely relief.

Ava shot up energetically as she took in the daze Madeline was in.

She quirked a proud brow at Madeline.

“Are you finally admitting me to be your good friend, Miss Vera Quinn?”

“...” Madeline was speechless.

Amidst the silence, Madeline felt someone approach her from behind.

Straightening herself and turning her head, she watched Daniel enter the room. His elegant and poised features were tinted with a subtle hint of excitement as his eyes glistened with tears.

It dawned on Madeline that this was indeed a test.

Despite having her doubts, she had decided to trust them in the end.

It was because she was truly afraid that the people she cared about would leave her for real.

“You’ve finally admitted it, Maddie.” Daniel’s Adam’s apple bobbed, and his voice shook as he walked toward Madeline. “It’s great to see you again.”

He spoke gently, slowly reaching out to touch Madeline’s cheek.

However, she only slapped his hand away. “Is this funny to you?”

Her tone was cold, laced heavily with admonishment.

Both Ava and Daniel were shocked. They had not expected Madeline to be so angry.

“Madeline...”

“Maddie, I...”

“Is joking about death funny to you?” Madeline asked furiously before turning to leave.

Realizing that they had gone too far with the prank, Ava turned to look at Daniel anxiously, urging him to chase after her.

“Madeline!” He caught Madeline before she could get too far away. “I’m sorry we took it too far. Although, I’m sure you must know why we did it.”

Daniel’s grip tightened on Madeline’s arms, expectations and earnestness seeping from his eyes.

“Do you know how sad we were when you left three years ago? Ava and I refused to believe that you were dead.

“Could you imagine how we felt when we saw you again? Yet all we got was you insisting that you weren’t Madeline. You were too indifferent to even spare us a glance.”

Daniel’s tone thickened with emotion as he stared at the flawless appearance in front of her. Finally, he reached out to caress her cheeks.

The realness and warmth at his fingertips had his eyes watering.

“We missed you so much, Madeline.”

Tears began to trickle silently from the corners of Madeline’s eyes at Daniel’s words.

Ava made her way slowly to Madeline’s side with her injured leg in tow, tears also streaming down her face. “Don’t be upset anymore, Maddie. I didn’t lie about the car accident. It’s just that I only hurt my leg.”

Choking slightly, she tugged on Madeline’s sleeves.

“Didn’t you lie to us too, Maddie? We’re even now, okay?”

Despite having not done anything wrong, the two apologized to her anyway.

Biting her lip, Madeline looked up with eyes that were brimming with tears.

She was no longer able to hold back her own emotions as she stared at Ava’s tear-streaked face. She then reached out to pull Ava into her arms.

“Ava…”

“Maddie...”

Ava felt a rush of elation wash over her due to this reunion with a lost friend as she hugged Madeline tightly.

‘Thank goodness.’

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0398

‘You’re still alive, Maddie.

‘Not to mention that your life’s great now.

‘Thank goodness...’

Having admitted her identity, Madeline told the two of her experiences the past three years as well as what she planned to do.

With reddened eyes, Ava sniffed and turned to look at a despondent Daniel. “No way, Maddie. Don’t tell me you’re actually going to marry Jeremy again! He almost killed you! It’s because of the news of your marriage to Jeremy that forced Dan and me to use such a way to get you to admit that you’re Maddie.”

With that, Ava proudly bumped her shoulder with Madeline’s.

“I knew you still cared about me, Maddie. You get full marks for this test!”

Madeline smiled before gathering her emotions, becoming serious. “My marriage with Jeremy is a must. I have to marry him.”

“Why?” Ava could not understand. “Did you forget how he and Meredith used to treat you?”

“It’s because of how they used to treat me that I must marry him again.” Madeline’s gaze was determined. “I’ll let those who hurt me know of the pain that I felt.”

Ava and Daniel knew better than to persuade Madeline when they took in the determination in her eyes.

Ava had to stay in the hospital due to her leg injury, so Daniel sent Madeline to the intersection instead.

Under the warmth of the autumn sun, he recognized the hints of youth from his memories in Madeline's defined brows and the small smile that graced her lips.

"Would you give me the chance to take care of you when your plan for revenge is over, Madeline?"

While remaining quiet, she found the telltale signs of a confession in Daniel's eyes.

Madeline gave a regretful smile. "Thank you for caring about me, Dan, but I've come to realize that timing matters too. Perhaps you were the right person at the wrong time."

"Do you still love Jeremy?"

"Love?" The word was extremely ironic when used with Jeremy.

Oh, how she had loved him, so much that she threw away her dignity and sense of self in the name of love. Yet all she got in return was the loss of her firstborn. Thinking about it now, her love was almost pitiful.

As such, she no longer loved him.

Every inch of her humble love had died the moment he scattered their child's ashes...

After parting ways with Daniel, Madeline made her way to the detention center.

Delight flooded her as she stared at a hollow-looking Meredith who sported dark circles under her eyes.

Turning on her phone, the entire screen was filled with news of hers and Jeremy's impending wedding.

Meredith's eyes immediately glowered as she read the news, envy and hatred bleeding from her gaze.

"You btch! Madeline, you btch! Don't think that you're off the hook already! Jeremy will strangle you to death if he finds out that you're Madeline! He would!"

Madeline kept her phone away casually. "I wouldn't be standing here with you if he actually wanted to strangle me."

"You..."

"What? How're you doing inside? Tsk, tsk. It's only been a while and you already look so haggard."

"Madeline, you... You're the one who made me like this. I'll definitely take my revenge!"

"Revenge?" Madeline found it hilarious. "Who are you to use such a word? You're the one who made you like this. This is your consequence for everything you've done to me! You're the one who threw me in jail and had inmates torture me. You even induced my pregnancy and stole my child! Your punishment is already light enough compared to all you've done to me!"

"You only spent three years in jail while I'm spending 12 years in here!" Meredith tightened her jaw.

"12 years for the three lives you took is light enough, isn't it? My grandfather, Brittany Montgomery, and my child. What are 12 years in jail compared to the three lives you took?"

Madeline's sharp gaze pierced into Meredith.

"You'd better believe that I won't stop at 12 years. With the three lives you took, I can promise you it'll only be a matter of time before you'll have to go and repent for the lives you've taken. It won't be any longer now."

The hands that held her pant legs tightened as a spark of fear flared in Meredith's eyes.

Meredith grew frantic as Madeline turned to leave.

She believed that the moment Madeline's true identity came to light, neither the Montgomeries nor Jeremy would let her go so easily. If that happened, she would have a painful death waiting for her.

She did not want to die, let alone never see the light of day again!

"Madeline Crawford! What if I tell you that your b*stard child never died? You'll think of a way to get me out of here, right?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0399

Madeline was already out the door when she heard Meredith shout the words. A spark of hope flickered in her frosty eyes.

Her heart raced as well, way past what her body could take.

While still suspicious, she slowly turned around and lifted her cold gaze. “You do know that such a fact will not suddenly make you an innocent woman.”

Meredith’s reddened eyes glared at her. “I’m not lying! Your child is still alive. I only told you it’s dead just to make you feel horrible. I hid your child away so that I could use him as a bargaining chip someday!”

Madeline stilled her heart and emotions as she slowly made her way back to Meredith. “Where’s your evidence? Tell me why I should believe you.”

“Would you rather believe that your child lives or is dead?” Meredith shot back with a smirk, for she knew that Madeline cared deeply about the child she had never gotten a chance to see!

It would definitely never cross Madeline’s mind that her child had been by her side this entire time!

Meredith took Madeline’s silence as an opportunity to keep talking. “Get me out of here, Madeline, and I’ll tell you where your b*stard child is. Or else—”

“If you think this is going to get you out of jail, then you’re dead wrong,” Madeline interrupted.

Meredith was stunned, gaping at the indifferent expression Madeline wore. “Don’t you want to know where your child is, Madeline?”

“Of course I do, but I also know that you’re not going to tell me the truth. And even if you do, you can give up on the thought of walking out of here a free woman. You will pay for the deaths of my grandfather and Brittany!”

“...” Meredith’s mouth froze as blood slowly drained from her face. Dazed, she watched Madeline turn around casually.

Was this still the very Madeline Crawford she had once walked and trampled on freely?

She refused to believe that someone could change so drastically.

This bargaining chip of hers had now become an immense lead for Madeline. She had played herself.

Meredith regretted it badly, but it was already too late for her to do anything about it now.

Walking through the detention center’s doors, Madeline stared at the azure sky with long-lost mirth and joy in her eyes.

The corner of her lips curled as tears trickled from her eyes.

“As long as you exist, my baby, Mommy will find you. I promise...”

Madeline hid the happiness of recovering something she had lost within her and began to investigate the truth back then.

If the child was alive, that meant the ashes back then were fake.

Had Meredith fooled Jeremy too?

If the ashes were fake, then Jeremy's aloofness was real as was his hatred for her and their child.

Despite her covert investigations the next few days, Madeline found no leads.

Nor did she find where Rose and Jon had hidden.

On the eve of the wedding, Madeline went to meet Felipe while Jeremy held an important video meeting in the office.

Felipe was shocked to know that the child stolen from Madeline when she was in prison was still alive.

"Could Meredith have lied to get out of jail? That woman seems to be capable of anything." Felipe remained suspicious.

"The fact that she's capable of anything makes it even more probable that she actually kept my child as a bargaining chip." Madeline analyzed, her eyes sparkling with hope. "I really want to see this child, Felipe. I wonder how she's doing and I wonder if she looks just like Lily..."

"I'll help you find this child." Felipe promised, her gentle eyes swimming with a rare tint of sadness. "It's been so many years and I, too, wish to see my parents again."

Madeline turned to look at Felipe as she took in his words, only to find an unfamiliar smudge of melancholy on his warm and gentlemanly features.

"Something's bothering you, Felipe. Won't you tell me? You've helped me so much, and I wish that I could at least help you carry a bit of your burden as well."

Felipe shifted his warm gaze to look at her. "As a gentleman, it is unsightly to have the girl I fancy worry about me, but as of today, there is something that I must be frank with you about."

Madeline tensed up reflexively as Felipe's gaze grew serious.

"What is it? I'm listening."

"Have you ever thought of why I don't like returning to Whitman Manor? Or that I don't like any of the people who live inside that villa?"

Felipe's words were soft, flowing smoothly into Madeline's ears like a calm river stream.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 0400

She shook her head and stared at Felipe in confusion, which led him to tell her a shocking excerpt of the past.

She finally understood the heaviness of the secret Felipe held in his heart...

Before she could even digest Felipe's story, Madeline received a call from Jeremy.

Gentleness returned to his eyes as he watched Madeline leave.

"I am no gentleman, after all. For what gentleman would push the woman he loves to the arms of a nemesis?"

He smiled faintly, a dangerous glint sparkling in his eyes.

Following Jeremy's request, Madeline arrived at the lobby of Whitman Corporations.

Just as she was about to walk in, Jeremy exited from the glass doors.

The man oozed with nobility with every casual step he took.

Setting his eyes on Madeline, the frost in his gaze immediately thawed into gentle warmth.

"You sounded impatient on the phone. Did you need something?" Madeline asked with a smile.

"Yeah." Jeremy took Madeline's hand and walked to the car.

After hopping in, Madeline almost thought that Jeremy was impatient about getting registered.

Still, it was unlikely that they would go to the town office since she had voiced the desire to leave it for later as there were no auspicious dates.

The road they drove on began to look familiar as she pondered.

It was the road to April Hill.

Indeed, half an hour later, the car came to a stop by the seaside of April Hill.

The mid-autumn wind was salty from the sea breeze as it stabbed waves of coldness into one's bones like pins and needles.

Madeline's heart was jumbled up as she stood facing the sea.

The place was once filled with innocent and beautiful memories, memories that had now wilted and died away.

Why did Jeremy suddenly bring her here?

With confused eyes, she turned around to look at the man who had now exited the parked car.

In his hands were a bouquet of burning-red roses, the gold flakes on its petals reflecting the sharp rays of the sun.

Jeremy stopped in front of her, the autumn wind shooing away the hard corners of his eyes.

"For you." He gently handed the large bouquet.

“Thank you.” Madeline accepted it with a fake smile as she looked up to meet Jeremy’s joyous eyes. “Why did you bring me here, Jeremy? You’re giving me roses too. What’s all this about?”

“Something I should’ve done ages ago.” He parted his lips to speak, but his words sounded muffled.

Madeline stared at him in puzzlement. “What do you mean?”

“Marrying you,” he spoke easily as he looked at her, warmth flooding from his peach-blossom eyes.

Jeremy went down on one knee as his words fell, his cold fingertips taking Madeline’s left hand.

Madeline had not the time to object before Jeremy placed a radiant diamond ring on her ring finger.

She was shocked by his actions.

His words reminded her of the promise he had once made.

Did he perhaps know something?

Jeremy’s attractive features grew closer as Madeline was still trapped in a daze. “I love you, truly.”

“...”

The word ‘truly’ was emphasized. With that, Jeremy leaned forward to capture Madeline’s lips in his...