With his heart shattered to pieces, Jeremy felt the shards cut deep within him, leaving bloody wounds in their wake.

He took the pen and stared at Madeline's alluring features while his breathing became hitched.

"Do you hate me that much?" he asked weakly, a shred of hope in his heart.

Yet Madeline's response was decisive. "I do, I hate you. So much."

Jeremy's lips curled faintly as he took in a deep breath.

He took the papers and skimmed through them.

She wanted nothing, none of his assets or money-just custody of the child.

Jeremy placed the pen down. "Very well. I agree to the divorce, but I won't let go of Jack."

Madeline's calm expression cracked. "What right do you have to fight over Jack's custody, Jeremy? What right do you have to be Jack's father?"

Jeremy merely smiled. He did not protest nor did he fight back.

He knew that this was the only way he could make her stay in his life.

Madeline grew furious at Jeremy's silence. "Talk, Jeremy Whitman. What do you want from me?"

"I want you to stay with me, and I want the four of us to be a family again," Jeremy spoke his deepest wish without a second thought.

Madeline raised an eyebrow in amusement. "How many times must I tell you for you to believe that Lillian is not your daughter? You were the one who said you didn't want me in the beginning, so why are you pretending that you love me now? Just because you want 70% of the sticks back?"

Jeremy shook his head, boring his burning gaze into Madeline.

"Believe me this once, Linnie. I'm truly in love with you."

"Believe you this once? Why? Why do I have to believe you when you've never believed me? Have you ever believed me, Jeremy Whitman?"

"Linnie..."

"Don't call me that. I don't want to hear it." Madeline pushed the man away as he leaned toward her. "We'll get a divorce, but I'll never give custody over to Jack!"

With that, Madeline walked toward the entrance and opened the apartment door. "Leave."

She demanded, only to have Jeremy hold her tightly just as she turned around.

She tried to get away, but Jeremy leaned over to capture her lips.

Not wanting her to struggle and run, a boney hand ran through her soft locks and held her head in place.

"What are you doing, Jeremy Whitman? Let g-mmph..."

Jeremy swallowed Madeline's muffled words.

The taste of her sweetness had him close to losing control.

Madeline could not fight against Jeremy's strength. She could bite, push, and hit, yet it would not deter him as he continued to kiss her.

Her nose was enveloped with his minty scent while her mouth tasted little else that was not him.

Her cheeks became heated as her mind supplied her with mixed memories of everything intimate he had done to her. His scent and his touches were overwhelming her.

"I really love you, Linnie. I've never loved Meredith at all, nor did I do any of this with her. There's only been you. You have to believe me. Believe me..."

Jeremy rambled softly as if he was drunk and the words drifted intoxicatedly into her ears.

Madeline frowned. "Let me go, Jeremy. Don't touch me..."

"Don't reject me, Linnie. Don't push me away. It hurts, please. Give me a chance to make it up to you. I can't lose you again. I can't..."

"Let go of me, Jeremy. Have you gone mad?"

"Linnie..."

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Amidst the chaos, Madeline lifted a hand to slap Jeremy across his face.

Stunned, he stopped all motions and the two shared erratic breaths in the quiet air.

"Get out! Go! I don't want to see you again!"

Madeline pushed the man out while in a daze and closed the door behind him.

Leaning against the door, she took a deep breath and looked downward, realizing that her shirt had been unbuttoned.

Who knew what would have happened between them if she had not slapped him.

Her rationality seemed to have been devoured by his kisses and quiet apologies.

Madeline gripped her open collar in relief that she had not given in to the man again.

Madeline brought Jack to the outskirts to play over the weekend and found herself calmed by the fact that Jeremy had not appeared before her again.

The day may have been chilly, but her heart was warm.

. . .

Jackson's innocent smile gave her comfort while it also made her heart clench.

There was hardly anything happy in her memories.

The only memory she had was of the day she married Jeremy. For a moment, she had been truly looking forward to the future and felt truly happy.

"Look at my little kite, Mommy. It's flying so high up," the child chirped in an elated tone.

Madeline smiled warmly. "Good job, Jack."

"Can we fly a big kite when Daddy comes back from work, Mommy?" Jackson asked hopefully, "Why aren't you saying anything, Mommy?"

Madeline immediately replied, "Anything you want, Jack."

"Yay!" Jack clapped his hands joyfully.

Madeline smiled, then her mind came up with memories of Jeremy's crazed kisses the other night.

Her phone rang. Seeing that it was from Eloise, Madeline picked up.

"What is it?" she asked straightforwardly.

"Brittany's case will be reviewed tomorrow, Eveline... Are you coming?"

There was no way Madeline would forget about Meredith's arraignment tomorrow.

"I'm not implying anything. Mom just wants to see you," Eloise added as Madeline did not reply. "Eveline? Are you there, Eveline?"

"Come quickly, Mommy. The kite's going to fall," Jackson's clear voice echoed through the microphone.

"Jack's calling me. I'll talk to you next time." Madeline changed the subject and hung up.

Clutching her phone, Eloise turned to look at Sean sorrowfully. They had never felt more hopeless than now.

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Madeline arrived on time in the auditorium the next morning.

Eloise and Sean had already arrived. Seeing Madeline, the two quickly changed their seats to sit by her.

Madeline was shocked to see Diana also in court and with the court police watching over her.

Court began soon enough and Meredith was brought out. While she had washed up, there was no covering up the hollowness and spots on her face.

All that was once arrogant and bright about her face was now downcasted and ashen.

Meredith's eyes immediately fell on Madeline who had Eloise and Sean sitting by her sides to defend her when she was called up. She balled her fists and glared enviously at Madeline.

Looking around the auditorium and realizing that Jeremy was not present, Meredith began to scream and shout, "I'm innocent! I didn't kill Brittany Montgomery! She's the one who killed Brittany! This woman!"

She pointed at Madeline.

"Your honor, this is the woman who killed Brittany Montgomery. Brittany was my best friend, so how could I have killed her? I've been framed! I have proof that she was the one who killed Brittany! I have proof!" Meredith yelled, which caused Diana to join in.

"So it was you who killed my Brittany, Madeline Crawford! How could you be living a life of impunity, you murderer ?! I can't believe my father even took care of you like you were his own granddaughter, you damned b*tch! Give me my Brittany back!"

With Meredith and Diana yelling, most of the people in the auditorium turned to look at Madeline with interest.

Infuriated, Eloise and Sean jumped up to defend Madeline.

"Let them say what they want." Madeline stopped Eloise and Sean. "There's conclusive evidence, so Meredith can't run from this. As for Diana, well, she'll know soon enough how foolish she's acting now."

Even though they were filled with fury, Eloise and Sean clenched their fists and sat back down.

Frustrated and filled with distaste, they felt unworthy of Madeline.

After all, the Montgomery family could be said to have played a part that resulted in the way Meredith and Diana acted today.

Neither of them had a conscience.

One of them switched their daughter for another, while the other stole their daughter's identity. They had taken everything that was meant for Madeline.

To think that the two would slander Madeline now.

What heinous and abominable people!

The judge hit his hammer heavily on the mantle. "Silence! Defendant, unless you wish to be additionally charged with contempt of court, I suggest you quiet down! You too, Ms. Diana Samuels."

Meredith bit her dry lip in indignance, but the look from her lawyer had her closing her mouth for the time being.

Diana quieted down as well, resorting to glaring at Madeline.

With nothing to be guilty about, Madeline met the suspecting gazes unfazed.

Soon enough, the court began to review the case.

Meredith's defense attorney was good at his job, having most likely been hired by Rose and Jon.

The earring stained with Brittany's blood was presented, to which the attorney argued, "Your Honor, while this is indeed my client's earring, it must also be said that this earring had vanished from the crime scene for more than three years. For it to appear now, there's reasonable doubt that the bloodstain was artificially added to frame my client.

"It's likely that the person who provided the earring intended to frame my client.

"This person is none other than Madeline Crawford who has continuously harassed my client!"

The layer then pointed everyone's direction toward Madeline who was sitting in the auditorium.

Meredith's lips curled silently. Their money had been put to good use. This lawyer had quite the skills.

Wonderful. With the credibility of the most crucial evidence subjected to doubt, there would not be further conclusive evidence and she would be ruled not guilty!

Eloise reached out instinctively to hold Madeline's arm and spoke out in her daughter's defense with a heavy gaze, "It's not my daughter's fault! My daughter has been the victim since the beginning!"

Fury bled into her eyes. "How could you be so evil, Meredith Crawford? You too, Diana. How could you join forces with Meredith to pick on my daughter when she was the one who killed your daughter and your father? I can't believe you'd be so foolish!"

"I'm not! How could you defend your daughter when she was obviously the one who killed mine? Quick, Your Honor, you have to charge Madeline for murder! Give me justice for my daughter!"

"Bang!" The judge knocked his hammer again. "Order in the court!"

Then, the bailiff stood and walked over to whisper to the judge. Listening, the judge nodded solemnly and announced, "New crucial evidence has come to light. May the witness be called to the stand."

New witness and evidence?

Both Meredith and her attorney turned to look at each other in shock.

Madeline turned to look at the door as well and was met with a familiar figure entering the room.

Jeremy?

Elegant and dignified, the man walked with a gush of cold air surrounding him.

Meredith's eyes widened. She was overwhelmed with a bad feeling.

Jeremy looked up at Madeline as surprise washed over her.

Their gazes locked as Madeline felt her heart quicken, for his eyes were filled with gentleness, affection, as well as searing passion.

Madeline averted her eyes as to not be influenced by Jeremy's gaze. She watched the man walk toward the witness stand.

Meredith stared at Jeremy with unease, while her eyes swirled with admiration and love for the man. Jeremy had not spared a glance before he handed over the new piece of evidence.

Meredith's expression fell as she saw it, staring fearfully at the phone in Jeremy's hand.

"This is the victim, Brittany Montgomery's, cell phone." Jeremy parted his lips calmly. "I found it in the defendant's house."

"..." Meredith's eyes turned to saucers and she was too shocked to speak.

"Within it is a recorded video three years ago taken by the victim herself. The video will tell us her true murderer, and I've already gone to make a copy of the video."

He handed over a USB drive. Taking the USB from him respectfully, the bailiff then handed it over to the judge.

Connecting the drive to a laptop, the judge clicked on the video which was then projected to the screen behind him. It showed the scene Brittany Montgomery had taken just before she died...

The icy wind of that cold winter day was unrelenting.

Meredith continued to hit and abuse Madeline who was evidently in no position to fight back, all while she screamed curses and profanities at her.

Blood spilled from Madeline's mouth as she clutched the recent DNA test report in her hands that stated her identity as Eloise and Sean's daughter.

The video showed Meredith holding Madeline tightly by her collar as she warned harshly, saying, "I'll definitely be the daughter of the Montgomeries! I'm Eveline Montgomery! Do you hear me?!"

It was followed by, "Madeline, if you feel like causing Eloise to have a heart attack and die, then you can go ahead and tell them that you're their real birth daughter."

Then, Madeline's final warning was, "Don't even think about telling Jeremy. Putting aside if he'll believe you or not, if you really dare to say that, then first think about your grandfather's ashes as well as Ava Long. There's nothing I won't do!"

After her threats, Meredith gave Madeline who was only hanging by a thread one more kick before she turned around to leave. Her eyes then fell on Brittany.

Brittany had recorded everything and was about to tell Eloise and Sean the truth only to have Meredith suddenly pretend to beg her not to before she pulled a fruit knife out of nowhere and stabbed it again and again in Brittany's heart while her guards were down!

Diana was stunned!

She never expected the murderer to be anyone else than Madeline! Let alone Meredith!

"Brittany! Oh, my baby!" She wept uncontrollably. "My poor Brittany!"

Tears began to stream freely down Eloise and Sean's faces. They were shocked by Meredith's heartlessness and felt sorry for Brittany's pitiful death. They were most certainly heartbroken for the most pained victim, Madeline.

Jeremy felt his heart ache more than he thought possible when he watched the video again.

Meredith's actions had the hair on the back of his neck stand. Just imagining the pain that Madeline endured left cuts in his heart.

His chest tightened as he stared at how frail and weak Madeline looked in the snowy wind.

She was undoubtedly strong to have survived such torturous days.

Meredith never expected the video to appear now!

It should not have mattered if the phone was found for she had deleted the video long ago. Why did it come back to existence now?

"No! I didn't do it! The video's fake! They're framing me!"

Meredith argued and protested, slowly losing control over her emotions.

"How could you frame me for Madeline, Jeremy? I've been framed! The video's manufactured!"

Jeremy responded calmly, "How do you explain that the phone was found at your house with Brittany's blood and your fingerprints ?"

Meredith's eyes widened. "It's... It's all fake! There's no way you'd have this video. I deleted it three years ago! I already deleted it!"

Chupse...

With Meredith's unconstrained roar came her confession, pulling the entire courthouse into a silence.

Meredith's eyes were bloodshot as she panted. She realized that she had misspoken!

She had just confessed to killing Brittany Montgomery!

Meredith's attorney stared at her in a daze, slowly growing cold.

"So it was you, Meredith Crawford! You murderer! Murderer!" Diana broke down and screamed.

Meredith balled her fists as her eyes flashed.

Jeremy stared indifferently at Meredith's ugly appearance, his tone unfazed. "You're right, Meredith Crawford. You did delete the video, but I also had a skilled technician recover it for me."

"..." Meredith stared at Jeremy at a loss, her eyes filled with sorrow. "Why? Why must you do this to me, Jeremy? I'm the woman you love the most! You promised you'd protect me forever so why are you helping that b*tch Madeline and framing me instead? Why?!"

Jeremy's eyes sharpened at her ostentatious accusations. "Stop pretending. It won't work anymore. You know exactly who the woman I've been in love with this entire time is, Meredith Crawford."

"In addition to Brittany Montgomery, you'll face consequences for the life of Madeline's grandfather very soon as well."

Meredith rushed out of the witness stand at Jeremy's aloof words but was quickly held back by the court police.

As she struggled, Meredith glared and bellowed at Madeline.

"Madeline, you btch! I'll never forgive you for this! I'll haunt you even as a ghost, so don't even think about spending forever with Jeremy! I'll curse you and your bstard child! You will all die painful deaths!"

Jeremy's lips were pressed into a cold line as he felt his anger burst at Meredith's curse.

Eloise could no longer hold herself back.

"Are you even human, Meredith? You'd be dead by now had Madeline not donated her stem cells for you! Not only do you repay her with hatred but you framed Madeline for your crimes too! You will pay for this!"

"I'll pull that b*tch down with me even if I die! Just you wait, Madeline. Just you wait—"

Meredith screeched and flailed like a madman.

Madeline stared back calmly. She had long gotten used to it. The world would have no humans left if curses like that came true.

With Meredith subdued by the court police, the judge ruled Meredith guilty of murder with an extra charge of malicious falsehood.

As Brittany's murder was too gruesome and she was also convicted of the deliberate murder of Len Samuels, Meredith was given the death penalty. Attempts of an appeal were denied, and the penalty was to be carried out in a month's time.

The court was adjourned and Madeline exited the courthouse to bask in the warmth of the early spring sun. A relieved smile graced her features.

Her eyes shone as she looked at the sky.

You can rest now, Grandfather. The person who killed you is finally being held accountable.

'Thank you for taking care of and protecting me during those ten years.

I would never have made it here now if not for you.'

"Eveline, Eveline!"

Rushed steps drew close from behind, followed by Eloise's trembling voice.

She could almost guess what for as the contents of the video must have been shocking to Eloise and Sean.

Madeline turned around slowly, planning to deal with them coldly. However, she was hugged by Eloise before she could do anything.

"My daughter!" Eloise sobbed. "I'm so sorry, Eveline... Mom is so sorry!"

She apologized repeatedly while Sean's eyes reddened as he watched from the side, having run over with his wife.

The video showed a wretched-looking Meredith torturing a battered Madeline.

They could not bring themselves to think of the scene.

Yet the harder they tried to suppress it, the more that brutal scene emphasized the difficulty and hurt Madeline had suffered.

Her parents had been defending that monster while she suffered.

Sean sighed deeply as he took in Madeline's cool expression and patted Eloise's shoulder.

"Let's not make it more difficult for our daughter, Ellie. Give her some time. I'm sure there'll come a day when our family would be reunited." Eloise let go of Madeline reluctantly and wiped away her tears. "Meredith is abominable! How could she do that to Eveline? She hit her so much that she coughed out blood! My heart hurts, Sean. It hurts..."

Sean swallowed, eyes red. "So does mine."

Madeline felt touched as she took in Eloise and Sean's heartbroken expressions.

She was still human after all, and while resentment poked her heart like a thorn, they were still her parents.

While she was hesitating if she should speak, Jeremy's face appeared in her field of vision.

The man approached her from the front, his tall figure oozing with nobility. "Could you spare me a moment, Linnie? I'd like to talk to you about something."

Eloise and Sean looked up at Jeremy, shared a look, then turned to leave.

Letting the warmth of spring envelop him, Jeremy walked to stand in front of Madeline. "You asked me at the crime scene when you were first accused of killing Brittany but was acquitted why I employed an attorney to get rid of your charges. As confident as I was, I told you that even if you were to die, it would be by my means. That was a lie."

The corners of his lips tugged boyishly before he broke into a self-deprecating chuckle.

"The truth was that I didn't want anything to happen to you. I knew that you were innocent."

"Hah." Madeline scoffed humorlessly at his reply.

She was about to open her mouth when she heard the man speak again. "I kissed you then, not because I was willing to sell myself to protect Meredith but because you said you accused yourself of being blind for falling for a man like me."

"..." Madeline's expression shifted, but she recognized the affectionate tint in Jeremy's smile.

"I didn't want to hear you say that you didn't love me, so I covered your mouth in such a way. I was happy though because while you told me you didn't love me anymore, your reaction told me that you still did. Just like the kiss we had in your apartment the other day."

"..." The conversation was steering into dangerous territory. "What are you trying to say, Jeremy?"

The man's lips curled into a gentle smile as his eyes sparkled with a tint of mirth. "You still have me in your heart, Linnie."

"Don't kid yourself, Jeremy Whitman." Madeline scoffed. "I can tell you with certainty that I will be bringing Jack when I leave with Felipe and I'm not coming back. Love you? Sure, in the past, but that's all it'll ever be. The past."

Jeremy's eyes dimmed as his heart ached silently, but his lips pulled into a confident smile. "Would you dare to bet, Linnie ?"

"Why do I have to bet with you? I decide how I want my life to go. You don't get to control it," Madeline replied curtly, her eyes filled with confidence.

"You don't have to sign the papers since I can appeal for one on grounds that we've been separated for more than two years. As for Jack's custody, I won't give it up."

Madeline then turned and left.

Waiting by the side, Eloise and Sean could do nothing as they watched Madeline leave Jeremy with distaste on her face.

While Jeremy was their son-in-law, he had hurt Madeline deeply as well.

They had no right to berate Jeremy, for their mistakes were worse as parents.

• • •

Meredith's case climbed the trends rather quickly, angering countless netizens with her brutal personality.

Hidden away in a motel, Rose and Jon shook with infuriation as they watched the news of Meredith's court case. They dropped the remote on the floor.

"Meredith's penalty is in a month! What are we going to do? I can't believe that Jeremy would have such a piece of evidence up his sleeve!" Rose groaned uneasily.

Jon remained silent, prompting a push from Rose. "Say something!"

"What do you want me to say? That we should break her out of jail?" Jon opened his palms helplessly.

"So you're just going to watch Meredith die? She's still our daughter." Rose clenched her jaw in displeasure. "What a useless daughter. Meredith spent years with Jeremy and you're telling me she hasn't even gotten a spot in that man's heart at all? She wouldn't need to be shot dead had she been a little more useful!"

"What's the use of saying all this when Meredith killed two people? How do you expect us to save her?" Jon showed no desire to help Meredith. "We've done all we can already. Meredith was just stupid enough to confess killing Brittany in court!"

Rose frowned and balled her fists in indignance.

"Meredith was so close to being Mrs. Whitman and Miss Montgomery. We were so close to living the rest of our lives without worrying about our bank accounts! Who would've thought that dmned btch would come back alive? This would never have happened had it not been for her!"

Jon's fury rose as well. "Exactly! It's all because of her! She was the one who hurt Meredith, so she's the one who deserves to die!"

"Yeah! If our daughter can't live, then I won't let this b*tch walk free either!" Rose's eyes glinted ferociously.

Jon jumped up to stand by Rose's side. "What do you have in mind?"

The corner of Rose's lips tilted to a sinister degree. "Two lives will pay for the taking of my daughter's!"

Madeline's heart felt much lighter now that the issue with Meredith was over.

All she had left to do was to bring Jackson away and start her new life.

She arrived at the villa to make breakfast for Jackson the next morning and got into Jeremy's car so they could send Jackson to kindergarten.

Jeremy voiced his desire to send Madeline back, but she refused.

Standing by the car, Madeline's tone was chilling. "Stop wasting time, Jeremy. Sign the papers. The court will still rule a divorce even if you don't sign them."

The man replied with a tight smile, "I'll take any additional day I can to have you as my wife. I don't want to let go of you, Linnie, nor do I want to let Jack go."

"What touching words, Mr. Whitman," Madeline replied ironically, "What a shame your words were spoken a few years too late."

Madeline scoffed and turned around coolly, leaving Jeremy to stand alone rooted in place as he watched Madeline's figure walk away while his heart sank.

Returning to the shop, Madeline's mouse hovered over the nameless file after she was done with her work.

Staring at the list of documents, she was certain that these were diary entries Jeremy had kept over the past three years.

Yet ever since the first entry, she had not found the courage to read the next.

Just then, a message notification appeared on her phone.

Tapping in, Madeline realized that Felipe had still taken Whitman Manor away in the end.

She rushed to Whitman Manor only to find its gates bolted. She felt her body grow cold.

Standing by the door, all Madeline had in mind was Old Master Whitman who supported and protected her silently.

"Grandfather..."

She thought to herself. After asking around about Old Master Whitman's current settlement, Madeline immediately drove over.

She arrived at a high-end district around the suburbs.

Losing Whitman Corporation had not made Jeremy completely useless, for it seemed like he still had quite the savings.

Madeline parked her car and got ready to make her way inside when she heard someone yell her name from behind. "Madeline Crawford!"

It was a voice Madeline was familiar with.

Turning around, she was met with Karen running furiously toward her with Yvonne in tow.

"How dare you come here, Madeline? Do you think you haven't hurt us enough? When will you be satisfied? Until you and Felipe force us to a corner? How could you be so cruel?!"

Karen pointed a finger and raged at Madeline. Realizing they were attracting passersby, Yvonne joined in on the accusations.

"Aren't you too much, Vera? I can't believe you joined forces with another man to steal all of Jeremy's assets! You're inhumane!"

Pedestrians and residents began to gather and whisper among themselves as they took in the scene.

Madeline turned to Karen and Yvonne with an unimpressed look. "Me, hurt you? I'm cruel?"

She smiled.

"My dearest mother-in-law, perhaps I should remind you it was you who joined forces with another woman to replace my position as my husband's wife, hmm? You hit and scolded me on a whim while creating chances for the woman to spend time with my husband. Have you forgotten the time you listened to that woman's lies and pushed me onto the floor? My forehead bled, do you not remember?"

At that, the pedestrians now sided with Madeline.

"Wow, how could such a mother-in-law exist?"

"I would have slapped her long ago if she was mine."

"Exactly! What kind of mother-in-law sides with the mistress against her daughter-in-law? This is atrocious!"

"..." Not expecting the situation to take such a turn, Karen flushed red from frustration. "What are you saying, Madeline? Since when did I hit and scold you? Don't make yourself look like the victim so that others would pity you!"

"My wife didn't though. Everything she said is the truth." Jeremy suddenly appeared and stood in front of Madeline to defend her. He called her his wife.

Karen and Yvonne were stunned, flushing in embarrassment as the people around them began to point fingers.

Jeremy turned to Madeline with a gentle look. "Did you come to look for Grandfather?"

One look was all it took for him to see that she had something on her mind.

Madeline did not deny it.

"Grandfather isn't here. I can show you the way if you want to see him," Jeremy spoke as he pointed at Madeline's car by the road. "Although, you have to be the one driving."

She gave Jeremy a confused look but did not ask further and turned around. "Let's go."

Jeremy smiled and followed, leaving Karen and Yvonne to huff and turn away.

Jeremy had never seen Madeline drive before. Sitting in her passenger seat was an interesting experience, one that reminded him of how cruel he used to be when he forbade Madeline from sitting in his car.

Feeling Jeremy's gaze on her, Madeline brushed it off and started the engine only to have her phone ring before she could.

Looking at the caller ID, Madeline picked up the phone without a second thought. Her expression changed as she took in the other's words, fear and unease filling her eyes.

Jeremy noticed that something was wrong with Madeline's face. "What's wrong? Did something happen?"

Madeline looked at him displeased. "You know clearly in your heart what you've done."

Jeremy frowned lightly. He did not understand what Madeline meant.

"Where did you take Jack?"

Madeline's subsequent questioning confused Jeremy even more. "Linnie, what are you talking about? When did I even take Jack away?"

"Jeremy, you just have to trouble me, don't you? Are you just so happy when you see me worried or sad?"

"I really don't know what happened." Jeremy looked at Madeline with confusion. "Linnie, first tell me what happened."

"Jeremy, you've been with Meredith for a long time now and your acting skills have gotten quite good as well," Madeline said sarcastically, then stepped on the accelerator before driving to the gate of the kindergarten where Jackson was studying.

While on the way, Jeremy had repeatedly wanted to understand the reason behind Madeline's anger, but Madeline just ignored him.

When the car stopped, he saw a worried-looking Ava who was standing at the entrance of the kindergarten. He had vaguely guessed something.

As soon as Ava saw Jeremy, she rushed at him in anger while tactlessly reprimanding, "Jeremy, you scumbag! If you're any bit human, you should return Maddie's child to her!"

Jeremy's handsome face was cold, but he was not angry, just more confused. "Even if I were to be sentenced to death, the very least you should tell me is what crime I've committed."

"Jeremy, why are you still pretending ?" Ava laughed coldly. "I had just come to pick up Maddie's child from school, but the head teacher said Mr. Whitman asked someone to pick up the child!"

Jeremy's expression changed slightly when he heard this, and the frequency of his heartbeat was suddenly disturbed.

"Jeremy, you hid Jack away just because I said I wanted to take him away from Glendale, didn't you?" Madeline asked him, "Hurry up, where's Jack?"

Jeremy was finally feeling what it was like to be framed and wronged.

However, compared to the grievance Madeline once suffered, what was this?

Seeing Madeline's doubtful gaze, his eyes were still soft. "I don't want you and Jack to leave me like this, but I really didn't ask anyone to do this, let alone hide Jack away."

"Tsk, tsk, tsk." Ava glanced at Jeremy who was whispering softly at the moment. "Mr. Whitman, have you undergone a sex change? Do you think we'll be fooled with you pretending to be gentle and patient now? Think about how you treated Maddie in the first place. You should save it!"

Ava said as she pulled Madeline along, "Maddie, let's go to the police!"

Hearing this, Madeline glanced at Jeremy, then patted Ava's hand to soothe her. "I'll ask the teacher first to see what went on at the time before making a decision."

Seeing Madeline walk in, Ava glared at Jeremy angrily before following her.

After the head teacher learned that Jeremy had not instructed anyone to pick Jackson up, she panicked.

She recalled the situation earlier and said, "The woman did say that Mr. Whitman had asked her to pick Jackson up. I saw that Jackson knew her, so I didn't doubt it."

"Jack knows that woman?" Madeline and the others were quite surprised.

The head teacher nodded repeatedly before taking them into the monitor room to watch the video at the gate.

In the surveillance video, a slightly plump woman had appeared at the gate of the kindergarten wearing a mask and hat. Not long after, Jackson, carrying a small school bag, walked toward her.

Jackson had looked at the woman, seemingly examining her a few times before nodding and leaving with the woman.

Madeline stared at the woman on the surveillance screen and immediately confirmed. "It's Rose."

"Rose? Meredith's old lady?" Ava suddenly became uneasy. "She must know that Meredith is about to face execution and has directed her resentment on you, Maddie. That's why she's starting with Jack!"

Ava's guess was not too far off.

Madeline also had a very bad premonition in her heart.

Meredith's family was really inhumane. They would do anything.

Madeline decided to call the police after understanding the situation.

However, as soon as she walked out of the kindergarten gate, she received a message.

[Your son is now in our hands. If you don't want him to die, do as I say!]

Seeing this text, Madeline's heart jumped quickly.

She knew she had to calm down, but when she thought of the situation Jackson might be suffering in now, her thoughts were muddled.

Jeremy then took her mobile phone and called the number directly.

Unexpectedly, the call connected.

Rose lowered her voice and made a request, "Madeline, prepare 50 million in exchange for your son. Otherwise, you'll just have to wait for the dead body!"

Jeremy's eyes instantly became cold when he heard the words. "I'll have my wife prepare it. As long as you don't hurt my son, everything can be easily discussed."

Rose obviously did not expect Jeremy to be the one on the other end of the phone. She was shocked for a moment before hanging up the phone hurriedly after saying, "Don't call the police." She feared that Jeremy would recognize her voice.

Madeline saw Jeremy and Rose talking. She hurriedly asked, "What's the situation? What did Rose say? What about Jack? Did you hear Jack's voice?"

Jeremy tried to gently calm her down, saying, "Linnie, don't worry. Jack will be fine, trust me."

"Trust you? Maybe you're in collusion with them and the purpose of doing this is to save Meredith!" Ava questioned Jeremy, her dissatisfaction with him deeply ingrained.

Jeremy understood Ava's hostility toward him. He was not angry, nor did he argue, but he still faced Madeline patiently. "Don't call the police. Linnie, please believe me. I'll definitely bring Jack safely back to you."

His tone was deep, and after returning the phone to Madeline, Jeremy immediately called a car by the road before leaving.

Ava stared at Jeremy's back and took Madeline's hand to comfort her. "Don't worry too much, Maddie. Jack will be fine before they achieve their goals, but are you really willing to believe in Jeremy? They're most likely working together!"

Madeline held Ava's hand and promised, saying, "Don't worry, Ava. I've already died once. I won't ever repeat the same mistake again."

After separating from Ava, Madeline contacted Jeremy.

Knowing that he had returned to the villa, Madeline quickly rushed over.

Entering the room, Madeline found Jeremy in the study carefully watching the surveillance over and over again. These surveillance sources were probably obtained through his connections.

Finding Jackson's whereabouts were currently the most important thing and Madeline could not be bothered with anything else, so she huddled next to Jeremy to watch the surveillance with him.

Jeremy felt a surge of sweetness from Madeline's initiative to approach him.

Smelling the faint fragrance of her body, his worry also calmed down a lot.

An hour later, Jeremy found clues in the surveillance videos.

At the same time, Madeline's cell phone rang. She saw that it was Rose calling her.

After Madeline and Jeremy gave each other a look, she picked up the phone and pressed on the speakerphone.

Rose had lowered her voice deliberately, trying to fake another voice over the line.

Opening her mouth, she asked for money, "Madeline, is the 50 million ready? I want it in cash! I want it in an hour, or I'll kill your son!"

Madeline's heart was faintly anxious and she tried hard to restrain her emotions. "I'll give you the money, but you can't hurt my son! Otherwise, you can dream about getting even a penny!"

Although Rose said she was dissatisfied, she thought about her getting the huge sum of money in a while and watched her mouth. "As long as you don't play any tricks, your son will be fine. I'll send you the address now and you'll leave the money there later. Just be in that position. Remember, you're not allowed to call Jeremy over and you're not allowed to call the police. You must go alone!"

After she was finished speaking, she quickly hung up and Madeline soon received a message on her phone.

The mentioned address was consistent with the suspicious location that Jeremy had just discovered when he was going through the surveillance footage.

"It seems that Jack is near the village in the western suburbs." Jeremy determined.

Madeline glanced at the location, then turned around and left.

Jeremy grabbed her decisively, "Where are you going ?"

"To save my son," Madeline replied simply without looking back, "Let go."

"Knowing that this may be a trap, I can't let you take the risks." Jeremy walked to her. "Let me go."

Madeline smiled and looked at the dignified man before gently moving his palm away. "No. If you really cared about Jack, he wouldn't have been tortured by Meredith in the past five years till he almost suffered permanent mental damage."

"It was just because I thought she was Jack's mother and it's also because I felt ashamed of what I've done to you, that's why I was so indifferent toward Jack in the years since you left."

Madeline glanced at him with alienation. "I won't believe anything you say anymore."

"If you really don't believe me, you would have already gone to the police station when Ava asked you to call the police. Linnie, don't lie to yourself. You truly still have me in your heart."

Jeremy's answer surprised Madeline slightly.

He was right.

At that moment, she had indeed chosen to believe in Jeremy.

It was because she felt that if Jeremy was really colluding with Rose and the others in order to save Meredith, then he would not have done anything extra like testify against Meredith in court.

However, what did it matter?

She still would not have any expectations for him, let alone love.

Madeline left decisively.

She went back to the apartment first, and when she was ready, she drove to the western suburbs by herself.

The evening breeze in early spring was blowing slowly, but it was still bitter.

Madeline dragged the suitcase and walked over to the address designated by Rose.

The suburbs were quiet at night and there were no people walking nearby. The dim yellow halo from the dilapidated street lamp flickered and dimmed. The atmosphere was very strange.

Madeline walked forward steadily until she reached a trash can.

Rose wanted her to put the suitcase full of money by the side of the trash can.

After putting it down, Madeline looked around, then turned around and walked back.

Before she went far, she heard movement from the direction of the trash can.

She guessed that it might be Rose or Jon who had gone to get the money. When she was about to turn around to follow them, she received a message on her phone from Rose's number. A location had popped up with a few words.

[Mom, I'm here.]

Was it Jack?!

Madeline went to the location without hesitation.

She had not taken good care of this child in the past five years.

At this moment, no matter the danger or obstacle, she would definitely give her all.

Madeline very quickly found the location as it was just a hundred meters away.

The house in front of her looked dilapidated as if it was vacant, but there was also light coming through from inside the house.

Madeline walked to the window and looked inside. At a glance, she saw Jackson sitting on the small bench while being guarded by Jon who was smoking beside him. There was a fruit knife beside Jon.

Sure enough, they were the ones behind it.

Madeline clenched her fists, her worried eyes falling on Jackson's small face.

The little guy did not seem to be afraid of anything. He was even shaking his feet while nibbling on an apple carefreely. It looked like he was talking to Jon about something.

The situation looked a little unusual, but when one thought about it, it was not too surprising either when one remembered that Jackson was just a six-year-old child.

Madeline pondered silently about a way to deal with this, and as she was about to knock on the door, Jeremy's face involuntarily jumped into her mind.

After thinking for a few seconds, she took out her phone, typed out a paragraph, and sent it to Jeremy. Then, she was ready to act.

At this moment, however, Madeline suddenly felt someone approaching her from behind.

As she was about to dodge, the man seized her by the waist.

To prevent her from screaming, the man also covered her mouth gently with his palm.

Suddenly, a familiar smell poured into the tip of Madeline's nose as a familiar warmth surrounded her.

Madeline raised her beautiful eyes in surprise. She saw the delicately contoured face in the dark night.

"Shhh, it's me."

Jeremy's low voice sounded warmly behind her ears.

Madeline froze for a moment, then struggled.

"Don't move, somebody's coming," he whispered softly before retreating behind the wall of the house with Madeline in his arms.

Above them, there happened to be a window. Madeline raised her eyes and could clearly see Rose pulling the heavy suitcase into the house.

Jon greeted them hurriedly as the eyes of both people revealed greed.

"Hahaha... We're rich! We're really rich this time!" Jon was so happy that his smile stretched from ear to ear.

Rose walked toward Jackson triumphantly with her arms akimbo. "You, smelly brat, are unexpectedly quite valuable."

She wanted to pinch Jackson's face as she spoke, but Jackson avoided her with disgust.

"Tsk! Brat! I'll let you live for a bit. I'll give you and the b*tch who gave birth to you a piece of hell to avenge my daughter!"

Hearing this, Jeremy's gaze darkened. He fixed his eyes on the two individuals who were about to unpack the suitcase. He already had a countermeasure in mind.

However, his attention was quickly pulled toward the woman he was hugging in front of him.

At this moment, Madeline was neither struggling nor resisting and had allowed him to hold her in his arms. Her back was against his chest. Although they were separated by her coat, he could still feel her warmth.

Jeremy could not help but lift the corners of his lips, his icy gaze instantly becoming tender.

He could not help but get closer to Madeline, greedily enjoying this hard-won intimate contact.

Madeline did not notice Jeremy's strangeness. Looking at the scene in the room, she was prepared to contact Rose with her mobile phone while pretending to be ignorant, but she was stopped by Jeremy. His deep, attractive, and sexy voice passed her ears numbly.

"Linnie, don't act so rashly. See the two barrels of gasoline over there?" He reminded her, his unusual voice drawing her attention.

Madeline followed his prompt and looked toward the direction. Sure enough, there were two barrels of gasoline in the corner of the room. She suddenly had a bad feeling. "Do you think they'll set it on fire ?"

"They're probably trying to lure you into the house by using Jack so that they can deal with you and Jack at once." Jeremy's tone was calm. He then hugged Madeline tightly while softly promising. "But I'll never let them hurt my wife and child."

Hearing this, Madeline then realized that her and Jeremy's current position was not right. She had just wanted to push him away when Jeremy suddenly released her and turned around.

Madeline's heart skipped a beat uncontrollably as she instinctively stretched out her hand to hold him. "Jeremy, what do you plan to do ?"

The man looked back, a smile appearing in his slender, alluring eyes. "Are you worried about me?"

"..." Madeline quickly let go. "I'm not worried about you. I just don't want Jack to be hurt in any way."

"Don't worry, I will never let anything happen to our son." Jeremy solemnly promised. He shook Madeline's hand all of sudden. "Linnie, wait for me in the car. I'll definitely bring Jack back safely."

Madeline was in a daze for some reason until Jeremy gave her a light push. "Quickly head back to the car."

His eyes were sincere and his tone was as usual, but Madeline did not appreciate it. "Jeremy, I don't want to owe you anything. My son is mine and I will save him myself."

Jeremy's gaze turned lonely. "You don't owe me anything, I owe you. No matter how you deny it, you can't change that Jack is both our child."

Saying this, he pulled Madeline over and all the way to the car on the side of the road.

Madeline could not struggle as she was afraid that Jon and Rose would discover this oddity if she struggled too much.

"Wait for me here. Don't come over," Jeremy said solemnly.

Madeline was about to curse Jeremy when her phone vibrated.

Rose was calling her. Madeline had expected Rose to call because her suitcase was set with a password. Without the password, they could not open it.

Sure enough, upon answering the call, Rose had indeed come to ask for the password.

Jeremy originally wanted to take action immediately, but he heard Rose say on the phone, "Madeline, you actually dare to play tricks? Come on, what's the password to the suitcase?"

Madeline dealt with her calmly. "If you don't let me see my son, then I won't let you see the cash."

"You..." Rose was a little frustrated. "Okay! Since you want to see your son so much, come here! I'll send you the location right away!"

Madeline smiled softly. "No need, I'm already here."

•••••*

Rose was dumbfounded for a moment when she heard this, and in the next second, she heard a bang! The wooden door in front of her was kicked open!

Jon, who had been working on the code, jumped with fright. When he saw Jeremy who had appeared in front of him, his expression changed greatly as he slumped onto the ground.

Rose was also abruptly shocked until the phone in her hands fell to the ground.

"You, you... How did you find out about this place ?!" Rose's eyes widened.

"Of course, it was I who told my mother." Jackson's tender voice sounded, clear and sweet.

Rose turned her head to look at Jackson who was nibbling on the apple with an expression of disbelief.

"Rose, Jon, I really didn't think that you'd remain unrepentant. You've even wiped out your most basic humanity just for money," Madeline scolded.

The corners of Rose and Jon's mouths twitched. They dared not move.

Looking at Jeremy who was stepping forward, the breathtaking aura exuding from all over his body made them tremble and shudder.

Jeremy looked at the two pale-faced individuals in front of him, and there was a cold light in his deep eyes.

Unexpectedly, Jon and Rose were already so frightened till their current state even before he had made a move.

If he had known this sooner, he would not have wasted time.

His gaze flicked past Jon and Rose before landing on Jackson's small face. His stern eyebrows were already dyed with love and gentleness. "Jack, come over here to Mom and Dad."

"Okay."

Jackson nodded. Holding the apple, he ran toward them with his little legs.

Madeline smiled, her heart at ease as she stretched out her arms toward Jack. "Jack, come into Mom's arms."

"Mommy," Jackson cried out to Madeline in a puerile voice and ran toward her.

The plan fell apart as Jack returned to Madeline's embrace peacefully. Rose expected that Jeremy would definitely not let her go, and instantly, there was a fierce look on her face.

Rose grabbed the fruit knife on the table and stabbed toward Madeline fiercely, yelling, "Madeline, you b*tch! Go to hell!"

She cursed viciously while waving the fruit knife.

However, before she could get close to Madeline, she was kicked away by Jeremy.

Rose fell to the ground with a thud while the fruit knife fell to the side. She turned over and wanted to grab it, but Jeremy stepped on her pudgy hand. Rose immediately screamed in pain.

Jeremy's deep, icy eyes were condescending. He looked just like a king who treated everyone under him as a captive.

"Linnie has already given you a chance, but you still insist on looking for death. If so, then go to prison and enjoy your final familial happiness with your baby girl." His cold voice was like a basin of cold water that was poured over Rose and Jon from head to toe.

Rose and Jon seemed to have felt a sense of doomsday as if Jeremy had ordered them to be killed without mercy. They instantly felt a chill running down their spines.

Just then came the sound of a police car from a distance.

Jeremy had called the police long before he set off to follow Madeline.

Jon and Rose heard the sound of the police car as simply the sound of the sirens signaling their end.

Rose's teeth tickled with hatred from the warm and harmonious scene of the family of three as she looked at Madeline who was holding Jackson and leaving with Jeremy's protection.

She got up abruptly, rushed to the door, and slammed the broken door heavily. She blocked the front of the door with her wide figure.

Jeremy instinctively stretched out his arms to protect Madeline who was holding Jackson behind her. "Get out of the way," he uttered icily.

"As if any of you are allowed to leave! We're in this life and death struggle together. I will bring you down myself!"

Rose gritted her teeth fiercely.

"Husband, we'll fight them today! Our daughter is dying anyway and we have to go to jail, so we might as well just drag them to our deaths together!"

Jon had always been spineless and listened to Rose for everything, but he never thought of being buried together with Rose.

"Even now, you still persist to be set on the wrong path?" Madeline felt Rose was hopeless. "Meredith has already fallen to her end, and you both as her parents will be her accomplices."

"You shut up!" Rose's eyes were red with jealousy till her face shook with anger. "It's all your fault, you b*tch! If it weren't for you, Meredith would have become the young lady of the Whitman family. I would have long become the mother-in-law of a wealthy young master who didn't have to worry about anything for the rest of my life!

"But I didn't expect you miserable wretch to be so tough. You just won't die! And you!"

Rose yelled at Jeremy too, a wave of burning anger in her eyes.

"You heartless man! Meredith has been with you for so many years yet you gave her no benefit. When the btch Madeline left three years ago, you were worried about her every day and ignored Meredith. You even told Meredith that you had in fact always liked this btch!"

Hearing this, Madeline's eyes flashed sharply. She looked at Jeremy, whose expression was getting colder and colder, when she heard Rose roar again.

"Meredith has fallen till this point today is all thanks to you! You want to stay together? I won't let you get what you want. I'll bury you for my daughter!"

With this, she suddenly went berserk and rushed in the direction where the two barrels of gasoline were placed.

Jeremy saw through Rose's intention. He quickly grabbed Madeline's shoulders and walked them toward the door. "Hurry up."

Madeline had only wanted to take Jackson to a safe place as soon as possible and was prepared to leave according to Jeremy's intention.

However, the wooden door that had been closed could not be opened. Something was stuck in the lock and the door could not open no matter what they did.

"Go to hell everyone!" Rose shouted coldly.

Jeremy turned his head to look at Rose and he saw that she had picked up the gasoline can. She splashed the contents to their side. Jeremy hurriedly protected Madeline and Jackson while retreating to the side.

All the gasoline that Rose had poured at them had splashed onto the door panel.

"Hahaha..." Rose laughed loudly as if she had gone mad. "Madeline, you b*tch. Let's see how you're gonna stay alive this time!"

A cold silver light shone in Jeremy's eyes. He wanted to crush Rose to pieces.

At this moment, however, what he wanted most was to get Madeline and Jackson out of this small, dilapidated house.

Rose splashed the gasoline around madly while Jon was slumped to the side. His cowardly expression revealed that he was at a loss.

Jeremy took Madeline's shoulders and led her to the window.

"Don't worry about these two lunatics. Get out of here first." His tone was determined, and he went to open the window.

It was probably because of the forming rust over the years but the locks on the windows were fastened tight.

Jeremy hardly hesitated. He stretched out his fist and smashed the glass.

The moment the glass broke, his right hand also split open with wounds of various sizes. Blood followed, quickly dying his hand red.

He did not seem to care, however, and continued to break down the uneven glass with his fist to ensure that Madeline would not get cut when she jumped out of the window.

"Linnie, you should go out first. I'll hold Jack to you," Jeremy said in a hurry, anxiety appearing on his usually calm and cold face.

The moment he said that, Rose suddenly took out a lighter.

After the fire started, Rose threw the lighter on the gasoline-soaked door.

The sparks followed the gasoline path, instantly turning into a big fire.

The whole house had suddenly turned into a sea of fire while the raging flames spread unscrupulously, emitting a pungent smell and a crackling, burning sound.

In this critical situation, Jeremy decisively took Jackson from Madeline's arms and put him to his side. Then, he carried Madeline, who was still unreactive, toward the window sill.

"Get out!" he said decisively with unprecedented tension in his voice.

Madeline dallied no more and quickly jumped out of the window.

Jeremy then picked Jackson up. "Don't be afraid, Jack. Mom will catch you outside."

He consoled with a soft voice and carefully handed Jackson to Madeline.

Madeline quickly reached out to hug Jackson but had involuntarily glanced at Jeremy.

His worried eyes at the moment held no pretense.

Just then, Jackson suddenly shouted behind Jeremy, "Be careful, Daddy!"

Madeline only then noticed Rose's fierce face appearing in a cloud of smoke. Rose was holding a fruit knife and had stabbed it toward Jeremy's arm fiercely.

Jeremy was holding Jackson to hand him over to Madeline. He could not let go and could only take the stab.

Rose pulled out the fruit knife at once and fresh, red blood poured from Jeremy's wound, soon dying his coat red.

He just frowned, still handing Jackson over to Madeline securely.

After Madeline grabbed Jackson, she pushed her hatred to the side and stretched out her hand to Jeremy. Her eyebrows and eyes were also unknowingly infected with anxiety. "Quick, take my hand. Come out!"

A smile suddenly appeared between Jeremy's solemn eyebrows. He held Madeline's hand that she had offered on her own, and at the same time, he felt warmer while his heart felt sweeter.

However, just as he moved, he was suddenly caught by Rose.

"Nobody should even think about leaving! I want you all buried with me!"

Outside the window, Jack, who saw Rose holding onto Jeremy, threw the apple in his hand at Rose angrily. "Bad guy! Let go of my dad!"

Jackson had thrown it accurately and the apple hit Rose in the face. She reflexively let go of her hand and touched her face with a painful squeal.

"Jeremy, hurry up!" Madeline held Jeremy's hand firmly to remind him.

Seeing Rose coming back to continue to stop them, Madeline quickly said, "The password to the suitcase is six sixes, but it's a pity that the 50 million will be burned into ashes by you!"

"What?!" When she heard this, Rose's movements paused. Jon, who had been paralyzed on the ground, suddenly became energetic. He quickly ran to the suitcase that had still not been burned and entered six sixes.

With a click, the suitcase really opened!

However, seeing the contents of the suitcase, Jon was dumbfounded. "This... This is 50 million ?!"

Rose looked at Jon's stupefied expression, thinking he was taken aback by so much money, and hurried over.

However, when she saw the 'money' in the suitcase, she was dumbfounded!

There was no money in it. The stacks of paper were all plain A4 paper!

Rose gritted her teeth furiously. "Madeline Crawford! How dare you lie..."

Before she even finished her words, she looked up and saw that Jeremy had also left through the window safely. At this moment, the fire was raging. Jon and she were almost surrounded by the sea of fire!

Feeling the increasingly hot and scorching temperature approaching and the stifling smoke entangling them, Rose finally knew to be afraid.

When the two of them also wanted to climb out of the window, the flames had already rushed toward the window sill. The two of them were completely swallowed by the flames...

After Jeremy got out safely, Madeline called for an ambulance and the firefighters.

Although Rose and Jon were cruel and really deserved to die, she still felt that they should be left to the law. She never thought that they would really be buried in the flames.

When the firefighters arrived, the fire was still ablaze. When Jon and Rose were rescued, their clothes and hair had all been burned off.

Jeremy subconsciously stretched out his hand to block Madeline and Jackson's sight to prevent them from witnessing this terrible scene.

The medical staff at the scene noticed Jeremy's injured and bleeding hand and walked over quickly. "Sir, your hand is bleeding a lot. Please get in the car and head to the hospital for treatment."

Jeremy smiled indifferently. "Thank you but there's no need. My wife will send me to the hospital."

He glanced at Madeline after naturally saying those words.

"Mom, let's go to the hospital. Dad's hand is bleeding a lot!" Jackson urged worriedly.

Madeline glanced at Jeremy's injured hand and turned around while holding Jackson. "Hurry up."

She seemed to say these two words to Jeremy before walking toward the car parked by the road.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's hurried back and followed with a smile.

After getting in the car, Madeline threw a clean towel to Jeremy, then stepped on the accelerator.

She speeded several times unknowingly on the way, and finally, they reached the hospital.

After entering the hospital, she realized that Jeremy's face looked unwell. His face was already quite pale, but now he looked even more so.

Apart from his palm that had been cut by the glass, Jeremy also had a deep knife wound on his right arm. A large amount of dried blood had covered almost the entire sleeve of his coat.

It had been dark out just now and Madeline did not realize that Jeremy was hurt so badly.

After he was done getting bandaged, the doctor gave some precautions and allowed him to leave.

Madeline had wanted to take Jackson back, but then Jeremy leaned on her weakly and put his hand on her shoulder. "Linnie, I'm a little tired. Can you send me back?"

Madeline raised her eyes with a little dissatisfaction, but she did not think Jeremy would be so close. His breath was warm, fanning her face. His beautiful and delicate facial features were softly reflected in her eyes.

Her heartbeat abruptly quickened by a beat. Seeing Jeremy's face pale and weak, she turned her slightly hot cheeks away coldly but did not push him away.

She took Jackson's hand and said gently, "Jack, come home with Mom."

"Yeah, let's go home. Jack will go home together with Mom and Dad!" Jackson blinked his big, lively eyes and nodded obediently.

Next to Madeline, Jeremy felt the heat from her body and the corners of his pale lips pulled up into a satisfied smile.

Once they returned to the villa, Madeline helped Jeremy into the room.

After letting go of him, she turned around decisively.

"Linnie." Jeremy's low voice slipped into her ears like the cool night breeze outside the window. "Can you not leave ?"

Madeline turned to look back at the man's hopeful eyes. She faced him with a calm expression.

"Jeremy, I took you to the hospital and brought you back not because I still have feelings for you, but because I don't want to have any trouble with you anymore. I don't want to owe you anything." Jeremy's eyes went dim like ash for an instant. He truly realized then how Madeline had felt when she was coldly neglected by him back then.

This feeling was as if one's heart was being devoured by tens of thousands of ants. It was indescribably unbearable.

He lowered his desolate eyes and laughed at himself.

Madeline did not say anything more. When she turned around, her phone vibrated again. This time, it was Felipe calling.

She picked it up, her tone not as cold as when she was facing Jeremy. There was even a slight smile on her face. "Felipe, don't worry about me, I'm fine. I'll head back once Jack is asleep."

Jeremy heard Madeline's conversation with Felipe and possessiveness suddenly surged in his lonely eyes.

Seeing Madeline walking toward the door of the room, Jeremy could no longer sit by idly and rushed straight over.

Madeline looked back toward the sound of footsteps, but the moment she turned her head, she saw Jeremy's sharp eyebrows furrowed. The dignified, handsome face had suddenly magnified in front of her eyes.

She was at a loss for a moment. She backed up quickly but ended up hitting the wall.

Jeremy stretched out his palm to prop it against the wall and trapped Madeline in front of him.

"Don't go."

He suddenly stopped, his tone almost commanding. His deep eyes were aggressive and possessive as they locked with Madeline's eyes forcefully.

Madeline confronted him, dissatisfied. "Why won't you allow me to leave ?"

Jeremy's thin lips were pressed tightly while his bandaged right hand seemed to twitch his shirt collar in irritation. His sexy throat vibrated as he spoke, "Because I'm your husband and we're husband and wife. I forbid you to have any dealings with men other than me!"

With a tone that revealed his intolerance for others' opinions, he drew his handsome face close to Madeline's eyes. His nose almost touched Madeline's.

"Linnie, I know you won't believe it, but it's the truth. I really love you."

He could not control what he was thinking, and his eyes gradually softened into a spring breeze.

"From the moment I thought you had really left this world, I also felt that my world had become dark. I truly regret not cherishing you at the beginning and letting you, the woman who loved me, suffer so much hurt and grievance..."

He closed his eyes that were filled with regret.

"Linnie, give me a chance to let me love you well."

After hearing Jeremy's words with furrowed eyebrows, Madeline's expression remained unchanged.

"Are you finished?" she said indifferently, "Can I go now?"

Jeremy's heart went cold as if heavy snowfall had drowned his heartbeat and breathing. His heart cavity was chilled.

Seeing Jeremy who was just looking at her like that while refusing to let go, Madeline raised her hand and pushed him hard.

As soon as she touched his arm, Jeremy suddenly groaned in pain and his two swordlike eyebrows rose.

Madeline then remembered that his arm was injured.

As she was in a stalemate and did not know what to do, Jackson came.

The little guy flashed his big eyes. Looking at the two individuals in front of him, he raised his cute brows in confusion.

"Mom and Dad, what are you doing ?"

"..." Madeline glanced at Jeremy speechlessly, then smiled. "Jack, how about I go to bed with you first?"

She thought Jackson would agree, but the little guy shook his head, "Dad is the one who needs Mommy's company the most today. Jack can sleep by himself."

"..." Madeline was speechless.

Jeremy bent over and touched the little baby's head, "Jack is really considerate. Don't worry, your mother will stay with me and never leave."

Madeline gave him a dissatisfied look. "Jeremy."

Jeremy showed a rare, unruly smile. "Wifey, take a bath and let's go to bed early. Let's not let our son worry about us."

·· . . [,]

Madeline stayed to cater Jackson while Jeremy left the bed to Madeline and slept on the sofa.

In the dead of night, Madeline was lying on the bed thoroughly sleepy. After closing her eyes, the scene after she married Jeremy appeared in her mind, including the scene of him torturing her savagely on this bed...

After a peaceful night, Madeline got up early to make breakfast for Jackson.

She saw that the news was talking about what had happened last night.

Rose and Jon had planned to kidnap Jackson, but they got caught in the flames and met an unfortunate end.

Both of them had severe burns that affected 70 percent of their bodies and it was difficult for them to recover.

Even if they recovered, they would spend the second half of their lives in prison.

Madeline was watching the news on TV when she suddenly heard footsteps coming from the stairs.

She turned her head to see Jeremy coming down. He was wearing a casual beige sweater. The handsome lines of his face were softened by the morning light, making him look gentle.

The moment he met Madeline's eyes, he pursed his lips and smiled.

"Linnie, do you remember the time when I asked you to have breakfast with me but you had stubbornly refused to sit next to me?"

Of course, Madeline would not forget that time because Jeremy had only eaten with her a few times—only once or twice.

In fact, Madeline still could not comprehend Jeremy's behavior that day. He had actually ignored Meredith behaving like a baby and even so diligently sent her to work.

However, Madeline no longer wanted to explore Jeremy's mood from that time.

Minding her own business, she put breakfast on the dining table and turned around to go upstairs to see Jackson. However, Jeremy held her and hugged her from behind.

Madeline struggled, but Jeremy hugged her even tighter.

"Linnie, you won't believe that I love you and you still think it's Meredith who I've always loved.

"Everyone thinks that Meredith is my favorite. It's so ridiculous that I even pretended not to see it when she killed. I've indulged her those years as if I loved her, but it was not that."

Jeremy spoke, his voice becoming softer and softer. He hugged Madeline tightly, his eyelashes drooping. "The reason why I indulged her was that I loved you."

After listening to Jeremy's words calmly, Madeline moved his arms away coldly and turned to face him.

"If you're going to make an excuse, at least find a reasonable one." She looked at him contemptuously. "You said you love me? Your love for me allowed you to let Meredith trample on and hurt me?"

Jeremy frowned and tried to pull Madeline's hand. "Linnie, listen to me first."

Ding dong, ding dong!

Just then, the doorbell rang.

Jeremy's swordlike eyebrows were even more tightly locked as he turned to open the door, feeling somewhat dissatisfied.

However, the moment the door opened, Jeremy's face instantly fell cold. "What are you doing here?"

Felipe stood at the door. He glanced at Jeremy who had bandages on his hand, raised his eyes, and looked into the room. "Vera, it's me. Are you there?"

Jeremy's eyes became even colder as he kept Felipe outside. "Felipe, there's no such person as Vera here. Leave immediately."

However, as soon as his voice fell, Madeline had already walked up from behind him.

"Felipe? Why did you come here?" Madeline was quite surprised.

"I'm worried about you." Felipe's tone was soft, and the gentleman's handsome face carried a small smile. "Why didn't you return to the apartment last night?"

"This is my wife's home. Why would she go back to that apartment?" Jeremy said coldly, displeased.

Madeline glanced at Jeremy and calmly parted her lips. "Jack wanted me to stay last night. I didn't want him to be unhappy."

Felipe nodded, expressing his understanding. "I've already booked the ticket." His black eyes flicked across Jeremy's face as if he was nothing. He finally smiled at Madeline, saying, "Once your divorce procedures are completed, we'll take Jack back to Country F."

Madeline could not help feeling a little lost after hearing this.

Jeremy suddenly grabbed her wrist and protected her behind him.

A cold current surged invisibly, and Madeline heard Jeremy solemnly say to Felipe, "Felipe, this is the last time I'll warn you. You can take away everything from Whitman Corporation to Whitman Manor, but Linnie, I will never let her go with you."

He had a gentle tone that was even a little lazy, but it was domineering. Every word was powerful and resonating.

Without giving Felipe the chance to refute, Jeremy pulled Madeline back into the house. After closing the door heavily, he gripped Madeline's shoulders tightly and made a solemn request.

"Don't follow him."

Madeline pushed him away, feeling dissatisfied. "Why are you closing the door so loudly? What if you scare Jack?"

Jeremy was a little surprised. Seeing Madeline turning around angrily, he chased after her and hugged her tightly.

"Linnie."

"Let go, Jeremy."

"No, I won't let go. I will never let you go again," he whispered behind her ear with endless remorse and love that was hard to believe and accept.

Madeline took a deep breath and closed her eyes.

She clenched her fists and pushed the man who was holding her tightly with all her strength.

"Jeremy, when will you be satisfied with torturing me?"

He did not expect Madeline to have such a big reaction. Jeremy was startled by Madeline whose eyes were gradually getting red.

Madeline's velvet brows tightened, moisture dotting her eyes. The wetness in those eyes also dampened Jeremy's heart.

"Jeremy, please don't torture me anymore. Can't you just let me go? I really feel so tired."

"Torture ?" Jeremy's thin lips moved lightly as he looked at Madeline in a daze. "So, I'm still torturing you and making you unhappy, is that right ?"

"Yes!" Madeline gave her answer without hesitation, holding back her emotions that were almost out of control. Her pink lips parted slightly as she said, "Yes, I used to love you so very much. Even when you

tortured me and when I was in pain, I still loved you. But it turns out that I'm not so strong. My heart has been utterly, completely broken by you. I don't love you anymore, Jeremy. I really don't love you anymore."

She whispered and laughed.

The heart-wrenching scenes in the memory came to her heart, reminding her of when his coldness had drowned her last breath and heartbeat, as well as denied all her feelings and devotion.

In her most helpless moment, he had watched indifferently.

It was at that moment that she awoke.

Her self-conceited infatuation was but an illusory dream.

True love should not be so dark and cold.

The air was quiet for a long time, then Madeline spoke again, "Jeremy, if you really want to apologize to me, then sign our divorce papers as soon as possible."

Hearing the word divorce again, Jeremy felt as if he had fallen into the abyss once more.

He saw the determination in Madeline's eyes. She would never look at him with that kind of loving and admiring look anymore.

She would never call him 'Jeremy' softly again.

This loss was caused by him.

Seeing Jeremy silent, Madeline made her final decision. "I'll wait for you to sign our divorce at the law firm tomorrow. If you still have any conscience at all, give me custody of Jackson. If you refuse, I will fight till the end."

Hearing these words, the corners of Jeremy's lips twitched as he sobbed quietly.

He suppressed the painful emotions, raised his eyes, and smiled. "Will you really be happy if you're divorced from me ?"

"Yes."

Receiving her answer without hesitation, Jeremy felt a fierce stab in his heart.

After a few seconds of silence, he nodded. "Very well. I'll fulfill your wish and won't fight you for Jack's custody."

She had thought that Jeremy would continue to embarrass her. She did not think he would promise her so decisively.

Madeline looked at Jeremy questioningly but saw him smiling at her. "Linnie, if you could really be happy with this, then I accept."

Seeing his sincere eyes, Madeline breathed a sigh of relief.

Madeline smiled faintly when she saw him looking at her desperately. "I used to love you arbitrarily, but I found out later that a love too strong would only end up hurting myself. Jeremy, I loved you. Although I hate you more now, I still want to thank you for giving me an unforgettable memory and Jack."

After she was done speaking, she confirmed with him one last time. "I'll see you at nine o'clock tomorrow morning in the lawyer's office."

Jeremy looked at Madeline's back in a daze. There seemed to be no trace of being moved on his handsome face, but his heart was already flowing.

He had once thought he was unaffected by anything, but he did not expect that the person who would let him down was himself.

'It turns out your love for me has really become a thing of the past. It turns out that the eternity that I thought we had already ended in our past and we can never go back again.'

The next day, Madeline arrived at the law firm at the agreed time.

Seeing that the time was approaching and Jeremy had not appeared yet, she subconsciously thought that Jeremy was going to regret it.

When she was about to call Jeremy, he appeared.

He still looked very noble and elegant. When he saw Madeline, he smiled slightly. "Did you wait long?"

Madeline shook her head. "The timing is just right. The lawyer is already here."

"Yeah." He nodded, Jeremy's gaze sinking as Madeline turned to lead the way.

After entering the lawyer's office and reading the divorce agreement in front of him, he saw that Madeline had already signed it decisively.

Jeremy held the pen, looked back at Madeline. "Linnie."

He suddenly called out her name softly. Madeline turned to look at him. "Do you have any more requests?"

"I wish you happiness." He blessed her painfully.

Madeline looked at him with some surprise in her eyes, but then she saw Jeremy curl his lips into a smile.

"I've given you too much pain in this life and no longer have the ability to give you happiness. I wish you a new life and all the happiness you want after leaving me."

As his voice fell, Jeremy raised his hand and signed his name in the lower right corner of the divorce agreement.

Somehow, Madeline suddenly fell into a trance.

Seeing Jeremy's signature on the divorce agreement, not only did she not have any emotions of being relaxed or free. In fact, she felt a small prickling sensation.

Those fond memories from her youth, the throbbing secret love of childhood, and the failed marriage had all come to an end at this moment.

Walking out of the door of the law firm, Jeremy looked at Madeline with nostalgia. "Linnie, can I hold you one last time ?"

Madeline should have refused, but she nodded her head as if possessed.

Jeremy smiled slightly, then spread his arms to embrace her.

He closed his eyes and greedily enjoyed this last moment of warmth. When he opened his eyes again, his vision was already blurred.

Things could have been very happy.

However, he had personally destroyed this happiness.

He had hurt her deeply yet still tried to gain her forgiveness. He really was despicable. "Can I be with Jack for a few more days ?"

Madeline nodded gently. "Yes."

"Thank you." He smiled bitterly.

Before he hugged her enough, Felipe's car had stopped by the roadside.

He rolled down the car window and called out to Madeline, "Vera, can you go now ?"

Madeline broke free from Jeremy's arms without reluctance. She gave the silent man a faint glance before turning toward Felipe's car.

Felipe's deep, smiling gaze flicked across Jeremy's face before driving away.

Madeline looked at the man who was getting further and further away in the rearview mirror. He was holding the divorce agreement in his hand. The longer he held it, the tighter his grip...

Jeremy watched Madeline leave before taking out his phone to make a call. His tone was cold but strong as he said, "I'm the man who signed for a divorce with Madeline just now..."

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Madeline returned to the shop absently while Felipe followed her into the office.

After reading the divorce agreement between her and Jeremy, there was a pleasant smile in Felipe's black eyes.

"Why didn't you go to the Civil Affairs Bureau to get the divorce certificate?" he asked mildly.

Madeline returned to her senses, but her eyes looked a little confused. "Today's the weekend and the Civil Affairs Bureau isn't open."

Felipe nodded lightly, vaguely observing that Madeline was a little out of it. "Vera, are you still not able to let go of something ?"

"It's not because of Jeremy. It's because of Jack."

"Little fool, Jack will be heading to Country F with you. I won't let Jeremy have the chance to fight you for his custody."

Madeline was lost for two seconds before she said, "He has given up custody of Jack."

Felipe was quite surprised. "He gave up on his own will?"

"Yeah." Madeline thought of what Jeremy said last night.

"Linnie, if you can be happy with this, then I accept."

His words were still so clear in her ears, and the look in his eyes...

Madeline quickly stopped herself from thinking further. "Felipe, before leaving Glendale, can you agree to a request ?"

Felipe held Madeline's hand with a gentle smile. "As long as I can do it, I won't let you down."

"Can you return Whitman Manor to Grandpa?"

When the words fell, Madeline saw a glimmer of light in Felipe's eyes.

She thought he was going to refuse, but then she heard him promise with a smile. "Okay, I promise you."

Madeline breathed a sigh of relief. "Thank you."

"There's no need to thank me. It's all because of you that I'm able to regain the things that originally belonged to my parents."

When the words reached her ears, Madeline suddenly felt as if she had profoundly sinned.

Being able to come back to life, her purpose was to seek revenge.

She was delighted to see Jeremy in such misery, ending up with nothing left. However, she would not want to see the flames of her revenge affect Old Master Whitman.

After Felipe left the scene, Madeline gave Jeremy a call.

Jeremy was surprised when he received her call, but he still appeared at the place where Madeline wanted to meet him.

After they met, he drove the car and finally arrived at a nursing home.

"Is this where Grandpa is currently staying?" Madeline felt it to be rather unacceptable.

"The environment and facilities here are very good." Jeremy then led the way forward.

Madeline knew that for an old man, it would not matter how well his living environment was or how well he ate. It would never be as good as him having his children and relatives around him.

Madeline could not bring herself to allow Old Master Whitman to spend his remaining life in this place.

"Felipe has promised me that he'll return Whitman Manor back to Grandpa."

Jeremy smiled with deep implications. "Do you really believe that he'll do it? Linnie, you still are a bit naive."

"..." Madeline glanced at Jeremy with dissatisfaction. As she was about to say something, her gaze was caught by Old Master Whitman who was practicing Tai Chi in the garden not far away.

Grandpa seemed to be much more energetic than before.

Old Master Whitman noticed Madeline as well and his eyes were still as kind and peaceful as always.

"You can talk to Grandpa first. I'll answer a phone call." Jeremy seemed to deliberately try to create alone time for Madeline and Grandpa Whitman. After saying this, he simply walked away.

After Old Master Whitman finished his Tai Chi routine, he smiled kindly and waved to Madeline. "Madeline, you came."

Madeline's heart suddenly turned sour when she heard the old man calling her Madeline and the urge to cry almost instantly surged.

"Grandpa, I'm sorry." She apologized.

"Silly girl, you didn't do anything wrong toward Grandpa." Old Master Whitman smiled and stretched out his hand toward Madeline. "Come and sit next to Grandpa."

Madeline held Old Master Whitman's hand while her eyes reddened, then sat beside him. The sunshine of the early spring was not warm, but the gentle gaze of Old Master Whitman made Madeline feel warmer. "Grandpa, Felipe has promised me that he'll return the house to you. You can move back in around two days."

Old Master Whitman smiled lightly when he heard her words. "I already have one foot in the ground. Whether it's real estate or money, they're both no longer important to me." "Grandpa..." "I understand Felipe's hatred toward me. The accident that happened back then had been so coincidental." Old Master Whitman sighed.

Madeline recalled Felipe's past that he had shared with her before. He said that Old Master Whitman had designed the car accident that killed his parents just to gain the Whitman family's inheritance rights.

Madeline was sure that Old Master Whitman was not such a sinister person, but it also did not seem that Felipe had lied.

After putting in some thought, Madeline decided to ask as she could not just hear one side out. "Grandpa, what happened back then?"

Old Master Whitman then sighed regretfully again, those weather-beaten eyes suddenly becoming a little muddy. "Felipe's father is my brother. My father gave birth to my younger brother when I was almost 18 years old. He was delighted that he was able to get a child even in his old age.

"My father had always valued Felipe's father ever since I was a child. This made me a little envious and even jealous. Later on, Felipe's father got married and started a business. My father had intended to hand over the entire Whitman Corporation to Felipe's father as an inheritance. However, the day he announced the inheritance, Felipe's parents got into a serious car accident while on their way to the company and died on the spot.

"When Felipe's parents died, the biggest beneficiary would be me, so I naturally became the suspect who planned the car accident."

Madeline was startled. "So, it's all just a misunderstanding? There's no evidence to prove that it was related to you, is there, Grandpa?"

"Misunderstandings are most of the time the deadliest thing." Old Master Whitman smiled with relief and patted Madeline's hand. "In fact, what happened between you and Jeremy, wasn't it also because of one misunderstanding after another?"

Madeline became silent when he suddenly mentioned Jeremy and her.

"Madeline, by now, I have to tell you the truth about that matter."

Old Master Whitman's gaze was serious.

Madeline's heart thumped as she asked in confusion, "The truth of that incident? Grandpa, which incident are you talking about?"

Old Master Whitman smiled kindly and gently. "Silly girl, the truth is, it was not I who decided the marriage between you and Jeremy.

"..." Madeline was dumbfounded. "Grandpa, what are you talking about? Weren't you the main reason why Jeremy and I got married back then..."

"No." Old Master Whitman interrupted Madeline's doubts. "It was someone else. It was this person who had taken the initiative to look for me and ask me to host the marriage between you and Jeremy."

Upon hearing this, Madeline felt even more lost. "Who is it? Grandpa, who is this person?"

"It was Jeremy."

"..." Madeline's eyes widened in disbelief. "Jeremy? How could that be possible? How could he be the one to initiate marrying me?"

"Because that b*stard liked you, but he was prideful and refused to admit it."

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Madeline felt her heart instantly turning into a mess when she heard this.

Back then when she and Jeremy got married, everyone in Glendale knew that Old Master Whitman had been the one who forced the marriage.

Now, Old Master Whitman was telling her that he had never forced Jeremy into the marriage.

It was Jeremy who requested this marriage!

"Madeline, I know it's hard for you to believe it, but I wouldn't lie to you like this."

As he said this, the old man stood up slowly and looked at the evening sky as the sunset came to an end.

"That day, Jeremy came to the study looking for me all of a sudden and said to me, 'Grandpa, I want to marry Madeline.' I asked him the reason behind him wanting to marry a girl he didn't like. He did not answer me at the time, but his face back then was as red as the sunset's glow right now."

After listening quietly to what Grandpa had said, Madeline gradually pulled back her wandering thoughts. "You're trying to tell me that Jeremy had actually liked me back then ?"

"No man would allow a woman who they didn't love to bear them children, and no woman is willing to take care of the children of a man she doesn't love." Old Master Whitman turned away and patted Madeline on the shoulder.

"Madeline, I wasn't trying to defend Jeremy. No matter how much I wished I could defend him, the harm he has done to you is still not erasable. I just thought that you had the right to know the truth. While I don't know why Jeremy never wanted to acknowledge that he had feelings for you, I could tell that he has sincere feelings for you."

As soon as Grandpa was done, Jeremy's tall figure appeared in Madeline's sight.

He looked at her from a distance, and under the sunset glow, his appealing appearance quietly portrayed itself in her eyes.

Old Master Whitman had caught sight of Jeremy as well, but he ignored him and still faced Madeline with patience and kindness. "Since it's a misunderstanding, it will be resolved sooner or later. I believe that one day, you'll be able to feel Jeremy's sincerity toward you."

Accompanied by the sound of his ending words, Old Master Whitman turned away and left.

Madeline stepped out calmly, but a storm was brewing in her heart.

She remembered the year when Jeremy had pinched her chin and said while showing a wicked smirk, "Madeline, do you seriously think that I'm still putting up this act with you just because of my concerns about Grandpa ?"

He had also said, "Madeline, let me tell you this, from the beginning to the end, it is me, Jeremy, who will decide the start and end of this marriage. Or did you really think that you could be my wife just by sleeping with me? Aren't you being too naive?"

As the words he had said to her connected with Grandpa's words from just now, only then did Madeline came to a realization.

At this moment, she seemed to finally understand the meaning behind the two sentences Jeremy had said back then.

It turned out that the existence of their marriage was really not because of Old Master Whitman.

It was Jeremy who had personally dictated it!

The reason was that he liked her?

'He likes me?'

Madeline still thought this reason was absurd.

Even if he did say he loved her every now and then, the torture that had engulfed her in darkness in the past was still vivid.

"I'll send you back." Jeremy's voice suddenly rang in her ears and Madeline returned to her senses.

She looked at the man beside her, her gaze full of questions.

'No, Eveline Montgomery. Don't believe this man.

'If he had had any trace of affection for you, you wouldn't be harboring such deep hatred today.'

Jeremy noticed that Madeline was looking at him a little strangely. He delusionally wished that she still had some attachment toward him.

It was a pity that a fantasy was just fantasy after all.

Madeline called a cab by the roadside and went back alone. Jeremy only left after desolately watching Madeline who drifted away.

Not long after he left, a figure entered stealthily into the nursing home.

That person went straight to the front desk and announced, "I'm Old Mr. Whitman's granddaughter-in-law, Madeline Crawford. I have something important to ask of him."

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After returning home, the words that Old Master Whitman had said kept popping up in her mind.

After signing the divorce papers, Madeline never wanted to see Jeremy ever again. Today, however, she met him again to meet Old Master Whitman.

Now, Madeline was driving to the villa for some reason. She thought of seeing Jackson but found that the villa was enveloped in darkness.

She hurriedly dialed Jeremy's number. As soon as the call connected, she asked, "Jeremy, where are you? Where's Jack? Where did you take Jack?"

Jeremy did not answer immediately. He opened his mouth after a while and said, "He's here at my parents' place."

"Where are your parents?"

"You'll take Jack away soon. Although my parents aren't qualified grandparents, Jack's still their grandson."

Madeline understood when she heard this.

She did not ask Jeremy to bring Jack back immediately and just said indifferently, "I'll drive over now and see you downstairs at the residential area in a while."

Madeline immediately drove over after hanging up the call.

She parked her car outside of the residential area. As she was about to call Jeremy after getting out of the car, someone suddenly ran into her from behind and knocked her phone to the ground.

Madeline initially thought that person had not been careful, but when she turned her head and saw Yvonne's arrogant face, she knew that it was intentional.

"Tsk, look who's here. If it isn't my heartless and inhumane cousin-in-law?" Yvonne said, her gaze arrogant. "What are you doing here? Do you want to see how bad my cousin is doing? I'm telling you, stop being delusional! As long as I'm by my cousin's side, he'll definitely have a comeback one day!"

Madeline did not know where Yvonne found the confidence to say such things, but she really did not bother to waste her time with Yvonne. As such, she bent down to pick up her phone.

An evil smile appeared on Yvonne's face upon seeing this. She lifted her foot to kick Madeline's body.

Madeline saw Yvonne's insidious act through the rear-view mirror of the car. She picked up her phone speedily and retreated to the side flexibly.

Yvonne had used too much force and stepped on the air, causing her to fall flat on her face. "Ah!" she yelled in pain, "Madeline, you b*tch. How dare you..."

She broke out into curses but stopped halfway through her cursing. Then, she displayed an aggrieved, pitiful expression. "Vera, even if you hate your aunt for bullying you that once, you and I bear no grudges. How could you hit me? You even pushed me to the

The sudden change in Yvonne's behavior reminded Madeline of Meredith.

She vaguely noticed something, then heard familiar footsteps behind her.

"Cousin Jeremy, you came just in time. I happened to bump into Vera just now, but she suddenly scolded me and even pushed me to the ground. It hurts, boo-hoo..."

Tsk.

Sure enough, Yvonne's sudden change in behavior was because Jeremy was here.

This was similar to the two-faced drama that was still fresh in Madeline's memory.

Meredith used to play such tricks repeatedly in front of Jeremy. What made her bitterly disheartened was that Jeremy chose to believe Meredith time and time again.

At this moment, Madeline already did not look forward to Jeremy's opinion.

It did not matter to her whether he believed or not.

"Cousin Jeremy, my foot seems to be twisted. It hurts and I can't stand up. Can you help me up?" Yvonne stretched out her hand to Jeremy pitifully with expectant eyes.

Just when Madeline thought that Jeremy would definitely help his little cousin up, the man turned a blind eye and walked straight toward Madeline. His low and gravelly voice was soft as he said, "Linnie, it's windy and cold here. Do you want to go upstairs?"

Yvonne's expression instantly changed. She was a little frustrated. "Cousin Jeremy, this woman and another man teamed up to bring down your career that you had worked so hard to build. She made Aunty so angry till she couldn't eat and she just pushed me down so viciously. Why do you still care about whether she's cold?"

Jeremy's gaze sank a little, a cold light appearing in his eyes. "Don't perform these cheap two-faced tricks in front of me. Do you think I'll believe what you said?"

"..." Yvonne's face reddened awkwardly, but she still wanted to argue. "Cousin Jeremy, what... What I said is true. This woman really pushed me!"

"My wife won't bother with a person like you. Push you? She only thinks it'll make her hands dirty."

When Madeline heard Jeremy calling her his wife, she was a bit surprised, but she did not want to argue with Jeremy at the moment.

"..." Yvonne also did not expect Jeremy to give such an answer. She opened her mouth but was speechless. She then quickly stood up and squeezed out some tears more aggrievedly. "Cousin Jeremy, I didn't lie. She really pushed me! She's an evil woman. She always has been!"

Madeline found it meaningless to argue, but she also did not want to let Yvonne slander her. She smiled a little and opened her lips widely. "Yes, I'm an evil woman and also a very scheming woman. That's why before I had gotten out of the car, I purposely turned on the camera function on my phone. Now, do you want to see who's trying to push who?"

"..." Yvonne sized up Madeline suspiciously. "You... You recorded it?"

"Why? You don't believe it? Then I'll play it for you now to admire your buffoonery just now." As Madeline said this, she made an action of unlocking her phone.

"You... Who knew you're so insidious!" Yvonne bit her lip and looked at Jeremy with sparkling eyes. "Cousin Jeremy, Aunty is still waiting for me. I... I'll go up first!"

Madeline laughed softly upon seeing this. "I didn't even record anything but your reaction has already told the truth."

"..." Yvonne did not expect to be set up by Madeline. She had no choice but to hold back the surge of anger and leave resentfully.

Madeline squinted at Yvonne's frame, feeling ridiculous. She turned to see Jeremy's deep gaze staring at her closely. There was a bit of interest in his gaze and also a touch of appreciation that was not there before.

"Linnie, you really grew up a lot." He suddenly said this.

Madeline laughed a little and said rather sarcastically, "I am how I am today thanks to you and Meredith."

Speaking of Meredith, Jeremy frowned a little. "Did she hurt you just now?"

"After going through your and Meredith's 'training', I'm no longer the fool who everyone can bully anymore." Madeline laughed at herself and saw Jeremy's face sink slightly. "Where's Jack?"

"He's asleep. I want to have him stay here tonight."

Madeline's expression changed a little hearing that. "Bring Jack down immediately. You should've already seen what kind of attitude your cousin sister has toward me just now. I don't wish for another Meredith to appear and spread her resentment to Jack just because she hates me."

Jeremy wanted to say something but did not in the end. He immediately went up to carry Jackson down obediently.

Karen chased them to the door and asked Jeremy why he was suddenly taking Jackson away.

Jeremy did not answer her but it was Yvonne who was following him who opened her mouth to instigate defamation. "Aunty, it's all because Madeline is causing trouble! I met her downstairs just now and not only did she bully me, she even told Jeremy that she's afraid you'll hurt Jack, so she asked him to bring him back to her immediately!"

Hearing this, Karen ground her teeth in anger. "That b*tch. She was restless before, but she's even more restless now! I must let her know how great I am!"

Seeing Karen gnashing her teeth with hatred, a sneer appeared on Yvonne's face. She was determined to stir up trouble.

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Jackson slept so soundly that he still did not wake up when he returned to the villa.

Madeline carried the little guy to his bed and gently covered him with a quilt.

Looking at the little guy's sleeping face, she bent down and kissed him gently.

When she was about to leave, Madeline glanced around the room.

Everything was available in the room from toys to stationery. It could be seen that Jackson's living conditions were quite favorable.

Mentally, however, this child's truly happy days began the day he met Madeline again.

Madeline's heart ached as her gaze was suddenly drawn to the picture on the desk.

She picked it up and took a closer look. It was a crayon drawing which was probably drawn by Jackson himself.

There were two adults in the drawing holding a little boy's hands. The three of them showed similar happy smiles on their faces, strolling across a field of green grass that was full of flowers.

These two adults were obviously her and Jeremy while the little boy was Jackson himself.

To Madeline's surprise, there was a little girl with a crescent smile holding a lollipop in her hand next to them.

"Lilian ?" Madeline was astonished. She did not expect Lilian to be in Jackson's family portrait!

While thinking about it, Madeline heard Jeremy's approaching footsteps.

She put down the drawing and gently covered it with a book.

"When are you going to F Country?" Jeremy asked straightforwardly.

Madeline turned her head. "I'll take Jackson away after settling the divorce papers with you next Monday."

Jeremy was silently heartbroken, but he put up a smile. "Do you really love Felipe?"

Madeline was taken aback for a moment when he asked this question so suddenly.

Seeing her silent, a joyful smile appeared in Jeremy's eyes. "You don't have to say it. I already know the answer."

Afraid that Madeline would refute, Jeremy spoke again while handing over an item, "Since you're leaving and never coming back, then do take this as well."

He spread open his palm.

Madeline looked down as her calm eyes flickered. She was extremely confused, even a little excited. "Why do you have this with you ?"

Madeline picked up the object that was lying in Jeremy's palm.

Her eyes flickered as the memories suddenly dragged her back to that summer long, long ago...

At the age of ten, she met a 12-year-old Jeremy.

At that time, she had given him that colorful seashell and said she hoped he would always be happy.

Jeremy's eyes were full of caution back then, but he still showed Madeline a rare smile in the end.

The ten-year-old Madeline was ignorant and naive. She later realized that at the moment when Jeremy looked at her, the throbbing of her heart signified a love at first sight that would last for a thousand years.

Later, Jeremy made a bookmark with leaves and gave it to her.

She had been treasuring it carefully, keeping it in her diary and sometimes taking a glance at it.

Although, once when she had wanted to read the contents of her previous diary, she realized the diary was missing along with the bookmark wedged in it.

She had been sad for a long time.

After all, that was the only thing Jez had left for her.

However, how could this long-lost bookmark appear here with Jeremy?

"Jeremy, answer me. Why is this bookmark in your hands?" Madeline asked, her gaze sharp and eager. On the contrary, Jeremy's eyes were soft. The moment he saw Madeline care so much about this bookmark, he was already very happy.

"Why it's here is no longer important. What's important is that you still remember this bookmark, Linnie."

Madeline's heartbeat skipped a little. She stabilized her emotions and held the bookmark tightly. "When I was most eager to meet you again, you denied me. When I treasured this bookmark, you placed me in the back of your mind. Jeremy, this bookmark no longer has any meaning to me, just like you."

Madeline passed him by coldly. Jeremy stood rooted in place distractedly as the feeling of loneliness seeped into the bottom of his heart.

After Madeline went back, she could not figure out how the bookmark ended up with Jeremy.

She remembered that when Len was unable to support her in her studies, she came to the city to work a part-time job by herself.

It so happened that Meredith was in urgent need of a bone marrow treatment, so she went to do the test and discovered that they matched.

After Meredith was successfully treated, Jon and Rose seemed to have adopted her in gratitude. They let her into the Crawfords and even supported her to attend university. She clearly remembered that when she moved in with the Crawfords, the diary and the bookmark were still there.

She even carefully stored them in the drawer of the room and did not touch them.

The diary had later disappeared inexplicably. She thought Meredith had cleaned her room and moved the diary elsewhere, but when she asked, Rose and Meredith both said that they never entered Madeline's room.

Thinking about it now, both Meredith and Rose might have lied at the time.

The words Jeremy said that day involuntarily floated in her mind, "The reason why I indulged her was because the person I love is you."

Those words sounded so absurd at that time, but now, Madeline faintly felt that they were meaningful.

After thinking deeply, she decided to go to the prison tomorrow.

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Prison conjugal room.

Meredith appeared unkempt in handcuffs and shackles.

Seeing the person already seated in front of her, she sneered. She walked over and sat down slowly. "You came."

Her tone was irreverent and she looked at ease with death.

"Don't talk nonsense. Do you still have five million in your account?" Tanner asked impatiently.

"I've been with Jeremy for so many years, so I've gained some benefits," Meredith sneered arrogantly as she leaned back on the chair. "You can first go to my other account to withdraw one million. After everything is done, I'll tell you the password for another account."

Tanner's eyes shone instantly, but he still had some doubts. "Don't play games with me."

"Hmph, I'm going to die in half a month. What can I get from keeping this money ?" Meredith said nonchalantly, but suddenly, she clenched her fists as a burst of frenzy set off in her eyes. "But before I die, I must first witness that b*tch Madeline's death with my own eyes !"

"As long as you can help me settle this matter, that five million is yours!" Meredith tempted. Seeing the greedy light in Tanner's eyes, she egged him on. "Tanner, we've had a good time anyhow. That Madeline has harmed you so badly before. If you're a real man, shouldn't you at least teach her a lesson?"

"Of course, I'm a real man!" Tanner was easily fooled. "Okay, as long as your money is secured, I'll definitely help you settle this matter!"

"Then, I'll be waiting for your good news!" Meredith laughed loudly, got up, and left the conjugal room.

Tanner jotted down the account number and password that Meredith mentioned. He then put on his mask and left hurriedly.

He unexpectedly saw Madeline getting out of a white car just as he walked out of the prison facility. Tanner quickly lowered his head and ducked aside, observing Madeline's every move in secret.

Seeing Madeline head into the prison facility, Tanner walked to Madeline's car stealthily and took a closer look...

Meredith had just returned to her prison cell when she suddenly received news that someone had come to visit her again.

General visits to prisons required approval, but this person had come too suddenly. Meredith could not guess who it was, but she crazily hoped that this person was Jeremy.

However, it was Madeline who appeared in front of her eyes.

An intense flame of hatred instantly welled up in Meredith's eyes. Madeline's temperament and appearance in front of her crushed her to death.

Meredith gritted her teeth fiercely. With her clenched fists, she slammed them on the table harshly. "Madeline Crawford!"

Madeline looked at her indifferently. "My name is Eveline Montgomery. I'm giving the name 'Madeline Crawford' back to the Crawford family."

"You despicable b*tch!"

"Speaking of despicable, is there anyone more despicable than you in this world?"

"Back then, you outrageously set him up using drugs just to climb into his bed, but you went for wool and came home shorn. After I was married to Jeremy, you played the role of a goody two shoes many times to interfere with our marriage, even going as far as treating my own flesh and blood as yours. Aren't these acts despicable ?"

Madeline raised her delicate eyebrows undisturbed.

"I thought these matters were despicable enough, but who would've thought you did more than that."

As Madeline's voice fell, she threw the item in her hand in front of Meredith's eyes.

"You should be familiar with this thing, right?"

Seeing the item that Madeline had tossed over, Meredith's fierce and angry face suddenly froze. Even the swear words that were about to leave her mouth were held back.

Her eyes flickered, and her guilty conscience was visible.

Madeline observed the sneaky changes in Meredith's expression. She completely understood Jeremy's words at this instant.

At the same time, Madeline also firmly believed that the truth behind the disappearance of her diary was Meredith's work.

"Meredith, you're the one who stole my diary back then. You saw the contents inside and knew that Jeremy and I had such a relationship when we were young. So, you pretended to be me, planned a deceit, and led Jeremy to firmly believe that you were the little girl he made a promise with back then."

After telling the whole truth, Meredith's eyes narrowed instantly.

She did not make excuses, so it was already a tacit admittance.

In her opinion, it was useless to argue as Jeremy already knew about it.

Madeline clenched her fists, a cold light seeping out of her beautiful eyes. "Meredith Crawford, you're so pathetic."

Hearing this, Meredith lifted her fiercely shining eyes suddenly and slammed her fist on the table. "What did you say? Madeline what did you say?! You're calling me pathetic?"

"That's right, you're pathetic." Madeline sneered and chuckled. "By now, you should be very clear about the reason why Jeremy indulged you so much in those years. His so-called 'liking' toward you was only because of his unforgettable memories with me. You're just a laughable and pathetic substitute!"

"Shut up! I'm not your substitute! Jeremy loves me, he loves me!" Meredith roared, out of control. She kept emphasizing Jeremy's love for her in delusion. Madeline countered calmly, saying, "He doesn't love you at all. If he really loved you, you wouldn't have ended up like this today."

"Nonsense! Jeremy loves me, he loves me the most! I do whatever I want and Jeremy never contradicts me! You, on the contrary, Jeremy hates you the most. He hates you so much that he wants you to die!" Meredith argued desperately with red eyes.

"Madeline, why didn't you just die? Why did you come back? If you hadn't come back, Jeremy and I would be married by now! We would've been very happy!"

"You don't even have the key to the villa's gate in the three years I left. I can imagine your position in Jeremy's heart. The most pathetic thing about you is that even while pretending to be me, you couldn't make Jeremy feel any affection for you in the end!"

Madeline pricked Meredith's sore spot without mercy. Her gaze was sharp and pressing.

"Back then, Jeremy only indulged you because he falsely believed that you were the girl he said he wanted to protect. As such, he ignored his conscience to protect you. That was because the little girl is very special and very important to him. But when he found out that you're a counterfeit, you became nothing in his eyes—not even a blade of grass."

"Hmph, hahahaha..." Meredith suddenly laughed loudly. After laughing, her expression became ferocious and creepy. "Madeline, don't be delighted. So what if you know this now? At least in the past few years, Jeremy had always cared for and loved me, but what about you? Jeremy hates and despises you. You were even thoroughly tortured by him. Have you forgotten all of this?"

"You're right. The harm Jeremy has caused me is real and it was all because of his own stupidity. He was so stupid that he had blinded his own eyes and deceived his own ears, all for the little girl back then and for the promise he made to protect that girl. He was so stupid that he was convinced by your two-faced acting and firmly believed I was a cruel and evil woman. But he didn't know that he was protecting a fake, a scheming b*tch who was shamelessly pretending to be me!"

"You..." Meredith was so angry that she stood up abruptly and wanted to hit Madeline.

Madeline got up even quicker and slapped Meredith in the face fiercely, then gripped her neck.

Her gaze was stern with a fierce aura like a bone-piercing cold wind. Meredith was so terrified that she was stunned for a while.

"Meredith, what have you done in these years as yourself? You pretended to be me, got involved in my marriage, took my child, and almost destroyed my life in the end!"

"I really regret it. Why did I save you back then? I thought I saved a life, but as it turns out, I had saved a demon!

"Meredith, heaven isn't blind. Your retribution will come soon!"

Madeline flung Meredith away with a strong aura.

Meredith fell back to her position cumbersomely. She muffled the pain, then stood up frantically before throwing herself at Madeline.

"Madeline, I'm going to kill you! I'll drag you to hell even if I'll die doing it!"

She pounced, her ferocious face was like a roaring evil spirit in hell. She opened her mouth wide as if to swallow Madeline alive.

Before she could touch Madeline, she was subdued by the prison guards.

However, Meredith did not stop yelling. She got even crazier and more hysterical. "I won't let you and Jeremy be a pair! I won't let you do as you wish, Madeline!"

"Jeremy is mine, he's mine! Madeline, who are you to steal my man? Why did a woman like you occupy Jeremy's heart for 18 years?! How dare you?!"

18 years...

The words that Meredith roared out suddenly quickened Madeline's heartbeat.

Before she could think deeply about it, Meredith continued shouting crazily.

"Btch! You btch! If it weren't for you, the person Jeremy would have fallen in love at first sight with on the first day of college would be me! You deliberately pretended to bump into Jeremy to catch his attention! Because of you, Jeremy ignored the love letters I wrote to him!"

Before Meredith pretended to be me, she wrote love letters to Jeremy?'

Madeline was surprised. She looked up to see a trace of sadness on Meredith's face.

"But then when I said that I'm the little girl he met back then, Jeremy's attitude completely changed! Why do I have to pretend to be a despicable woman like you in exchange for Jeremy's attention ?! Why ?!"

"Madeline, I hate you! I hate you to death! Why did a perfect, excellent man like Jeremy fall in love with a cheap country bumpkin like you? He has not touched me even once in the years I've been with him. Even when he was drunk, he would always be yelling 'Linnie'. Bah!

"When you died, he was so heartbroken that he suffered from insomnia! He even built a grave for you! He would buy a large bouquet of roses and go to the cemetery every three to five days. He would talk to the grave alone as if possessed, saying things like 'my beloved wife'. What kind of beloved wife are you? Are you worthy? Are you worthy, Madeline?!"

After Meredith's crashing and uncontrollable roar fell, Madeline looked at Meredith who was screaming frantically with scarlet eyes. Turbulent waves were gradually setting off in her heart.

It turned out to be true.

Jeremy really built a grave for her.

It turned out that he went to the cemetery with roses many times to pay homage to her.

At that time when he could not find her ashes because her grave was destroyed, the anxiety likened to madness was also true.

All these were actually true!

Madeline could not believe that these were true. She could not believe that Jeremy had become an insomniac due to her 'death'.

However, she saw jealousy, discontent, and hatred in Meredith's eyes. All these emotions were extremely strong and deep.

It could be seen that the things Meredith said were true. They were the truth that Meredith blurted out after an emotional breakdown.

Meredith wanted to continue cursing and ranting, but just as she opened her mouth, blood came out from her nose.

Her eyes widened in shock and horror. The familiar sense of crisis made her face pale instantly.

"Why is my nose bleeding?

'Could it be... Could it be that my leukemia is coming back?'

Thinking of this, Meredith trembled in panic. "I don't want to die! I don't want to die! Call the doctor for me, I don't want to die! I don't want to die!"

"So what if your illness gets better? Your life will soon come to an end anyway."

"Meredith Crawford, a devil like you should've gone to hell long ago. You'll only hurt more innocent people if you live in this world." Madeline directly went for Meredith's heart without hesitation. As she smiled, she said, "This will be the last time I see you. Thanks for letting me know that Jeremy actually loves me that much."

Meredith suddenly returned to her senses upon hearing this. Only then did she realize that she had just revealed the truth that should not have been revealed!

It seemed to her that what she said was a great gift to Madeline but was an ultimate mockery of herself!

Meredith's expression suddenly changed. She regretfully wanted to take back those words, but it was too late.

Seeing Madeline turning around gracefully, Meredith yelled in panic, "Madeline, come back! You come back! What I said just now was a lie. Jeremy doesn't love you! He doesn't love you at all, he loves me! Meeeeeeee...."

At the end of the argument, Meredith's emotions completely collapsed.

The more Meredith wanted to cover up and reason fallaciously, it only made Madeline all the more convinced of the fact that Jeremy loved her deeply.

On the way back, Madeline's thoughts could not help but wander. Her mind was unable to rest.

The words that Meredith had roared out repeatedly resounded by her ears. Those unbelievable truths hit her heart deeply.

What Madeline did not expect the most was that Jeremy had never touched Meredith all these years, not even once!

The two times Meredith was able to 'get pregnant', was probably because Meredith made Jeremy drunk and created the illusion.

It now seemed that the ambiguous moaning by Meredith on the phone was completely fake. It was Meredith who used Jeremy's phone to call her on purpose.

Since Meredith was able to access Jeremy's phone, it also meant that the insulting text message sent in Jeremy's name six years ago was very likely to be Meredith's doing as well.

Now that she thought about it, with Jeremy's style of doing things, how could he have been so bored to send such text messages?

He had always been swift and decisive. Even if he wanted to torture her, he would be straightforward and direct.

Torture...

Those bloody, dark, and cold memories surged up her heart once again, crashing Madeline with the truth that he loved her. Her heart was beating, but she did not know if it was in pain or joy.

It was true that he loved her, but it was also true that he hurt her.

Madeline gripped the steering wheel tightly, a determined light flashing in her eyes.

Maybe love and hate could really offset each other, but after the offset, there would really be nothing between them...

Ten minutes later, Madeline's car slowly stopped at the villa's side door.

After lowering the car window, she saw Jeremy playing with Jackson in the yard.

The man was smiling with his eyes. There was a gentle and loving look on his face that was never seen before.

He picked up Jackson and let the little guy ride on his shoulders.

He ran happily, telling beautiful fairy tales while coaxing the smiling, happy little baby.

She could see that the smile on Jeremy's face was genuine, and Jackson was also really happy. Madeline knew that she had a lot to ask Jeremy. She wanted to confirm with him the things she had just learned. At this moment, however, she suddenly did not want to disturb the father and son duo.

After tomorrow, she and Jeremy would get the divorce certificate and she would bring Jackson away. From then on, they would go their own separate ways.

This was probably the last time Jeremy and Jackson could spend time together.

Thinking of this, an unknown sorrow and loneliness circled over Madeline's heart.

She took out the bookmark from her pocket and lowered her eyes, her curled eyelashes seemingly pricking her eyes all of a sudden. It caused a slight soreness in her eyes.

'Jeremy Whitman, you and I are destined for nothing.

When I was deeply in love with you, you loved the wrong person.

"When I lost my heart, only then you told me that you've always loved me.

'It turns out that timing is really important.'

It was a shame they could only miss it.

"Daddy, why didn't Mommy come to see me today? She said she would play with me this weekend." Jackson's voice pulled Madeline's thoughts back.

She raised her head and saw the little guy pulling at Jeremy's trouser legs, his head facing up as he asked expectantly.

Jeremy stretched out his hand and stroked his small head with a gentle smile. "Jack, starting from next Monday, Daddy is going on a business trip and will not be able to come back for a long time. You have to listen to your mother, okay?"

"How long is a long time?" the little guy asked innocently.

Jeremy smiled reluctantly. "You'll understand when you grow up."

Jackson fluttered his big, bright, and smart eyes. "Then, I must grow up quickly so that I can see Daddy again soon."

"My baby, you're so good." Jeremy praised. He suddenly knelt down and hugged Jackson into his arms.

"Daddy, what's the matter with you?" Jackson blinked ignorantly.

Jeremy stroked the little guy lightly as he choked and whispered, "Daddy wants to say sorry to Jack."

"Jack, I'm sorry. I didn't take good care of you and made you suffer so much in the past few years. I'm really sorry."

Jeremy apologized, his every word sincere from the heart.

"Jack, promise me you'll be a strong and sensible man. Take my place and protect your mother and make her happy."

"Why doesn't Daddy protect Mommy and make her happy?"

Jeremy released his arms and stared at the big eyes that looked like Madeline's.

"Because I've made a mistake and am no longer qualified to give your mother happiness and joy."

Jeremy's guilt-ridden words slipped into her ears deeply and heavily.

Madeline's heart started beating quickly. She no longer wanted to listen anymore. Just as she was about to drive away, Jeremy's cell phone rang.

She heard Jeremy say anxiously, "Grandpa was sent to the emergency room?"

How could Grandpa suddenly be sent into the emergency room?

Madeline was also instantly worried. She did not think much and drove the car to the gate of the villa. "Jeremy, quickly grab Jack and get into the car."

Hearing her, it was only then that Jeremy noticed Madeline had arrived some time ago.

He immediately picked Jackson up and got into Madeline's car. She then drove straight to the hospital.

After getting out of the car, Jeremy hugged Jackson and rushed to the emergency room in strides while Madeline followed him closely.

Walking through the corridor, Madeline saw Karen and Jeremy's father, Winston, waiting outside the emergency room with anxious and worried faces. Yvonne was also there.

Seeing Jeremy arrive, Karen immediately greeted him.

As soon as she saw Madeline walking behind him, Karen then suddenly pointed at Madeline while yelling, "Madeline, how dare you come here ?! If anything happens to the old master, you'll be a murderer!"

Mr. Whitman, Winston, also faced Madeline with an ugly expression. "Madeline, even if Jeremy has let you down before and even if it was the old man who forced Jeremy to marry you and created this mistake of a marriage, you still shouldn't have been so hateful to kill the old man!"

At this time, Yvonne also came over and accused her. "Vera, you're too cruel for wanting to kill the old man. It seems that you and Felipe have colluded on this long ago! You're too inhuman!"

When Yvonne's voice fell, Jeremy's face was already cold. "Shut your mouth! Who are you calling inhuman, huh? Say it again."

"..." Yvonne's face immediately paled. Chills were running down her spine out of fright.

Karen rushed forward fiercely while pointing at Madeline and cursing, "Jeremy, your grandfather is lying in the emergency room now and we don't even know whether he's alive or dead. It's all because of this woman!

She killed him! Why are you still helping her? She's already having an affair with Felipe! Maybe Jackson is not your son at all but a wild thing that she and Felipe gave birth to!"

Jeremy's face was shrouded in dark clouds for a moment as stormy waves were seen in his deep eyes.

"Are you crazy? Do you know what you're saying?" His eyes flashed with a dazzling cold light while his words were like ice. "With your words, you're not even worthy of being Jack's grandmother!"

Karen felt a chill running down her back when she realized that she had made a mistake.

She hurriedly corrected herself and softened her tone. "Jeremy, I only said the wrong thing because I was so angry, but this woman did indeed break our family apart while colluding with Felipe."

"Let's not mention this matter for the time being, but she did intend to kill your grandfather!" Winston glared at Madeline furiously.

"Linnie wouldn't do such a thing." Jeremy assured without hesitation.

Madeline never thought that Jeremy would one day choose to trust her without hesitation, but as soon as he said this, Madeline heard Karen scolding her again.

"Why wouldn't she? She has done many of those sordid things before!"

"Those things in the past were all Meredith's doings. The truth has long been revealed. Are you still pretending to be confused now ?" Jeremy's eyebrows were knitted tightly. He then said in a cold and domineering manner, "I will never allow anyone to slander my wife like this !"

Wife.

The word went into Madeline's ears.

Yes, she would still be his legal wife, but only until tomorrow.

Karen did not expect Jeremy to trust and protect Madeline this much. Compared to when he was with Meredith before, he had never gotten so angry.

It seemed that she had no choice but to believe that Jeremy's feelings for Madeline were true.

"Jeremy, what Aunty and Uncle said is true. Madeline really wants to kill Grandpa. We have proof!" Yvonne interjected.

In the past, Madeline would have panicked with fear, but now, instead of panicking at all, she was calm.

"You keep saying that I want to murder Grandpa and there's evidence. So where's the evidence?"

Yvonne raised her eyebrows arrogantly when she heard the words. "Madeline, let me ask you this, did you go to the nursing home to see Grandpa yesterday?"

"I went to see Grandpa, so what?"

"You're willing to admit it! You gave Grandpa a box of tea cakes through the nurse there before you left. Grandpa ate your tea cakes before he was poisoned and was sent to the emergency room!"

Tea cakes?

Madeline remembered that this was indeed a snack that the old man loved.

She was about to speak when she heard Jeremy say, "I brought Linnie to see Grandpa yesterday, but Linnie was with me from when we got there until we left. She never brought any tea cakes."

"Was she really with you the whole time? Not once were you separated ?" Mr. Whitman asked, unconvinced.

Jeremy replied solemnly, "Yes, Linnie was always with me."

His answer obviously made Karen and Yvonne dissatisfied. "It's also possible that she could have gone back after you left!"

"Absurd," Jeremy said unhappily, "Grandpa is so good to Linnie, so why would Linnie hurt Grandpa ?"

Karen rolled her eyes unwillingly. "She's pretending. Otherwise, why would she join Felipe to steal the Whitman family's house? She even forced Grandpa to a nursing home!"

"The reason Grandpa wants to live in a nursing home is to avoid you. He wants to be clean!"

Jeremy exposed that truth hardly with any tact and Karen was immediately speechless. Her face turned purple with anger.

Just then, the door to the operating room opened and the doctor came out. He said solemnly, "The old man was infected with a kind of potassium cyanide poison. He has temporarily passed the critical period. However, because he's too old, his bodily functions could decline and something may happen anytime. You must be mentally prepared."

After listening to the doctor's words, Karen looked indignant and wanted to cast her anger on Madeline.

Madeline ignored her without surprise. There was no need for her to argue. "I will find the murderer who really hurt Grandpa and I'll prove my innocence."

She threw out the assurance, then turned around calmly.

Jeremy did not stay long either and followed Madeline while carrying Jackson.

Madeline knew that Jeremy was behind her and she said lightly, "I went to see Grandpa yesterday. You weren't with me at all. Was your assurance a bit too sloppy?"

"I don't think it's sloppy." Jeremy was still very assured. "I made a very terrible mistake before and I won't make it again."

Madeline chuckled softly. "Maybe you're wrong again this time."

"As long as I stand on the same side as you, even if there's hell ahead, I'll jump in without hesitation."

Madeline stepped out of the hospital door and slowly came to a stop. The corners of her lips curled into a smile. "There will never be a day where you and I can stand together anymore."

Jeremy's heart was instantly broken into two pieces when he heard those words. He looked at Madeline's back that was close at hand, but he felt that there was a distance of endless mountains and rivers between them.

"Eveline? It's really you, Eveline!" In the distance, Eloise called out to Madeline in surprise and ran over.

Madeline looked at the person who was gradually approaching, feeling surprised. While she was still feeling puzzled, the little guy in Jeremy's arms asked, "Grandma, why did you come to the hospital as well?"

There was a flash of worry in Eloise's eyes as she replied, "It's nothing. Grandma and Grandpa are just here for a routine check-up."

"Are both of you really okay ?" Madeline opened her lips slightly.

Seeing Madeline caring about herself and Sean, a smile appeared on Eloise's face. "Don't worry, Eveline. It's really fine. It's just a minor problem."

Madeline gave a vague smile. "Since we've met here, let us bid farewell to you as well."

"Farewell ?" Eloise was dumbfounded. "What farewell ?"

"I'll be bringing Jack along with me to leave Glendale next week and I won't be coming back again." Madeline's answer was straightforward, as straightforward as the ice cones that pierced through Eloise's heart. Although even as she said that, Madeline knew that she would definitely not leave just like this before Old Master Whitman woke up and before she found the real person behind everything. Eloise was completely stunned, and her eyes felt hot all of a sudden. "Eveline, you… Are you leaving?"

"Yeah." Madeline confirmed. "You don't need to be sad. You've gotten used to not having me as a daughter for more than 20 years anyway, so you can just take it as your daughter is already dead."

"No, it's not like that. I couldn't..." Eloise burst into tears immediately. Seeing this, Jackson immediately asked to come down from Jeremy's arms and turned to comfort Eloise.

Madeline pretended to smile indifferently. "Then, let's have Jack accompany you for now. I'll come back and pick him up later."

"Eveline, Eveline!" Eloise could not let go of her, yet she also could not stop Madeline from leaving.

Madeline walked with her back facing them, appearing free and easy.

She walked to the parking space and took a deep breath before she stabilized her emotions that were almost out of control.

"Give me a ride." Jeremy's voice gently passed through her ears. "I still have a few last words to say to you." He opened the car door as he said this and got into the passenger seat. Madeline was surprised. Did she not lock the car door just now?"

She got into the car in a daze, started the car, and soon, she heard Jeremy speaking to her. "You won't throw away the bookmark, right?"

Madeline did not answer him.

Jeremy looked at her cold side profile affectionately before opening his mouth. "Linnie, I know you won't believe what I want to say, but since you're leaving soon, there's something I want to tell you seriously this once.

"Linnie, I love..."

"What's going on ?" Madeline suddenly frowned and interrupted Jeremy's confession.

Only then did Jeremy realize that the speed of the car was getting faster and faster. He thought it was because of the road that was going downhill at first, but now he realized that there seemed to be a problem with the brakes!

The road ahead was going downhill. If they did not slow down anytime soon, they would definitely hit the barrier and get into a serious car accident.

Jeremy immediately pulled the handbrake. "Linnie, hold tight onto the steering wheel!" Madeline squeezed the steering wheel fully after hearing his words, then she heard the sound of tires rubbing against the road. They still lost control of the car in the end.

Seeing that the car was about to hit the barrier, Jeremy decisively unfastened his seat belt and hugged Madeline tightly to his side. He was using his flesh and blood to shield Madeline from the upcoming damage as much as possible.

"Jeremy, what are you doing? Let go of me!"

Realizing Jeremy was thinking of protecting her with his own body, she wanted to push him away, but the man hugged her even tighter as his warm breath gushed into her ears. "Linnie, don't push me away again. There might not be a chance for me in the future, so listen to my last words."

His tone was almost pleading as he tightened his hug.

"I won't listen to you, Jeremy. Let me go! Let go!"

"No, Linnie, I will never let go of you again. I'm sorry, I love you."

Accompanied by his apology and confession, Madeline's heart hurt as if it had been stabbed fiercely. Before she could give any response, the front of the car slammed into the barrier...

With a crash, the car windows shattered instantly as billowing smoke emerged from the front of the car. The wheels were still rubbing violently against the asphalt road and the airbag had blown open the moment the car crashed.

At that moment, Jeremy tightened his arms even more and went all out to protect Madeline.

Hearing Madeline's weak and painful whines, Jeremy could care less about his injuries and raised his deep eyes that were filled with worry to observe Madeline's situation.

However, as soon as he did, he saw that Madeline's velvet brows were tightly knitted and her face was pale.

What made him even more flustered was that Madeline's head was hung weakly and her eyes were tightly closed.

Jeremy's mind was blank for a moment, feeling that his heart had fallen into an abyss. His eyes went wide as his bloody hands, which were cut open by the glass of the car window, cupped Madeline's increasingly pale face.

"Linnie? Linnie!" He called out to Madeline in a panic, "Linnie, wake up. Don't go to sleep, Linnie!"

Madeline's eyelashes fluttered slightly after hearing his screams.

Jeremy's dark, wet eyes lit up with a flash of light. His eyebrows were furrowed deeply as he called out to Madeline who had not fully recovered, "Linnie, don't go to sleep."

Madeline lifted her eyelids weakly, but in the end, she could not open them.

With half-squinted eyes, her delicate face was filled with anxiety and fear. The memories in her mind seemed to be instantly muddled, bringing her back to a time long, long ago...

"Linnie, don't go to sleep. Please don't leave me again, Linnie!" Jeremy's eyes were crimson, and the tears that had gathered came streaming down his cheeks, dripping onto Madeline's bloodless face.

Then, Madeline's pink lips moved. "Jeremy, Jez ... "

Jeremy was all of a sudden startled as hot tears soaked his eyes. "Linnie, I'm Jeremy. I'm your Jez. Linnie, please don't go to sleep. Don't leave me again. No!"

He hugged Madeline by her neck in a panic and took in the fragrance of her body, for fear that she would slip away from his life if he did not hold onto her tightly at this moment.

"Linnie, Linnie..." he whispered softly, "Don't leave me again, Linnie..."

Hearing the sound of the ambulance approaching, it was as if Jeremy had seen a savior. He clasped Madeline's cold hand tightly, crying while choking out encouragement. "Linnie, the ambulance will be here soon. You'll be fine. Jez will protect you. You'll be fine!"

He comforted Madeline, but it was more like he was comforting himself.

While in a panic, he finally faced Madeline's increasingly dimming eyes.

"Linnie, don't leave me again."

"Jeremy..."

"I'm here, Linnie. I'm here!"

"I really didn't push Meredith, Jeremy. Please believe me..."

He never thought that Madeline would say such a sentence under such circumstances. The past events of the year rushed into his mind as a strong sense of guilt violently invaded Jeremy's heart.

He felt more remorseful and guilty. He squeezed Madeline's hand and kissed it. "Sorry, I'm sorry..."

Before his words of apology fell, Madeline's hand slipped weakly from the palm of his hand. Jeremy's heart suddenly lost its weight. Looking at Madeline who was completely unconscious, he hugged her in desperation. "Linnie, don't punish me like this. Don't leave me again. Please give me a chance to atone for my sins. Please give me a chance to love you, Linnie!"

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As the site of the accident was not far from the hospital, Madeline was quickly taken to the emergency room.

Eloise and Sean, who had not left the hospital, almost fell when their legs went weak after learning that Madeline and Jeremy had been involved in a car accident.

They hurried to the emergency room and saw Jeremy who was waiting outside. He was sitting motionless on the chair, his hands still dripping with blood.

His whole person seemed to be frozen, and his body exuded a cold, bitter air. Approaching him was as if being stabbed by the sharp ice skates on his body.

Eloise still remembered what happened three years ago when Madeline was sent to the operating table. Jeremy had also been like this, frightened out of his mind.

Eloise seemed to understand at this moment why Jeremy had been uncharacteristically angry at her and Meredith back then. It was because he was afraid of something happening to Madeline.

Now, Eloise also had a foreboding. She really did not want the scene three years ago to recreate itself again.

Seeing the red light coming on outside the emergency room, Eloise and Sean's hearts were tight.

'Madeline, please be alright. Don't punish your parents and your children with this...'

Karen and Yvonne learned that Madeline was in a car accident and was now being operated on in the emergency room. They immediately rushed over with joy.

Seeing that Eloise and Sean were also there, Karen chose to ignore them and walked straight toward Jeremy.

Seeing Jeremy's bleeding hands, Karen looked nervous. "Jeremy, your hand is injured. We need to stop the bleeding!"

She pulled Jeremy as she said this, but before she could even touch the corner of Jeremy's clothes, she heard him saying coldly, "Stay away from me."

Karen was embarrassed for a moment, finding it hard to hold onto her pride a little.

Seeing this, Yvonne immediately took out a tissue and leaned over to Jeremy with concern. "Jeremy, don't do this. Aunty cares about you. Look at you, you've lost a lot of blood. It's really distressing."

She said in a worried tone as she reached out to wipe Jeremy's wounds.

Yet, she unexpectedly heard Jeremy's frosty reply. "Go away. Don't touch me."

Yvonne pursed her lips, feeling aggrieved. "Jeremy, I also care about you-"

"I don't need your care. Don't get close to me. Get out."

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"Jeremy, how can you talk to Yvonne like this? She's your cousin!"

"My cousin?" Jeremy's tall, handsome figure stood up slowly. His deep eyes were drooping, and the shadows that shrouded him were terrifying. "My wife is the one who's lying in the emergency room with the doctors fighting for her life. She's in between life and death. Did I ask for a cousin to care about me?"

"Go away! Get away! I don't want to see this so-called cousin!"

He was unexpectedly so disgusted, causing Yvonne to be frozen in place with embarrassment and dissatisfaction.

"What kind of wife is she? She has had sex with other men since a long time ago and even poisoned and murdered your grandfather. It's not a shame for such a woman to die!" Karen said vexedly.

"Karen, what are you even saying? How is it not a pity for anyone who would lose their life? How can you slander my daughter like this?!" Eloise and Sean rushed in angrily.

"What Aunty said is the truth!" Yvonne chipped in.

Bang!

Jeremy slammed a fist against the wall as a chilling light shot out from his cold eyes. "If you slander Linnie again, don't blame me for not being considerate of our relationship!"

Karen's mouth twitched with fright as she quickly shut her mouth. Even Yvonne did not even dare to breathe.

Eloise was so angry that she was about to retort when the lights in the operating room suddenly went out.

Jeremy raised his eyes all of a sudden and saw the door of the operating room opening. He ran toward the doctor in a white coat in large strides with an anxious expression. "Doctor, how's my wife? How is she?!"

The doctor looked at Jeremy who was looking anxious and comforted him kindly. "Sir, you don't need to worry so much. There's no life-threatening danger to your wife and there are no scratches or bruises on her body either, but the injuries on your hands look more serious than hers."

Jeremy did not even look at his bleeding palm. "Mine is only a surface injury. I want to know my wife's condition. If she's fine, why did she pass out so uncomfortably? How is she now? I want to go in and see her!"

As he was speaking, he was already about to rush into the emergency room.

Three years ago, Madeline had entered the emergency room in a similar way and never came back out.

The happenings from that day left indelible wounds and trauma in his heart.

He was afraid that the scene from that day would happen again and Madeline would never come out after entering the room.

He could not bear the pain again.

When the doctors and nurses saw this, they quickly grabbed Jeremy. "Sir, your wife really isn't facing any threat to her life. She's only experiencing a concussion and a small blood clot in her brain. The clot will disappear on its own depending on the situation. What she needs most now is a good rest."

"You aren't lying to me?" Jeremy asked dubiously.

The doctor smiled. "Why would I joke about a patient's condition? Sir, you're too anxious about your wife."

Hearing the doctor's final conclusion, Jeremy, Eloise, and Sean all breathed out a sigh of relief.

Karen and Yvonne glared toward the emergency room while feeling dissatisfied, then they turned away in anger.

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After a while, Madeline was then sent to the VIP ward.

From day till night, she slept the entire time and had yet to awaken.

Jeremy took care of her by her side all day long.

After Felipe saw the license plate of the car that was involved in the accident near the hospital on TV, he understood why Madeline could not be contacted all this while.

He rushed to the hospital immediately, and after knowing the location of Madeline's ward, Felipe hurried over with big steps.

Just as he arrived at the door, he saw through the small window on the door that Jeremy was wiping Madeline's face with a towel as she lay unconscious.

His movements were careful, gentle and light as if he was afraid that his actions would hurt Madeline.

Today was supposed to be the day when Jeremy and Madeline got their divorce certificate, but the sudden car accident had stopped the matter.

An unpleasant, cold light burst out of Felipe's calm black eyes.

He held the bouquet of flowers and opened the door of the ward with a cold expression.

Just as Jeremy held Madeline's hand, wanting to tell her his thoughts, he caught a glimpse of Felipe's sudden appearance. The tenderness in his eyes instantly faded away.

"What are you here for ?" Jeremy walked up to Felipe, feeling displeased and stopping him from approaching.

Felipe put the bouquet on the coffee table and raised the corners of his lips. "I'm here to visit my fiancée. Do I actually need your approval for that ?"

"Heh." Jeremy chuckled with a low voice. "There's no fiancée of yours here. Leave this place immediately."

"Jeremy, if Vera is awake now, who do you think she'll ask to leave the place? You know the answer clearly in your heart." Felipe stepped over slowly and walked to the bedside.

Seeing Madeline's sleeping and languish face, he frowned.

Dissatisfied with Felipe staring at Madeline so affectionately, Jeremy stepped forward and blocked Felipe's gaze. "Come out, I have something to talk to you about."

Felipe smiled casually when he heard Jeremy's words. He then turned to follow him out.

At the end of the corridor, Jeremy said to him bluntly, "Felipe, you may be able to deceive Linnie, but you can't deceive me. You're using Linnie to achieve your purpose."

Felipe listened quietly without arguing. He smiled instead, saying, "That's right, I'm using Vera. If it weren't for Vera, it would've been really difficult for me to get Whitman Corporation and Whitman Manor so quickly."

After he listened to his unremorseful answer, Jeremy bent his fingers with his knuckles starting to creak. "Felipe, you're really despicable."

"Despicable ?" Felipe chuckled as arrogance flowed out from his eyes. "Aren't you despicable as well? You injured Vera till she almost lost her life back then, but now you want her back after seeing her completely transformed. Jeremy, it looks like you're way more despicable than I am."

In this matter, Jeremy knew that he had wronged Madeline.

However, he did not want Madeline back just because she had transformed as what Felipe mentioned.

He loved her. It was the secret in his heart that was not known or believed by others in all these years.

"When Vera wakes up and her injury is healed, she'll immediately apply for a divorce certificate with you. At that time, I will send her and Jackson to F Country first." Felipe revealed his plan to Jeremy, not caring if Jeremy would interrupt his plan.

Seeing the frustration and loneliness flashing across Jeremy's eyes, Felipe's smile grew deeper. "My good nephew, it seems that whether it's your wife or your son, you'll never be able to get them back again in this life. Vera will soon be my woman and Jackson will also be calling me his father soon enough."

No man could accept such a loss and change, let alone Jeremy who wholeheartedly cared and loved Madeline.

A coldness rose in his eyes as his gaze was now filled with intense aggression and determination. "Linnie will only be my woman in this life. Felipe, don't you even think about taking her away from me!"

"Really? Then, we shall wait and see." Felipe smiled playfully before turning around to leave. Jeremy wanted to stop him at first, but with Eloise suddenly running out from Madeline's ward in a panic, he subconsciously felt that something was wrong. He immediately ran back into the ward.

Seeing Madeline lying on the bed with fluttering eyelids, he rushed to the bed in excitement and shook Madeline's cool hand with pity.

"Linnie, Linnie, are you awake?"

Felipe followed him into the ward and felt dissatisfied when he saw the scene before him.

Then, Eloise called the doctor into the ward who suddenly realized that there were two more men in the ward. She looked at the doctor, asking, "Doctor, my daughter seems to be awake. Can you see if she's alright?"

"Jeremy, get up first and let the doctor examine Eveline's condition." Eloise reminded Jeremy who was still holding onto Madeline.

Seeing the doctor approaching them, Jeremy let go of Madeline's hand. At the same time he let go, Madeline slowly opened her eyes.

"Eveline, you're really up! That's great!" Eloise's eyes were wet with joy.

Jeremy also felt the weight in his heart falling off.

Madeline blinked her large, hazy eyes warily before looking around.

The doctor quickly stepped forward to check on Madeline, but she avoided him vigilantly all of a sudden with a suspicious expression on her face. "What are you doing ?"

Jeremy hurriedly went over and calmed her down with a soft voice, saying, "Linnie, you've just woken up after being injured. Let the doctor examine you. Don't be afraid."

Madeline stared at Jeremy's face thoughtfully for a bit before suddenly fixing her gaze on Felipe who was standing by the door. "Felipe, who are these people? Why are they saying that I'm injured?"

The question Madeline asked startled everyone in the ward.

"Eveline, I'm your mother." Eloise pointed to herself while looking panicked. Tears were already rolling in her eyes.

It was difficult for Jeremy to believe this. It was even more unbelievable when he saw the confused and guarded expression on the delicate little face in front of him.

How could it be?

How could such a thing happen?

The woman who had loved him so much, who both hated and loved him to his bones, actually forgot about him?

After going through the shock, Felipe took the shortest time to sort out his doubts. He then curled his lips and walked to Madeline with a warm smile. "Vera, don't worry. No matter what happens, I'll be by your side. Let's have the doctor take a look at your condition first."

After listening to Felipe's words carefully, Madeline cooperated and let the doctor examine her.

Jeremy really did not want to believe what he was seeing before him.

Madeline did not know him nor Eloise, but she could still remember Felipe clearly and even obeyed him so docilely.

Feeling as if tens of thousands of cold arrows had passed through his heart, Jeremy was frozen

in his spot until the doctor was done examining Madeline.

In the doctor's office, Jeremy frowned and listened to the doctor as he explained Madeline's condition.

"The blood clot in her brain is almost gone based on the CT result, but she's suffering a sudden partial memory loss most likely due to psychological reasons.

"Maybe she wanted to forget some people or things that have made her particularly unhappy and that's why this kind of dissociative amnesia happened.

"She doesn't want to look back on the bad memories, so now she only remembers the things that made her happy.

"Try not to trigger her. We will have to observe the patient's condition for a while more."

After listening to the explanation, Jeremy and Eloise felt a strong, painful feeling of breaking down the moment they understood.

They understood in their hearts that the injuries and torture they had inflicted on Madeline were all too cruel and unbearable to be recalled.

It was normal for Madeline to want to forget.

No one would want to remember things that hurt them if it was possible. Of course, one would hope that all their memories were filled with happiness and joy.

However, in the years when Madeline had been the most eager to be trusted and warmed up to, all they gave were only hurt and indifference.

Jeremy was feeling an extreme heartache, and no one could understand the extent of it.

He returned to the ward and saw that Madeline had already gotten out of bed. She was talking to Felipe.

The sunlight poured gently onto her flawless and clean face. When she smiled, her curved eyes seemed to be flashing with stars.

Yet, she had never shown such a smile in front of him.

This was because he had never given her the opportunity to smile like this.

"Felipe, when can I be discharged? I don't want to stay here. This place makes me uncomfortable." Madeline looked at her surroundings and suddenly caught sight of Jeremy who was standing at the door of the ward.

The moment their gazes met, Jeremy was hoping to see something in Madeline's eyes, even if it was hatred. Yet, Madeline's eyes were only indifferent as she looked at him like a stranger.

"Why does that person keep looking at me?" Madeline looked away and asked Felipe suspiciously.

Felipe curled his lips into a thought-provoking smile as he introduced, saying, "He's my nephew, Jeremy."

"Jeremy," Madeline repeated with a blank expression. She turned her head to look at Jeremy again before walking toward him.

Jeremy's heartbeat accelerated instantly when he saw her getting closer. Anticipation was ignited in his eyes again.

While Madeline had walked up to him, she only showed a polite smile. "Hello, Mr. Whitman. I'm Felipe's fiancée, Vera."

Her introduction shattered Jeremy's heart, but it made Felipe quietly reveal a triumphant smile.

Jeremy forced himself to calm down, but in the end, he could not restrain himself and held Madeline's hand suddenly. "Linnie, I'm not Mr. Whitman. I'm your husband!"

Madeline pulled her hand back forcefully all of a sudden when she heard the words. She glared at him, displeased. "Mr. Whitman, please have some respect. I'm your future aunt."

Hiss.

Those familiar words passed through Jeremy's eardrums again, causing his battered heart to be sprinkled with salt on top.

Blood filled his heart as the pain of it being ripped and torn made his breathing strained.

"Jeremy, don't make such a joke. Vera will get angry." Felipe walked over and gave a serious reminder.

His eyes subtly met Jeremy's hostile ones and his smile became deeper.

"Vera is not well yet. I think you wouldn't want your future aunt to be triggered anymore, right?"

He hinted that Jeremy should stop mentioning the past to Madeline, especially his relationship with her.

In order to improve Madeline's condition now, Jeremy had no choice but to endure it.

At this moment, he had no other choice but to hand Madeline over.

It felt like his heart was being pierced by a thousand arrows alone just from merely seeing that his beloved woman was falling into the arms of another man.

That afternoon, Old Master Whitman had also awakened.

However, due to his aging body, coupled with the side effects from the poisoning, Old Master Whitman had lost the ability to take care of himself. His chance of recovery was low. In other words, although the old man still had his own thoughts, he could no longer speak or move. This situation would continue until the day of his death.

Karen had only taken care of the old man for one day when she pushed the responsibility onto Yvonne.

It would cost tens of thousands of dollars to hire a caregiver. She was not willing to pay the amount of money no matter the currency.

She used to spend more than that amount for a day's worth of pocket money, but now, she did not even have pocket money!

With these various stressful conditions, Karen naturally blamed it all on Madeline. She walked toward Madeline's ward angrily. She wanted to get Madeline into trouble while Jeremy was not here. However, she found a young nurse tidying up the bed instead. Only then did she find out that Madeline had just left the hospital.

"Didn't she knock her head silly and have a blood clot in her brain? How can she be discharged so quickly?" Karen asked with dissatisfaction.

The nurse frowned and said, "She didn't knock her head silly, and the blood clot is gone. It's just that she has amnesia and has forgotten some things."

"What? Amnesia?" Karen did not believe it. "She really dares to pull this kind of trick from TV dramas! She must really be trying to win Jeremy's favor again!"

Karen walked out of the ward while cursing continuously. She did not expect to see Madeline's figure appear not far in front of her.

Madeline was waiting for Felipe to complete the discharge procedures and had happened to pass by Old Master Whitman's ward.

The door of the ward was ajar and she looked inside curiously.

With a fallen expression, Yvonne poured a basin of water meant to wash one's feet directly onto Old Master Whitman who was paralyzed in the wheelchair. She then slammed the basin on the ground.

"Motherf*cker! You old immortal, why don't you just die? This poison didn't even manage to kill you and now you actually want me to serve you, a dead old man!"

Yvonne stretched out her finger to poke the glaring Old Man Whitman's head.

"What are you glaring at? Glare at me again and I will have you drink the foot wash! I'm really angry! I had finally figured out how to pretend to be Madeline so that everyone would think she was the one who tried to kill you. The only mistake in all that planning is the hardy fate of you old thing! It seems that next time I'll have to increase the amount!"

After hearing these words, Madeline could not help but furrow her brows.

She was about to push the door when her raised hand was gently grabbed.

Madeline turned her head and saw Felipe's warm smile. "The procedure has been completed, let's go."

He took her by the hand and was about to leave when Madeline grabbed him. "Felipe, there's a woman in there who's bullying an old man."

"We still shouldn't bother about other people's family affairs." Felipe frowned as if he was troubled, but his gaze was affectionate. "After all, we don't know the ins and outs of the situation. Let's go."

Madeline glanced into the ward again. Yvonne's hateful face and the miserable-looking frame in the wheelchair made her feel dissatisfied.

Karen chased Madeline all the way to the elevator, but before she had the chance to vent, the elevator door closed before her eyes.

She cussed in anger, and as she was about to turn around, the elevator door beside opened.

Jeremy, who had just returned from the police station, walked out of the elevator. His handsome face was cold and solemn. His whole body exuded a powerful aura.

Karen hurried over. "Jeremy, where have you been all morning? Did you know that Felipe just left with Madeline? I say, they must have..."

Before she could finish speaking, Karen saw the anger that spilled from Jeremy's eyes.

Jeremy glanced over, then turned around to leave.

"Jeremy, just leave that woman alone. Your grandfather will be discharged from the hospital in a while. What would he do without you?!"

Karen shouted to Jeremy with a worried expression on her face, then she began to act tenderly.

"Jeremy, your grandpa can't speak or walk now. How pitiful!"

"Grandpa has loved you since you were a child. You won't ignore your grandfather for a woman, would you? Although you say eloquently that this matter has nothing to do with Madeline, the evidence still points toward her. And regarding this poisoning, she couldn't be unrelated!"

Jeremy swept his gaze across coldly. "Back then when Meredith framed Linnie, which matter was without evidence? Yet what was the result? Which of it was not a trap designed by Meredith?"

"Uhm..." Karen pouted her lips, feeling unconvinced. "That was also trouble she brought upon herself. Why did we not see Meredith frame others?"

This ridiculous guilt-shaming of the victim reached his ears, and the coldness in Jeremy's eyes grew even more.

Seeing Jeremy seemingly angered, Karen hurriedly changed the subject. "Jeremy, we should stop talking about this. Let's bring your grandfather back first."

Jeremy knew that he could not ignore his grandpa even though he really wanted to catch up to Madeline now.

It just so happened that the elevator door opened just then. Sean and Eloise hurried out.

When they saw Jeremy, Sean said eagerly, "Jeremy, I'm glad you're here. I just received a call from the police station saying that the report of Eveline's car is out. The brakes of the car had been damaged by somebody. Someone wanted to kill Eveline!"

"Who's so vicious that they would want to murder Eveline ?!" Eloise was both heartbroken and angry.

"Hmph, it's probably because she has offended too many people, so it's only normal for such things to happen today." Karen rolled her eyes.

However, as soon as she was done speaking, she got scared.

As she observed the cold expression on Jeremy's face, she hurriedly turned around. "I... I will go back to the ward first. Remember to pick up your grandpa later."

As soon as Karen left, Jeremy felt a lot better. He then assured Sean and Eloise, saying, "I went to the police station just now and have learned of everything. Don't worry, I won't let Linnie suffer for nothing."

Eloise covered her face and wept. "I don't know why God wants to torture my daughter. She has suffered so much these years and now she has even lost her memory..."

Jeremy's eyes dimmed. "Maybe it's a good thing for her to forget those unhappy memories."

As Sean and Eloise heard his words, they felt even more guilty as their hearts ached.

After learning that Madeline had been discharged from the hospital by Felipe, although Eloise and Sean were a little nervous, they were not exactly panicked.

While they did not know Felipe, they were pretty sure that Felipe would not hurt Madeline.

On the other side, Felipe had immediately taken Madeline back to their previous apartment.

Madeline was obviously no stranger to this apartment. She went into the bedroom on her own, then changed into simple home clothes.

Felipe watched her carefully from the side. Although he felt that amnesia was an unusual thing, Madeline's behavior did seem to indicate that she had actually lost part of her memories.

Those memories were all related to Jeremy.

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She had completely and totally forgotten about Jeremy. Whether it was her love or hatred, she could not remember any of it at all.

For Felipe, this was a good thing.

Seeing Madeline suddenly starting to pack up her clothes, Felipe stepped forward with doubt. "Vera, what are you doing ?"

"We've been here for a while, so I want to go back to F Country. I really miss Lilian."

Felipe held her hand, his clear black eyes carrying hints of tenderness. "Vera, I promise you that I will give you and Lillian happiness."

"I know." Madeline smiled, her eyes were filled with trust for Felipe. "But Felipe, the doctor said that I'm missing a part of my memory. Do I really have amnesia?"

Felipe nodded without denying it. He raised his slender fingers and stroked Madeline's beautiful eyebrows.

"Before you woke up, you were involved in a car accident and you suffered a shock to your head. The doctor said you have selectively forgotten some people and things that made you unhappy."

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows thoughtfully after listening to Felipe's words.

Felipe quickly interrupted her thoughts, saying, "Vera, since the memories you've lost are those that have made you unhappy, then let them pass. I promise you only happiness and joy in the days to come."

As he said this, his phone rang.

The call was from an unfamiliar number and Felipe answered it without hesitation.

Eloise's tone was anxious and a little worried. "Is this Mr. Felipe Whitman? I'm Eveline's mother, Eloise."

Felipe glanced at Madeline and greeted politely, "Aunty, hello."

"Mr. Whitman, Eveline's current situation is not very stable. Can I know where you've taken her to? We're really worried."

Hearing that, a smile flashed across Felipe's face. "Don't worry, I'll bring Vera to see you tonight."

Eloise paused before saying doubtfully, "Will you really bring Eveline to see us ?"

"Not only will I take her to see you, but I will also reunite your family."

Family reunion?

These words sound so beautiful that Eloise and Sean did not dare to expect anything.

However, that night, Eloise and Sean really saw Felipe and Madeline appear at the gates of Montgomery Manor.

Madeline appeared to look the same as before, but the look in her eyes was distant and alienated.

Even if Madeline did not want to recognize them back then, at least her gaze would not be so indifferent.

"Felipe, where is this place? These two are..." She looked at the couple in front of her with doubt. "This madam and mister seem to have been to my ward before."

"Vera, they're your biological parents."

Eloise and Sean listened to Felipe's introduction with expectant gazes.

Madeline widened her beautiful eyes in surprise. "My biological parents?"

She had obviously forgotten about this relationship.

Eloise and Sean smiled while holding back their pain. "Eveline, we really are your biological parents."

Seeing the sad and distressed eyes of the couple in front of her, Madeline's mood gradually became heavier.

She only remembered that she had only one relative since childhood and that relative was Grandpa Len.

Ever since she was a child, she had envied other children. She never knew what fatherly and motherly love was and she could never imagine what her parents would look like.

It turned out that this was how they looked.

"Vera, you already recognized your biological parents before the car accident. Your real name is Eveline Montgomery." Felipe explained seriously.

Madeline gradually came back to her senses. She frowned and said, "I don't remember at all."

She whispered softly and could see the sincere love in both Eloise and Sean's eyes. "You're really my mom and dad?"

As Eloise heard this, she quickly stretched out her hand to hold Madeline's hand tightly. Hot tears filled her eyes involuntarily.

"Eveline, I'm really your mother! Mom and Dad were too negligent back then and you were taken away by some bad people who made you suffer so much for so many years. Eveline, Mom will not let you suffer anymore! My darling..."

Eloise cried and hugged Madeline. Sean also sobbed and stroked Madeline's head.

"Eveline, Dad will never let anyone bully you again. Even if we have to fight with our lives, Mom and Dad will protect you."

Madeline was a little lost and just allowed Eloise to hug her tightly.

She really could not remember the parts missing from her memory, but she could feel a kind of warmth that she had never felt before but was very eager to feel. This warmth warmed her heart and also her eyes.

She raised her hand slowly as she hugged Eloise back gently while smiling. "Mom and Dad, don't be sad. I'm fine now, so don't cry."

Eloise and Sean could not believe what they were hearing at this moment.

Madeline was calling them 'Mom' and 'Dad'. It sounded so angelic that the word jumped into their ears so unrealistically.

After being in a trance for a few seconds, Eloise let go of her hands and stared at Madeline with her wet eyes excitedly. "Eveline, you, what did you call us just now?"

Madeline raised her pink lips and smiled. "Mom and Dad."

She smiled and repeated without any ambiguity.

Eloise and Sean were both surprised and happy, their tears falling like rain in an instant.

"Eveline! I've waited for this day! Eveline..." Eloise hugged Madeline tightly again, the joy and excitement in her heart beyond words.

Sean also shed tears of relief.

Although this hard-won reunion was due to Madeline's amnesia, the joy in her heart was still real.

Felipe watched with a light smile as a flash appeared in his eyes.

Eloise then led Madeline into the house, bringing her around. She finally brought Madeline to the bedroom they had prepared for her since a long time ago.

This was the room that Eloise and Sean had carefully arranged for after knowing that Madeline was their biological daughter.

The light blue scheme was very gentle and girlish. They had been looking forward to having Madeline stay here all this while.

While Madeline was looking around the room, Eloise and Sean settled their emotions and invited Felipe to the living room.

"Thank you, Mr. Whitman, for bringing Eveline back home and telling her that we're her biological parents."

Felipe sipped the black tea elegantly, showing a gentleman's smile. "It's the truth that both of you are indeed Vera's biological parents. I'm merely stating the facts."

"Although this is indeed a fact, but..." Eloise hesitated to finish her sentence. She looked at Sean guiltily. "If Eveline still remembered the past, she might not want to recognize us."

"Forgetting the unhappy things in the past may just be a good thing for Vera. As long as Vera is happy in the future, the past is not important." Felipe smiled. "And you're Vera's biological parents, after all. Even if she's really angry with you, you are all still a family."

Hearing what Felipe said, Eloise and Sean released a sigh of relief. They were feeling a lot better in their hearts.

At first, they were a little nervous calling Felipe.

In addition to that, Jeremy had reminded them that Felipe was a dangerous person. However, from what they could tell, Felipe seemed like an elegant gentleman.

"Thank you, Mr. Whitman." Eloise thanked him.

"You're welcome. I only wish for Vera's happiness," Felipe said with a touch of embarrassment, "But please don't mention my nephew, Jeremy, in front of Vera.

"The wound that Jeremy has inflicted upon Vera is too deep. There was never a minute where Vera was happy when she was with him. Now that she has chosen to forget Jeremy, it's the best proof that Jeremy had hurt her the most.

"Also, when Vera and I were in F Country, we gave birth to a daughter. Her name is Lilian and her nickname is Lily.

"I originally planned to finish the matter here and take Vera back to register our marriage, but since she has met you guys now, I'm hoping that she'll become my official wife as Madeline Montgomery. I hope that the two of you will be my witnesses."

Eloise and Sean were aware of Felipe's concerns.

Although they could see Jeremy's remorse, they could not deny that the damage he caused to Madeline was irreparable.

However, Eloise could not help but wonder. "Mr. Whitman, is Lily really your and Madeline's child?"

Felipe smiled and nodded without hesitation. "I wouldn't hide anything from you guys. I've liked Vera since a long time ago, but she always had her eyes on Jeremy. I thought that she'd be happy after getting married to Jeremy, but you guys have seen what has happened.

"In order to make sure she was alive three years ago, I brought her to F Country and we eventually got together."

Felipe's explanation sounded logical.

"Felipe, what are you talking about with Mom and Dad?" Madeline's sudden appearance startled Eloise and Sean, causing them to jump from fright.

On the other hand, Felipe was not surprised at all and said, "I'm talking about our marriage with my future in-laws. Vera, why don't we register our marriage in Glendale? You'll feel better if your parents were there to witness our wedding."

Madeline showed a shy smile upon hearing it. "Okay, you can take the lead."

She nodded and agreed, then looked at the slightly startled Eloise and Sean. "Mom, Dad, will you bless our marriage?"

Eloise and Sean returned to their senses immediately and gave them their blessings sincerely. "We don't ask for much in our lives except for you to be happy and successful in life."

• • •

It had been days since Jeremy last saw Madeline. Every day, he would watch secretly from downstairs of the apartment because he was worried that his presence would trigger her.

On that morning, he received a wedding invitation in the mailbox.

When he opened it, he saw that the groom was Felipe Whitman and the bride was Madeline Montgomery.

The name Madeline Montgomery felt as if an arrow was piercing through Jeremy's heart. He could no longer hold his breath and immediately located Madeline's whereabouts with the bracelet's location.

Madeline was at the mall with Felipe to choose a wedding ring.

When he saw the scene, Jeremy's eyes were instantly filled with envy.

Yes, it was envy.

He was envious of how much the other man could make Madeline smile.

He wanted all of her good and bad to himself.

At that moment, Felipe had to answer a call and stepped aside. Immediately, Jeremy rushed up toward Madeline and pulled her without hesitation.

Madeline was shocked, but before she could react, Jeremy had already pulled her away.

"It's you! Are you Felipe's nephew, Jeremy? Why are you pulling me?"

"Linnie, I'm your husband! I'm not somebody's nephew." Jeremy emphasized, pulling Madeline away with more force.

"What are you talking about? You're my husband? Who are you kidding? Let go of me right now, let go---"

Bang!

In a coincidence, two cars collided in front of them when Jeremy was pulling Madeline out of the mall.

When Madeline heard the crash, she was paralyzed and stopped moving.

"Linnie ? Linnie, what's going on ?"

Jeremy held Madeline's shoulders and called out to her nervously and with worry.

However, it was as if Madeline could not hear him. She merely stared blankly at the two cars in front of her that were involved in the accident.

"Linnie, are you okay? Linnie, what's going on with you?" Jeremy became more worried. There was a trace of panic in his deep eyes.

"Hiss. That hurts!"

Madeline finally gave some sort of reaction, but she was holding her aching head while tapping it gently.

"My head hurts..."

When Jeremy saw Madeline frowning and in pain, he was heartbroken.

He lifted Madeline by her waist, passed through the crowd watching the accident, and brought Madeline into the car before driving to the hospital.

"Don't worry, Linnie. I'll always be by your side to protect you. You'll be okay." Jeremy held Madeline's hand to comfort her.

Madeline leaned back in the car seat and whispered non-stop about something particular...

After Felipe ended his call, he found that Madeline was missing.

The cashier told him that Madeline was taken away by a handsome man. Immediately, he knew that it was Jeremy.

He quickly called Madeline's phone. After a few rings, the call was hung up.

He tried calling Jeremy's number, but his call was hung up immediately.

A dark wave started to rise in Felipe's pupils. He narrowed his eyes coldly as his thin lips moved slightly. "Jeremy."

On the way to the hospital, Jeremy was worried that Madeline was going to get worse. He beat himself up because he wondered if he should have shown up and said those words to her.

Fortunately, Madeline did not cry out in pain for a while and seemed to have fallen asleep in a daze.

When they finally arrived at the hospital, Jeremy parked the car and immediately went over to the passenger seat to open the door.

"Linnie," he called out softly, reaching out to carry Madeline.

Madeline opened her hazy beautiful eyes in shock. When she saw his handsome face so close to her, she looked like a frightened fawn. Her eyes looked down cautiously as she said, "Jeremy, I had nothing to do with it. I didn't push Meredith."

•What ?'

Jeremy, who was about to pick up Madeline, paused.

He looked at the woman who said those words in disbelief. Even though he was still confused, his heart began to ache.

He slowly approached her and asked in his low, magnetic, and honeyed voice that carried a tinge of tenderness, "Linnie, what are you talking about ?"

Madeline opened her beautiful eyes and said with surprise, "Huh? Linnie? Are you asking me, Jeremy?"

Jeremy suddenly felt his eyes getting wet. He did not understand why Madeline was acting this way, but it still made his heart ache.

The look in her eyes and the tone of her speech were exactly the same as when she first married him.

He curved his thin lips and smiled softly. "Silly girl, of course, I'm asking you. You're my wife. Come here, I'll carry you to the doctor."

Before Madeline could respond, Jeremy walked into the hospital with her in his arms.

Madeline was like a little kid with her arms dangling, not knowing where to put them. In the end, she tremblingly wrapped them around Jeremy's neck.

"Jeremy, I really didn't push Meredith. She fell on purpose and tried to frame me." She suddenly explained.

Jeremy suspected that Madeline's memory was still off and looked at her heartbrokenly. He nodded. "Yeah, I know you didn't. I believe you."

"Really ?" Madeline's surprised eyes gleamed.

"Really." Jeremy nodded firmly. "Linnie, I was in the wrong before. I'll never make that mistake again. No matter what you say or do, I'll always believe you."

Madeline was even more surprised when she heard those words.

She stared at Jeremy's face carefully, as if to question whether the person in front of her was actually him.

However, from Madeline's response, Jeremy felt even more remorseful.

He knew that the injuries and damage he inflicted upon her was far too great.

He wondered what he would need to do to make atonement.

Jeremy brought Madeline to the nearest hospital from the mall. After seeing the doctor, he realized that the doctor was Adam Brown.

Even though Adam went to school with Jeremy previously, he was good friends with Daniel, so Jeremy was a little wary of him.

"When did you become a psychiatrist?" Jeremy questioned.

Adam had a slight grin and casually took out a card from his drawer. The card said that he was Dr. Adam Brown, a psychiatrist.

"I just had nothing better to do and did some research and studies. That shouldn't be a problem, right?"

Jeremy was speechless for a while. He was about to explain Madeline's condition when Madeline suddenly said, "Jeremy, can you go outside for a while?"

Her request confused Jeremy a little, but he did not question her and went outside.

As soon as Jeremy went out, Madeline made a straightforward request. "Dr. Brown, I think Jeremy knows about my illness. If he asks about it later, can you keep it a secret for me?"

Adam was taken aback. When he looked into Madeline's sincere and clear eyes, he had an inexplicable ache in his heart.

After a while, the door of the consultation room opened and Madeline looked at Jeremy with a relaxed face. She told him that she wanted to go to the bathroom and asked Jeremy to wait for her in the parking lot.

When he saw that Madeline kept looking at him, he pretended to turn around and leave. When Madeline stopped looking at him, Jeremy returned to Adam's office.

Jeremy told him about Madeline's condition. After Adam listened to what he had to say, he came to a clear conclusion. "After preliminary consultation, it's most likely that she's suffering from Dissociative Identity Disorder from trauma. This means that she has cognitive impairment in terms of her identity. Based on what you told me, it seems that she has two personalities as of now."

"Two personalities ?" Jeremy was surprised, and his heart ached.

Adam narrowed his eyes solemnly. "We still have to continue to observe her situation. From what I can tell, Madeline's current memory is still stuck on the day she got sick which was six years ago. When she asked you to leave just now, she wanted to make sure that I wouldn't tell you about her illness."

After he said that, the air became still and quiet.

Jeremy felt as if his heart had stopped.

Tears formed in his eyes instantly.

When Madeline found out that she was sick six years ago, she chose to bear it alone.

At that time, he was indulging Meredith, the demon, who was intent on destroying her already fading body.

At that moment, the fragments of the past seemed to be pieces of broken glass that were dumped into his heart. The pain of his crushed and mangled heart was so intense that it made it hard for him to breathe.

He waited for Madeline in the parking lot in a daze and pretended that he had never gone back to look for Adam.

Madeline returned to the car shortly afterward and saw Jeremy standing there waiting for her. She felt that he was faking it and started to get even more frightened.

Jeremy endured the pain in his heart and opened the car door for Madeline before sending her back to the villa.

The docile and meek Madeline who obeyed his every word made him feel somewhat bittersweet.

Just after arriving at the villa, Jeremy received a call from Eloise.

Jeremy did not hang up that time. He answered the phone and admitted that he had taken Madeline.

Without saying much, he hung up the phone. He then packed up some clothes and drove away, taking Madeline to the beach of April Hill.

He checked into a room in a small hotel by the beach and brought Madeline in.

Madeline was confused and followed Jeremy into the room. When she felt the warmth of Jeremy's hand holding hers, her heart jumped for joy. "Jeremy, why did you suddenly bring me here?"

Madeline asked in disbelief and looked at Jeremy carefully.

In her head at that moment, this was the man she loved but who did not love her back. In fact, he hated her.

Jeremy saw Madeline's perturbed gaze. He held her hands and looked at her lovingly. "Linnie, don't be afraid of me. I'll never do anything to make you sad ever again."

Madeline stared at Jeremy blankly, unable to believe that those words had sounded from his lips.

Not long ago, he was fierce and angry when he grabbed her by the neck and said he wanted to avenge Meredith. His icy eyes had pierced through her bones. They were like ice picks, but now...

"Jeremy, a-are you okay?" Madeline was worried.

Jeremy looked at her with a pain in his chest. "Linnie, I was wrong. I shouldn't have believed Meredith's lies. I've wronged you. I shouldn't have broken your heart again and again."

Madeline's eyes lit up. "Jeremy, are you saying that you finally believe me? So you believe that I didn't hurt Meredith?" she asked him repeatedly, and there was a strong desire to be trusted and understood in her eyes.

Jeremy felt the immense guilt in his heart again.

His heart hurt even more, but his eyes are full of warmth and determination. "Linnie, I believe you. I'll believe every word you say in the future. Forgive my ignorance before. Please, will you let me make it up to you?"

Madeline's eyes turned red as tears flickered in her eyes.

As she looked into Jeremy's devout and earnest eyes, she nodded. "Okay."

Jeremy thought he would be happy after receiving her forgiveness, but there were only ten folds of the pain and hatred in his heart.

He was hurting for Madeline and the hatred was directed at himself.

Why should she forgive him for all the pain she had endured because of him?

How much love did she have for him that she could love him without any hesitation?

He got another call. Even though it was an unknown phone number, Jeremy could guess who it was. He simply turned off the phone because he just wanted to enjoy his time alone with Madeline.

At dusk, the ambiance in April Hill seemed simple and tranquil.

The breeze blew gently as the waves beat against the white sand. It was the same scene that they saw years ago.

The only difference was that they were all grown up now.

Jeremy held Madeline's hand as he walked her to the beach. The breeze in April was soft and dreamy. With the smell of sea salt in the air, it brought back memories of the past.

However, Jeremy was not sure if the current Madeline still remembered their first meeting.

When he turned his head and saw the faint smile on Madeline's face, he could not help but smile. "Linnie, do you remember when we first met here?" he asked tentatively.

Madeline turned her head quickly as a hint of excitement showed on her beautiful and clear eyes. "Jeremy, have you finally remembered what we did here the last time ?"

Jeremy gave her a gentle smile. "Silly girl, how could I forget? Even though it's been more than ten years, I've never forgotten you nor have I forgotten our promise."

Madeline's eyes widened in surprise. Images of Jeremy treating her coldly and his disdain for her flashed in her head. It was completely opposite to the Jeremy who was standing in front of her at this moment. She frowned, saying, "But Jeremy, previously..."

"Linnie, I've done a lot of wrong things. I'm not in the position to ask for your forgiveness, but there are some things that I've kept inside for a long time that I must tell you today."

Jeremy interrupted her and brushed her picturesque eyebrows with his warm fingertips. There were deep sadness and guilt overflowing from his eyes.

If Madeline's memory had gone back to six years ago, then it would be as if God had given him a chance to redeem his sins in the past.

"Linnie, after I broke off with you years ago, I've always thought about you ever since. I've even tried looking for you but I could never do so.

"12 years later, I accidentally met a girl on campus. The girl slammed into my arms ignorantly. When she raised her head to apologize to me, I had butterflies in my stomach for the first time, and that girl was you.

"But I was foolish. I was so stupid that I didn't recognize that the girl was the little Linnie I've promised to spend the rest of my life with. And at that time, a bad girl appeared and told me that she was little Linnie, so I was fooled...

"In order to fulfill my promise to little Linnie, I forced myself to avoid you, treat you coldly, and pretend not to like you. I even indulged the bad girl who impersonated little Linnie willfully but ended up hurting the actual person who I really loved."

At that point, the tears formed in Jeremy's eyes had already blurred his vision.

Through the tears, he saw that Madeline's eyes were also red.

"So the bad girl posing as me was Meredith ?" Madeline said her guess out loud.

Jeremy nodded slightly with regret. "I'm sorry, Linnie. I made you suffer."

He embraced her with sincerity, love, and apology.

Madeline broke down and leaned against Jeremy's chest. Hot tears rolled down her cheeks. "So the reason you treated Meredith well was because you thought she was me..."

She pursed her lips that were wet with tears. "Even though it was just a naive and childish thing I said, you took it seriously and kept it as a promise. I'm very happy, really."

Madeline did not blame him for what he did and that made Jeremy feel even worse.

She should blame him. Even if he had gotten the wrong person, he should not have been so cruel to her, and neither should he have deceived himself after meeting her again and falling in love with her.

If he could turn back time, he would choose to go back to the day they met again in college.

He would have never hidden the fact that he liked her.

He would have never let down the girl he liked for a promise.

Even so, he was really grateful whether the person he met was the young girl or the woman she became after. She was the same person—the same girl who made his heart flutter.

Despite that, he had lost all that time he could have spent with her.

Since the start, both Madeline and he were manipulated by Meredith.

Jeremy did not know how long Madeline's memory loss would last, but he was really happy to find that she still loved and cared for him.

For a moment, he selfishly hoped that Madeline's personality and memories remained at that moment when she loved him deeply.

The rays of the setting sun were like tiny pieces of gold scattering on her face. He finally saw the bright and warm smile on her face. It was incredibly beautiful...

Jeremy and Madeline spent the night at the guest house. After a long time, he finally had a good night's sleep.

After Jeremy woke up and saw the tiny woman sleeping in his arms, he smiled gently and kissed her forehead.

During breakfast, many tourists went to the nearby guest houses. The owner of the guest house said that there was a festival in the town for the next two days and tourists had come to celebrate the holiday.

That night, Jeremy brought Madeline to the town.

Under the dark blue night sky, the bustling street was packed with stalls where souvenirs and various street food were sold.

Jeremy held her hand as he led her around, weaving through the crowd and occasionally stopping to look at the stalls.

He wanted to make sure she was taken care of and that she felt happy.

She had never experienced that kind of care and tenderness from him before.

At that moment, Madeline, whose memories were still stuck at the time when she was seriously ill, thought to herself that as long as she had these memories with Jeremy, her life was complete.

As long as she knew the person he loved was her, she had no other regrets.

However, just as Madeline was enjoying her new memories with Jeremy, big fireworks suddenly shot up in front of them.

The sound of the fireworks sounded in the sky loudly. Fizz! Hiss! Boom! Bright fireworks bloomed like flowers in the night sky.

Jeremy held Madeline's hand and walked forward, but suddenly, she stopped.

He was uncertain of what was happening and turned his head. As the fireworks broke into multiple different colors in the sky, he too saw the subtle and gradual changes in Madeline's eyes.

He had a bad hunch. "Linnie ?"

As he called out her name, the tenderness in Madeline's beautiful eyes disappeared in an instant and was replaced with a thorny edge.

"It's you?" She looked at Jeremy with a solemn expression and uncertainty in her eyes. "Where is this place? Why did you bring me here?"

When Jeremy heard what she said, he instantly understood that Madeline had switched her identity—the identity that did not have him in her memories.

It was obvious that this identity of hers did not have the memories of her previous identity. Otherwise, she would not look at him so coldly.

If she had them, she would remember that they had been getting along very well for the past two days.

Jeremy's short-lived joy was like the fireworks blooming in the sky. After the explosion, there was only icy coldness left.

In a daze, Madeline broke free of his hands, turned, and walked away.

Jeremy returned to his senses and hurried to catch up with her. "Linnie, where are you going ?"

"Don't call me that. We're not that close," Madeline replied indifferently without turning around.

The place was crowded and Jeremy was afraid that he would lose Madeline again, so he decisively pulled her back. "Linnie, don't go."

Madeline, who was held back by him, glared at Jeremy with displeasure. "If Felipe's still your uncle, you should respect me as your aunt."

When she mentioned that, the gentleness in Jeremy's eyes turned into possessiveness. "You're not my aunt. You're my wife. You're my woman."

"Heh." Madeline chuckled. "You're being ridiculous. I don't even know you."

She shoved his hand away again with annoyance.

However, when Madeline looked around, she looked troubled.

"Where is this place?"

She seemed as if she had never been to this place before.

Madeline wanted to call Felipe. She reached out and felt her pocket but did not find her phone. She only felt something cold.

When she took it out, it was a bookmark made of leaves.

When Jeremy caught up to her and saw Madeline staring at the bookmark in a daze, his heart fluttered a little. A smile appeared on his handsome face.

"Linnie, if you still kept this bookmark, it means you still care about me deep down in your heart."

When Madeline heard Jeremy's words, she became even more dissatisfied. "I only have Felipe in my heart."

Jeremy frowned, his eyes looking solemn. "Linnie, listen to me. You don't have Felipe in your heart. You don't love this man at all."

"Don't you think that it's a little rude of you to be confusing my fiancée?" Felipe suddenly appeared, his relaxed voice drifting through the crowd with clarity.

Madeline suddenly smiled. "Felipe! I'm so glad you see you."

She ran to him with a big smile on her face.

It felt as if Felipe was her savior, the man who made her feel safe.

Jeremy looked at him, his gaze meeting Felipe's that always seemed to be gentle and smiling. "You know very well whether what I just said is the truth or not. Linnie will recover and realize the truth one day."

"The truth ?" Felipe chuckled. "The truth is that you've hurt her with exceptional cruelty. The truth is that she hates you."

The two points that Felipe made were indeed true and Jeremy did not want to deny it.

However, when he saw the bookmark just now, he was sure that Madeline still cared for him deep down.

Otherwise, she would have thrown the bookmark out a long time ago so that she would break off all ties with him.

"Vera, let's go." Felipe turned around and took Madeline's hand. "You've been missing for two days and your parents have been very worried about you."

Had she been missing for two days?

Why did she have no memory of her going missing for the past two days?

She only remembered Jeremy pulling her away forcibly in front of the mall and that she witnessed a car accident. Then suddenly, she was here.

Jeremy stood at the same spot without moving as he watched Felipe gradually disappear with Madeline toward the end of the crowded street.

A touch of anxiety and crazy possessiveness quietly overflowed in his lonely eyes.

'Linnie, I'll never let you slip away from me again.

'Never.'

•••

Madeline followed Felipe back to the apartment.

On the way back, Madeline still had the bookmark in her hand. Jeremy's words echoed in her mind, "Linnie, if you're still keeping this bookmark, it means you still care about me deep down in your heart."

"What's this bookmark about?"

After entering their place, Madeline asked Felipe a straightforward question to quench the doubt in her heart, "Felipe, do I have a history with Jeremy? Does my amnesia have something to do with him?"

Felipe seemed surprised when he heard that and smiled bitterly. "It seems that I have to confess to you."

"Felipe?"

"Yes, Vera. Your lost memories are indeed related to that person." Felipe admitted frankly.

The rhythm of Madeline's heart suddenly went all over the place. When she recalled Jeremy telling her that he was her husband, Madeline asked with more nervousness in her voice, "Were we married before?"

"You were indeed married before, but you never loved him. He was always very cruel toward you to the point that you hated him. So that was why you hated him to his bones.

"The reason why the two of you got married was that someone set the two of you up. You had no choice but to be forced into marriage by Old Master Whitman. After the two of you got married, Jeremy ignored your feelings for him and got intimate with his mistress. He even condoned the mistress to hurt you physically. When your life was hanging on by a thread, he was still thinking about how to get rid of you."

Felipe held Madeline's hand with pain and solemnity in his eyes. "But Vera, you're not tied to him anymore. Please don't be fooled by this man. He's only getting close to you because he wants to avenge his mistress."

Madeline could not help but doubt his words, but Felipe continued on.

"Vera, if you don't believe what I've said, you can ask your parents or you can check online. The name you had when you were married to him was Madeline Crawford. You can even search about it on the internet."

"Madeline Crawford..."

Madeline repeated her past name gently, experiencing an inexplicable familiarity in her subconscious.

Afterward, she searched the internet and found the things that Felipe had told her about. She found out about Jeremy hating her, cheating on her, and loving only Meredith...

The more she read, the stronger the anger in Madeline's eyes grew.

'It turns out that I really had a relationship with you.

'It turns out I was trampled and hurt by you.'

Madeline clenched her fists and looked at the picture of Jeremy displayed on the phone screen. The man was clearly very handsome and attractive, but the anger in Madeline's eyes had escalated into hatred.

Felipe watched the changes in Madeline's expression silently, and after seeing the sorrow on her face, the corners of his lips lifted without a trace.

The next day, Felipe announced his marriage to Madeline on the internet and that their wedding will be held three days later.

Eloise and Ava were invited to accompany Madeline to the bridal shop to try on wedding dresses. Although Eloise felt it was strange that Madeline and Felipe were going to get married so suddenly, since Madeline was willing, she had no reason to rain on her parade.

Madeline walked into the fitting room and stood in front of the huge mirror. When she was about to take off her clothes and try on her wedding dress, a dark figure suddenly barged in from the side.

The moment Madeline noticed him, the man quickly stepped forward, carried her by the waist from behind, and covered her mouth gently.

Madeline immediately resisted and elbowed the person behind her.

The man did not block her blow but wrapped his arms around her. "Linnie, it's me."

The man's deep and thick voice slipped into her ears.

Madeline was taken aback for a moment as she took in a vaguely familiar scent of cedarwood.

"Linnie, don't be afraid. I won't hurt you. I just don't want you to make a decision that you'll regret for the rest of your life," Jeremy said softly with a hint of humble request in his tone. "Please, will you come with me?"

Madeline's beautiful eyebrows frowned. "Let me go first."

When Jeremy heard what she said, he let go of her even though he was reluctant.

Madeline turned around and saw the handsome face that was very close to hers. The fire in her eyes lit up in an instant.

Unexpectedly, he saw the flame of hatred in Madeline's eyes and was a little startled.

The personality that was in control of her body at that moment merely hated him and avoided him, so why was there suddenly such a strong hatred?

He did not overthink it and grabbed Madeline's hand. "Linnie, don't marry Felipe. He's not the guy you see on the surface. He's just using you. You don't love him at all. You'll regret marrying him—"

Slap!

Before Jeremy finished his sentence, he was interrupted by Madeline's sudden slap.

She did not show any mercy and gave him a big slap across the cheek.

Jeremy's handsome profile looked lost.

Even so, he was not angry. Even if the woman in front of him stabbed him with a knife, he would not stop her.

"Regret marrying Felipe? Have you looked at the mirror? Shouldn't I regret having married you?" Madeline asked coldly.

Jeremy looked at her with his big round eyes. What he saw was the cold look on her face and her piercingly cold eyes.

"Linnie?"

"Shut up," Madeline scolded angrily, "Don't pretend to be affectionate in front of me. Felipe told me everything, you inhuman scumbag!"

When Jeremy heard what she said, it sent a chill down his spine.

He did not know what Felipe told Madeline, but he could see that the hatred toward him in Madeline's eyes was serious and so abhorrent.

"Jeremy, how could you wish to kill me for such a vicious mistress ?!"

•What ?'

Jeremy furrowed his eyebrows deeply. 'Kill her?'

He never wanted to kill her.

"Linnie, Felipe lied to you. I never wanted to hurt you."

"You never wanted to hurt me? Haven't you hurt me already?" Madeline was blunt and straight to the point. "Not only did you hurt me, but you even killed my own flesh and blood so that you could get away with your mistress happily! And what about the part where your family made me break up with Felipe? I've never loved you, let alone got married to you. Who are you trying to fool?"

As Madeline questioned him, Jeremy was at a loss.

He could not deny that he had hurt her.

However, when he heard all of what she said, he realized how serious it was.

Felipe had lied to Madeline and told her that Madeline and he were in love!

Before he came to look for Madeline, he had prepared himself for her cold treatment toward him but did not expect that things would develop in a worse direction than how he imagined.

He could accept Madeline's hatred toward him, even if she hated him to his bones.

However, the only thing he could not accept was her erasing the memory of her deep love for him.

The pain in his heart was like death by a thousand cuts. Jeremy lost control of his emotions in an instant. His eyes turned red while the corners of his eyes burned.

He grasped Madeline by her shoulders. "Linnie, you have no feelings for Felipe! The person you love is me! I'm the only man for you!"

"I've never loved you. The person I've loved since the beginning has always been Felipe. You were the one who tried to break us up," Madeline retorted in a cold voice and had a hostile look in her eyes.

Jeremy felt as if he was going crazy, and his initial calmness had long been tossed out the window.

He hugged Madeline like a madman and kept insisting, saying, "No, Linnie! You don't love Felipe, you love me! From the first time we met when we were young, I'm the only man who has had your heart!"

Madeline pushed him hard. "Let me go, Jeremy! I wouldn't fall in love with a cold-blooded scumbag like you! Let me go!"

Zip!

The curtain of the fitting room suddenly opened.

When Ava and Eloise heard the sounds, they hurried in. Upon seeing Jeremy holding Madeline as soon as they opened the curtain, Ava hurried forward to pull him away.

"Jeremy, you scumbag! What are you doing here? Let go of Maddie right now! Let go of her!"

Ava scolded him and pulled Jeremy away with force.

"You scumbag! When will you stop torturing Maddie ?!"

Jeremy was stunned by Ava's scolding.

•Torture.'

No.

He promised never to torture her.

When Ava saw that Jeremy was lost in a daze, she pulled him away and shielded Madeline to her side. "Maddie, are you all right? Why is this scumbag here?"

Madeline glared at Jeremy. "I don't know how he got in. I don't want to see him ever again."

"Did you hear that, Jeremy? Maddie doesn't want to see you ever again. Get out of here!" Ava scolded him bluntly and did not give Jeremy any leeway.

After being scolded by Ava, Jeremy suddenly walked up to her. "You're Linnie's best friend, right? Tell her who she has loved all these years."

Jeremy's sudden anxiousness surprised Ava.

She glanced at Madeline who was frowning and immediately answered, "The man who Maddie loves the most has always been Felipe! Maddie has never loved you, you scumbag! So get lost!"

Ava's answer dumbfounded Jeremy.

Afterward, Madeline sneered, "If you're done with your act, you can get lost now, Jeremy. And don't you dare show your face in front of me ever again."

Jeremy's heart was shattered when he heard her indifferent and emotionless expulsion.

He looked at Madeline with nostalgia, but she had already turned around without even looking at him.

Jeremy had no choice but to leave. Not long after he left, Felipe came.

When Felipe found out what happened just now, he whispered his gratitude to Ava while Madeline was trying on the wedding dress, "Thank you for going along with me."

Ava waved her hand and looked in the direction of the fitting room heartbrokenly. "I would rather Maddie never remember the fact that she had once loved Jeremy that much. I can't bear to see the poor look on her face ever again."

She sighed and looked back at Felipe.

. . .

"Although you're Jeremy's uncle, I can feel that you're different from Jeremy because of how caring you are toward Maddie. Besides, the two of you already have children together. That's why I think Maddie really likes you. I wish you two the best."

Felipe smiled gently. "I'll take good care of Vera and will never disappoint her as Jeremy did."

"I also hope Maddie will choose the right person this time." Ava wished her friend well.

Felipe promised, saying, "I'll make sure of that, but in order to avoid Jeremy coming and causing trouble again, I had to push the wedding date forward. After our wedding, I'll take Vera to Country F to start our new life together. That way, Jeremy will never have the opportunity to contact Vera again and she'll never have to face her unhappy past again."

Ava breathed a sigh of relief after hearing what he said. "That's good. I hope that Maddie will be happy from here on out."

After Jeremy left the bridal shop, he drove away reluctantly. When he passed an intersection, a car suddenly appeared in front of him. He stepped on the brakes immediately.

He initially thought that he almost got into a car accident because his mind was somewhere else, but when he saw the person getting out of the car, he knew that it was no accident.

"Jeremy, do you have time to talk?"

The night without moonlight was as dark as a pot of inkwell overturned.

In the bar, colorful lights swayed as the romantic ambiance seemed to envelop and engulf everyone who entered. At that moment, two guys sitting in front of the bar counter clinking their glasses were ignoring the sexy women who came up to them to chat them up.

After Daniel learned about Madeline's condition from Adam, he drove furiously to stop Jeremy. He thought that there would be a war between them, but the two of them ended up at the bar and started being sarcastic with each other.

"Serves you right, Jeremy." Daniel mocked. He rarely drank alcohol, but that day, he drank several glasses in silence.

"Little Madeline finally belongs to someone else. She has never belonged to me." Daniel chuckled bitterly and downed another glass. The cold liquid entered his throat and went down to his chest. It was pungent.

His heart was broken again.

His usual gentle and elegant front crumbled the moment all his hopes for his secret love crumbled and died.

At that moment, he just wanted to get drunk.

"Jeremy, it's all your fault. You made Madeline this way. If you still have a conscience, don't provoke her anymore. Felipe will give her the happiness she deserves."

Jeremy put down the stemmed glass heavily with great force, shattering it.

"Linnie won't be happy. She doesn't love Felipe at all. She has forgotten it now, but one day she'll remember that the man she loves the most is me."

"Heh," Daniel sneered, "So what if she remembers? Little Madeline will never love you anymore. She hates you. Think about what you did. Why do you think you deserve to have her?"

Jeremy curled his lips, a gentle smile appearing in his dreamy round eyes as droplets of tears reflected the colorful lights above him.

"It's true that Linnie hates me, but she loves me more. I've always been in her heart and she isn't over me yet. Lily is the best proof of her love for me."

"Lily ?" Daniel was tipsy from the alcohol and did not recognize the name.

After he drank one last drink, Daniel laid his head on the bar and said drowsily, "Little Madeline, I wish you all the happiness in the world. I won't be attending your wedding tomorrow. I hope that after getting rid of that scumbag, Jeremy, you'll finally be happy from here on out..."

Jeremy's blurred eyes instantly regained clarity. "Wait, Daniel. What did you say? Tomorrow? Isn't it supposed to be two days later? How could it be tomorrow?"

He kept asking Daniel, but all he could hear were his mumbles. "Little Madeline, Little Madeline..."

Jeremy hurriedly left the bar and rushed to Montgomery Manor.

If Madeline was going to marry Felipe tomorrow, she would be staying in Montgomery Manor that night because they were going to be her in-laws.

As soon as he walked toward the gate of Montgomery Manor, he saw their servants going around the place. There were wedding decorations everywhere.

As Jeremy looked at how lively and joyful the place was, he appeared as if he was bogged down by darkness.

His eyes gradually became hot and angry.

His mind went to the wedding he had with Madeline six years ago. He wished that the particular moment could last forever.

The woman was still there, but she was not his anymore.

The woman who loved him so much for all those years could only live in his vivid memories.

"Jeremy ?" Eloise came out of the manor and saw him standing in a daze at the door. "Are you here to look for Madeline ?"

Jeremy regained his senses and froze for two seconds before speaking, "Is Linnie going to have her wedding with Felipe tomorrow ?"

Eloise was surprised. "How did you find out?"

"Felipe didn't want me to know about it, so he brought the wedding date forward, right?"

After hesitating for a while, Eloise was straightforward and said, "Yes, Felipe didn't want you to pester Madeline anymore. And frankly, Madeline hates you now, more than ever, so..."

"I want to see Linnie. Is she here?"

Eloise shook her head helplessly. "Madeline wouldn't want to see you. Plus, I'm worried that you'll trigger Madeline if she sees you again."

"I see." Jeremy nodded. "Don't tell Felipe that I was here," he said solemnly before turning around decisively and walking away from the iron gate.

It was a late night in early spring, so the evening breeze was chilly.

Somehow, it started drizzling. Jeremy sat in the car silently as he kept his eyes in the direction of Madeline's room.

A night had passed and he could not even sleep. His deep-set eyes appeared red while the vessels could be seen.

His meticulous face remained stunning, yet some signs of being lifeless could be seen on his face as well.

The rain continued to pour as rain droplets smashed onto the ground.

At around 9 AM, Felipe's fleet of wedding cars arrived.

Soon, he witnessed Madeline strolling out from the house.

She was in a stunning white wedding gown. With makeup on her face, she looked just like a piece of fine art while her hands held onto a bouquet of fresh flowers.

She suddenly let out a gentle smile, the image of her graceful gesture sitting deep within Jeremy's orbs.

He grasped onto the steering wheel as a strong sense of possessiveness brewed in his eyes.

'Linnie, you're mine. Aside from me, I won't allow any other man to own you.'

His thin lips were tightly sealed as he started following behind Felipe's fleet of wedding cars.

Felipe, who was sitting in the wedding car with Madeline, had long ago noticed that Jeremy was among the fleet of cars.

He remained composed, holding onto Madeline's hands with one hand while giving a warm smile. The other reached out for his phone to send a message. After receiving a reply, he chuckled and deleted the message.

"Vera, you look stunning today." Felipe praised sincerely. Her face that was just as beautiful as artwork was reflected in his orbs.

Madeline replied with a shallow smile, "Felipe, we're finally going to be together."

"Yeah," Felipe answered with a smile, "At last."

Finally, the moment he longed for had arrived.

Felipe smiled as a memory flashed back in his mind, bringing him way back to the time at the beach of April Hill.

He could never forget that innocent and pretty smiling face. The most unforgettable part was that little girl who gave him courage and warmth during his low times in life.

Jeremy succeeded in trailing behind Felipe's fleet of wedding cars. However, the fleet took a turn at a corner suddenly and headed away from the city, off to an area with very few cars.

He found it weird, and just when he made the turn, the few wedding cars ahead of him suddenly came to a halt. Only the main wedding car along with two other cars continued ahead.

As for the few wedding cars behind, they surrounded Jeremy's car in no time.

Jeremy grasped on the steering wheel and scanned his surroundings without feeling worried.

It was as though a hush befell the entire atmosphere, leaving only the rhythmic sound of the wind.

Jeremy noticed that the people from the surrounding cars were up to no good. He raised his icy brows, changed gears, and slammed on the gas pedal.

The silver sports car rushed through the middle between the few black cars like a sharp sword.

The few black cars hurriedly went to catch up to him.

While Madeline was talking about her wedding to Felipe, they suddenly heard two continuous, ear-piercing impact sounds.

Her hands that were holding onto the fresh flowers fumbled as she shifted her gaze.

Felipe smirked, knowing that he had taken care of those he was supposed to tackle. He raised his gaze to Madeline, who looked absent-minded, and gently comforted her. "There might be an accident nearby, but don't be scared, I'll protect you."

Madeline tilted to look at Felipe and nodded.

After a moment, the wedding car arrived at the wedding hall.

There was almost no one at the scene except for Eloise, Sean, and Ava.

They could not invite every friend and family, given that the wedding was planned in a rush.

Finally, following the wedding ceremony, Madeline, who was holding onto Sean's hand, sauntered to Felipe. He was waiting before the oath table while Eloise and Ava were crying out of joy.

After handing over Madeline's hand to Felipe, the priest then asked whether Felipe would take Madeline as his wife. Felipe fixed his gaze upon Madeline, and without a single thought, he answered, "I do."

However, when it was Madeline's turn, she kept silent while staring at Felipe.

"What's wrong, Vera?" Felipe questioned with a gentle tone. He could not help but feel that the person before him was not being herself.

Madeline looked at Felipe, and just when she was about to speak, she saw a familiar outline rushing into the crowd out of her periphery vision. "Linnie, don't marry him."

Jeremy showed up with a domineering voice.

There were only a few people in the hall, and they all spun around to look at him.

Jeremy was dressed in black, his face giving off a domineering aura.

He walked at a fast pace, elegant like a burst of wind. Then, he was next to Madeline.

Jeremy took Madeline by her hand when everyone was still dumbfounded. "Linnie, don't marry him. You're my wife. You belong to only me."

Madeline was surprised. She opened her little mouth slightly, and when she was about to speak, Felipe appeared in front of her. He yanked Madeline to his side.

He faced Jeremy and revealed a stony expression on his handsome, gentlemanly face. "Jeremy, seeing that you're my nephew, I'll let go of this matter if you leave now."

"Let go of this matter?" Jeremy sneered, "Felipe Whitman, do you think I don't know what you've done. I must have surprised you as I'm still able to show up alive, right? As long as I'm alive, I'll never allow Linnie to be with you."

Then, a glint of darkness was swirling in Felipe's eyes.

Jeremy walked past Felipe, placing his gentle stare onto Madeline's face. He pleaded, saying, "Linnie, come with me."

Felipe smirked and let out a confident smile. "Vera will never go with you."

However, the moment he was done saying it, Madeline walked around him and went to Jeremy's side.

Madeline's action stunned the crowd, including Felipe who never expected such a result.

The most shocking part was Madeline reaching out for Jeremy's hand at her own account, securing herself next to Jeremy.

"What's happening, Jeremy? Why am I dressed up like this? Why am I here? Quick, take me away."

Ava was flabbergasted as she sprinted over to Madeline, feeling anxious and worried. "Maddie, stop... Stop making mistakes. Listen to me, don't follow this scum. Jeremy will only give you the worst!"

Madeline frowned and said apologetically, "Ava, wait till you meet the man who you truly love. That's the time you'll understand what I'm feeling right now."

"No, it doesn't work that way, Maddie." Ava was almost speechless. She wanted to give an explanation, but she could not figure how she should put it into words to make Madeline understand it better.

However, Jeremy knew fully well that Madeline had once again changed her personality.

Her current memories and attitude had stopped back when she was madly in love with him.

He felt sorry for Madeline, but at that moment, he also felt rather delighted.

He held onto Madeline's hand dearly before spinning around. "Linnie, let's go. I'll bring you home."

"Alright." Madeline nodded with a smile. As for Felipe, his black eyes were brewing with madness.

Feeling worried, Ava took out her phone and dialed Daniel's number. As soon as the call was connected, she blurted out the entire situation while feeling anxious. "Dan, the thing that Dr. Brown mentioned is happening. Maddie really has a second personality. Just now, at the wedding ceremony, she voluntarily left the scene with Jeremy!"

Daniel, who had just awoken from being drunk, immediately sobered up after hearing Ava.

He quickly called Jeremy, but the latter did not pick up the call.

At the wedding ceremony, Eloise and Sean were not out of their wits. Instead, they felt rather relieved.

Despite knowing that Felipe was a good man and would make Madeline happy for life, they could not help but feel something was off.

Perhaps it was the guilt that was coursing through them after they had lied to Madeline, claiming that Felipe was the only man she loved.

After all, a lie would remain as a lie at the end of the day.

All the so-called happiness might vanish if Madeline fully recovered one day.

There would never be any happiness if there was no love between the two people.

Besides, they hoped that their precious daughter would achieve genuine happiness in her life.

Jeremy brought Madeline back to the villa.

She pulled down the wedding gown and put on her usual attire. This made Jeremy breathe a sigh of relief.

She looked absolutely stunning in her wedding dress. However, he selfishly wished that he was the only one to own that pretty side of her.

Madeline tried to recall why she would end up wearing the wedding gown, but it ended up fruitless.

Jeremy knew that Madeline's current memory and attitude had gone way back to the time when she was still madly in love with him. He was feeling grateful but was in pain at the same time. He brought her to the bed and sat down. His hand gently laid atop her gorgeous brows as he said, "Linnie, stop thinking about it. You can't recall it because you've lost your memories."

"Me? Lost my memories?" Madeline's eyes grew wide as she was confused.

Jeremy looked at her and nodded, feeling a pinch in his heart. "Linnie, we got married six years ago. It's just that something went wrong with your memories and you've forgotten many things. They cured the tumor inside you, Meredith and her family have received the punishment they should get and were already judged by the law. As for us..."

He stuttered. The sense of fear that he had never once felt before made him retreat.

He lost the courage to tell her the truth that occurred within these six years. He was sincerely afraid that she might end up hating him and even leaving him.

"Jeremy, Jeremy, why aren't you talking? What's wrong with us?"

Jeremy snapped back to reality after hearing Madeline's pestering. He wore a gentle smile and faced Madeline.

Madeline's cheeks went pink when she saw his stunning face. Her gorgeous orbs looked down slightly, not wanting to look into his eyes.

Her bashful appearance was just like a young lady who first discovered what true love was.

"Linnie, how about leaving the past in the past? For the days to come, I'll protect you, take care of you, and we'll be together just fine."

He hooked his little finger to hers.

"Just like the promise we made back at that time. We'll always be together forever."

Madeline gradually raised her teary eyes, meeting Jeremy's passionate orbs. "Jeremy, this all feels like a dream to me."

"This is not a dream, silly. It's the reality you're experiencing."

Jeremy's eyes looked even more gentle, but he was still feeling a pinch in his heart.

It was just a simple feeling of happiness, yet to her, it was like a dream that was hard to be fulfilled.

That was all because he had given her endless coldness and darkness in the past. Hence, all the warmth that she was feeling currently just seemed unreal to her.

"Linnie." Jeremy held her dearly in his arms.

'I'm sorry, Linnie. I've told you a lie, just like them.

'It's a fact that you used to love me. However, you might come to hate me more than you used to when you've recovered your memories in the near future.'

The thought of it made Jeremy hug Madeline even tighter, as though he would want to just infuse her into his bones.

Regardless of life and death, he only desired to be with her in his entire life.

Madeline suddenly struggled when Jeremy was still indulging in the hug. She put on an anxious look and stared at him, saying, "Jeremy, you said that it's been six years since then. Then, then where's my baby..."

Subconsciously, she touched her tummy with her hands.

"I only remember that not long after I got pregnant, Meredith claimed to be pregnant as well..."

"Don't worry, Linnie. Our child is doing well. It's a boy and his name is Jackson. I'm the one who named him."

"Jackson," Madeline muttered the name as her eyes glinted in excitement.

"Also, let me tell you this, Linnie. Meredith and I have never had an intimate relationship, and I never came to love her. Back when I thought she was you, I've never laid a finger on her. Linnie, I only like you. We're meant for each other."

Jeremy's comment left Madeline shocked and delighted, but more toward the latter.

"Jeremy, I want to meet our child as soon as possible. Where's he now?"

"He's at his grandparents' house, your biological parents' house."

"My biological parents?" Madeline was still in a daze when Jeremy held her hands. "Come, let's go get our son."

He placed his fingers between hers and headed downstairs.

Suddenly, the main door flung open and a silhouette showed up before them.

Felipe was still in his groom's attire that was made specifically for that day.

He was holding onto an umbrella as the rain had started pouring even heavier. He still appeared to be as elegant as usual, but the warmth was no longer seen in his eyes.

Madeline stared at Felipe who was standing in front of her while her mind was flashing with memories, telling her she somehow knew the man before her.

Time passed as the rain continued pouring heavily, and Felipe was still holding onto the umbrella while dressed in his black tux. He was walking over to her.

"Felipe, why are you here ?" Jeremy's voice made Madeline snap out of it.

She lifted her gaze and coincidentally saw Felipe's lips curling up.

"I'm not here for you." Felipe's gaze fell onto Madeline's face, which then became much soothing. "Madeline, you must be very puzzled as to why you were about to marry me back at the wedding ceremony. That's because—"

"Felipe Whitman!" Jeremy interrupted, crossed. He stood ahead and shielded Madeline behind him with a stern look. "Stop feeding my wife with memories that don't belong to her."

Felipe let out a faint smile. "I think you're the one who's feeding her with fake memories. Do you think you'd be able to hold her hands if it's not for her memory loss?"

"She wouldn't be marrying you if she hadn't lost her memories," Jeremy retorted with full confidence. Then, he opened an umbrella and escorted Madeline into the car.

He drove the car at full throttle. Madeline, who was sitting at the front passenger seat, raised her gaze to look into the rear-view mirror.

Felipe and the smile on his stunning face gradually vanished from her sight.

Eloise and Sean never expected that Jeremy would send Madeline back home to Montgomery Manor.

After a thorough introduction by Jeremy, Madeline came to learn that both Eloise and Sean were her biological parents.

She was quite astonished to receive such a piece of news, yet she could feel the warmth of the couple before her.

"Mommy... Mommy."

At that moment, they heard an innocent and crystal clear voice that was like a bell.

Madeline looked up at the source of the voice and saw a delicate little face.

Jackson ran to her and hugged her leg. "Mommy, it's been a few days since Jack last saw you. Jack really misses Mommy..."

"Jack ?" Madeline slowly got down to her knees, and before she realized it, she was touching the doll-like face.

She stared at the pair of orbs that looked like Jeremy's. Heat accumulated behind her orbs as she hugged the little kid dearly and said, "Oh Jack, Mommy misses you too."

"I knew Mommy would miss me," said Jackson proudly while still in Madeline's arms, behaving coquettishly.

Eloise and Sean felt the heat in their eyes as well after witnessing the scene. They could not help but sigh. "Eveline has gone through so much suffering."

"As long as I'm still around in this world for even one day, I'll never let Linnie suffer again." Jeremy gave his words.

"With her current situation, I wonder what we should do," said Eloise worryingly, "Why did Eveline suffer from dissociation disorder?"

"It's all because of me." Jeremy placed the blame on himself.

He could still recall vividly the day when Madeline was met with the car accident. She emphasized that she had never pushed Meredith even though she was already losing consciousness.

Deep at the bottom of her heart, she still remembered those years of suffering from being wronged.

"Jeremy Whitman!"

"Scumbag!"

Daniel and Ava suddenly came in.

They came intending to learn of Madeline's whereabouts, yet they bumped into Jeremy.

"Jeremy, you're such a scumbag. Where did you hide Madeline?" Ava rushed to the front of Jeremy, anxious and exasperated.

A few seconds ago, Madeline was still in the hall, but coincidentally, she had gone to the backyard with Jackson.

Jeremy was about to explain, but the infuriated Ava hoisted her arm high in the air, about to slap Jeremy.

"Ava!" Daniel quickly stopped and comforted her, saying, "Calm down, Ava. Maddie wouldn't be in any trouble."

"How am I supposed to calm down? Maddie is bound to be in trouble if she continues lingering around him! Let me go, Dan. I want to beat this scumbag up so badly!" Ava said through her gritted teeth, staring with her reddened eyes.

"You're such trash, Jeremy. Do you think I don't know what you're up to? You're planning to avenge Meredith! How dare you be so shameless and cheat Madeline, claiming that you love her? Do you even know what it's like to love a person? Do you know?!" Ava scolded. She was trying to lecture the scum on behalf of her bestie, yet tears started streaming out from the corners of her eyes.

She felt utterly sorry for Madeline.

"Jeremy, do you know how much Maddie suffered those years she spent by your side? Was there any time that she was sincerely happy ever since you two were married? Was there a time she smiled? She was all over you, to a point where she was willing to discard her pride. But how about you? How did you treat her in return?

You're such a cold-blooded man. You even joined forces with Meredith and made her suffer in prison for three whole years! You two even disfigured her and took her biological child away from her!

"Jeremy, do you know what decision she made when she first found out she was pregnant and at the same time, noticed she was suffering from a grave disease? She brought me to the beach at April Hill and said to cast her ashes into the ocean if she couldn't survive. It was at the place where you and Madeline made a promise to each other. Despite facing death, she still loved you so much!

"Do you have any idea how much courage Maddie had to summon to get back on her feet? Yet why aren't you letting go of her up to this day? Why are you so unsatisfied that Maddie is lucky enough to have a happy day in her life?!"

Ava's condemning marks made Jeremy utterly heartbroken.

Although there were some misunderstandings, Jeremy had no intention to defend himself. No matter what, he had indeed hurt her before.

Ava was not done, and just as she wanted to continue on scolding, her eyes sparkled. "Maddie!"

She struggled to free herself from Daniel and sprinted to Madeline before hugging her in her arms.

"Maddie, thank God you're alright. Promise me, never bother Jeremy again. He has already harmed you once, so don't give him another opportunity to harm you for the second time!"

Madeline, who was being held tightly by Ava, sneaked a peek at Jeremy.

Jeremy was perturbed, thinking perhaps Madeline had heard all the things that Ava mentioned. He strode over to her, saying, "Linnie—"

"Jeremy, stop coming any closer to Maddie!" Ava stood in front, defending Madeline. "Maddie, don't bother about him. Right now, you're making a big mistake because you've lost your memories. Wait till you've recuperated, then you'll remember how much you despise this scumbag. You'll remember just how much you hate him, to the point you want his reputation to go bad and make him never have the chance to stand up proudly ever again!"

Just when Jeremy had no chance to argue back, Madeline held Ava's hand and smiled. "Thank you, Ava. I'm very glad to have such a good friend like you."

Ava also grasped on Madeline's hand. "If that's the case, please listen to my advice, Maddie. Never bother about this scumbag again!"

"Scumbag?"

Dimples appeared on Madeline's smiling face as she walked to Jeremy, facing his apoplectic gaze.

"You're right, Ava. I lost my memories, and because of that, I only remember that I really love this man. Despite him having treated me coldly, I still can't control my emotions. I keep thinking about him and missing him. This feeling of determination and love has been with me ever since the first time I met Jeremy."

Jeremy was speechless when he heard the comment, tears building up behind his eyes. "Linnie..."

His voice trembled as he held onto Madeline's hands. He got down to one knee as he looked at Madeline with his eyes brewing with remorse and love.

"I'm sorry, Linnie. I'm terribly sorry..."

He apologized sincerely, his eyes reddened and drenched.

"Linnie, please give me another chance to love you. A chance for me to make up for all the terrible things I've done in the past. I swear to God, I'll ensure you'll be happy for the rest of your life. You'll live a life without suffering or tears.

"Linnie, let us start a brand new life, alright?"

Jeremy got down to one knee, tears almost flowing out from his eyes.

His eyes were swirling with sincerity, giving off a strong sense of love.

Madeline nodded with a smile. "Yeah, let's start all over again."

Ava snapped back to reality after hearing Madeline's reply.

She could not believe she was lost in her thoughts at the sight of Jeremy's gestures.

However, she still could not accept the fact that Madeline had once again returned to Jeremy's side. After all, the bloody past was still flashing vividly in her mind.

Especially the fact that Madeline used to hate Jeremy so much back when she had not lost her memories yet.

Daniel was observing from a corner. He could not explain the sense of relief he was feeling when he heard Madeline's reply to Jeremy.

He finally came to understand that the person who could hurt Madeline so badly was the same person who she really loved.

Ava attempted to stop Madeline but was halted by Eloise and Sean. "Miss Ava, just let Eveline be."

Ava clenched her teeth and suppressed her feelings, afraid that she might aggravate Madeline's illness.

On the journey back, Ava was feeling grumpy in Daniel's car. "Dan, why didn't you speak a word earlier? Maddie will definitely be tortured to death if she returns to the grasp of that devil, Jeremy Whitman!"

She let out a sigh. "Is Maddie's intelligence ruined because of her appearance? She doesn't want to be with such a good man like you or a gentleman like Felipe. She chooses that cold-blooded scumbag instead. She's really out of her mind!"

Daniel let out a smile. "Perhaps this is the part of love where most find it hard to resist."

"Hmph, this is not love. Just you wait and see. Wait till Maddie gets her memories back and she'll come to hate Jeremy so much!"

Daniel glanced at Ava who was still infuriated. "Then, how about we make a bet?"

"Bet ?"

"Yeah." He nodded his head slightly. "I bet Maddie will love Jeremy more after she recovers her memories."

"What ?" Ava's eyes widened as she waved her hand, irritated. "You're mad! Dan, you're out of your mind!"

Dan just let out a smile as he drove away from the scene. The leaves that were hovering in the air came stumbling on the ground again, leaving behind miraculous suspense.

The sky turned dark, and both Madeline and Jeremy were still at Montgomery Manor.

Eloise and Sean dared not long for happiness as one complete family. However, their eyes turned red whenever they heard Madeline greeting them as her parents.

Madeline got to know from Jeremy that other people had deliberately taken her away when she was young. Since then, she parted from her biological parents.

She had no recollection of the hurtful things both Eloise and Sean had done to her in the past. At that moment, all she could feel was the love from her parents.

After dinner, Jeremy started the engine of his car and drove Madeline and Jackson back home.

Madeline was carrying the little kid who had dozed off. She stared at him, admiring his little face.

'Jack looks gorgeous.

'His brows look just like Jeremy's.

'His eyes, I think they look like mine?'

Madeline chuckled.

. . .

"This is Jeremy's and my kid.

'Six years. I didn't expect myself to lose six whole years of memories.'

The next day after sending Jackson to school, Madeline took the initiative to make a trip to the hospital.

As he was feeling perturbed, Jeremy brought Madeline to the hospital.

He held her hand. The warmth he was feeling made him fear losing the sweetness he was experiencing.

After a thorough check-up, Adam scanned through the report earnestly and said seriously, "This is the only way for the time being. If you want to recover her memories faster, the only way is to use a much more aggressive method to stimulate her, but this method might make her condition even worse."

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Following the doctor's comment, Jeremy's expression darkened as he would not want to take the risk.

He feared that not only would Madeline not get any better, but she would forget his existence for good.

He would rather have her hate him than to have her memories wiped off forever.

On their way home, Jeremy received a message from Adam. There were things that were not convenient to be said in the office. Besides, it would be better not to let Madeline know about it.

Adam's message to Jeremy was that Madeline was currently having a double personality. One of them was in love with Jeremy while the other was holding a grudge against him. Both of them were not on the same page and would go to the extreme. Only during certain circumstances would a particular personality be expressed.

Jeremy had already figured out the certain circumstances that Adam mentioned.

It was when there was a heavy blow or if there was a sudden crashing sound.

The only way to make Madeline recover completely would be to awaken her dominant personality.

Jeremy read through the message, then turned to look at Madeline.

A selfish thought flashed through his mind. He wished for Madeline to forget all about the unpleasant past forever. From then on, only happiness would have existed in her life.

"Jeremy, I want to pay my grandpa a visit. Let's take a trip back to the old house." Madeline suddenly suggested.

Jeremy came to a halt, then explained. "Linnie, there are some changes that happened in the old house and someone else has bought it. Grandpa got ill as well."

After hearing this, Madeline was shocked. "Then where's Grandpa now? Jeremy, let's get Grandpa back to our villa. I want to take care of him."

Jeremy was caught by surprise but soon nodded with a gentle smile. "Alright, we'll go get Grandpa and get him to stay with us."

After over ten minutes, his car came to a halt at a district building. Then, he led Madeline up the building.

Karen had pushed the task of wiping the old master's body to Yvonne. Just when she was about to head out to go shopping, she saw Jeremy and Madeline walking to her. They were both behaving intimately.

She thought she had seen an illusion and rubbed her eyes, only to witness clearly the two outlines that were inching closer.

Karen was about to scold and curse. However, Madeline saw her and called out, "Mom."

???

Karen was thrown for a loop.

She was sure that Madeline's tone and the smile on her face did not seem to be teasing her.

Karen thought to herself as she trailed them when she saw Jeremy bringing Madeline into the house.

Meanwhile, Yvonne got fed up and threw the towel to Old Master Whitman while cursing at him.

"Jesus! You're annoying! Why aren't you dead yet ?! Who do you think you are to make me clean your face and feet every day ?! If not for Jeremy, I wouldn't..."

The door suddenly flung open when she was cursing.

Yvonne was thunderstruck to see that it was Jeremy. She quickly put on a smile on her face. "Jeremy, you... You're back."

She smiled, trying to get closer to Jeremy, but the smile on her face vanished the moment she saw Madeline following closely behind him.

Jeremy ignored Yvonne and walked to the front of the wheelchair. He grabbed onto the old master's icy hands and whispered, "Grandpa, Linnie and I will bring you home to stay with us. You'll be better in no time."

Madeline was about to head over when she noticed Yvonne staring hard at her. "I think we've met somewhere before, right?"

"Hmph." Yvonne gave an awful reply, "Why are you putting on an act? How dare you show up after what you've done to Grandpa? Do you think you'll be able to make the fact that you harmed Grandpa vanish into thin air just by pretending to have your memories wiped off?!"

Madeline was confused. "What are you talking about? I harmed Grandpa?"

"Don't listen to her nonsense, Linnie. How's it possible that you harmed Grandpa?" Jeremy glared at Yvonne, giving her a warning. "Stop talking gibberish in front of Madeline."

"Jeremy, I'm just stating the fact! It's this lady who harmed Grandpa. It's all thanks to her that Grandpa is now paralyzed!"

Yvonne was serious about her slander while wiping off the tears on her face.

"These days, I give my everything to taking care of Grandpa, cleaning his face and washing his feet. Despite Grandpa not being able to talk, I know he knows it. There are a few times when I asked Grandpa whether it was Madeline who harmed him and he blinked his eyes, which is to say he agreed!"

Just when Yvonne was using the old master's name to accuse Madeline, the old master suddenly voiced out. His rough right hand was shaking as he pointed to Yvonne, and with all his might, he said, "You..."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 561

No one expected the old master to speak up during that moment.

This left Yvonne's mouth wide open as her face went pale white.

Didn't everyone say that this old man is already paralyzed and won't be able to talk or walk till the day he steps into his grave? Why is he showing a reaction at this timing?

'All this while, I've been cursing and insulting him. Won't everything come to light?'

"Grandpa." Jeremy was extremely delighted as he spun around and returned to the old master's side. "Grandpa, are you able to move? What do you want to say?"

The old master's eyes were enormous as he gave his all to voice out, but they heard no words in the end.

However, with effort, he extended his shaking right index finger and pointed ahead.

Yvonne, who saw the scene, quickly took a step back and sneered, "Look, Jeremy. Grandpa is pointing toward this woman. Grandpa's trying to say it's this woman who caused him to end up in this state!"

Then, Karen smirked and said, "Jeremy, your grandpa has pointed out it's her. Are you still planning to defend her? She's pretending that she has lost her memories, trying to free herself from being held responsible."

Her comments made Old Master Whitman exasperated as he panted out of anger.

Jeremy raised his icy-cold gaze and said unpleasantly, "Grandpa is mad because of you two."

As he was saying, he started packing up the old master's clothing and passed them over to Madeline. "Linnie, we'll bring Grandpa back home. With you taking care of him, I'm sure Grandpa will recover in no time."

Madeline let out a smile and came forth to push the wheelchair. "Grandpa, I'll bring you back home."

The old master moved his orbs, showing that he was trying to answer Madeline's comment. His emotions had calmed down as well.

"Jeremy, where do you plan on taking Grandpa to? Back home? Which home? Do you guys still have a home?" asked Karen in a dissatisfactory tone.

However, Jeremy ignored her.

Karen was Jeremy's mother, but she was not like Jeremy who had already realized his mistakes.

Throughout so many years, she had never given Madeline any ounce of respect, let alone apologized for the things she did to her.

Hence, he decided not to respect anyone who did not respect his wife, even if that person was his mother.

Veins were throbbing in Karen's temple when she witnessed Jeremy leaving the scene along with both the old master and Madeline.

As for Yvonne, she was utterly jealous of Jeremy defending Madeline.

She was feeling dissatisfied as she thought to herself and muttered, "Are we going to just leave it as such, Aunty Karen? Madeline has turned Grandpa into this state and is still trying to pretend that she has lost her memories to seduce Jeremy with an innocent look. She must have influenced Jeremy, making him treat you so coldly!"

Karen was a person who was easily influenced. She spoke through her gritted teeth, "This b*tch!"

"We shouldn't let Jeremy leave just like that, Aunty Karen. We shouldn't let that woman continue sticking around him. She'll definitely join forces with Felipe and land Jeremy in tragedy!" Yvonne kept adding fuel to fire. "Have you forgotten, Aunty Karen? It's because of that woman that you can't even buy a purse right now!"

"She's such a b*tch. Does she think that I'm scared of her just because I'm lying down low?"

"Well, back when she exposed her identity, you did look like you're terrified of her. That's why Madeline became even more arrogant!"

Karen felt that her pride was shattered.

Exasperated, she reached out for her purse, spun around, and headed out.

"Don't do anything rash, Aunty Karen. Wait for me."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 562

Yvonne caught up to Karen and put on a fake, worrying face. In reality, her face was revealing a devilish smirk.

She thought Karen would cause Madeline trouble. However, she ended up arriving at the hospital.

With Karen's previous social network, she got to know about Madeline's illness.

After getting to know about the details of her condition, she burst into laughter. "Haha, it looks like that b*tch really lost her memories. No wonder earlier she greeted me as 'Mom' so politely. It turns out she has reverted to her stupid state!"

Karen felt that her chance had arrived as she hurriedly went back to pack up. She checked out from the house and dragged her luggage to Jeremy and Madeline's wedding villa.

Just when she got down from a cab, she noticed Jeremy starting his car and leaving the villa.

Madeline was cleaning Old Master Whitman's body meticulously and covered him with a blanket so he could hit the sack.

She heard the doorbell ringing just when she was about to speak a few words to the old master.

She opened the door only to find that both Karen and Yvonne were waiting at the doorway impatiently.

"Mom ?" Madeline called out politely, "What brings you here ?"

Karen rolled her eyes at Madeline. "This house belongs to my son. As his mother, I can come by whenever I want to! From today onward, Yvonne and I will stay here. Since you're going to serve the old master, you might as well serve Yvonne and me."

Knowing Jeremy had left the villa, Yvonne raised her brows and said, "Madeline, why are you standing here so absent-minded? Quickly take our luggage in and clean up two rooms for us. Go!"

Arrogantly, Yvonne entered. As she passed by Madeline, she intentionally knocked against Madeline's shoulder forcefully.

Madeline shifted her gaZe from the two figures to the two big bags of luggage that were standing at the doorway.

"Wow, this house is so huge and gorgeous!" Yvonne was impressed the moment she entered. She had the urge to make herself the owner of this house, thinking that a woman like Madeline was not a suitable match to Jeremy.

Karen had come to the villa a few times, hence her reaction was not as exaggerated as Yvonne's. She sank into a sofa comfortably. Seeing Madeline dragging her luggage made her smile.

Ever since Madeline 'reincarnated', she had been enduring lots of suffering.

She planned to seize this opportunity when Madeline had lost all her memories and reverted to her foolish character to vent out all her frustration

"Madeline, go get the two rooms cleaned up right now. Also, prepare two brand new sets of daily utilities," ordered Karen.

Madeline was deep in thought while staring at Karen and Yvonne. Then, she spun around and headed upstairs.

Pfft! Yvonne burst into laughter when she saw Madeline's back. "Haha, this feels great, Aunty Karen. Can't believe that b*tch will have such a day too!"

"Hmph! It's all because she went against me earlier! Right now, I shall prove to her who's boss!" Karen smirked. She thought of an idea when she saw the dustbin beside the coffee table.

After a moment, Madeline returned to the hall with a smile. "I've cleaned up the guest rooms."

Karen flipped a blind eye over her. "So, you've cleaned the guest rooms. I guess it's time for you to clean the hall now," said Karen as she suddenly raised her leg and kicked the dustbin before her.

The garbage containing the skin of fruits splattered all over the gray floor mat.

"Why are you zoning out, Madeline? Hurry and clean it up," said Yvonne, reaching out for the melon before throwing it on the floor.

"Clean up once I order you to do it. Are you dissatisfied with it? Do you not want to be my daughter-in-law? Do it now if you want to!" Karen barked. She then picked up the orange skin and threw it beside Madeline's leg.

Madeline kept silent, spun around, and went to get a broom.

At that moment, the main door flung open and Jeremy showed up. He witnessed both Karen and Yvonne eating and throwing rubbish on the floor while Madeline had her head lowered as she cleaned the place with a broom.

A surge of rage coursed within him. "What the hell are you guys doing ?!"

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 563

Jeremy's sudden appearance made Karen and Yvonne feel a jolt course through them.

They both got choked by the flesh of the fruits and started coughing vigorously till their faces went scarlet.

Madeline lifted her eyes and saw Jeremy's dark expression. His sharp gaze was looking right at her.

However, the moment their eyes met, his expression changed and became much calmer.

"Linnie." He placed the daily supplies that he just bought at the supermarket down on the floor. Heartbroken, he took the broom away from her hand. "What are you doing, silly ?"

"I'm cleaning up. Mom said that she'll be staying here with Yvonne. I've already cleaned up the guest rooms." Madeline explained with a smile.

Jeremy frowned, shifting his stony gaze to the two ladies.

"Get lost right this minute!" He chased them out without a single thought.

Karen put on a pitiful look when she saw Jeremy infuriated. "Jeremy, I'm your mom. Your dad went overseas again for the sake of minimizing the loss. How do you expect me to live alone ?"

"Alone ?" Jeremy was looking scornfully at Yvonne who dared not let out a breath. "Isn't there another person here with you ?"

Karen was speechless and knew where Jeremy was going. She glanced at Yvonne and sighed with a pitiful look. "Yvonne hasn't graduated, and she has no friends or family in Glendale. Hence, the only choice she has is to tag along with me, but how can two jobless women be able to survive on their own?"

"You guys are incredible in a way," Jeremy sneered as he sneaked a peek at the floor that was all messy.

"Jeremy, why don't you let Yvonne and Mom stay here? Since there are rooms available too." Madeline advised.

Jeremy did not intend to go against Madeline's wish. He threw the broom in his hand to the two ladies.

"If you guys want to stay here, then you'd better get this place cleaned up. I'll chase you guys out of here if you guys give any more trouble to Linnie."

•••••

··..."

Karen and Yvonne dared not argue back as they just stood there, witnessing Jeremy escorting Madeline upstairs.

Karen felt troubled when she scanned through the dirty carpet that was full of rubbish.

'I didn't expect to be hoist with my petard.'

"Hurry and get this place cleaned up!" Karen ordered Yvonne in a dissatisfactory tone.

"Me? I'm going to do the cleaning?" Yvonne's eyes were gigantic as she pointed her finger to herself.

"Who else is going to clean it up? Me? If you want to stay here, you'd better clean this up now!"

··...''

Yvonne puckered her mouth in dissatisfaction. Then, she started cleaning while cursing under her breath.

That night, Jeremy got another opportunity to feast on Madeline's cooking.

He tasted the food meticulously and realized such a tranquil life was the most soothing one could ever have.

Madeline was holding onto a bowl and feeding the old master with patience. From time to time, she would look at Jackson. That sight gave her utter satisfaction.

Karen and Yvonne were burying their heads in their meals, keeping silent. They did not want to cause trouble for Madeline in front of Jeremy.

After dinner, Madeline pushed Old Master Whitman back to his room while Jackson trailed from behind.

Jeremy shifted his gaze to the two ladies before him. "I know very well what's going on in your mind. Don't say that I didn't remind you guys. With Linnie's current condition, you guys better not trigger her too much, or else, you two will bear with the consequences."

He got up to his feet and bent his towering silhouette.

"Clean this up. Linnie is worn out after taking care of Grandpa. Since you guys insist on staying here, then you guys will be in charge of the house chores."

Karen curled her lips and spun around to look at Yvonne.

Yvonne immediately got the hint and started cursing deep in her heart.

"What the f*ck ?! Doesn't this mean that I'm going to serve as a maid here ?!"

Seeing Jeremy had left, Yvonne started speaking to Karen in a coquettish tone, "Oh Aunty Karen, in the current situation..."

"It's best not to provoke Jeremy now. You should clean this place up and we'll talk about it tomorrow." Karen left without turning back.

"..." Yvonne could only swallow her anger and clear the table before doing the dishes.

After Madeline put the old master and the little guy to bed, she saw Jeremy waiting for her at the door when she left the little guy's room.

The moment she closed the door, he picked her up out of the blue.

Madeline let out a gasp of surprise and circled her arms around Jeremy's neck subconsciously.

When she took in his scent, her face heated up. Then, she closed her eyes bashfully.

"Jeremy, I can walk myself. Please put me down."

"Nuh-uh." Jeremy shook his head. Then, he looked deep into her eyes. "Linnie, I'll never let you go for as long as I live."

His words were so touching and they enveloped her heart sweetly.

Madeline smiled while leaning against Jeremy's shoulder. She was enjoying this moment of gentleness that he gave her.

Yvonne had just finished cleaning the kitchen and was coming upstairs when she saw Jeremy carrying Madeline into the room. She was so jealous that her eyes turned red.

Jeremy was the boy she admired since she was young. She would have confessed her love to him if they were not cousins.

She felt that Jeremy would prefer her more in her current state. However, she could not ruin their relationship, and what annoyed her the most right now was Madeline's existence.

She had poisoned the old master while disguising as Madeline so that she could get rid of her. She did not expect the issue to just be set aside.

It looked like she had to think of another way to get rid of Madeline so that she could be the new matriarch of the house!

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Jeremy carried Madeline into the room. After that, he joked about taking a shower with her.

In the end, Madeline pushed him out of the bathroom. After he was kicked out, he received a call from Felipe.

Felipe's tone was neutral on the other end of the phone. However, it sounded threatening. "Jeremy, bring Vera back. If not, you won't be able to handle the consequences."

Jeremy chuckled lowly. "Felipe, I was too muddle-headed for the past few years, but now I'm awake. Do you know what's the price that I can't pay in my life?" he asked coldly.

"It's Linnie."

Jeremy gave Felipe the answer instantly.

"I can lose everything, but I can't lose my wife, Linnie."

He did not continue talking nonsense to Felipe anymore. He quickly hung up the phone.

On the other end of the phone, Felipe held his phone tightly as the screen darkened. There was an ominous glint in his eyes as he looked at the two men who were waiting for his order.

"Do it."

"Yes, sir."

Looking at his two subordinates who had just turned around, Felipe played with the wedding ring on his ring finger. He smirked all of a sudden. "Then, I'll let you pay the price that you don't want to pay the most."

After Madeline walked out of the bathroom, she saw Jeremy waiting for her outside the door.

He was wearing a loose robe and there was a lazy smile on his face. When he saw Madeline, he picked her up again.

Madeline was shocked. "Jeremy, were you outside the door the entire time?"

The man looked at her with love and passion in his eyes. "Guess."

Madeline said she could not and then, she was carried onto the bed by Jeremy.

His skin was pressed up against hers, and his scent enveloped her. These all caused her temperature to rise.

In her impression, whenever Jeremy was intimate to her, he would torture her relentlessly with icy rage.

Now, when he kissed her on the corner of her lips, Madeline could not help but tremble.

Jeremy opened his dazed eyes. When he saw Madeline looking dispirited, he was terrified. He was terrified if she had suddenly remembered how much she hated him. "Linnie, what's wrong? Are you... scared of me?"

He looked at her, his eyes filled with nervousness and worry.

However, Madeline only shook her head. Her charming eyes were slightly lowered.

Jeremy understood Madeline's reaction.

His brutal treatment toward her back then had left a mark on her heart, so at this moment, it was not her personality changing as she was truly scared.

When he thought about this, Jeremy held Madeline tightly while feeling sorry.

'I'm sorry, Linnie. I'm so sorry...'

He pressed up against her gently and apologized in his heart.

"We've been so busy this entire day, so you must be tired, Linnie. We should rest early." Jeremy suppressed the heat in his body and fell asleep with Madeline in his arms.

Finally, he could sleep peacefully with her in his arms again. Jeremy felt like he was in a dream. However, he hoped this dream could last and he could stay in this dream longer.

If possible, he did not want to wake up.

Madeline woke up early. After helping the little guy up, she went to make breakfast.

After making breakfast, she cleaned the old master and fed him his breakfast patiently.

It was rare for Jeremy to have a good night's sleep. When Madeline was not next to him after he woke up, he leaped out of bed and dashed out of the room. When he saw her and the old master in the dining room, all of the cells in his body calmed down.

He was afraid. He was scared that Madeline would revert into the Madeline who hated and forgot about him.

After cleaning himself up, Jeremy entered the dining room with a smile on his face.

His heart felt warm when he ate the breakfast she made.

However, he did not want Madeline to be too tired, so he decided to hire a maid.

Back when money was just a number to him, he could not give Madeline the comfortable life of being a wife to a rich man, so even if he had to live like a destitute man in the future, he would still want her to live a happy and carefree life.

Since Madeline needed to take care of the old master, Jeremy would be responsible for taking Jackson to school.

Jackson held the lunchbox Madeline made for him proudly. Before he got into the car, he even ran up to Madeline to ask for a kiss. Then, he turned around and waved at her. "Bye, Mommy."

'Mommy.'

This word grazed Madeline's heart sweetly.

It made her feel extremely pleased.

Madeline went back to the house and pushed the old master into the garden.

The sun in May was warm and comfortable. The old master closed his eyes and enjoyed the sun on his skin.

"Grandpa, enjoy your sunbath. I'll bring you back to your room so you can rest later."

The old master opened his murky eyes when he heard that. He looked at Madeline's smiling face and his eyes were filled with love and peace.

Madeline turned around and walked into the house. When she was about to clean the room, she saw Yvonne and Karen coming downstairs.

Karen could not wait to cause trouble after she was certain that Jeremy was not around. She ordered Madeline with a horrible attitude, "Prepare our breakfast now. We want full English breakfasts. I want my eggs still runny and Yvonne doesn't drink cow's milk. She'll only drink goat's milk, so hurry up and prepare them now."

Madeline nodded lightly and walked into the kitchen.

Karen and Yvonne looked at each other before smirking evilly.

"Aunty Karen, look at her. She's so submissive. If it's not for Jeremy protecting her, she'll just be a piece of trash!"

"Hmph, if it's not for Jeremy's sake, I wouldn't even let her into this house!" Karen scoffed arrogantly. "Just watch. Something interesting is going to happen."

Karen said and walked into the kitchen. When she saw Madeline busy with the preparations, she urged impatiently. "Hurry up. Do you want me to die from hunger? Is this how you are as a daughter-in-law? You're so slow. I wonder why Jeremy would want to marry a piece of trash like you!"

"It's all because someone is such a wh*re and used all kinds of heinous methods to climb into Jeremy's bed. If not, with her qualities, even the beggars on the street wouldn't want her," Yvonne chimed in sarcastically.

Yet, Madeline acted like she did not hear them. She just went on with her business.

After about ten minutes, she finished making breakfast according to Karen's wishes.

Karen remembered how Madeline had slapped her the last time. This time, after she sat down, she started causing trouble again.

She used her fork and knife to chop up the eggs in pieces. "What kind of eggs is this? How did you make this? I said I want runny eggs, didn't you hear me? Also, why is this waffle burnt? Don't you know that I don't eat burnt food? It'll cause cancer! Do you want to kill me?"

Madeline smiled and explained patiently. "Mom, this egg is runny and the thing on the waffle is blueberry jam. It's not burnt. I made everything according to your wishes."

"Who are you calling 'Mom'? Who's your mom? Do you think a cheap wh*re like you are qualified to be my daughter-in-law?" Karen threw the knife and fork on the table. The cutleries made a loud sound as they hit the surface.

Yvonne started making trouble as well when she saw that. "Say, are you deaf? Aunty Karen told you I only drink goat's milk and not cow's milk! Why did you still give me cow's milk? Don't you know I'm allergic to cow's milk? Do you want me to have an allergic reaction? You're so heinous!"

Madeline frowned. "This is goat's milk."

"If Yvonne said it's cow's milk, then it's cow's milk!" Karen reached out her hand and picked up the glass. Suddenly, she threw it at Madeline's feet.

Crash! The glass shattered into pieces after an ear-piercing sound. The white liquid spilled everywhere.

Madeline lowered her gaze as she dispiritedly looked at the shards of glass at her feet.

Karen crossed her arms across her chest arrogantly when she saw that Madeline was shocked by her sudden outburst. "Okay, since you said it's goat's milk, then prove to me by licking it clean."

"Oh, Aunt Karen, look at her. Do you think she'll tell Jeremy that we bullied her later?"

"Hmph, what a piece of trash. Just tell him! Does she think I'm scared of her?" Karen was getting more and more malicious.

Yvonne smiled even wider. She stood up and looked at Madeline in a mocking manner. "Didn't you hear my aunt? Madeline, didn't you say that it's goat milk? Hurry up and lick it clean to prove it to me and my aunt."

After Yvonne said that, Madeline lifted her alluring eyes and smiled. "What did you say?"

Yvonne pointed at the milk on the floor with an even more arrogant look on her face. "I asked you to lick the milk on the floor clean!"

Madeline frowned curiously after she heard that. Then, she displayed a thought-provoking smile on her face. "Lick it clean? How? Like this?"

When Karen and Yvonne heard that, they thought Madeline was going to lick the floor. However, when they wanted to get closer to take a look, Madeline stuck out her leg in front of Yvonne.

Yvonne was not paying attention, so she tripped and fell.

She started screaming when she saw the glass shards on the floor. "Ah!"

Despite doing her best to dodge the shards, they still stabbed into her palms. Plus, she almost landed face-first into the shards. Her mouth was full of blood now.

Madeline towered over Yvonne and glanced down at her. When she saw Yvonne struggling to get up, Madeline stood in front of her and pressured her with her domineering aura.

"How's it? Did you manage to taste it? Is it goat's milk or cow's milk?"

"..." Yvonne was shocked when she heard that.

Karen was horrified by what she saw. She only came back to her senses after a long while. "Yvonne!"

She wanted to go help Yvonne, but Madeline was in her way. She roared in anger. "You piece of trash, get lost!"

"Piece of trash ?" Madeline looked at her coldly.

Karen was taken aback. Suddenly, she saw a sharp and piercing glint in Madeline's eyes. The glint was the same as when Madeline exposed her identity. "Madeline, y-you…"

"Why? Are you trying to threaten me when Jeremy's not here? Do you think I'm that old Madeline who would allow you to do anything to her?"

What?

Karen widened her eyes in shock. Then, she looked at Madeline's face in dumbfoundedness. Suddenly, she felt nervous.

Madeline looked at her coldly as she picked up her knife and fork. Then, she pushed Karen's shredded eggs together before pushing the plate in front of her.

"It's a heinous thing to waste food, my darling mother-in-law. You have to finish this."

"..." Karen was shocked. She was unconvinced, however, that she was defeated. Her face looked grim, but she did not dare to be too arrogant.

Madeline looked at Karen's face in amusement. Karen was fuming, but she did not dare to say anything. Then, Madeline turned her face to look at Yvonne who was still on the floor. "Sweetheart, I'm asking you again, is that goat's milk or cow's milk on the floor?"

Yvonne widened her eyes in terror. She did not know why the weak and vulnerable Madeline suddenly became so overbearing and domineering.

"I'm asking you, so answer me. Is that goat's milk or cow's milk?" Madeline asked. Her overpowering aura caused Yvonne to shiver in fear.

She nodded her head quickly with her face that was painted with horror. "Y-Yes, i-it's g-goat's milk!"

Madeline frowned in curiosity. "Oh? Really? Did you have a proper taste?"

"I did! I did!"

Madeline nodded in satisfaction. "It's good that you had a proper taste. Get up and eat breakfast then. Clear this up after you're done, understand ?"

Yvonne nodded in fear after she saw Madeline's thought-provoking smile. "I got it! I'll clean up!"

"Enjoy your breakfast." Madeline smiled and looked at the aunt and niece duo. Their faces were turning green to white as Madeline turned around to leave.

Yvonne got up from the floor slowly. "Aunt Karen, she... What's happening to Madeline? Her eyes were so scary!"

Karen looked at Madeline's back with lingering fears. "Didn't that woman lose her memories? Why did she react that way?"

"S-She must be pretending! I don't think she really lost her memories. She must be scheming something, so that's why she's pretending to have lost her memories!" Yvonne guessed and concluded.

"That b*tch! Not only did she destroy Jeremy's reputation, but she's also working with Felipe to ruin Jeremy! What a devious woman!"

"Aunty Karen, we have to tell Jeremy that she's just pretending!"

"Jeremy's completely infatuated by that b*tch, so how would he believe us ?" Karen was mad and troubled. "I think we have to come up with a plan."

Yvonne pouted in dissatisfaction. "Before we do that, what should we do with this?" Yvonne pointed at the mess on the table.

"You should finish it, of course. Do you expect me to eat it?"

"..." Yvonne almost exploded from anger. However, she did not dare to go against Karen's wishes. Most importantly, she did not dare to go against Madeline.

Madeline walked into the garden and spotted the old master who was sunbathing.

She looked at the old master's peaceful face as her mind started to wander. When she was about to walk over, two men in black walked in from the front door.

The two men walked over rudely before heading straight to her. "Miss Eveline, sir is waiting for you to go back. He's worried about you."

"Mr. Felipe Whitman." The man explained with a smile. "Miss Eveline, you must be troubled by everything that's happening recently. If you go back with us, sir will tell you everything. It's dangerous for you to stay with Jeremy Whitman."

After the man said that, Madeline heard moaning sounds behind her.

She turned around and saw the old master with his eyes widened in the wheelchair. He was looking at her emotionally as if telling her not to follow those two.

However, Madeline agreed. "Okay, I'll go with you."

"Ugh ugh l" The old master was even more emotional than before.

Madeline turned around and walked toward him. The sharp look in her eyes softened. "I'll be back soon. Don't worry, I'm not the old Madeline anymore."

Despite her comforts, the old master was still making sounds of protest with all his might. He wanted to stop Madeline.

However, Madeline still left with them.

The car arrived at the villa Felipe bought in the suburbs. He had already made Madeline's favorite black tea.

When he saw Madeline, he poured her a glass of tea considerately. As usual, he displayed a gentle and elegant smile.

"Maddie, sit down and have some tea. I'll explain to you what happened recently."

Madeline smiled. "No need. I'm not drinking the tea as well."

Felipe froze as he held the cup. Then, he looked over at her coldly.

On the other hand, Madeline was smiling calmly. Her eyes were twinkling with confidence. "I came here to talk to you about something.

Felipe felt that Madeline's gaze looked familiar. He curled the corner of his lips in interest. "Go on."

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On the other side, after Jeremy sent Jackson to kindergarten, he went to a reliable agent to hire a maid.

Then, after he got back to the house, he realized Madeline was gone.

The old master was sitting in the wheelchair in the garden alone. His eyes were widened from anger as he kept on making sounds of protest.

Jeremy quickly went to Karen and Yvonne to ask them what was going on. The two of them stated that they had no idea.

However, they did see Madeline leaving with two men in black.

Jeremy found the security footage of the front door and saw that Madeline was taken away by Felipe's men.

When he was about to go out to find Madeline, she came back unharmed.

Jeremy pulled her into a hug when he saw her. He held her tightly. "Linnie, it's good that you're back."

He felt relieved, and his deep voice was filled with worry as well as nervousness.

"Did Felipe ask someone to take you away? Did he do anything to you? Why did he let you come back?"

After letting her go, Jeremy asked worriedly.

Madeline smiled softly. "I'm fine. Felipe didn't do anything to me. He didn't cause any trouble for me as well. I said I want to come back to you, so he asked his people to take me back."

Jeremy felt that something was amiss. How would Felipe be so kind? However, he did not continue questioning her.

Madeline walked over to push the wheelchair. When the old master saw her, he calmed down as well.

Yvonne was watching from one side and mumbled in dissatisfaction, "Aunty Karen, that woman is such a good actress. She pretends to look so vulnerable in front of Jeremy when she's just playing dumb to take advantage of him."

After she said that, Yvonne felt a piercing gaze looking over at her.

Then, she lifted her head to see Madeline looking at her profoundly. At that moment, Yvonne's heart was racing.

What kind of hearing did Madeline have? Yvonne was speaking so softly. Did she hear her?

Madeline had indeed heard Yvonne, but she did not pay any attention to her. She pushed the old master into the guest room on the first floor.

The old master started moaning again. However, he was not as emotional as before.

Madeline pushed the wheelchair to the bed and closed the door.

After she closed the door, she turned around and looked at the old master who was trying to talk with a strange look in her eyes. Then, she started walking slowly toward him.

Jeremy felt that something was not right. He knew that Felipe would not let Madeline come back so easily.

He was worried if Madeline was being threatened. After he entered the house, he went into the old master's room to look for Madeline.

When he saw the door closing, he hesitated for two seconds before opening the door and walking inside.

After he opened the door, he saw Madeline making the bed for the old master. When she saw him, she smiled.

"Jeremy, you're just in time. It's time for Grandpa to rest. You should help him to bed."

Jeremy did as she instructed. He helped the old master into the bed comfortably and placed the blanket over him.

"Grandpa, rest well. Linnie and I will be taking care of you, so you'll recover soon." Jeremy comforted the old master softly. There was a rare gentle smile on his face.

The old master could not move, so he could only blink to respond to him.

Jeremy held Madeline's hand and left the room together. Ignoring the aunt and niece who were staring at them from the living room, Jeremy held Madeline and brought her for a walk outside.

Madeline frowned. "Jeremy, the GMA International Jewelry Design Competition is starting soon and I want to join. You should know that I learned jewelry design before I graduated. I want to use this chance to prove myself."

Jeremy was slightly dispirited after he heard that.

She forgot the fact that she was Vera Quinn, so she also forgot that she was a famous and established jewelry designer.

"I want to stay home and work on my drafts these few days. This way, I can continue taking care of Grandpa. You'll support me, right ?"

Jeremy smiled with love in his eyes. Then, he nodded. "Of course, I'll support my wife. As long as you're happy, no matter what you want to do, I'll fully support you and stay by your side the entire time."

"Thank you, Jeremy." Madeline smiled. Her sweet dimples were reflected in Jeremy's eyes. They looked so lovely and alluring.

"What a coincidence, Madeline. I'm also taking part in the competition!" Yvonne interrupted all of a sudden.

Karen came to a realization and said, "I completely forgot about this! Yvonne, you studied jewelry design as well! What a coincidence, you can take part in this competition with Madeline!"

"Yeah." Yvonne smiled in excitement and jogged in front of Madeline. She looked obedient and lovable. "Madeline, you're more experienced than me. Can you go easy on me when the day comes?"

Madeline smiled softly. "The competition has to be judged fair and square. It's not a good thing to win a competition that's been rigged. If you don't have the ability, you should just drop out of the competition. What do you think, Yvonne?"

"..." Yvonne wanted to play the part of an obedient girl to get close to Madeline in front of Jeremy. However, she did not expect Madeline to put her down instantly.

The corners of her lips twitched in embarrassment. Then, she heard Jeremy saying to Madeline, "My wife is right. Someone who can only win if the competition is rigged is not your competition at all."

"Come, I'll go buy some drawing tools for you."

"Okay."

Madeline smiled and nodded. She glanced at Yvonne who looked like she was constipated.

Yvonne scowled at Madeline's back while clenching her fists tightly. "Who do you think you are? Do you really think I need you to go easy on me? Madeline, I'll know who isn't my competition soon enough!"

"That's right!" Karen sat up on the sofa. "Yvonne, show her what you got and prove to that b*tch that the Yalemans are not weak!

"If you defeat her in the competition, then her reputation as the head designer of Miss L.ady will be ruined! When that happens, she'll be so embarrassed!"

"Hmph, not only do I want her to be embarrassed, but I also want her reputation to be destroyed on the stage of the competition! If I can't do that, then I'll kiss her feet!"

Yvonne swore confidently. Then, she confidently took out the works that she plagiarized and won when she was in the first year of university. She used them to enter the preliminary contest.

Madeline took part in the competition soon after.

The results of the preliminary contest came out not long after. Madeline and Yvonne both got into the semi-finals.

Yvonne waved the invitation card to the semi-finals in front of Karen boastfully. She even emphasized that her ranking was above Madeline when they were in the preliminary contest.

Karen was proud of this 'report card'. She felt that she could crush Madeline's spirit with this.

However, Madeline was not bothered by this. She only worked on her drafts silently.

Her daily routine was pretty simple. She would draw in the morning and take care of the old master. At night, she would spend more of her time with Jackson.

She would read to the boy and teach him how to read. Sometimes, they would even make some arts and crafts. They were having the time of their lives.

Jeremy did not waste any time. Despite Felipe not making any moves recently, he knew he had to be hatching an evil plan at the moment.

He had promised that if he lost Whitman Corporation, he would definitely get it back. This was not a joke and he had already taken action regarding this.

Plus, he knew that Felipe was still attracted to Madeline. If he wanted to keep the love of his life with him, then he needed to be one step ahead of Felipe.

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A few days later, the day of the competition was confirmed.

After the semi-finals, Yvonne started to be troubled.

Her results in school were horrible as she would always hang around with the boys. She did not pay any attention to her school work at all. She would sleep all morning and spend her nights in bars. She was not a disciplined student at all and led an unruly student life.

She plagiarized and combined the drafts in the preliminary competition and semi-finals. She had nothing to offer.

Now that the finals were coming, she was perturbed.

She had sworn so confidently back then. If she lost, she would be the one who was embarrassed.

She was vain and only wanted fame and success, so how could she let herself be embarrassed?

It was a weekend when Yvonne woke up. She saw Madeline playing with Jackson in the garden.

However, what attracted her attention was the draft on the easel that was propped up in the garden.

She did not know how to describe the draft that only consisted of an outline, but at that moment, she knew Madeline would defeat her.

Yvonne had an idea in her head.

If she stole Madeline's design and submitted it before Madeline, then she would win for sure.

That way, she could also frame Madeline for plagiarizing her!

If she submitted it before Madeline, then it would be her design!

The more Yvonne thought about this, the greater this idea felt to her. She took her phone to take a picture of the draft, but at this moment, Jackson ran over.

She put her phone away and walked to the door as if nothing happened. At the same time, Karen walked in with Winston who had just come back from overseas.

"Aunty Karen, you've fetched Uncle Winston!" Yvonne smiled and greeted.

Jackson ran to Madeline and tugged at her skirt. "Mommy, are we still playing?"

Madeline caressed his hair gently and smiled. "Your grandpa is back, so go and say hi."

"Oh." Jackson listened to Madeline and ran in front of Winston. He called out sweetly, "Grandpa!"

Winston was happy, but he was dissatisfied when he saw Madeline.

After knowing that the old master's paralysis was related to Madeline, Winston started being biased toward Madeline. Plus, Karen had added some other details to the story while on the way home, which caused him to hate Madeline even more.

However, Madeline walked in front of him magnanimously and called out to Winston, "Dad."

Winston peered at her coldly. Then, he said, "Come with me. I have something important to tell you."

The moment Winston came back, he called Madeline over. This elicited Karen and Yvonne's curiosity.

However, Yvonne felt that this was a great chance to steal the drafts!

Using this opportunity, Yvonne snapped a picture of the draft with her phone.

When Karen saw this, she walked over curiously. "Yvonne, what are you doing?"

Yvonne's brain worked fast after she was caught taking a picture of the draft. "Aunty Karen, I thought of a way to make Madeline never be able to lift her head up high again! She'll stop being arrogant soon enough!"

"Oh?" Karen's eyes lit up. "What is it?"

Yvonne smirked evilly and got close to Karen's ear before mumbling something inaudibly.

After Karen heard that, the same malicious smirk appeared on her face as well.

After Madeline was called to one side by Winston, he called her to surrender before she could ask what was going on.

"Surrender ?" Madeline asked. Then, she smiled calmly. "You're convinced that I'm the one who poisoned Grandpa just from the nurse's one-sided statement about a figure who was dressed similarly to me? Is this what you call evidence ?"

After being accused as the one who poisoned the old master, she went and investigated it. In the end, this was the concrete proof she got.

Karen and Yvonne were eavesdropping behind the wall. Then, they found out that Winston was asking Madeline to surrender.

This time, Winston's face was green. He warned solemnly, saying, "Madeline, I want to give you another chance, so that's why I'm asking you to surrender. Don't try to muddle through this by pretending to have lost your memories. As long as you've done it, you'll leave a trace."

Madeline looked into Winston's eyes confidently. "That's right. The person who did this will definitely leave a trace. I think the real culprit will show themselves soon enough."

"Win, why are you talking to this kind of person? This b*tch is just going to keep denying. She even plays the victim to get Jeremy to pity her. She has so many tricks up her sleeves!" Karen could not help but chime in.

Yvonne came forward and scolded as well, "Yeah, Uncle Winston, you don't need to waste your effort. She doesn't have the guts to own up to what she has done."

Madeline looked at Yvonne profoundly. "I guess you've already lost all of your guts, so that's why you're saying that, huh?"

"..." Yvonne was taken aback. She felt that Madeline was looking at her weirdly. Plus, there was something behind what she was trying to say.

What's going on?

Does she know that I'm the one who impersonated her and poisoned the old master?

'Impossible!'

Yvonne denied it silently.

• • •

In the evening, Jeremy found out that Winston was back when he came home after work.

Madeline made a hearty dinner. However, most of the dishes were Jackson's favorites.

On the dining table, Winston looked at Madeline who was feeding the old master. Suddenly, he snorted. "How pretentious!"

Jeremy understood what he meant. "If you think this is a sore sight, you can all move out. Linnie and I will take care of Grandpa."

"Jeremy, do you still think that this woman is not related to what happened to your grandpa?" Winston pointed at Madeline and questioned without beating around the bush.

Madeline pretended not to hear him and continued feeding the old master.

Jeremy placed his fork down, his face turning icy. "The woman you're talking about is my wife and your daughter-in-law. Linnie has suffered so many accusations and grievances before this. Do you still want to accuse her to this day?"

"You..." Winston was seething and became speechless instantly.

Karen pretended to side with Jeremy. "Win, you should eat your dinner and stop talking. Jeremy's right. Maybe this is just a misunderstanding."

"Yeah, Uncle Winston. Maybe Madeline is really innocent. It'll be bad if it turns out we're falsely accusing her." Yvonne sided with Madeline pretentiously as well.

Madeline knew very well that these two were just acting pragmatically. They were only doing this because Jeremy was around.

Winston got up with a horrible expression on his face. "I don't have an appetite anymore."

"Win, Win!" Karen chased after him while pretending to be worried.

As such, Yvonne found an excuse to leave as well.

After the three of them left, Jeremy felt much better. He looked at Madeline pitifully as she continued feeding the old master. "Linnie, you should eat first. Let me do it."

"No need. I'm not hungry."

"Linnie, don't mind what was said just now. I'll believe you no matter what." Jeremy's gaze was gentle. "Since Grandpa is eating and sleeping well recently, I'm certain you're not the culprit."

Madeline looked into his gentle gaze. "You saying this is more than enough for me."

"It's not. I'll prove your innocence," he announced solemnly. He would never let her bear a hit to her reputation ever again.

Midnight.

Yvonne opened the door of her room quietly. Then, she tiptoed into the old master's room.

She was holding a cane. After she turned on the lights, she walked to the side of the bed and lifted the blanket.

"Hmph, innocent? I'll let you be innocent!" Yvonne muttered angrily. She gritted her teeth and swung the cane down on the old master.

The old master was sleeping peacefully before this. Even though he could not move, he could still feel pain.

After he opened his eyes, he saw Yvonne holding a cane while furiously beating him with it. Then, he let out moans of pain.

After hitting him for a while, Yvonne was still mad. Then, she pinched the old master's arms and legs with her fingers. She even yanked the old master's collar and said angrily, "You purposely threatened me last time, huh, you old fart? I even thought you were capable of speaking again!"

Yvonne narrowed her eyes and cursed maliciously.

"What's wrong? Are you not happy about how I'm treating you? Are you over the moon now that Madeline is the one serving you? Let me tell you, I'm definitely framing her for this! She won't even have a chance to get away with this!"

She cackled. "Uncle Winston came back just in time. He's such a filial son. Say, do you think he'll kill Madeline when he sees you covered in wounds tomorrow? Hahaha... I want to see how Jeremy plans to defend that wh*re!"

Yvonne announced her evil plans out loud without any qualms. Then, she pinched the old master forcefully on the arm. After that, she poured a glass of cold water on the old master's body.

"Hmph, have a good sleep. There's going to be something interesting to watch tomorrow!" she said before turning off the lights. Then, she left the room quietly and placed the cane under the kitchen cabinet. She was prepared to blame everything on Madeline.

The next morning, Madeline woke up early to make breakfast for Jackson. Then, she saw Yvonne getting up early for the first time and was drawing in the living room.

After she prepared breakfast for the little guy, she went to clean up the old master.

When she walked into the room, she saw that the old master's eyes were widened. She got close to him and heard him moaning and groaning aggrievedly. His eyes were also red.

Madeline was curious, so she lifted the blanket. She saw that the old master was drenched as if he had just wet the bed.

Plus, his clothes were unkempt like someone had yanked him forcefully.

She then grabbed the old master's arm in curiosity. When she rolled up his sleeves, she saw the ghastly sight of his wounds and bruises.

"Ah! Oh my God!" Yvonne walked into the room unbeknownst to Madeline. She even started screaming. "Uncle Winston, Aunty Karen, Jeremy, come look! Grandpa's being abused!"

Yvonne started screaming. Soon, she alerted everyone in the house.

However, Madeline was surprised by the word Yvonne had yelled out just now.

Abuse?

Karen and Winston arrived at the scene shortly after.

When they saw the bruises and wounds on the old master's arm, their eyes widened.

"W-What happened ?" Winston questioned. Then, he rushed forward to inspect the old master's condition.

Karen walked over with worry on her face as well. When she got over, she pushed Madeline away. "Oh, Old Master, what happened to you? Did you fall from the bed?"

"Aunty Karen, they don't look like they're from a fall. It's obvious that someone is deliberately abusing Grandpa!" Yvonne purposely fanned the flames to Madeline. "Madeline, you're the one who's been taking care of Grandpa after he got here. Were the wounds on Grandpa...'

"Watch your mouth." Jeremy's cold voice came from outside the room.

Yvonne quivered reflexively. She lifted her head timidly and saw Jeremy's cold side profile. She did not dare to say anything anymore.

Jeremy walked next to Madeline, his icy gaze softening. "What happened? What happened to Grandpa?"

Before Madeline could say anything, Karen ran over angrily and accused Madeline. "Madeline, you're too cruel! You look fragile on the surface, but you have such a dark heart! You paralyzed the old master and now you're doing such heinous things!"

Jeremy's eyes went cold. "How many times do I have to tell you that Linnie has nothing to do with Grandpa getting poisoned?"

"If she's not related to that, what about this?" Winston charged over while fuming. He pointed at the old master's wounds with trembling fingers. "Jeremy, go look at your grandpa's wounds. Do you think a human is capable of doing this?"

"Madeline, if you still hold a grudge toward the Whitmans, you can just come at me! The old master is so old. Will you only be happy after you torture him to death?"

Madeline looked into Winston's raging eyes calmly. "Even if you don't believe me, I'm still going to tell you the same thing. I have nothing to do with the wounds on the old master's body and I've never done something so immoral."

"You didn't? You're obviously the one who did it!"

"If Linnie said she didn't do it, then she didn't." After Jeremy looked at the old master's wounds, he went back to Madeline's side instantly to defend her. His tone was certain and he was firm with his attitude. "Let's just send Grandpa to the hospital. I'll get to the bottom of this."

Jeremy put on the old master's clothes for him without saying anything.

Despite Jeremy's promise, Madeline could still sense Winston's suspicion toward her.

He was looking at her like he wanted to kill her.

Right, anyone would be devastated if they saw their father getting abused like this.

Jeremy and his parents sent the old master to the hospital while Madeline and Yvonne stayed back.

After they left, Yvonne started acting weird. "Madeline, there's no one here anymore, so you don't have to pretend to have lost your memories. You're so cruel. You could even hurt an old person. When will you be satisfied with your revenge ?"

Madeline lifted her gaze to look at her calmly. Then, she smirked all of a sudden. "It depends when you're going to stop."

"..." Yvonne's face turned white when she heard that. "W-What are you bullsh*tting about?"

"You know what I said." Madeline curled the corners of her lips. "I did lose my memories, but I'm not an idiot. No one can avoid wetting their shoes if they always walk along the riverside. You should know this."

"..." Yvonne rolled her thieving eyes. She kept feeling as if Madeline knew something.

However, she also thought that Madeline might be fooling her. She could not panic.

When the sun started setting, Jeremy came back with the old master.

The old master's wounds had been dressed. When he saw Yvonne, he widened his eyes and started moaning and groaning.

He wanted to say something, but no words came out.

When Yvonne saw the old master's reaction, she started crying thief and pushed all the blame to Madeline who was standing at one side. "Uncle Winston, Aunty Karen, look! Grandpa is so emotional when he sees Madeline. She must be the one who abused him! Grandpa is so pitiful!"

Winston was immediately instigated. "Madeline, I'll find the proof and send you to the police station myself!"

Madeline smiled magnanimously. "I think I'll find the proof even faster to prove my innocence."

"I'll also prove that my wife is innocent." Jeremy stopped the car and came over. He was still supporting Madeline.

"Jeremy, if you continue getting fooled by this woman, our family will be destroyed!" Winston boomed as he pushed the old master back into his room.

Karen purposely let out a loud sigh. "Jeremy, if you don't want your grandpa to die under mysterious circumstances, then you should cut all ties with this woman soon!"

"Jeremy, Uncle Winston and Aunty Karen are ... "

Yvonne wanted to chime in, but halfway through her sentence, she felt a chill down her spine.

She saw Jeremy's icy gaze and did not dare to say anything. As such, she turned around and ran away.

Madeline looked at their backs and said slowly, "Do you really believe that I didn't do it?"

Jeremy's expression changed after he heard that. "Linnie, what are you talking about? Do I still have a reason to not believe you until this day?" he questioned, his eyes full of emotions. "I trust you. Even if you're lying, I'll still trust you."

After he finished saying that, Madeline curled the corners of her lips into a smile.

Two days later, an article appeared online.

It was about Miss Eveline Montgomery, AKA Madeline Crawford who married Jeremy Whitman back then. She was brazenly abusing Old Master Whitman and the degree of what she did was horrifying. There was even a report of the old master's wounds attached to the article.

There was a comment down the article that was pouring fuel to the flame. It said that Madeline was doing that for revenge. She wanted to avenge the Whitmans and the old master for forcing her to marry Jeremy back then.

After the appearance of this article, Madeline was successfully trending again.

Madeline's popularity before this had been soaring due to the jewelry design competition, but after this, she was at the bottom.

Gossip was a fearful thing, and it was able to kill someone with no form.

After Jeremy saw this, he hired someone to get rid of the article from the trending page.

Back then, he could take care of this with just a phone call. However, the other party was asking for money from him now.

In order to stop Madeline from receiving hate comments and harassment, Jeremy was willing to pay as much money as they wanted. Even though the article had been taken down, it had already caused a great impact on Madeline's reputation.

However, before this could blow over, new wounds were being found on the old master's body.

Winston was so mad that he called the cops. The cops got here soon enough. Winston and the two women then accused Madeline of abusing the old master.

The police looked at OId Master Whitman's wounds and confirmed that they were pretty severe. As such, they decided to take Madeline back to the station for further investigation.

Yvonne was standing at one side. She was so happy that flowers started blooming in her heart.

"Well done! I can finally get rid of this eyesore!"

However, when the handcuffs almost touched Madeline's wrists, she suddenly said, "Wait."

"Don't touch my wife." Almost in unison, Jeremy's voice came from the door at the same time.

Yvonne was basking in schadenfreude as she waited for the police to take Madeline away. However, she did not expect Jeremy to come back just in time.

As she was worried that her plan would be foiled if they were to delay this, Yvonne could not help herself and said, "Jeremy, you're back just in time. Madeline abused Grandpa yet again! Look! He has so many new wounds on his arm!"

"I called the cops. This woman is too evil. She has to be punished by law!" Winston's face was green from anger. There were even flames of rage in his eyes.

Karen pretended to moan in devastation. "Madeline, everything is in the past, so why are you still so determined to take your revenge on us? Meredith was the one who harmed and falsely accused you. What did that have to do with us Whitmans? You've already caused Jeremy to lose everything. Are you going to stop only when the old master is dead?"

She forced a tear from her eye as she put on a heartbroken and angry expression.

"The old master is so pitiful. He's so old and he still has to suffer this kind of abuse. Officer, you have to punish this woman severely! She's the abuser!"

Karen pointed at Madeline in certainty.

The police picked up the handcuffs again. "Madeline Crawford, witnesses have testified that you abused an old man. Please come back to the station with us for further investigation," the police officer said, about to grab Madeline's hand.

This déjà vu of being wrongfully accused flashed across Madeline's head.

However, what was different than before was that Jeremy was siding with her now.

Jeremy reached out his hand even faster as he grabbed the officer's.

Jeremy lifted his piercing and threatening gaze. He said frigidly, "I said, don't touch my wife. This has nothing to do with her."

He pushed the police's hand away, his tone sounding certain.

"Jeremy, why are you still defending this vile woman? What did she drug you with? Did you forget how much you hate her?" Winston was starting to blabber from anger. "Look at your grandpa. He's going to die from her abuse!"

"Jeremy, stop being fooled by this witch. If you defend her again, the next victim might be Aunty Karen!"

Karen was taken aback when her name was suddenly mentioned. She was feeling dissatisfied, but in order to boycott Madeline, she pretended to be terrified. "Why do we have to wait until the next time? Jeremy, you have no idea. Whenever you're not around, this woman will go against me. She even—"

"Enough," Madeline said out of the blue, interrupting Karen in the middle of her sentence.

She lifted her perfectly done eyebrows. "At the end of the day, it's all just your one-sided statements. You have to show some proof if you want to convict me of this crime."

Karen was shocked when she heard that. Winston was even angrier when he saw Madeline's calm demeanor. "Madeline, you're still so stubborn! Who did this if it's not you?"

"There are so many people in this house. Aside from me, are you all not people?"

"..." Karen felt offended and said confidently, "Madeline, if you're not the one who abused the old master, I'll chop my head off and present it to you as a stool!"

"..." When Yvonne heard this, she glanced over at Karen subconsciously.

Madeline looked askance at her. "I have no interest in sitting on your head. However, I'll happily accept your apology."

Yvonne scoffed when she saw Madeline's confidence. "Madeline, you're still forcing yourself. You want proof, huh? Go ask for it from the police at the station!"

"There's no need to ask from them. I have the proof with me right here." Madeline added on to what Yvonne said. Then, she calmly presented a small memory chip with her fair and slender fingers.

Everyone was shocked and curious when they saw the memory chip, including Jeremy.

"What proof is that?" Winston asked unconvinced. He felt that Madeline was purposely making this unnecessarily complicated.

"This is able to prove my innocence." Madeline explained calmly. Then, she handed the memory chip to the police. "This is the memory chip from a hidden camera. I installed this in Grandpa's room after he was abused the first time."

•What ?'

Yvonne's heart started to race when she heard that. She widened her eyes while feeling as if she was at a loss. Then, she glared at Madeline in disbelief.

'How is that possible?

'She installed a camera in the room? Does it mean that she knows what I've done?

'If she knows, then why didn't she expose me?

'This must be fake! She must be trying to lure me out!'

Yvonne was trying her best to comfort and calm herself down.

"What? A camera? How dare you install a camera in the old master's room? Madeline, how can you be so perverted?" Karen mocked Madeline using this opportunity.

However, Madeline was magnanimous. "Grandpa can't speak nor move. I installed this so that I could monitor Grandpa's situation. Don't force your filthy and perverted thoughts on me."

"D-Did you say that I'm filthy and perverted? You..." Karen's face was red. She wanted to argue when she noticed a murderous aura in Madeline's eyes.

On the other hand, Winston had already moved a computer over. He was about to insert the chip into the computer.

Yvonne stopped him nervously. "Uncle Winston, do you really believe what this woman is saying? She's just buying time. Stop watching and let the police take her away!"

She wanted to snatch the chip away as she was saying that. However, Madeline grabbed her wrist when she was about to do that.

Yvonne lifted her head dumbfoundedly. Then, her eyes met Madeline's thought-provoking gaze.

"It's just a one or two-minute delay. Are you scared that they're going to see what's on the chip?"

"N-Nonsense! Why should I be scared ?"

"Of course, you're scared because you're that vile low-life who abused Grandpa and want to shift the blame to me."

As Madeline testified against Yvonne, she let go of her hand.

Yvonne fell to the ground with a loud thud. At the same time, Winston, Karen, and the police officer watched the video that was playing on the computer.

It clearly showed that Yvonne was the one who whipped the paralyzed old master with a cane again and again. She was even swearing and cursing at him while she was doing that. She also said that she wanted Madeline to be the scapegoat no matter what.

During this entire ordeal, the old master could only moan lifelessly with widened eyes as Yvonne beat him.

Winston's face turned pale and his hands started trembling when he saw the truth.

The corners of Karen's lips started twitching. She did not expect that the true culprit was Yvonne. Her face immediately turned red in shame. She was beyond embarrassed.

"No, that's not me. I didn't! The person in the video isn't me! She's not me!" Yvonne quibbled hysterically.

Jeremy threw a report to Yvonne's face. "I found the cane that was used to abuse Grandpa yesterday. I went out just now to get the report and it clearly states that your fingerprints are found on the cane. How are you going to explain this?"

"..." Yvonne's eyes widened in horror. She thought she had executed this flawlessly. However, she did not expect that she would get trapped!

Madeline and Jeremy had already seen through her!

"You... Madeline, you're so cruel! How can you frame me like this?"

After Jeremy heard what she said, a layer of frost appeared in his eyes. "We have concrete proof and yet you're still saying that Linnie framed you?"

Yvonne trembled. She did not dare to look into Jeremy's eyes. "I-I didn't. I've been treating the old master like he's my grandpa this whole time. How would I…"

Winston was livid. He slammed his hand down on the table loudly. "I didn't expect it to be you!"

"No, it's not me. I didn't! Uncle Winston, you have to believe me-"

"The truth is right in front of our eyes and you're still lying to us!" Winston was outraged, and his face was turning from red to green.

After Karen got over her shock, she felt nervous.

Before she could get roped into this, she decided to gain the initiative by striking first. Hence, she slapped Yvonne heavily across the face.

"Yvonne, you're such a disappointment! You've ruined the reputation of the Yalemans! I'm so mad!"

Karen pretended to feel resentful toward Yvonne for failing to meet her expectations. Then, she picked up the cane and yelled heatedly.

"Yvonne, how could you hit the old master? Are you insane? As your aunt, I have to punish you right now!"

As she shrieked, she pretended to hit Yvonne with the cane. Yvonne started wailing and bawling cooperatively. "Stop hitting me, Aunty Karen! It's not me! I didn't abuse the old master! Madeline is framing me! It's her..."

Smack!

"Ah!"

Yvonne was still quibbling when a belt struck her violently.

She screamed and jumped up in pain.

When she lifted her head, she noticed that it was Jeremy who whipped her just now.

"J-Jeremy? Did you just whip me?" Yvonne stared at him tearfully while feeling shocked.

Jeremy's face was dark, and his tone was icy when he said, "You should know how much it hurts to be whipped. Did you ever consider the fact that Grandpa will also be in this much pain when you hit him?"

"..." Yvonne was speechless as she stood there dumbfoundedly.

"Now that the truth has come out, you all should know who's the real abuser who needs to be punished by the law." Jeremy threw the cane at Yvonne's feet.

The two policemen understood immediately. When Yvonne was at a loss, they clicked the handcuffs on her wrists. Then, they took her away.

After Yvonne registered what was going on, she started bawling and screeching. "I don't want to go to prison! Aunty Karen, it has nothing to do with me! I didn't do anything! I-I must've been sleepwalking! Aunty Karen, help me! If I go to prison, my whole life will be ruined!" When Karen heard that, she immediately spoke well of Yvonne to Winston. "Win, you heard her. Yvonne didn't do it on purpose. She was just sleepwalking. She's sick and didn't mean to!"

"Do you think you can wipe out the fact that she abused Grandpa with the excuse of sleepwalking? Do you think it can smooth out how she has slandered Linnie?"

Jeremy's tone was firm and his gaze was stern.

"Before the truth came out, you were criticizing and berating Linnie. You wanted her to go to prison so badly. Now that the truth has been exposed, you don't even want to look into it? Do you think my wife deserves to be bullied, or do you think Grandpa deserves to be abused by that shrew?"

Karen was speechless. She knew she would infuriate Jeremy if she said something. If that was the case, there would be even worse consequences.

Yvonne was bawling when she was brought away by the police. She kept repeating that she was innocent.

Winston looked at the video of Yvonne abusing the old master again, his eyebrows knitting together tightly.

Then, when he turned around to see Madeline, he averted his gaze in guilt. He left without even apologizing to her.

It was evident that Karen would not apologize, so she just walked upstairs with a sour face.

Madeline looked at the two of them and there was a sarcastic smile on her face.

"Linnie, I'm sorry that you had to suffer the grievance again." Jeremy's deep voice glided into her ears.

Madeline shifted her alluring eyes. Then, she looked into Jeremy's that were filled with apology and pity.

"The person who has suffered the most should be Grandpa."

"Linnie."

"Maybe I'm just so despicable. Your cousin is clearly doing that to get rid of me. I think that... she might like you a lot."

"You dummy, no one can get rid of you and no one can get rid of your position in my heart." He held her hand and looked at her sincerely. "Linnie, can you promise me one thing?"

Madeline frowned in curiosity. "What is it?"

Jeremy moved his lips. Then, he smiled and did not say anything. "It's fine. I'll tell you next time."

Madeline did not ask him about it, but a hint of joy flashed across her stunning eyes.

After Yvonne was brought away by the police, the house was more peaceful.

Karen did not have the power to do anything now that she was alone. Moreover, she felt that Madeline was acting weird these few days.

Madeline looked weak and was easy to bully. However, if they decided to cause trouble for her, what they did to her would only come back to bite them in the bottom.

As such, Karen did not dare to do anything impulsive.

Under Madeline's care, the old master's wounds healed slowly.

Winston witnessed all of this. He felt guilty but could not bring himself to apologize to Madeline.

After tossing and turning for two nights, Winston finally wanted to apologize to Madeline. However, Karen stopped him. "Even if she has nothing to do with this, it doesn't mean that she has nothing to do with the old master's poisoning.

"Win, did you forget who's the one who caused us to lose our company and destroyed our family? Why should you apologize to that horrible woman? She deserves this even if we were falsely accusing her."

"What a great speech, Karen. You've opened my eyes once again."

Madeline's voice came from behind them.

Karen turned her head and saw Madeline coming upstairs with her bag.

"No wonder your niece did something so heinous. I guess it's because she has you as her aunt. The subordinates imitate their superiors' vices, after all."

"You..." Karen's face turned red. She wanted to fight back but had nothing to say.

Madeline smirked. Then, she walked past Karen carefreely.

Karen stomped her foot angrily before starting to mutter curses at Madeline's back.

Madeline simply ignored her. When she walked out of the house, a black car stopped in front of her.

She looked at the notification on her phone and got into the car.

After a while, the car stopped in front of an affordable cafe.

The cafe was quiet and it seemed like someone had reserved the whole place.

Madeline went to the second floor and spotted Felipe brewing a pot of black tea.

She smiled and walked over. "Felipe."

Felipe lifted his thin eyes and smiled gently. "Vera, you're here."

He got up and pulled out Madeline's chair for her politely. Then, he went opposite her and poured a cup of black tea for her.

"Has Jeremy noticed your condition?" Felipe asked directly.

Madeline shook her head. "He still thinks that I'm the Madeline who loves him to death," she said sarcastically as her expression changed.

"I didn't expect that I would lose my memories and have a second personality as well."

When Karen smashed the glass at Madeline's feet, she also awakened her current personality.

Felipe nodded. "Jeremy wants to exploit your other personality so that he can do something to hurt you. However, Vera, what I don't understand is why are you still staying with him even after you know the truth?"

After she heard that, Madeline gripped the handle of her cup dispiritedly.

Looking at the liquid in the cup, she could not help but recall Jeremy's gentle gaze when he looked at her the other day.

Judging from his eyes, Madeline did not think he was pretending.

For some reason, her heart started to beat faster.

"Vera, what are you thinking about?"

"Nothing." Madeline came back to her senses and took a sip of her tea. "I can't remember what happened in the middle. However, Jeremy did hurt me back then. He allowed his mistress and his family to humiliate and insult me. I know all about that. I'll definitely seek revenge for this."

When she said this, there was a flash of resentment in Madeline's eyes.

Felipe looked at Madeline's expression silently, curling his lips into a smirk.

"Vera, just do what you need to do. I'll support and wait for you."

"Thank you, Felipe. I know you're the one who saved me when I was about to die."

Felipe was surprised. He had never told her this after she lost her memories and suffered from dissociative identity disorder.

"How do you know this? Did anyone tell you?"

Madeline shook her head as if she was deep in thought. "I vaguely remember something about this. Maybe I didn't lose all of my memories, or maybe I only forgot the times I was hurt. However, you did save me, Felipe. I remember that."

She explained and got up slowly.

"I'm going to the restroom."

"Okay."

Felipe smiled warmly and nodded. However, after Madeline disappeared from his vision, his smile vanished from his face.

Was Madeline's main personality slowly awakening?

Perhaps she had only forgotten everything about Jeremy and the people around him?

Ding!

A phone notification interrupted his thoughts.

He saw Madeline's phone lighting up and noticed that the message was from Jeremy.

He looked toward the direction of the restroom before picking up Madeline's phone.

Felipe knew the password to Madeline's phone. After he unlocked it, he took a look at the interaction between her and Jeremy these few days. In the end, he came across a message that shocked him the most.

It was a message that had failed to send, and there were only a few sentences.

[Jeremy, I don't hate you anymore. If you miss Jack, you can come to visit him in F Country.]

It was just a short message but it made Felipe lose all color on his face.

Then, he looked at the time of the message and it happened an hour before Madeline's car crash.

What happened in that one hour that would cause her to stop resenting Jeremy? She even said that she did not hate him anymore...

Felipe could not wrap his head around this. He heard the sounds of footsteps approaching and he quickly deleted the message. After that, he placed the phone back in its place.

Right now, he felt fortunate that the message had failed to send.

Jeremy would never know that Madeline had already stopped hating him before she lost her memory.

Even though she did not hate him, it did not mean that she still loved him.

He would now allow Madeline to fall in love with Jeremy again.

He forbade it.

He had already lost to Jeremy for more than ten years. This time, he would make sure that he got Madeline.

After a while, Felipe asked someone to send Madeline home.

On the way home, Madeline played with her phone and realized that Jeremy had sent her a message a while ago. However, it stated that she had seen the message.

She looked out the window and pondered. At the same time, the car was driving downhill.

The speed of the car distracted her as a seemingly familiar scene appeared in her mind.

When she came back to her senses, the car had stopped in front of her house.

Jeremy came back the same time she got out of the car.

When he saw Madeline standing at the front door with a dazed look on her face, he got out of the car hurriedly and ran toward her. "Linnie ?"

Madeline came back to her senses when she heard someone calling her name.

She lifted her head and her eyes met Jeremy's worried gaZe. She smiled softly. "My mom called me just now and told me there's a charity dinner tonight. She wants me to go with her, so I went to the mall just now. But I didn't like any of the dresses I saw."

Jeremy held her hand instantly. "Linnie, I'll go shopping with you."

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"You're gonna go shopping with me?"
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"Yeah." Jeremy smiled softly. Then, without hesitation, he brought Madeline to the most extravagant street that sold predominantly branded goods.

Even though he was not the president of a transnational company anymore, he was willing to go broke if it meant that he would see Madeline smile.

However, Madeline was not used to having a man following her when she went shopping for clothes. She came up with an excuse and said she wanted to drink milk tea. Then, she asked Jeremy to buy it for her before walking into a shop.

After looking around, she saw that there were not a lot of customers in the shop. However, the saleswomen were running around as if they were swamped. They did not notice Madeline at all.

Madeline looked around the shop for a while and spotted a dress that she liked. She wanted to try it on, but they did not have her size.

She went over to inquire about it but the saleswoman merely looked at Madeline who was dressed casually from head to toe before saying coldly, "We don't have your size. Go to another shop."

"Do you not have it or do you not want to get it for me?" Madeline asked in an even colder tone.

The saleswoman rolled her eyes impatiently. "I said we don't have it, so we don't have it. So what even if we do have it? Will you buy it? Can you afford it? Do you know that we have a VIP customer today? Just one purchase from her is enough to make up for our sales for the entire month. Who'd have time to serve you? Get lost!"

The saleswoman chased her away, and then, she smiled flatteringly in one direction before saying respectfully, "Mrs. Montgomery, the clothes you want are all here. Please have a look at them."

'Mrs. Montgomery?'

Madeline turned around to where the saleswoman was looking.

Eloise turned her head over at the same time as well. When she saw Madeline, she ran over in excitement. "Eveline!"

When the saleswoman saw this, her face fell in awkwardness. She could also feel her scalp getting numb.

Eloise ran over to Madeline, and her eyes were filled with love. "Eveline, you're just in time. I'm buying you some clothes. I picked these just now. Do you like them? If you do, I'll ask them to wrap them up for you. If this isn't enough, we can just go to another shop. I'll buy you anything you want as long as you like them."

The saleswoman's face turned green when she heard this.

She was frozen for a while before walking over and bracing herself. "Oh, y-you're Miss Montgomery. Um... I-I'm sorry about just now. I just—"

"I don't want any of the clothes from just now."

Madeline rejected directly.

Eloise's face fell. She thought Madeline was mad at her again. However, in the next second, Madeline grabbed her arm.

"Mom, let's go to another shop. I don't like the attitude and service of the salespeople here."

The saleswoman's face turned pale. She ran over to try to fix what she had done, but it was futile.

Great, her big sale was gone!

It was such a rare opportunity for Eloise to spend some time alone with Madeline, so she was excited. However, when Eloise remembered how Madeline would only call her 'Mom' and spend time with her after having lost her memory, she felt a dull ache in her heart.

However, this might be the best opportunity. Eloise pondered for a while before stopping Madeline. "Eveline, there's something I want to give you."

Madeline watched curiously as Eloise took out a vintage purse from her bag and handed it to her.

"It's time I give this back to its rightful owner." Eloise's benevolent gaze enveloped Madeline. "Eveline, I know you've lost your memories and you can't remember what happened in the past. However, I can't use this opportunity to lie to you because one day, you'll recover and remember everything," Eloise said as she started getting tearful.

Madeline held the purse and felt a pendant inside.

At this moment, Jeremy called and asked about Madeline's location. She told him she was with Eloise and asked him to wait for her in the car.

Jeremy did as he was told. One hour later, Madeline came back.

He got out of the car to help her with her bags and the door. Then, he brought her home.

On the way, Madeline held the gold pendant with her name carved on it. She caressed the pendant with her fingertip softly. Then, as she was doing that, some broken fragments of her memories started coming back to her.

Yvonne stayed one week in the detention center. Finally, Karen came and bailed her out.

Karen was wearing a beautiful outfit. When she saw Yvonne's unkempt and messy appearance, she brought Yvonne to a hotel for a shower in disgust.

After Yvonne showered, she walked out of the toilet in a bathrobe.

The moment she walked out, she started cursing. "How dare that b*tch Madeline frame me ?! I'll never forgive her!"

She clenched her fist and slammed it down on the bed.

"Fortunately, the deadline of the competition is nowhere near. If not, my good days would've been ruined by her! That b*tch! I'll teach her a lesson!"

Karen finished listening to Yvonne's swears and scoffed. "Yvonne, you should just get over this. You're not her competition at all."

"Aunty Karen, do you think so as well?" Yvonne asked. She was unconvinced. "I'll prove to you that I'm better than her."

"Okay, okay, okay." Karen did not want to argue with her anymore. However, she warned solemnly, saying, "I've been extremely good to you by bailing you out this time. Win only promised to not look into this after I begged him for a very long time. You can do anything to anyone, but why did you choose that old man? Are you trying to tell me that you're the one who poisoned that old man as well?"

"Aunty Karen, what's this nonsense? That's murder! Do you think I'm so insane?" Yvonne was lying through her teeth. She was not ashamed of what she had done at all.

After she said that, she realized that Karen was dressed impeccably today.

She was wearing a long dress and there was an expensive shawl on her shoulders. She even had a shiny brooch on her chest.

"Aunty Karen, are you going to a party later ?"

Karen smiled arrogantly. "There's a charity dinner tonight and all of the rich and famous of Glendale will be there."

Yvonne's eyes lit up. "Aunty Karen, take me! I want to use this chance to get to know some rich people."

Karen's expression turned awkward when she heard that.

She did not have any reputation nor status right now. She did not even receive an invitation to the charity party tonight. She wanted to sneak in when there was a crowd, so how could she bring another deadweight with her?

However, Yvonne had already started preparing in delight. She dragged Karen to the branded shops where she picked out a white gown. However, the dress cost six digits and Karen was only willing to spend a maximum of 500 dollars on her dress.

That night, Yvonne put on a 300 dollar dress. She was looking at it with disgust.

She kept feeling that her worth had been degraded by the dress.

When they got to the hotel, Yvonne saw a lot of wealthy women and socialites arriving. They were all in extravagant and elegant outfits, causing Yvonne's eyes to turn green with envy.

As she was observing, a graceful figure wandered into her vision.

That woman was wearing the six-digit white gown Yvonne saw at the shop this morning as she entered the hotel clicking her heels elegantly and gracefully.

The host who was wearing a suit bowed and greeted the woman like he was treating a queen. He was extremely deferential to her.

Yvonne watched in admiration. She dreamed that someone would treat her like that as well.

Yvonne only came back to her senses when Karen called her name.

Since they did not have invitations, they could only enter through the side door.

When they got to the party, Yvonne's eyes twinkled.

She had seen similar sights in a lot of television shows before, but she had never experienced it on her own.

She saw a lot of poised and immaculately-dressed handsome gentlemen there. As such, she was already searching for her target.

After a few seconds, she had locked down on a handsome young man.

When she was trying to go over and pretend to crash into him, Karen grabbed her before stopping her in a low voice. "We snuck in here, so don't cause any trouble."

"Aunty Karen, you're too timid. No wonder you're always scared speechless by Madeline. Just watch!" Yvonne tugged her hand away and pulled down her collar. She then sashayed to the young man who was talking to someone.

However, when she was on her way, she heard someone talking about the jewelry design competition. As such, she turned around and realized that one of the men was the special judge for this competition.

Yvonne wanted to curry favors with him when she heard him saying, "I heard Miss Vera is at this party as well. I've been in love with her work and want to get to know her. I wonder where she is right now."

"Miss Vera's works are all so trendy. That's why she's so well-liked by everyone. I admire her a lot too. If that's the case, we'll go look for her."

After Yvonne heard this and when she saw the two of them about to walk away, she pretended to trip and fall.

Then, just as she expected, the two men helped her up in a gentlemanly manner.

Yvonne turned around and thanked them gratefully. Then, she showed a surprised expression. "A-Aren't you Mr. Lewinksi? Hello, I'm contestant number six for the jewelry competition, Yvonne Yaleman. I didn't expect to run into you here."

She told them her name before pretending to have a relationship with them while thinking she was being smart.

"Actually, I should be at home drafting tonight, but I heard Miss Vera is here so I came over! I love Miss Vera's work. Her designs are all so unique and trendy. I decided to learn jewelry design because of her! However, I've been here for some time and I still haven't seen her."

Yvonne even lowered her gaze in fake disappointment.

The two poised men smiled politely after hearing what she said. "What a coincidence. We're also Miss Vera's fans."

"Really ? I guess we're really brought together by fate!" Yvonne exclaimed in exaggeration.

When she was about to pretend to be obedient and lovable, she heard the man in front of her pointing to a distance behind her. He exclaimed, "That's Miss Vera! She's over there! Let's go to her."

Yvonne turned her head and realized that the woman in white she saw at the hotel entrance earlier was the Miss Vera the men were talking about.

Actually, she did not know who Miss Vera was. Her goal was to worm her way into having a relationship with these two men and curry favors with them so that she could have a higher chance of winning the competition.

She wanted to defeat Madeline no matter what!

When she saw the two men walking over, Yvonne followed behind them as well. She started exclaiming like an excited fan before the two men could say anything. "Miss Vera, I'm finally meeting you! I'm your super fan!"

The woman in white turned around calmly after she heard that. "Are you talking to me?"

When Yvonne saw her gorgeous face, she froze instantly.

She did not expect the Miss Vera who they were praising to be Madeline Crawford!

After thinking about it, she was also named Vera and the person they were complimenting was Miss L.ady's head jewelry designer, Vera Quinn.

Vera Quinn was Madeline Crawford!

Yvonne felt like an idiot. Initially, she wanted to worm her way into having a relationship with these two men, but now, she was just asking for trouble and humiliation.

When Madeline saw Yvonne's constipated face, a look of surprise appeared on her delicate face. "Why are you here? When did they release you?"

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When everyone around them heard that, they started having suspicions about Yvonne.

"Release? Miss Vera, do you know this person?"

"Yeah, how would I not know her?" Madeline lifted her gaze and smiled softly. There was a sharp glint in her alluring eyes. "This is the author of the trending article about how I abused an old man," she said with a smile, causing Yvonne to look more and more embarrassed.

"However, what's interesting is that a week ago, she was brought away by the police. The reason she was brought away is that she's the one who abused the old man."

Gasp.

Everyone started looking at Yvonne with looks of disdain.

"So, the thief was crying thief."

"People can really do anything when they want to get famous."

"I didn't! I didn't do anything like that!" Yvonne explained with her face red. "If I really did something so heinous, why would they release me?"

Madeline asked calmly, "Do you want me to play the video of you abusing the old master to everyone? I still have the original file from that night."

"..." Yvonne pouted. She gritted her teeth and did not have the guts to say anything.

She had lost all of her confidence.

After all, she had really done that.

"Why are you here?"

Yvonne trembled when she heard Jeremy's voice out of the blue.

She lifted her head abruptly and Jeremy's upright, handsome figure walked into her vision.

He strutted over. Despite his icy expression, he still looked handsome.

Yvonne was still attracted to him. She felt jealous when she saw Jeremy holding Madeline's shoulder when he walked over.

To everyone, they were the perfect match made in heaven.

"I'm asking you, why are you here ?" Jeremy asked in annoyance.

Yvonne stammered, saying, "A-Aunty Karen brought me here."

After she said that, a commotion broke out from one side. Madeline looked over and saw Karen fighting with a waiter in black.

Karen lost all of her graceful manners and was pointing at the waiter furiously. "So what if I don't have an invitation? I know the host of this party! Do you know who my son is? How dare you kick me out?! You—"

"Oh, my mother-in-law is here as well. I was wondering which shrew is causing trouble at my parents' charity dinner," Madeline said while walking over with a small smile on her face.

Karen knew that Madeline was acting like she was trying to get her out of this mess, but in reality, she was jeering at her.

However, she did not care about this anymore. She only wanted to preserve her image.

"Did you hear that? This is my in-laws' dinner party! I can come and go as I please. Do you think I need an invitation?" Karen glared at the waiter arrogantly.

"This is not a place where anyone can just come to. However, for the sake of my precious daughter, you can stay."

Eloise and Sean walked over slowly. They were obviously disgusted with Karen.

Karen saw that the crowd was still gossiping about her. Moreover, the wealthy women who used to hang out and have afternoon tea with her were also laughing at her. Karen felt her face heating up, and in that instant, she felt like a clown. Her elegant and magnanimous manner was completely ruined.

Madeline smirked when she saw Yvonne and Karen getting into embarrassing situations one after another.

Then, an old man who was dressed extravagantly walked over from the crowd. He looked at Madeline with admiration and smiled.

"Is this Miss Montgomery? I finally get the honor of meeting you tonight."

"Eveline, this is Sir Calver. He's the previous chairman of our charity. He's also your father's good friend." Eloise introduced.

Madeline smiled politely and shook hands with Sir Calver. "Hello, Uncle Calver."

"Hello, hello. Miss Eveline, you're so beautiful. The dinner tonight will be dazzling because of you. I wonder if I can ask you to play a song for us as the opening act for the charity dinner?"

"Play a song ?" Madeline lifted her gaze to see a black piano in front of her.

Karen smirked. She was excited to see Madeline mess this up. "Hmph, you were humiliating me just now. Finally, it's your turn."

Yvonne walked over. "Aunty Karen, does Madeline know how to play the piano?"

"She doesn't know squat! She was like a maid when she was living with the Crawfords. Do you think she was able to touch something as expensive as a piano? If that piece of trash didn't have Jeremy, then she'd be nothing!" Karen gritted her teeth and jeered.

A sinister smile appeared on Yvonne's face as well. "Hmph, she was so arrogant and proud of herself just now. I'm gonna have the time of my life humiliating her later."

However, after she finished saying that, she saw Madeline sashaying over to the piano elegantly. She sat down, and her long fingers pressed down on the keys.

As her fingers glided against the keys expertly, 'Mariage d'amour' resonated in the hall soothingly and melodically.

Karen and Yvonne were beyond shocked.

Had they not established that Madeline was a piece of trash who knew squat about playing the piano? Then, what was this she was playing now?

After their shock, Yvonne was even more envious of her. Madeline was stunning with her gorgeous look and elegant demeanor. She could not imagine anything more beautiful right now.

Madeline sat there as she basked in the light glow of the chandelier. She looked like a princess, or rather, a queen in a dream as she ruled over everything in front of her.

Jeremy watched Madeline with love and admiration. However, there was a hint of loneliness coming from his eyes.

Madeline and Jeremy left before the dinner ended.

The inside of the car was abnormally quiet on the way home.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's frigid face through the rear-view mirror. Then, his hands felt nervous as they gripped the steering wheel.

"Linnie," he called out softly. When Madeline turned over, she could not hide the sharp glint in her eyes anymore. "You remember, don't you ?"

Madeline smiled after staying silent for two seconds. "Shouldn't you ask me if I've shifted my personality?"

She laughed, her tone getting more and more sarcastic.

"Jeremy, I really need to thank your amazing mother and cousin. They were the ones who triggered my current personality so that I no longer have to be stuck as that idiot Madeline who's so easy to bully and who loves you so much that she would sacrifice herself."

After she finished saying that, Jeremy slammed on the brakes frantically.

When the car came to a halt, Madeline undid her seatbelt and got out of the car.

Jeremy ran up to her and grabbed her hand. "Linnie, don't go!" he begged.

Madeline pushed him away coldly, her eyes icy. "Get lost!"

When she pushed Jeremy away and turned around, two cars sped in front of her and crashed into each other as if they had timed this perfectly.

After the loud crash, Madeline felt as if her legs had been injected with lead. She could not move anymore.

"Linnie!" Jeremy ran over quickly to hold Madeline's shoulders.

However, Madeline stood motionlessly as she stared at the car crash. After a while, Madeline held her head in pain. Broken fragments of her memories started playing in her head.

"Ah!"

She let out a scream of pain before passing out in Jeremy's arms.

"Linnie!" Jeremy held Madeline while feeling heartbroken. A figure appeared suddenly as he was about to carry Madeline to the hospital.

Felipe was standing in front of the car that had its hazard lights on. He was wearing all black, and the blinking lights enveloped him with a golden sheen. He looked at Jeremy who had a worried expression on his face before smirking demonically.

"Just in time," Felipe said profoundly.

Jeremy understood immediately. "Did you arrange for the cars to crash ?"

"Isn't this good? Madeline will revert to the Madeline who loves you deeply. Isn't that what you want?"

Jeremy's eyes were red. "Felipe, are you insane? Even if I want Linnie to love me, I won't let her suffer such pain deliberately! Why did you do that?"

"Why ?" Felipe displayed an eerie smile. Then, he said...

"Why ?" There was an unreadable sneer on Felipe's face. "If I was able to bring Madeline back from the dead back then, then I can let her love or hate anyone as I please."

Jeremy lowered his head to look at the woman in his arms with a gentle gaze. When he lifted his head again, his eyes were like icepicks as they penetrated sharply at Felipe.

"No one's allowed to manipulate Linnie's emotions or thoughts. Felipe, Linnie will see your true self one day."

Felipe laughed. "It won't happen," he said as he approached Jeremy. Against the light of the car, his handsome face was covered with a dark shadow.

"Jeremy, appreciate your last two days with Maddie because soon enough, you'll completely lose her."

Felipe finished his sentence with a laugh. Then, he turned around and walked to the side of the road.

A driver opened the door for him before they sped away.

Jeremy did not want to chase after him as he only had Madeline in his mind right now.

He brought Madeline to the hospital. It was time for Adam to get off work, and as soon as he stepped out of the hospital, he saw Jeremy carrying an unconscious Madeline while running toward him frantically.

Adam went back in again, astonished when he heard Jeremy tell him the reason why Madeline fainted.

"Didn't Felipe save Madeline before? Why did he do that to her now?"

"He wants to get back at me," said Jeremy in a firm tone. His eyes were filled with worry as he stared at Madeline who was still in a deep slumber. "Adam, what will happen to Linnie when she wakes up?"

"I can't give you a precise answer. However, there's a huge chance that she'll go back to the Madeline who loves you."

Jeremy was unable to feel happy even after he got this answer.

Actually, he noticed that Madeline was acting and speaking differently since a few days ago.

That day when Madeline exposed Yvonne as the true abuser, her gaze and aura were that of her strong personality.

He did not want to expose her as he wanted to spend more time with her.

No matter what she became and regardless if she loved or hated him, he would not mind as long as she stayed by his side.

However, he did not want to see Madeline switch between personalities so frequently as this would only worsen her condition.

Madeline was unconscious for the entire night. As such, Jeremy stayed with her in the hospital.

He held her hand from night till morning. He felt slightly relieved when he saw her brows that were no longer furrowed.

When he was accompanying her like this, it made him feel regretful of the six years he wasted.

They could have been deeply in love, but someone forcefully stopped that from happening.

When morning came, Jeremy quickly washed his face. After he was done, he saw that Madeline was awake when he came out of the toilet.

"Linnie!" He strode to the side of the bed and helped Linnie up. "Linnie, how are you? Do you feel unwell?"

Madeline blinked and lifted her dazed eyes to look at Jeremy.

Jeremy started worrying. He was afraid that Madeline would push him away and tell him to scram. He was also afraid that she would not know him.

"Linnie ?" he was speaking cautiously with worry in his eyes.

"Jeremy, why am I in the hospital again ?" Madeline asked curiously, her gentle tone causing Jeremy to let out a sigh of relief.

"Linnie, don't you remember what happened before you passed out?" he asked probingly.

Madeline frowned and tried to recall. Then, she shook her head. "My head hurts."

"Don't think about it then, okay?"

"Okay." Madeline nodded obediently. Then, she smiled bashfully at Jeremy. "Jeremy, I made you worry again."

"You're my wife, you dummy. It's only normal for me to worry about you."

Madeline's smile grew sweeter after she heard that.

Soon after, Jeremy called Adam over. After making sure that nothing was wrong with her, Jeremy brought her home.

On the way, he was still thinking about what Felipe said last night.

Two days?

What would Felipe do after two days?

However, no matter what, he would still hold on to Madeline firmly.

After they went home, Jeremy told Madeline in a gentle tone that she had to stay home these two days. She could not go out no matter what.

Madeline agreed.

However, since Jeremy had to send Jackson to school, he had no choice but to leave her alone for a short period of time.

In the morning, Madeline pushed the old man to enjoy the sun since the weather was pleasant.

She sat down next to the old master with her drawing tools. When she was about to pick up her brush, her phone rang.

To her surprise, it was from the police. They told her that Meredith would be undergoing the death penalty tomorrow and her last wish was to see Madeline for the last time.

Madeline remembered what Jeremy told her. He told her that she should not go out these two days.

When she was about to reject, a police car stopped outside the house.

The police came straight into the premises after getting out of the car. Then, they told Madeline there was something important that Meredith needed to tell her before she died.

Madeline did not think she had anything to say to Meredith anymore, but the two police officers forced her into the car.

The old master watched as they took Madeline away. He tried to make some noises to stop them, but it was futile.

Madeline was brought to the prison where Meredith was held inside a single cell. She looked like she had been groomed and did not look as unkempt as before.

However, she did not have the vigor and liveliness that she once had.

When Madeline saw Meredith, the scenes of her framing and torturing her kept replaying in her brain.

She lifted her beautiful gaze, and her tone was sarcastic. "I didn't expect you to have such power to make the police drag me here to see you for the last time even when you're locked up."

Meredith heard what Madeline said before bursting into a hysterical cackle.

After a long while, she stopped. Then, she grinned evilly. "I didn't expect you to be alive after all that!"

She was glaring at Madeline while baring her teeth. She did not expect Madeline to be unharmed after such a horrifying accident.

Madeline smiled. There were determination and courage in her eyes. "The people who deserve to die are the vile low-lives who want to harm me."

Meredith charged over at her like she was crazy after she heard that. Then, she grabbed the iron bars of her cell and snarled resentfully at Madeline's delicate face. She wanted so badly to stab her with her glares.

"Madeline, just you wait. I won't forgive you even if I turn into a ghost!"

"Is this the nonsense you want to say to me?"

Meredith gritted her teeth while feeling unconvinced. Then, her eyes became peculiar. "Madeline, do you really think you can defeat me? Actually, you've lost! Hahaha! You've lost!"

Madeline felt that Meredith had gone insane. She did not have the patience to play along with her anymore, so she turned around to leave.

"Madeline! There's something you might not know. The boy you fell in love with at first sight at the beach in April Hill isn't Jeremy!"

Meredith's piercing screeches invaded Madeline's eardrums.

Madeline felt something pull her heartstrings, but she did not stop walking.

Meredith was seeing red when Madeline was not affected by what she said. Then, she yelled even more hysterically, "Madeline, you're investing your emotions into the wrong person! You think you've gotten together with the boy from back then, but in reality, Jeremy is not that boy! He's not!

"He doesn't remember making any promises because he's not that boy! That's why he tormented and tarnished you so cruelly! Do you think he treated me well back then because he thought I was you? Hahaha! No! It's because he truly loves me! He's only good to you now so that he can avenge me!

"Madeline, you've been looking for that boy for so many years and at the end of the day, you still got the wrong person! You even let down the boy who made that promise to you! I want to see how you're gonna enjoy your life with Jeremy in the future! Hahaha!"

Madeline walked out of the front door of the prison. However, she could still hear Madeline's crazy talk lingering in her ears.

She loosened her fists that were clenched tightly unbeknownst to her. Then, she took a deep breath.

'I can't get fooled by Meredith again.

'How is it possible that Jeremy's not the boy?

'If he's not the boy, then how does he know what happened back then?'

Plus, Madeline remembered clearly that the boy's name was Jeremy.

Madeline recomposed herself. She was certain that Meredith was just trying to mess with her before she died so that she could ruin her relationship with Jeremy.

She could not fall into her trap.

Madeline went home and saw the old master still in the wheelchair in the garden.

When the old master saw her, he started making sounds at her. He looked straight at Madeline with eyes filled with worry.

"Grandpa." Madeline walked over quickly and comforted him. "Grandpa, I'm sorry for worrying you. I'm fine."

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After Jeremy sent Jackson to school, he went straight back home.

When he got home, Madeline was drafting in the study quietly while the old master was napping in his room. Everything looked so peaceful and serene.

Jeremy let out a sigh of relief. When he went into the study after brewing some black tea for Madeline, his phone rang.

He looked at the unknown number for a few seconds before answering. Meredith's voice came from the other end of the phone.

"Jeremy, I'll be executed tomorrow and I want to see you for the last time." Meredith's voice was hoarse and lifeless. Her tone was flat as well.

Jeremy did not even want to waste any effort in rejecting her and was about to hang up straight.

"Jeremy, there's something you want to hear from me right? If you don't hear this, I'm afraid there will always be a wall between you and Madeline."

Meredith's voice was oddly confident. She chuckled. "Jeremy, I'll wait for you."

Before she could finish talking, Jeremy hung up the phone.

He held the tea and looked at the woman who was drawing in the study. His eyes gradually became softer and softer.

"Linnie, I don't want any regrets between us," he looked straight at her and mumbled. Then, he turned around slowly.

Jeremy sped to the prison as fast as he could. Then, he met Meredith who was being locked inside her cell.

When Meredith saw him, her lifeless eyes lit up. "Jeremy, you're finally willing to see me."

Jeremy did not have any patience. He said, "I'm not here to see you. Just tell me what you want to say."

Meredith laughed in self-mockery. Then, she looked at the handsome face that she had been longing for every day. "It's been six years. I've been by your side for six years. Have you ever liked me? Just for a little bit?"

Jeremy lifted his cold gaze. His icy gaze froze over Meredith's passionate and expectant heart.

"I've only loved one woman in this life and that woman is Linnie. As for you, do you think that any man would like a sinister and despicable woman like you?"

"Heh!" Meredith laughed bitterly. Then, she clenched her fists. Her eyes were also filled with intense jealousy and hatred. "Alright, what a straightforward answer. It's so straightforward that I'll die with remaining grievance!"

She bit her lip tightly, tearing the flesh. She did not let go even when blood started pouring from her wound.

Jeremy had no interest in seeing her in this wretched state, so he asked impatiently, "I don't have time to waste. Just spit it out."

Meredith laughed bitterly at herself when Jeremy refused to look at her. "Jeremy, I'll die tomorrow. Why won't you look at me? Am I so hideous? Back then, you always told me that I'm the most beautiful and kindest woman in the world."

The disgust in Jeremy's eyes was even more evident now.

"If I hadn't mistaken you as Linnie, do you think you'd even be worthy of those praises? Meredith, don't try to gross me out even before your death."

"Gross you out?"

Meredith's expression changed as her rough and yellowish hands grabbed the iron bars. "I'm gross, but why did I do all those disgusting things? I did them all for you! I gave up my reputation for you, so why are you still not looking at me? Why did you never touch me for all those years I was with you?"

Jeremy was surprised when Meredith suddenly admitted herself that they had never been intimate before. There were some changes in Jeremy's handsome face after he heard that.

Even though he had already guessed that he had never touched her before, it was still amazing to hear her saying it out loud.

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Madeline finished her draft in the study and was about to go check on the old master.

She got up and looked out of the window subconsciously. Then, she noticed it had started drizzling unbeknownst to her.

The rain was not heavy, but the sky was grey.

Madeline walked to the old master's room to shut the windows in case the rainwater got into the room.

When she was about to close the window, she saw a familiar figure from the corner of her eyes. That person was walking to the front door with a black umbrella.

She turned around to go to the front door. When she was about to open the door, she bumped into Felipe who was just about to knock on the door.

"It's you?" Madeline looked at him.

Felipe smiled at her softly. "Maddie."

Madeline currently did not know Felipe. Therefore, she looked at him cautiously. "Are you here for Jeremy ?"

Felipe smiled and shook his head. "I'm just here to check on you. I want to know if you're doing alright."

"It's none of your business how I'm doing."

"Of course, it's my business," said Felipe in a gentle voice. Then, he walked closer to Madeline. "Maddie, you need to know that you've lost your memories. Before you did, you resented and despised Jeremy."

Madeline listened to what Felipe said and her face was calm. "I only know that I love Jeremy very much now."

"Do you still love him even after he has used you and lied to you?" Felipe asked calmly with a hint of desolation in his eyes.

Madeline answered firmly, "Yeah, I love him."

Felipe sighed in disappointment. "Maddie, I'll wait for you to recover. I'll wait for you no matter what."

After he made his promise, he held his umbrella and turned around in the rain.

Madeline did not pay much attention to him anymore. However, when she was about to go back to the house, she heard a subtle ding. It seemed like something had fallen from Felipe's pocket.

She subconsciously turned around to look at what had fallen from Felipe's pocket. At that instant, her expression changed.

Madeline got down to her knees and picked the items that had dropped to the floor. She was much quicker than Felipe.

"Why do you have this with you?" Madeline frowned as her eyes glinted with curiosity and astonishment.

Felipe reached out for the colorful shell from Madeline calmly and held it dearly in his hands. "More than ten years ago at the beach of April Hill, there was a little girl who gifted this colorful shell to me personally. She even said that she hoped I'll always be happy and wished to be with me forever."

Felipe said as he looked at Madeline in the eye, revealing his pair of orbs that were giving out a sense of loneliness and sorrow.

"However, after over ten years, that girl came to fall in love with another man."

"What are you talking about?" Madeline's eyes widened after hearing Felipe's comment.

She looked at Felipe's handsome face before her, astonished. Her mind was flashing with memories of Meredith barking at her in prison.

"Impossible, that's impossible." Madeline kept denying with all her might, forcing herself not to recall the statements given by Meredith. She did not allow herself to be influenced.

Felipe discarded the umbrella aside and walked toward Madeline who was muttering away. "Madeline."

"Don't come near me." Madeline forbade him from coming any closer to her. Her eyes suddenly became all sharp.

"I've indeed lost my memories, but regarding that incident back then, I remember it crystal clear. You're not that man. It's Jeremy!"

Felipe's gaze lowered when faced with Madeline's suspicion, but he did not argue. He let out a bitter smile and started explaining with patience.

"18 years ago, Jeremy and I followed Old Master Whitman to the beach of April Hill. To them, it was indeed a happy vacation trip, but to me, it was as if the entire world had turned black before me.

"My parents lost their lives in a well-planned car accident. In just a day, I became an orphan.

"That day, I sat at the beach looking at the vast ocean. I thought of jumping into the ocean, thinking of ending my dreadful life. I planned to go join my parents on the other side of the world, but at that moment, a little girl came to me and gifted me this colorful shell. She even told me, 'Hey, I hope you'll always be happy.'

"Her smile was therapeutic, and I felt my entire world brightening up. I felt that there was still something that I could hold on to in this world.

"And that little girl was you."

Felipe told the entire incident in detail. When he was done, his passionate orbs were fixed upon Madeline's face.

Madeline was lost in her thoughts after hearing the story. It had filled her innocent eyes with tears.

'Felipe's statement matches exactly what I have in my memory!

But how is this even possible?

'I'm sure there's something wrong.'

Madeline tried her very best to think about it, but this only made her head feel saturated.

"Madeline, actually, I just hope you'll be happy. I didn't wish to tell you this truth, but now, it seems that you're not happy at all as Jeremy has cheated your feelings. His kindness to you is just an illusion. You were once deeply hurt by him and I don't want to see you suffering again."

Felipe's angry yet sympathetic comment tickled her ears, and this made Madeline snap out of her thoughts.

Her vision became blurry, but she could still see Felipe's patient and soothing smile.

Felipe reached out for her hand and held it dearly in his palms. "Madeline, stop allowing Jeremy to hurt you. He must have not told you this. Actually, we even have a daughter together."

"What? You and I have a daughter?" Madeline was dumbstruck, her face turning pale.

Felipe nodded with certainty. "That's right. Our daughter's name is Lilian. You're the one who named her. You named her that because back when you were with Jeremy, he only bestowed you darkness and coldness. As such, you named our daughter Lilian because you hoped that this child will always be loved."

Felipe grasped her hand tighter when he noticed Madeline's eyes sparkling. "Madeline, don't give Jeremy any more chances to hurt you. You've never once loved him. I'm the one who you love."

Then, Madeline grabbed onto her head as she felt an intense pain buzzing about.

"Stop... Stop talking. My head hurts! Jeremy, Jeremy..."

"Linnie!"

Jeremy, who just returned from prison, arrived at the entrance of the villa and witnessed the entire scene.

Madeline cried out to his name desperately while Felipe was grabbing onto Madeline's hands.

He quickly parked his car, rushed under the rain in huge strides, and hugged Madeline who was still muttering desperately in his arms.

"I'm here, Linnie. Don't be afraid." He hugged Madeline in his arms. He felt as if his heart was being stabbed when he saw her suffering expression.

Rage coursed through him as he turned to face Felipe with a malicious glare. Cold words were spewed from his thin lips, "Get lost. Stop disturbing my wife. You'd better vanish this instant."

Felipe did not get angry and only let out a smile. His pair of cold orbs shifted from Madeline's pale face to Jeremy's eyes that were brewing with rage.

He said nothing and only revealed a smile.

Jeremy retrieved his glare after Felipe left. He then let out a soothing smile and provided Madeline a sense of security.

"Don't be scared, Linnie. I'm here. I'll protect you." He bestowed her with warmth, yet his heartbeat was beating erratically.

Madeline's brows narrowed. Her eyes were shut as her mind flashed with memories of incidents after she lost them. There were fragments of memories of her being abandoned...

Madeline gradually regained consciousness as the night came.

She had no recollection of when she had passed out. It was just that when she woke up, she felt her right hand being held on tightly. She spun around and realized Jeremy was guarding her by the bedside.

Both his hands were holding onto hers. Judging by the looks of it, he had never let go because Madeline could even feel the warmth in her palm along with some moisture.

She sat up and stared at Jeremy's side profile. He was still sleeping soundly with a stony expression.

His delicate facial features were reflected in Madeline's orbs.

After some time, Madeline forcefully retrieved her hand that was being held tightly.

Jeremy suddenly got up. Seeing Madeline awake made him thrilled. He grabbed onto her hands once again, saying, "Linnie, I'm glad you're awake. Does your head still hurt?"

Madeline did not answer and only stared at Jeremy.

The glint of anxiety and warmth in his eyes were all reflected in Madeline's orbs.

Jeremy frowned when he noticed Madeline not speaking. "Linnie?"

"Nothing, I'm fine. You don't have to worry about me," said Madeline, "I'm tired. I want to continue sleeping."

"Alright, I'll accompany you to sleep." Jeremy smiled, feeling assured. He then covered Madeline with the blanket.

Jeremy stayed with Madeline till she was sound asleep. He then turned to look out the window to the quiet night sky. His gaze became gradually depressed...

At the villa on the outskirts.

Felipe was drinking a cup of tea while going through Madeline's diary. A smirk curled at the corners of his lips.

Suddenly, there was a loud sound coming from downstairs.

His smile faded as his towering silhouette passed through the walkway to the balcony.

Under the drizzling night sky, he saw a figure giving out a murderous aura. It was rushing into the villa.

All the servants and bodyguards were awakened and came rushing out, but none of them could stop Jeremy who was giving off a murderous aura.

"Ask Felipe to come out and meet me." He walked to the center of the hall and glared at the bodyguards who were blocking him.

"Why the crowd when it's my nephew who wants to meet me?" Felipe's voice was heard coming from upstairs.

Jeremy's cold eyes shifted over to see Felipe taking his own sweet time to come down.

Felipe was in a loose bathrobe with a carefree expression on his face. "You guys should be resting when it's time to rest. Don't interrupt my reunion with my lovely nephew." He then sent the servants and bodyguards away.

Soon, there were only the two of them in the hall.

"Felipe Whitman, is this your way of snatching someone's wife? By constantly giving pressure to Linnie and making her suffer? Are you happy about it?" Rage was brewing within Jeremy's orbs as he questioned.

Felipe smirked," I pressured Linnie just so she could regain her memories sooner," he looked at Jeremy with a disdainful and suspicious look, "Of course, you don't wish for Madeline to recover her memories, because that will mean that she'll remember how she used to hate you, right?"

"Haha." Jeremy laughed. "Don't think I'm as lowly as you. I'd rather have Linnie bearing a grudge against me as long as she's happy, healthy, and without any suffering!"

After hearing Jeremy's comment, Felipe felt even more crossed.

However, Jeremy was not even bothered about Felipe being mad. He warned, saying, "Never let me see you pressuring Linnie again. I'll murder you if anything happens to Linnie."

He glanced at Felipe with a stony gaze and spun around to leave.

Just when Jeremy was about to reach the doorway, Felipe called out to him, "Jeremy, it's not only you who treats Madeline sincerely. I do too."

Jeremy smirked before turning around. "Sincerely? You wouldn't be pressuring Linnie if you really love her."

"To you, it might sound like I'm pressuring her, but to me, I view it as a form of treatment," said Felipe as his expression became serious. "Of course, I love Madeline. I've loved her since 18 years ago."

'18 years ago?'

Jeremy's expression darkened.

"Don't you remember what happened 18 years ago at the beach of April Hill?" said Felipe as he sauntered over to Jeremy, putting on a smile. "I'm 18 years late, but this time, I'll never hand Madeline over to you."

. . .

After the rain, the atmosphere was extremely chilling.

Madeline did not know that last night, Jeremy had gone to look for Felipe.

During breakfast, there was a piece of news being broadcasted on the television. The news was about a killer, Meredith, who was about to be sentenced to death on that day.

Meredith had cost the lives of two people, so Madeline was not feeling the slightest sense of sorrow.

That year, she took all measures to protect those who were dear to her. In the end, it was these people who were plotting a scheme against her.

She was no noble being. Hence, she would not feel sorry for such an evil person.

"Hmph, I can't believe she'll be sentenced to death so soon," said Karen suddenly, "Jeremy, don't feel sad for this kind of woman. Just let her be dead for good."

"Cough." Winston coughed, beckoning Karen to keep her mouth shut. "Jeremy has clearly said that he never liked that woman. Why are you still talking gibberish?"

"How could he never have liked her? They've been together for six years. Are you saying that our son is that cold-hearted?" Karen raised her brows and observed Madeline's expression quietly.

She thought of irritating Madeline but noticed that she was not even bothered by her.

Karen puckered her lips in dissatisfaction and added, "Say, my daughter-in-law, you really love Jeremy, don't you? Even when Jeremy and Meredith were together back then, you still did whatever it took to come between them. I'd say..."

Jeremy slammed the chopsticks on the table.

Karen immediately went silent. She raised her gaze only to find that even the old master was glaring at her, exasperated as if he was not satisfied.

Madeline, on the other hand, offered to wipe the old master's mouth before meeting Karen's gaze. She let out a smile and said, "I guess the saying about how one's personality will not change is referring to people like you, right?"

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"You know that spouting out such nonsense will make everyone unhappy, yet you still blurt it out. I can't comprehend your actions. I wonder whether you're a fool or if you just have low EQ?"

Karen's face went pink. "You..."

"Stop it! Eat your food!" Winston cut her short, not allowing her to finish her comment.

However, Karen was not willing to give in. Staring at Madeline's smirk, she felt as if Madeline was making fun of her.

Infuriated, Karen picked up her purse and went outside without finishing her breakfast.

She claimed to be heading out shopping when in fact, she went to a condominium to look for Yvonne.

Previously, she could just vent out her frustration on Yvonne after being angered by Madeline. Currently, she had to take a detour to vent out all her frustrations.

Upon entering the condominium, Karen starting cursing Madeline, "That b*tch is getting arrogant. If this goes on, soon Jeremy will never look at me as his mother!"

Yvonne rolled her eyes. "Aunty, no matter how much you curse, it's useless. The only way now is to cooperate with me and steal the jewelry design draft that Madeline is planning to use for the competition. That's the only way to get our revenge!"

Karen frowned, finding it hard to believe. "Are you sure it's going to work out?"

"Why not? As long as I get my hands on her design and submit it before she does, then everyone will think that I'm the one who created it. When Madeline reveals the same design, everyone will think she's a copycat!

"That's when I'll gain the benefit and fame while Madeline will lose everything!"

Yvonne got all excited as if she could visualize herself standing on stage and receiving the award.

"So, you'd better hurry and take action, Aunty. There are only three days left till the competition. Madeline will be finishing the design in these two days. You'd better keep an eye, and once you have the chance, steal it and hand it to me!"

"Alright! I shall wait to see that b*tch in a troubling situation!" Karen gave her words.

Yvonne was delighted. She raised her head and saw the news about Meredith. Meredith's photo was even put up on the television screen. She added scornfully, "This cold-hearted murderer is Jeremy's ex-girlfriend?"

"Damn it, ex-girlfriend my ass. Jeremy never liked her!" Karen disagreed and pursed her lips in dissatisfaction. "Your cousin only loves that cunning woman, Madeline!" "F*ck." Yvonne gritted her teeth and stared at Meredith's photo on the screen.

On the other hand, Meredith was in handcuffs and was brought to the execution platform.

Along the way, she kept shrieking, claiming that she did not wish to be dead. However, nobody bothered.

After half an hour, the police car came to a halt. Meredith was so terrified that her face went extremely pale. Her legs were shaking furiously.

That was because she knew it deep in her heart that once the door was flung open, it would indicate that she was about to embark on her journey to the gates of hell.

She was not satisfied with dying before Madeline!

Just when the thought of escaping flashed through her mind, the door flung open.

A shot of ray went into the car, making Meredith squint her eyes in fear. Once she opened her eyes again, a glint of delightfulness was seen in her orbs. "You've finally shown up..."

Karen rushed back to the villa after having a thorough discussion with Yvonne at the condominium.

She noticed Madeline coming down from upstairs when she entered the villa. She put on a smile and greeted her as usual to prevent Madeline from suspecting her.

"My daughter-in-law," Karen called out to Madeline. "I apologize for what happened in the morning. You're right, I'm a person with a low EQ. I'm not good with words, so please don't take my words to heart."

Madeline replied with a smile, "I won't take those foolish comments to heart."

Karen could not tolerate Madeline's straightforward reply. Her smile on her face froze as rage coursed through her. "Madeline, I apologized to you in a pleasant tone, yet you're using this attitude against me? You—"

"Something fishy must be going on if something unusual happens. Haven't you heard about it before ?" Madeline cut her short, raising her proud gaze to glance at Karen. "Better use a smarter way if you want to go against me."

Madeline then passed by Karen once she was done talking.

"You..." Karen was trembling with anger, gritting her teeth as she glared at Madeline's back.

Karen's eyes shifted and she saw Madeline entering the old master's room. Then, she entered the study room sneakily.

She was glad that the study room was unlocked. She entered the room at lightning speed and strolled to the study table.

The table was tidy. Aside from some drawing tools and a laptop, all that was left on top was Madeline's design.

She picked up and flipped through a few pages. What she saw left her stunned.

These designs are superb. If this were to be done, it's almost guaranteed that it'll be a piece of jewelry that'll be the most welcome by ladies.

'It seems that Madeline has some skills. No wonder Miss L.ady's designs are always such a big hit.'

While Karen was deep in her thoughts, she suddenly felt something was off. 'She has drawn so many designs, so which is the one she's planning to use during the competition?'

Just when she was cracking her head, she heard footsteps coming up the stairs. She quickly placed the drafts back and came out from the study, bumping into a person.

"Ouch!" Karen shrieked. She raised her head and noticed it was Winston. This made her let out a sigh of relief.

"Why did you come out from Jeremy's study ?" Winston asked, feeling curious.

Karen simply blurted out an excuse, "I just happened to walk past here and my phone dropped inside, so I went in to retrieve it."

Winston suspected nothing but asked again, "Are you still in touch with your beloved niece?"

"No! How's it possible that I'm in touch with her?!" Karen denied, and to avoid Winston catching her lying, Karen spun around to head to her room while putting on an act. She even cursed Yvonne as she went.

To prevent Felipe from coming forth to disturb Madeline, Jeremy brought all his office work back to his house to work on. Except for any compulsory social meetings, he would always remain by Madeline's side.

Initially, Karen thought it would be a piece of cake to steal Madeline's designs. However, with Jeremy constantly guarding Madeline, it was harder for Karen to make a move.

In the meantime, Yvonne kept calling to pester Karen. "Today's the last chance, Aunty. If you can't get your hands on the design that Madeline plans to use in the competition, we'll always be below Madeline. We'll never have the chance to stand up while holding our heads high!"

Karen was not willing to give up on this rare opportunity to cause Madeline trouble. She gave her word and prepared to make a move...

At that moment, she coincidentally eavesdropped on the conversation between Madeline and Jeremy. "Jeremy, even with so many designs, I still find this the best. Say, let's use this. What do you think ?"

Jeremy held onto the design, his eyes glinting with admiration. "Even though I'm not a professional, I also think that this design is the most suitable for this competition's theme as it's neat and generous. Linnie, you really have a talent for designing."

Madeline chuckled. "Then it's decided on this design then. In a moment, I'll send an electronic manuscript over."

Karen extended her neck to sneak a peek, but she was afraid that Madeline would notice her observing from a corner. Just when she was troubled about how she would get her hands on the design, Madeline bounced over.

"Jeremy, the day after tomorrow will be the finals. The atmosphere will be very grand at that time. Which gown do you think suits me better? Can you come upstairs with me and help me pick?"

Jeremy was very delighted to help out. Happily, he held onto her hand and they went upstairs together.

Karen knew well that the opportunity had landed and she quickly went up to steal Madeline's design. She also noticed the laptop on the coffee table that was displaying the software of the design. Immediately, she logged in to her email on the laptop and sent the electronic manuscript of the design to Yvonne. She also deleted the archive on the laptop.

After all the commotion, Karen picked up a glass of water and poured it over the sheets of paper. Then, she placed the glass at the top corner so that it would appear as if someone had accidentally tipped the glass over, drenching the pile of papers.

Meanwhile, Yvonne was thrilled as she had received the design sent by Karen.

She quickly called Karen to double confirm it was the one Madeline had decided to go with for the competition.

Yvonne looked at the design with satisfaction. "Madeline, I'll acknowledge your talent. Unfortunately, no matter how good your drawing is, it's still going to end up being my product! Haha!"

She burst into a peal of mad laughter as she put her signature on the electronic manuscript, eager to send it out.

Madeline and Jeremy finally came down after they were done choosing the attire. It was then when they saw the stack of papers on the coffee table that was drenched in water. Jeremy picked up a piece of tissue and one by one, he soaked the water away. He looked as if he was more anxious than Madeline.

"Forget it, Jeremy. I still have the soft copy of it."

"No way, all these are your hard work. Even if you don't want them, I'll still prefer to store them properly."

Madeline was dumbfounded to see Jeremy being so anxious about and treasuring her hard work.

After some time, she finally recovered and looked at the laptop. "Hmm, I think I've forgotten to store the electronic manuscript, but thank God everything is in my brain."

Karen, who was standing behind the stairs while eavesdropping, was covering her mouth as she giggled away.

"Hmph, Madeline, wait till you're done duplicating it. Yvonne would've long ago sent in hers. By the time you send in yours, it'll just show that you're copying others!"

She was thrilled and eager to see the consequences that were about to happen to Madeline.

Two days had passed, and it was finally the night of the competition that she longed for.

That was because the finals would deem the winner through a live voting session. Hence, before the start of the competition, no one would know what sort of designs would the contestants present.

It was an international designing competition. With lots of celebrities in attendance and tens of social media platforms showing live broadcasts, the entry ticket had risen to a price of at least four digits.

Karen used 2,800 bucks to buy herself a ticket in the front row just so she could witness the awful look on Madeline's face later when she was wronged.

Just when she sank into her seat, she realized Eloise and Sean had occupied the best seats in the front row. It was obvious that they were present to give their support to Madeline.

Karen rolled her eyes disdainfully, but deep in her heart, she was envious of the luxurious outfit worn by Eloise. In the past, she could also wear branded clothing with jewelry as well.

She bore a huge grudge against Madeline and even deemed her the culprit for destroying her luxurious life.

The clock struck 8 PM, and the opening ceremony for the finals began. All 16 designers competing in the finals took their designated seats.

Among the contestants, Madeline took the limelight.

Regardless if it was her looks or her presence, it was a notch above others.

Jeremy was sitting below the stage, fixing his gaze upon Madeline's charming smile.

Soon, the finals officially started, and according to their given numbers, the first designer went up on stage to show his design on the gigantic screen. The designer explained the concept and the meaning behind his design. Following that, it was the live voting session.

Madeline was the 12th contestant while Yvonne was the sixth.

In the meantime, Yvonne was longing for her moment.

She had spent a tremendous amount to rent a pricey dress just for that night. She put on meticulous make-up just so she could show off on the stage later where she would stand before the cameras.

At that moment, Yvonne immediately bounced to her feet while wearing her most charming smile on her face. As soon as the host called her name, she raised her head high while her high heels took her up to the center of the stage. Karen was giving her applause down the stage, waiting for something exciting to happen.

However, just when Yvonne was confidently displaying the design which she got from Madeline, all the guests who were sitting at the judges' seats as well as some authorities revealed shocked expressions.

The audience's reaction was the total opposite of the judges' as they looked as though they had been mesmerized by the design.

Seeing the expressions displayed on the judges and the audience made Yvonne's lips curl in excitement.

'It looks like this design has stolen the spotlight. Just look at these people! Their jaws have all dropped to the ground after looking at it!'

Karen, who was sitting among the audience, was proud as well when she heard the praises given by the crowd.

Her gaze met Yvonne's, then she turned to look at Madeline who was sitting at the contestants' area.

Both Karen and Yvonne were joyous to see Madeline dumbfounded.

'Hmph, I bet you never saw this coming, right, Madeline?

"Your hard work is now mine!"

"The sixth designer, are you sure this is the design that you submitted for this contest?" Mr. Lewinski, who was previously courted by Yvonne back at a charity banquet, pointed at the screen and asked.

Yvonne blinked her eyes, acting all obedient as she nodded. "Yes, Mr. Lewinski. This is my design for this contest!"

Mr. Lewinski turned around and exchanged looks with the other judges.

A female judge sitting beside Mr. Lewinski stared at the design and said, "This is indeed one splendid work."

Yvonne thought they were praising her, and this made her even more delighted.

"Thank you and I really appreciate that you all like it. Actually, I've prepared this design for a very long time. I actually completed it a long time ago, but because I'm a perfectionist, I'd rather sacrifice my sleeping hours just to improve my work. It's so that I can show the most perfect work for everyone to admire!"

"Oh? Really?" the judges said in a suspicious tone.

Yvonne nodded and answered firmly, "I'm the kind of person where if there's something that I'm passionate about, I'll go all out to make it perfect. Just like this design. I've paid full attention to complete it!"

She raised her gaze to sneak a peek at Madeline before adding, "I'm not the kind of person who will go online to steal other people's work just for the sake of fame. Those people will just simply copy other people's work, change it a little, and claim it's theirs."

"So you'd rather just use other people's work without modifying it at all?"

"What? What did I just hear?"

Suddenly, a female judge counter-questioned in a cold tone. The smile on Yvonne's face suddenly faded.

The crowd down the stage, Karen included, was puzzled.

'Other people's work?

Does it mean that Madeline submitted her design way before Yvonne did?

"That's impossible. Even if she did send it right before Yvonne, this is still a live voting contest. The judges won't know about Madeline's work."

"Why do you say so, if I'm allowed to ask the fellow judges? This is my work. I've never copied from other people." Yvonne blinked innocently and denied.

"Honorable judges, I dare swear to God that this is a result of my hard work. If so happens that another design is completely the same as mine, it's definitely the other party who copied mine and not the other way around !"

She had come prepared with these words. It was just that she did not expect the judges to have gone through Madeline's work beforehand.

'Isn't this a live voting contest? Or did Madeline use an underhanded method?'

Then, the female judge sneered, "The sixth contestant, I've never seen anyone telling lies so boldly. What a shameless person."

Yvonne was thunderstruck. She did not expect the female judge to lash out at her straight up. However, she knew she could not back down as she was standing up on the stage, facing so many live broadcasting cameras.

Immediately, Yvonne argued back. "Honorable judge, how could you say such a thing to me? As someone so impolite, are you even worthy of being a judge?"

"I'm impolite ?" The female judge chuckled. "You're Yvonne, right ? On your resume, it's stated that you graduated by furthering your studies on jewelry designing, but you don't know that the design you're showing is the work of the famous international jewelry designer, Victor."

•???'

After hearing what the judges had to say, Yvonne's expression slowly changed to become much more awful.

She stared at the design that was displayed on the screen, finding it hard to believe. She was absent-minded for a few seconds.

'This... This is the work of a famous jewelry designer?

"How did it come down to this?

'Damn it!

'It must be Madeline who copied that designer's work, planning to use it for the contest!

'Then doesn't that mean I've become the scapegoat for Madeline ?!'

That was what was coursing through Yvonne's mind. Exasperated, she glared at Madeline.

Madeline sat under the lights quietly and elegantly. Her stunning face remained composed.

Madeline could not help but curl her red, sexy lips into a smile when she saw Yvonne glaring at her while clenching her teeth.

"Yvonne, how dare you say that this is the product of your hard work when all you did was copy a great designer's work and submit it for the contest? You're indeed hilarious and foolish. Designing a piece of jewelry is a form of art. We can't tolerate the likes of you tainting it. You're disqualified from this contest. In the future, you'll be banned from joining any jewelry-related contest!"

•••

•What ?!'

Yvonne could not tolerate such an ending.

She desired to witness Madeline falling from grace. However, not only did she fail to do so, but she even got herself into trouble as well.

The crowd down the stage viewed her with scornful looks, making Yvonne anxious.

Even if it was the end for Yvonne, she still wished to drag Madeline along.

"You guys have all misunderstood!" She suddenly roared.

"Indeed, this is not my work, but I didn't copy other people's work! What you guys are looking at right now is actually the work of the 12th contestant, Eveline Montgomery!"

She tried all means to argue. "Because... Because I'm somehow related to Eveline. Earlier, we used to stay together, so my work and hers got mixed up! I didn't look at it properly earlier but now that I've looked at it closely, I realize this isn't my work. It's Eveline's!

"If it involves any copying, then it's Eveline who has copied other people's work! If you guys don't believe it, you can look at the work that she has submitted for this contest. You'll all believe that I'm stating the truth then!"

Madeline got up, her crystal clear voice that was like a soothing wind traveling into the ears of everyone present. "Then please display my work in advance to address the lies being spouted by this cunning lady who's trying all means to defend herself."

Yvonne's eyes got wider as she stared at Madeline who was sauntering before her.

Under the lights above the stage, Madeline's elegant presence and her gorgeous looks made everyone held on to their breaths.

Yvonne took in a deep, cold breath. She was speechless when faced with the pressure given out by Madeline.

The technicians behind the scenes quickly displayed Madeline's work, and it was a fine piece of work that no one had ever seen before.

The sight of the picture made Yvonne and Karen dumbfounded.

"How... How is this possible?" Yvonne's eyes were gigantic when she stared at the design, unable to accept what she was seeing.

It turned out that it was a completely different design from Yvonne's.

Madeline put on a smirk as if she had seen through all the schemes plotted. "Why is it not possible? Do you think I'm as stupid as your aunty?"

•What ?!'

Karen never expected that Madeline would so boldly call her foolish on such an occasion.

Even though her status was not the same as previously, most people in Glendale knew Madeline was Jeremy's wife. As such, they would also know that the mother-in-law Madeline mentioned was no one other than Karen!

A commotion broke out at the scene as the crowd started heatedly discussing.

Jeremy was sitting not far away. His face was covered with a thin layer of ice even though he was not speaking.

Eloise and Sean, who were sitting in front of Karen, spun around. "Karen, did you do something to harm my daughter again? What's with those statements blurted by your niece?!" Eloise questioned.

With Eloise's comment, everyone came to realize that Karen was the foolish mother-in-law who Madeline mentioned.

Facing so many suspicious gazes, Karen immediately stood up. "Madeline, what are you blabbering in this kind of situation? I still want to conserve my dignity even if you plan to discard yours!"

Madeline raised her brows. "If you want to preserve your dignity, you wouldn't have planned this entire act with your beloved niece in the very first place."

Karen's expression froze up as her cheeks gradually turned scarlet. "You... What gibberish are you talking about ?! Since when did I plan this whole thing with Yvonne ?"

Yvonne also quickly denied it. "Madeline, you shouldn't blame others! It's you who copied other people's work and submitted it. I'm the one being wronged thanks to you!"

"Being wronged ?" Madeline said with her eyes giving off an icy stare.

"Yvonne, do you think I'm an idiot?"

•••

. . .

Madeline forced her glare upon Yvonne, making the latter take in a deep, chilly breath subconsciously.

"You and your aunt planned this to cause me trouble. You want to taint my pride as the designer of Miss L.ady and ruin my life. Do you think I'm not aware of it?"

It turned out that Madeline was fully aware of their scheme!

This left Karen and Yvonne dumbfounded.

Madeline shifted her critical gaze to Karen. "I knew you wanted to steal my design since a long time ago. That's why I purposely let you do so and even allowed you to enter my study and use my laptop. I even let you in on which design I've decided to submit on purpose." "You thought that sending Yvonne a copy of my design would make her the original designer, and when I display the exact design, it'll make me the copycat. Isn't that what you both have been planning all this while ?"

Without a single error, Madeline pointed out Karen and Yvonne's plot.

They both thought they had planned a flawless trap for Madeline. However, it turned out that they were just two chess pieces in Madeline's eyes.

Yvonne was apoplectic with rage. "You're such a b*tch, Madeline! How dare you plot a scheme against me ?!"

"Shut your crap." Jeremy went up the stage and yanked Madeline to his side. His sharp gaze was fixed on Yvonne. "Who's the one plotting a scheme against others? How dare you question Linnie?"

Feeling unsatisfied, Yvonne bit her lip and said, "It's as plain as the sky that she's the one setting up a trap for me!"

"Yeah, I set up a trap. My plot was to use your scheme against you two. If you both didn't have any ill intentions, thinking about using such an underhanded method to set me up, things wouldn't have ended like this."

"Don't you wish to see my life ruined? Well, I'm sorry to let you down. The one whose life is now ruined is you, Yvonne." Madeline gave her last comment, which was like blades stabbing right into Yvonne's body.

The obedient mask she was wearing slowly crumbled as her true cunning self was revealed. She fixed her pair of eyes that were filled with hatred on Madeline.

"I can't believe there's such a person."

"Well, nowadays, people will go through all means just to be famous."

"No wonder Young Master Whitman's business has dropped drastically. Perhaps it's because of having such a mother!"

"However, Young Master Whitman has such a capable wife. I'm sure it'll be an easy task to start all over again."

After hearing the comments from the crowd, Karen picked up her purse while feeling embarrassed and fled from the scene.

She had no choice but to escape from the scene to prevent further humiliation.

"Security, please take this lowly person out of here. Let's carry on with the contest." The judges glared at Yvonne.

Yvonne clenched both her fists, feeling dissatisfied from the bottom of her heart.

"Don't touch me. I'll walk on my own!"

She threw a temper and shoved the security aside. It was only after glaring at Madeline that she was willing to leave the scene.

Jeremy lowered his gaze and held onto Madeline's hand. "Linnie, why didn't you let me know that they were plotting against you behind your back?"

Madeline let out a smile and said with a faint tone, "Women shouldn't always depend on their man, especially someone who had once harmed them so many times. I'll never depend on those men."

After blurting out her comment, Madeline retrieved her hand from Jeremy's grasp.

His expression went icy all of a sudden as he felt his heartbeat skip a few beats. "Linnie?"

He called out to her, but Madeline ignored him and spun around to leave.

The crowd felt curious and looked at Jeremy who was standing on the stage as if his soul had left his body.

'What's going on ?'

•Are they having a fight ?'

After some time, Jeremy snapped out of it. In the meantime, Madeline had already returned to her seat in the contestants' area.

Jeremy headed down the stage, not conscious of his actions at all as his mind was all jumbled up.

Did Linnie change her personality again?

'No way.

'If she had, she wouldn't have returned to the contestants' area and continued with the contest.'

This threw Jeremy for a loop and this went on until all the designs were displayed and the result of the contest was out. Madeline emerged as the victor with a huge lead. At that split second, Jeremy managed to regain his regular breathing and heartbeat.

He glanced at Madeline going up the stage, along with the runner-up and the second runner-up.

She stood at the center of the stage. Under the lights, she appeared like a sparkling star, demonstrating the most gorgeous side of hers.

The uprising young lad was the one to present Madeline with the trophy, and this was followed by Madeline giving a speech of gratitude.

Jeremy listened to the speech absentmindedly as Madeline's crystal clear voice tickled his ears.

"I'm grateful for the acknowledgment given by all the judges and most grateful for those who made the effort to vote for me. I'm able to emerge as the winner thanks to everyone's support. However, among all the supporters, there's one person I would like to express my gratitude for specifically."

Her gorgeous eyes then fell on Jeremy.

"This person once used to rub salt against my wound when I was at my most helpless moment in life, and that's my ex-husband, Jeremy Whitman."

Jeremy never expected he would be named in such a situation.

He felt his heart skip a beat.

'Could it be possible that she has recovered her memories?'

Many pairs of eyes were fixed on Jeremy, yet he remained calm as he stared at Madeline on the stage.

Madeline turned to face him as well. However, her gaze was much colder than her tone. "Jeremy Whitman, thanks for letting me understand that in a woman's life, it's not necessarily all about love. Without you, I can still live a better life.

"Today, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you one last thing. I, Eveline Montgomery, will no longer be your wife. From today onward, we won't owe each other any favors and we'll each go our separate ways."

"We'll each go our separate ways."

That phrase that sounded familiar was like an icy spear piercing through Jeremy's heart.

He thought back to that fateful day three years ago.

She had lost her vision and came to his and Meredith's wedding ceremony.

At that moment, she was gravely ill and was on the brink of death.

However, she summed up every bit of strength left within her to support herself and say to him firmly, "Jeremy, thanks for coming into my life. Thanks for all the wonderful memories you've given me in the past. However, I hereby return everything to you, including my ashes. From today onward, we don't owe each other any more favors. I hope I won't bump into you in the next life..."

Now, she had blurted out the same phrase.

He felt a pinch in his heart. Jeremy fixed his stare on Madeline's gorgeous face, speechless.

'Linnie, you've recovered all your memories, right?

'In the end, you've decided to leave me, is that right?

"The sweet memories that you've given me during this short time will vanish into thin air at this moment, gone for good."

After Madeline left the stage, Eloise and Sean immediately went to the back of the stage to look for her.

The couple quickly halted her. "Eveline, the comments you made up on the stage... You... Do you remember everything about the past?"

Madeline smiled. "Judging from the way you're asking me, that means I really hated Jeremy before I lost my memories, am I right ?"

"This..." Eloise and Sean were speechless. They let out a sigh. "Indeed, he has made you suffer in the past, but he regretted it since the day you had the incident three years ago."

"Regret ?" Madeline sneered, "I don't need his remorse. Anyway, he has nothing to do with me anymore."

After spouting her comment, Jeremy appeared before her eyes.

Jeremy remained elegant except for his stunning eyes that were now brewing with sorrow.

Madeline glanced at him, then spun around and left.

"Linnie," he called out to her with a low and attractive voice that was like a soothing wind.

Nevertheless, Madeline ignored him and seemed unconcerned about him.

She grabbed her coat, put it over her body, and continued heading to the main entrance.

On that first night of summer, a bolt of lightning suddenly appeared in the dark navy blue sky as though a storm was about to occur.

Jeremy caught up to Madeline at the entrance and saw her standing at the roadside, perhaps waiting for a cab.

He strode toward Madeline, but a car suddenly came to a halt before her. It was Felipe who stepped out of it.

Madeline immediately put on a smile when she saw Felipe as if she was expecting his arrival.

In Jeremy's eyes, that smile sparked a strong sense of stubbornness and selfishness within him.

He took quick steps and came to Felipe, grabbed hold of Madeline. "Linnie, you're not allowed to go with him."

He yanked her to his front and said in a domineering tone, "You're my wife and forever will be!"

"Pfft." Felipe laughed softly. "Jeremy, stop doing all these things that will only make Vera hate you even more. Let go of her."

Jeremy raised his cold orbs. "I'll never ever let go of Linnie. It's you behind all this right, Felipe? You're the one who turned Linnie into this state!"

"Enough." Madeline cut him short, crossed.

Her shape gaze gave off an icy stare under the moonlight. Her gaze was so cold that it sent chills down Jeremy's spine when she looked at him.

"Jeremy, perhaps the old Madeline used to love you madly to a point she would sacrifice herself, to a point where she would think she was blessed even if she was physically tortured, but I'm not that woman.

"I'm no longer that foolish Madeline! I'll never be like her, thinking that you're my everything and making you my only aim and belief!"

After hearing her words, Jeremy suddenly felt his fingers losing their strength.

Madeline seized the opportunity to shove him away and added with a much colder tone, "I've no recollection of what happened before I lost my memories, and I've no intention to recall them. Now, I only have hatred for you, do you understand? Don't come and look for me. I don't want to see you anymore."

Her eyes were stony as she spun around mercilessly. "Let's go, Felipe."

"Alright." Felipe was being a gentleman as he opened the door for Madeline. Before entering the car, Felipe glanced at Jeremy who was keeping Quiet amid the gusty winds. Felipe's eyes were glinting as if he had emerged victorious.

Boom!

The first storm landed on the first night of summer.

Those without an umbrella were sprinting to prevent getting caught in the rain, except for Jeremy whose soul had left his body. He was still standing in the middle of the rain.

His eyes moistened as he got drenched with rainwater.

He sealed his eyes tight and saw only the wounds deep in his heart.

However, he firmly believed that the scar on Madeline's heart had to be way bigger than his.

Soon, the storm was over, but the wound within Jeremy remained unhealed.

He received a notification that Madeline would be taking a flight back to F Country the next day.

She would bring Jackson along and was not planning to come back.

Jeremy knew that Madeline had no more feelings for him, but she still had feelings for Jackson.

Even though she could not recall her memories before the car accident, she could still remember everything after she lost her memories as the memories of both her personalities overlapped. Hence, she could still remember that Jackson was her biological son.

Jeremy quickly headed over to the kindergarten and fetched Jackson.

In the evening, Madeline went over to the kindergarten only to realize that Jeremy had fetched the kid.

She was not satisfied, and just when she was about to make a call to Jeremy, he showed up in front of her in his car.

"Linnie, I know you're going to leave this place tomorrow. Nevertheless, Jack is our biological son and I want to spend the last night together with both you and Jack."

Madeline stared at him coldly. "What if I don't agree to it?"

Jeremy glanced at her and let out a smile helplessly. "For Jack's sake, you'll agree."

His eyes sparkled with confidence. Before Madeline could answer, he got down from the car and offered to open the car door for her.

Madeline went straight into the car, not intending to waste her effort and time.

Along the journey, Jeremy kept driving the car straight ahead. He went away from the city and into an unfamiliar road.

Madeline felt that something was wrong. "Jeremy, where is this leading us to?"

"To our home, of course," he replied with a low and attractive voice. He was smiling.

Madeline's sixth sense was telling her that something fishy was about to happen. She ordered in an indifferent tone, "Stop the car, Jeremy."

"Stop fooling around, Linnie. We're almost there."

"Don't call me Linnie. I'm not your Linnie."

"You are. You'll forever be my Linnie. Forever." He then turned around to face Madeline. His brows narrowed passionately as his eyes gave off a sturdy sense of stubbornness and possession.

Madeline found that Jeremy was not being his usual self. She quickly unbuckled her seatbelt and threatened him, saying, "Stop the car, Jeremy, or I'll jump out from the car!"

However, Jeremy did not stop the car. Instead, he sped up.

Madeline felt her back being pressed against the seat as she reached out to open the car door.

"Don't leave me, Linnie." Jeremy suddenly extended his right hand and grasped Madeline's shoulder, holding her in his arms. "Don't leave me, Linnie..." He kissed her on the cheek and pleaded by her ear, yet he did not slow down the speed of the car. Madeline struggled, but Jeremy hugged her even tighter. At that moment, a car suddenly showed up from a corner. Jeremy quickly turned the steering wheel as a loud crash sounded.