

Madeline kicked on the door with all her might, but there was no reply.
She bit her lip, turned around, and scanned the surroundings.
'This place looks unfamiliar. Where is this anyway?'
She spotted a balcony not far away and ran to it.



"I won't harm you. I just want to be with you. I don't wish for you to leave me." He expressed his feelings with a gentle tone and smile. "Come and have something to eat. You must be hungry after sleeping for the entire day. Even if you hate me, please eat up before continuing to hate me." He placed the bowl of seafood noodles and the glass of water on the table beside the ceiling-to-floor window. Madeline stared at the bowl of seafood noodles and the glass of water scornfully. Then, she lifted her hand and swiped it all to the floor. The ceramics broke into pieces and Jeremy also felt something in him tearing apart as well. "I'll never eat any food prepared by you, Jeremy. I don't want to see you. Didn't you say you love me? Then, please listen carefully. I don't love you, not even the slightest!" Jeremy felt his heart aching. He found that comment rather familiar. After giving it some thought, he remembered back when he forced Madeline to sign the divorce documents, he had also blurted similar comments. Currently, those words were directed back to him and it was many times more hurtful. "Get lost, I don't want to see you!" Madeline chased him away, disgusted. "Don't ever treat me like that Madeline who was madly in love with you. Right now, the only thing I have for you is hatred!" Jeremy was not infuriated when he faced Madeline's roar. He let out a smile instead. "I'll prepare other things for you if you don't like the noodles."

Madeline felt something was off about Jeremy.
He left, and soon after, he returned to the room with another dish.
Madeline slammed the dish right to the floor as well without even tasting it.
Jeremy cleaned up the mess and brought in some fruits and desserts. He was patient and tried to get on Madeline's good side. He was acting very stubborn as though he was obsessed.
Madeline was locked up in the room for the whole day, not eating and drinking at all.
The sunset and the beach revealed a stunning scene, but Madeline was not in the mood to enjoy it
At that moment, Jeremy came in with another dish he had prepared for her.
Madeline glanced at the fruit knife on the fruit plate and came up with a foul idea.
She picked up the fruit knife sneakily and hid it in her pocket as she just looked at Jeremy who was inching closer to her.
Seeing Madeline remaining all cold while ignoring him, Jeremy lowered his gaze. A surge of determination coursed through him.
He held onto the bowl, placed a few dishes in, and fed Madeline like a child by delivering a spoonful of rice straight into Madeline's mouth.
"Be a good girl, Madeline. Eat something."

Madeline frowned and slapped the bowl away from Jeremy's hand.
"I won't eat your food! Give up already!" She was still being determined as well.
Seeing Jeremy turning around to get another bowl of rice, she grasped the fruit knife and placed it at his chest. "Let me go, Jeremy, or I'll kill you!"

A sharp and glittering knife was directed at Jeremy's chest.
Jeremy lowered his bushy eyelashes to look down, then a spellbinding smile appeared on his face as he lifted his eyes.
He was staring at Madeline's beautiful orbs which were giving out a courageous and extraordinary vibe.
It seemed that she was serious about it and was not just trying to scare Jeremy.
However, Jeremy was serious as well.
"Linnie," he called out to her softly. He did not back off but inched forward instead. The sharp edge of the knife was now buried deep into his clothes.
Madeline was dumbfounded as she never expected Jeremy to take the initiative to come closer against the knife.
At the same time, he was still smiling at her.
"Linnie, I know that you've forgotten everything in the past, but it doesn't matter because I still remember them," he said with a smile, his eyes fixed on her.
"That year when it was snowing heavily, I did a very inhumane thing. I exhumed your grandfather's tomb and even threatened you with his ashes. That time, you clenched your teeth so hard that you started bleeding. You

told me courageously, 'Jeremy, I'll kill you one day if you don't kill me today."

He repeated what Madeline had told him in the past. A ray of warm sunlight shone through the window, but he could still feel the coldness deep in his heart.

Madeline could not recall ever saying such a thing to Jeremy, but she somehow sensed that she must have really hated him.

She held onto the fruit knife even tighter, her eyes brewing with hatred.

Jeremy caught sight of the hatred that was oozing off from her gaze. He gently raised his hand and grabbed onto the fruit knife in Madeline's hands before saying lazily in a soft tone, "Say, Linnie, what should I do to gain your forgiveness? Or is it that no matter what I do, you'll never forgive me?"

"Yup, you're absolutely right! I'll never forgive you, Jeremy, regardless of what you do!"

As Madeline spouted out those words, all of Jeremy's hopes were drowned by a sense of hopelessness.

"Jeremy, even if what you're saying now is true and even if you really love me, it's all too late. Let me tell you this, I don't love you. All my love is for Felipe. I even gave birth to his daughter. He's the one who's been treating me sincerely. He's the man who will bring me happiness!"

"No, you don't love him." Jeremy denied it. "Lilian is our daughter, not yours and Felipe's. He's cheating you. Linnie, don't trust him."

"So you're saying I should trust you instead? I should put all my trust in a demon who once nearly sent me all the way down to hell?!"

Every word she spoke pierced through his eardrum as though a fine needle was prickling his heart.

Jeremy was stunned as he looked at the pair of orbs that were brewing with strong hatred. He was absent-minded.

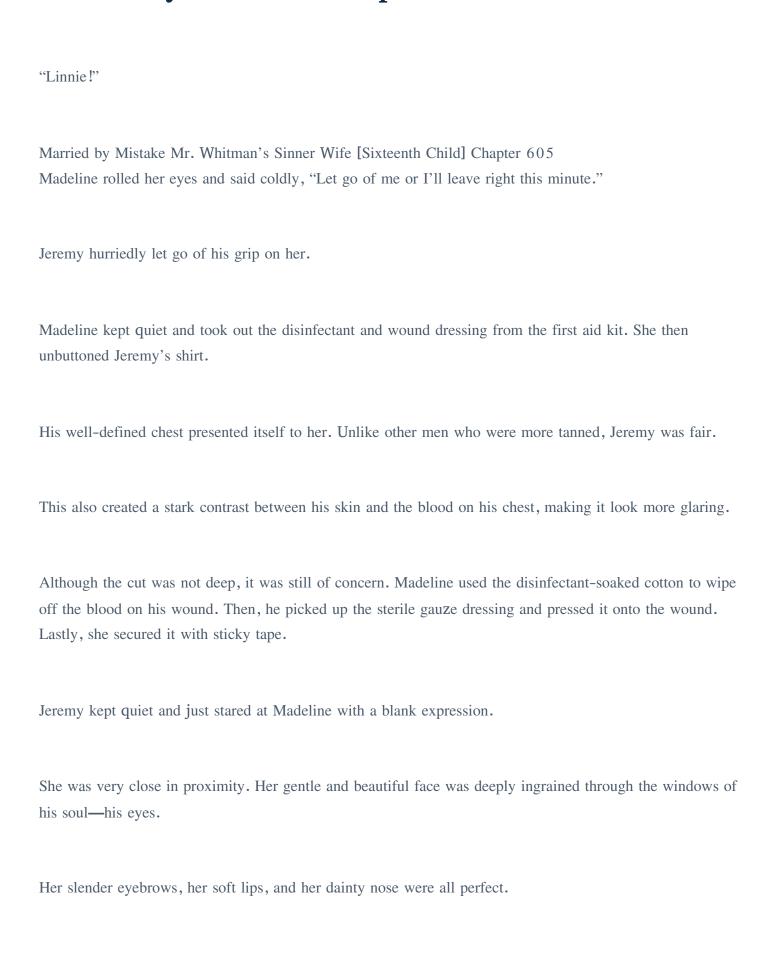
"You know what, Jeremy? Even though I've lost my memories and I can't recall those cruel things you've done to me in the past, I can still somehow feel the painful feeling from time to time! "Even in my dreams, your cold-hearted temperament felt so real and made me disappointed! "I can't deny the fact that I used to love you sincerely, but I believe that after being hurt by you, I've opened up my eyes and realized what I've done wrong. That's why I only have hatred against you, to the point I wish for your death!" As soon as Madeline was done talking, Jeremy grabbed onto the fruit knife in her hands and stabbed it into his chest forcefully. The knife pierced through his flesh. It was soundless, but weirdly enough, Madeline could hear an ear-piercing sound. It was as if the sound was amplified in her ears, making it extremely painful. Fresh, red blood flowed down the knife. It was as if a gorgeous rose was blooming on Jeremy's clean, white shirt, except that the color of the so-called flower grew darker as it grew bigger. Madeline stared at the wound where blood was pouring out with a blank stare. She could feel that the wound hidden somewhere deep in her heart was bleeding out and it was painful as well. That feeling was unbearable. She removed Jeremy's hands with effort, and the fruit knife that was stained with blood dropped to the floor with a thud. Is he out of his mind? 'Is he really crazy?'

Madeline thought that Jeremy was going a little crazy.

"Jeremy, I don't give a crap if you want to die, but just don't dirty my hands." Madeline stared at him, and all of a sudden, her heart rate increased.
She thought that she would be happy to hear that someone who she hated with all that she had wanted to die, but at that moment, she felt strangely uncomfortable.
Seeing that the bloodstain on Jeremy's white shirt was growing in size, tears suddenly came to her eyes. She felt uncertain and pushed him away anxiously. "Scram, Jeremy, get out of here! Even if you die in front of me I will never forgive you!"
She pushed him away forcefully, but Jeremy stood firm. She was unable to move him no matter how hard she tried.
"Jeremy, get out! If you don't leave, I will!"
Madeline rushed toward the door, and just as she passed by him, Jeremy hugged her tightly from behind.
"Linnie, don't go."
"Let go of me!"
"No, I won't let go. If I do, you'll leave and disappear from my life forever."
Jeremy seemed to be talking to himself. His warm breath warmed Madeline's ear.

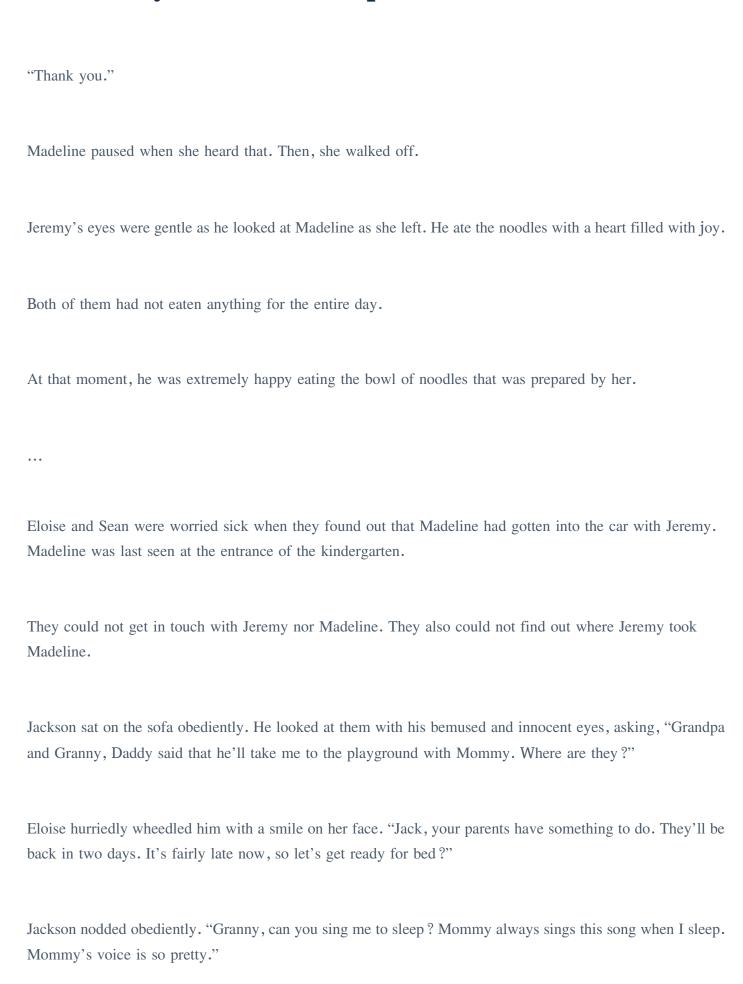
He was holding her so tightly that she could not break free. Through her skin-tight top, she could feel the wet and sticky liquid from his body. It was Jeremy's blood.
When she thought of that, she felt a sense of fear that she knew she could not ignore.
"Jeremy, let go of me. I promise I won't leave."
"You will leave, and you'll never come back again." He was acting stubborn and a little childish.
Madeline took a deep breath and said, "I said I won't leave, so let go of me. Jeremy, if you really love me, you won't keep upsetting me like this."
When he heard that, Jeremy seemed to realize something and hurriedly released his grip on Madeline.
He was in the wrong again?
Yes, he was.
He thought of the Madeline who he knew years ago. She had loved him and admired him. She was always silent and never did things that made him unhappy.
What about him?
Crack.
Jeremy regained his senses when he heard the sound of the door opening. He looked over and realized that Madeline had left the room.

He sat down on the chair dejectedly, allowing his blood to flow. It seemed like he had lost his mind. Tears filled his eyes.
'If you really love someone, you should give her freedom and protect her instead of forcing it on her. Jeremy Whitman, don't you get it? Why do you keep making her angry?'
He looked at the door that was wide open and laughed.
Linnie, if this is what you want, I won't force my love on you. Do whatever makes you happy and just think of me as a good-for-nothing.'
He closed his eyes and choked on his tears. His tears were overflowing from the corners of his eyes.
He never thought that he was an emotional person, but here he was, tears welling from deep inside as they coursed down his cheeks.
Just as he thought that Madeline had left, he heard footsteps approaching.
Jeremy opened his eyes and through his blurry vision, he saw that Madeline had come back with a first aid kit.
"Linnie?" He could not believe it. He had to do a double-take to make sure that it was her.
Jeremy's heart jumped with joy. He reached out his hand and held Madeline's warm and soft hand tightly.



Jeremy's gaze became softer and softer. He involuntarily lowered his head slightly as he greedily sniffed the fragrance from her hair.
He thought to himself, 'How could I ever have hurt such a beautiful woman?'
He suddenly felt that he was a despicable man. How could he ask for Madeline's forgiveness, and how was she ever going to forgive such an evil man such as himself?
"Linnie"
"If you don't want the wound to be infected, pay attention to it." Madeline interrupted Jeremy with an indifferent tone, then got up after packing the first aid kit.
Seeing that she was about to leave, Jeremy did not force her to stay.
He did not want to wrong her again.
He thought that Madeline would have found an excuse to leave, but she stayed beside him.
"It's too late now. I'll leave at dawn tomorrow. If you force me to stay here, I will only hate you even more."
After she said these words to him, she turned and went downstairs.
Jeremy sat in the same place with a lost expression. He looked down at the wound on his chest and stroked it while smiling slightly.
Linnie, you still care for me.'

Madeline went to the kitchen downstairs and made some food to fill her growling stomach.
She then went outside for a walk and found out that the villa was actually on an island.
There were also several villas of different styles nearby. They looked like holiday houses used by rich people for the summer holidays.
Madeline thought that the villa where Jeremy was trapping her in was one of his many properties.
She had heard that Whitman Corporation was no longer under his name. She thought that he would be broke.
However, it seemed that this man was not as desolate as what she had heard through the grapevine.
Jeremy stayed in the room in a daze. Before he knew it, it was dark outside. It was so quiet that he could only hear the rustling sounds of the palm trees.
His thoughts were interrupted when he heard the familiar footsteps. He looked up and saw Madeline come into the room while holding a bowl of noodles.
"I've told you previously that I don't want anything to do with you. I don't want to owe you anything, nor do I want you in my life moving forward," Madeline said in an indifferent tone as she put down the bowl of noodles. She then turned around and was ready to leave.
"Linnie."
Jeremy hurriedly stopped her.
His tone was anxious as if there were a thousand words that he wanted to say to her, but in the end, he blurted out just two words.



Eloise felt a pinch in her heart and was tearing up. She held Jackson's tiny hand and walked him upstairs. "Granny can sing for you, but Granny's singing is not as nice as your mom's."

"Granny loves Jack as much as Mommy loves Jack, so Granny's singing is nice too," Jackson said charmingly, his eyes sincere and certain.

Eloise wiped the tears from her eyes and said softly, "Granny will never be as good as your mom. Granny has done many wrong things and will never be able to match up to your mom..."

She said that in a low voice so that Jackson would not hear anything.

Downstairs.

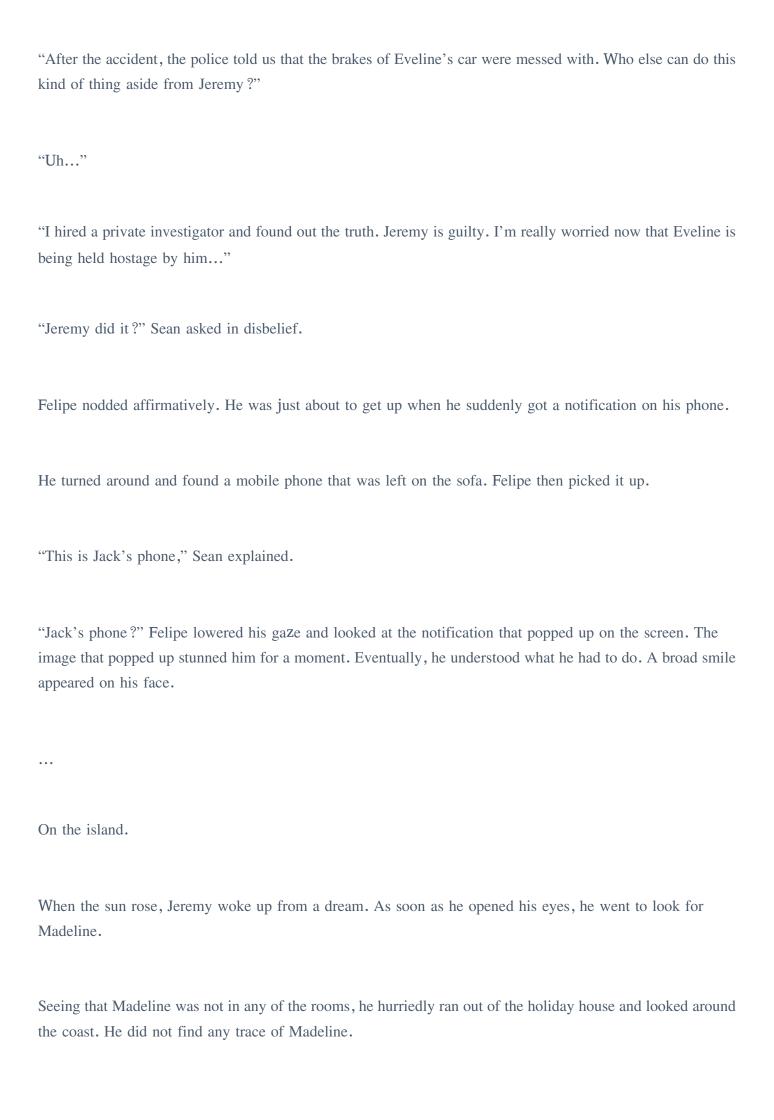
Sean looked through the security footage again and again. He sighed and said to Felipe who was silently sitting on the sofa, "Mr. Whitman, I don't think Jeremy would hurt Madeline."

"He will," Felipe said in a calm tone, "Jeremy's soulmate, Meredith, is dead. He took Linnie for one and one reason only—to avenge Meredith."

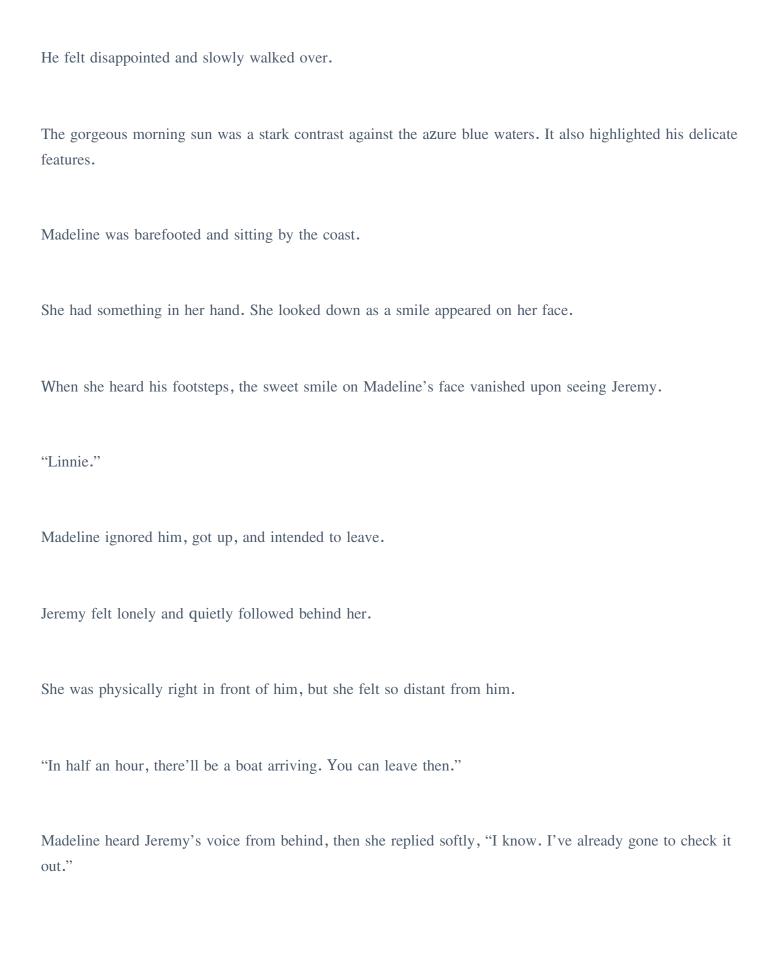
"No, no, he won't do that." Sean defended Jeremy. "It's clear that Jeremy regrets what he did to her, so how could he bear to hurt Eveline again?"

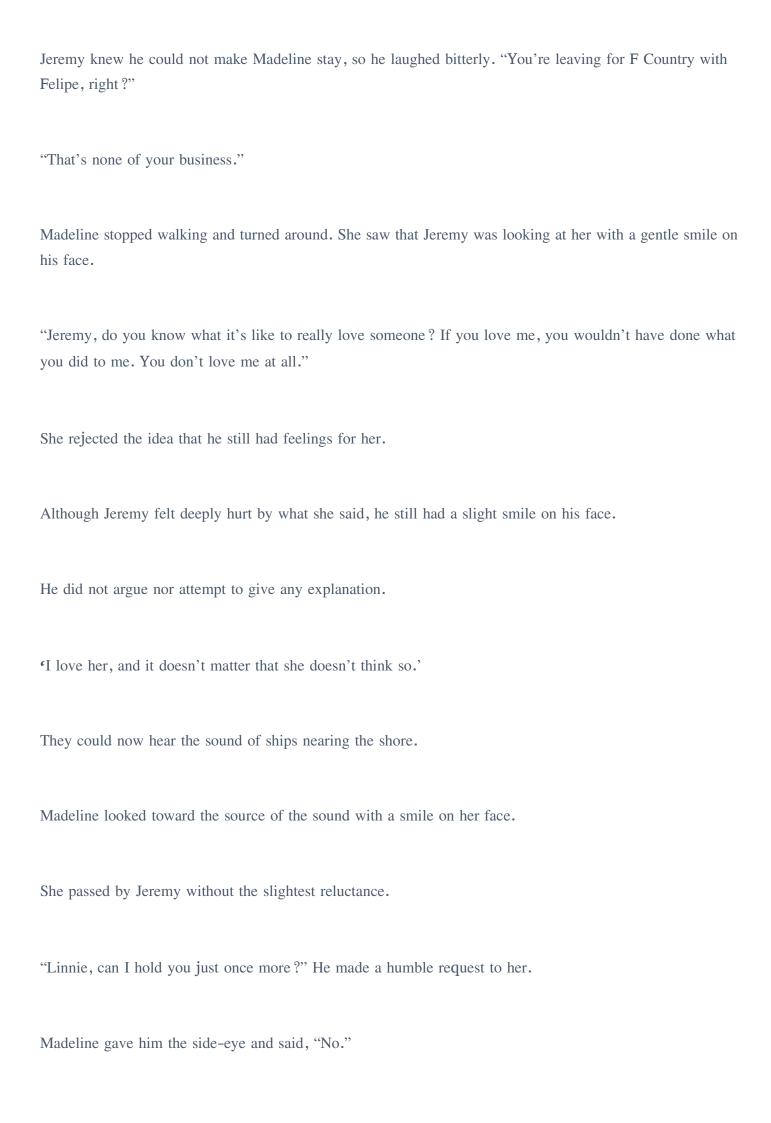
A trace of dissatisfaction flashed in Felipe's eyes. However, a smile appeared on his gentle face as he said, "Do you really believe that Jeremy will change? You've forgotten how Eveline almost died on the operating table. It was all his fault. Before Eveline lost her memory, she had already decided to return to F Country with me. Do you think that it's coincidental that she got into a car accident around the same time?"

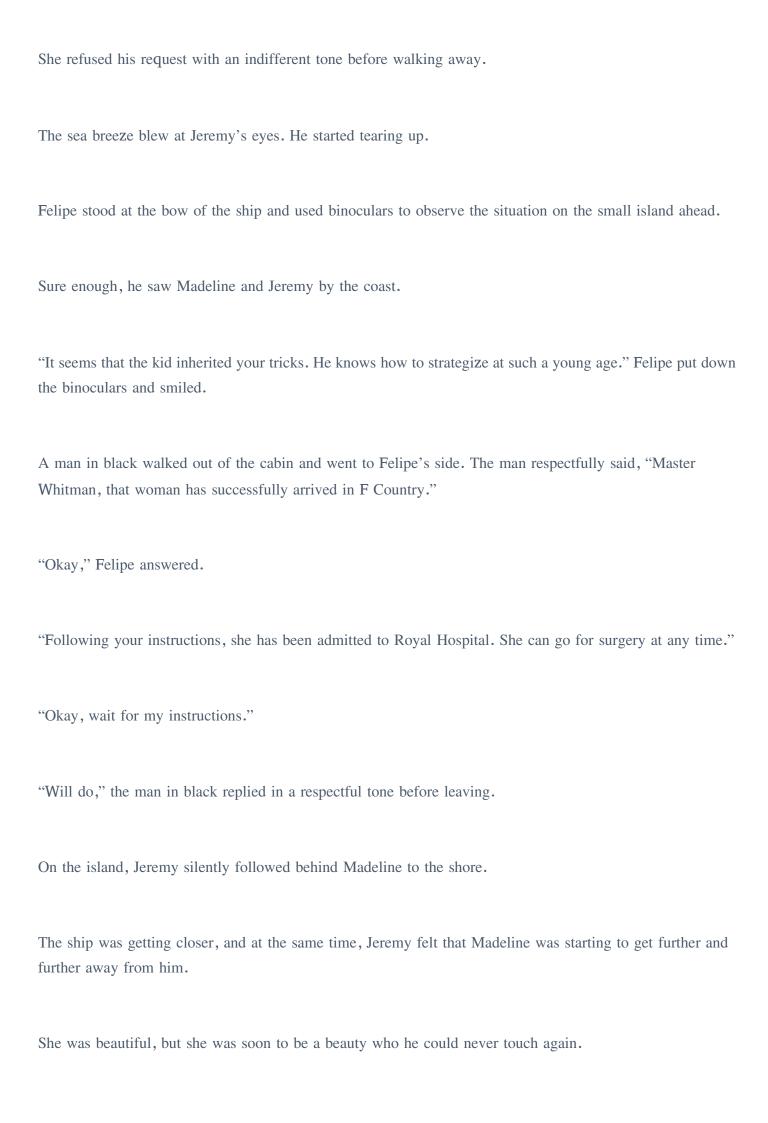
When he heard that, Sean was stunned for a moment. "Mr. Whitman, you mean—"



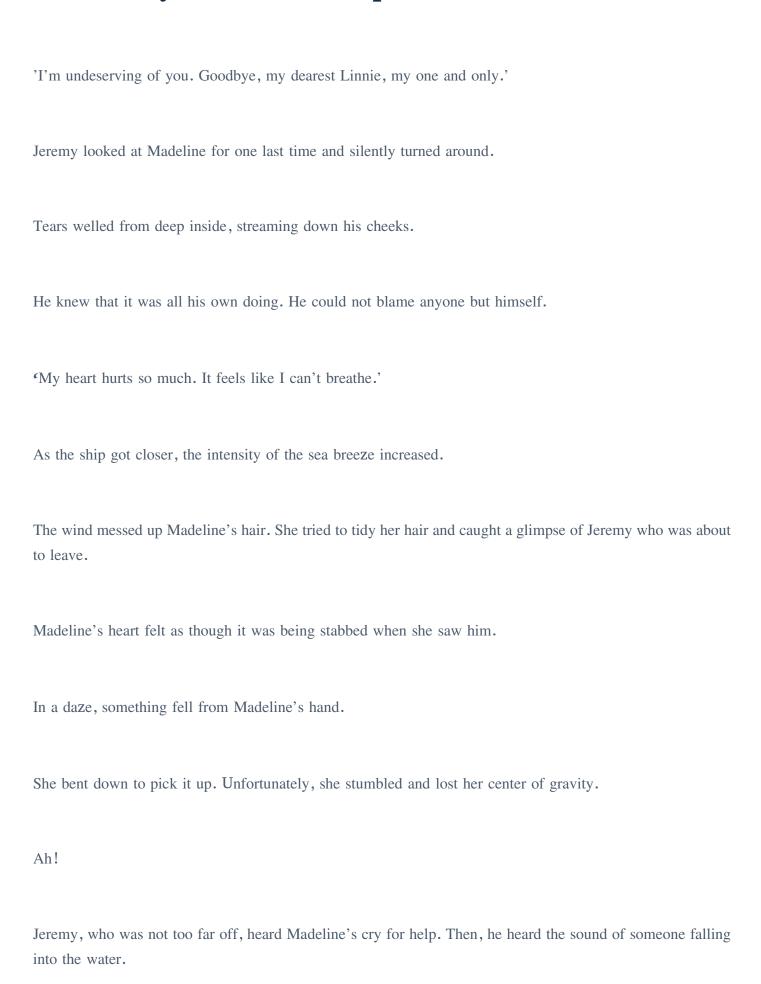
Linnie, have you left?'
Nervous thoughts were clouding his head when he noticed the footprints on the beach.
His heartbeat increased rapidly. He followed the footprints and was taken aback by the sight in front of him.

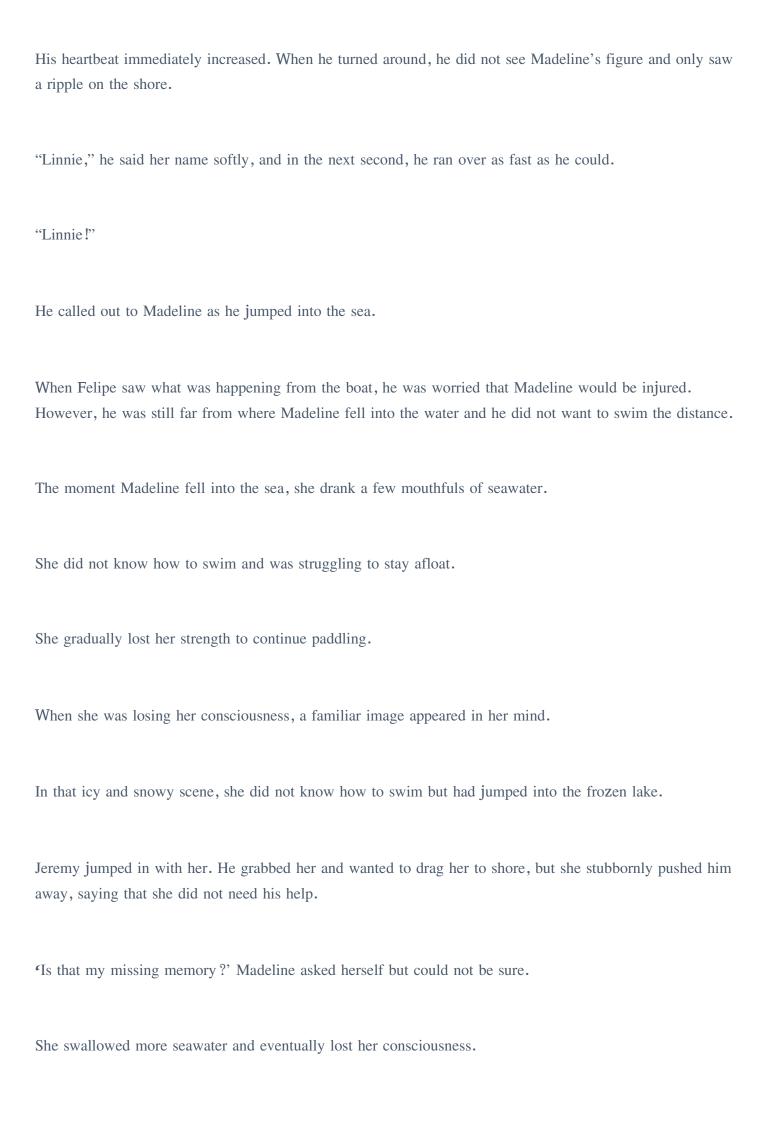






Linnie, I wish the best for you. I can't give you the warmth and happiness that you deserve, so I hope you can find another man who can give you that. I've wronged you.'	





It was also at that moment that Jeremy got to her.
He dragged her until she was ashore, but Madeline was no longer responsive.
"Linnie, Linnie, please wake up." Jeremy patted her pale cheeks in a panic.
Seeing that Madeline was not responding at all, he began to do CPR on her. He kept calling her name.
"Linnie, wake up, Linnie! Please don't let anything happen to you. Linnie, you can't just leave me like this, Linnie"
He begged and begged for her to wake up. He kept going with the CPR. His wound was torn apart again and the dazzling bright red blood spread across his top.
For Jeremy, those ten plus seconds felt like ten years.
Madeline's condition was freaking him out.
He lowered his head again to give Madeline CPR, and when he touched her lips, she was cold.
"Linnie, please wake up!"
Tears came out of his eyes.
Madeline's unresponsiveness made him cry like a child while he continued to give CPR.

"Linnie, don't torture me like this. I know I'm in the wrong. I regret not treating you right. Don't punish me in this way. Linnie, I love you. I really love you. Can you wake up? Wake up and see how I'm regretting it, Linnie!"

Jeremy's mood completely collapsed and fell apart.
He hung his head in despair and pressed it to Madeline's smooth forehead.
His trembling hand gently stroked her warm and soft cheeks as the hot tears that he was unable to hold back came streaming down.
"Why do you want to torture us so much? Why did I do such stupid things when you loved me so much? Linnie, please don't leave me. Please"
Jeremy embraced Madeline's pale face, his heart shattering along with his dripping teardrops as a bone-cutting pain invaded his whole body.
"Linnie, if you really want to go to another world, I will accompany you."
His warm fingertips groped about her profile while his eyes were shrouded in darkness.
"I'll go wherever you go in the future."
He smiled, his thin lips falling on Madeline's as he kissed her deeply.
At this moment, Madeline coughed.
Jeremy's heart that was almost dying suddenly found its rhythm once more.
"Linnie?"



Wanting to prevent Madeline from feeling uncomfortable, Jeremy was too lazy to deal with Felipe. He walked around him, then walked straight forward.
"Jeremy, you keep saying that you regret your past actions and that you love Madeline. If you really love her, you'll give her to me now. And from now on, you'll never see Madeline again."
Jeremy's pace slowed down little by little.
Felipe looked at his back and said, "You should be very clear about how much Madeline hates you. If you really love her and want to make it up to her, let her live the life she wants. Don't disturb her tranquility."
"If you continue to pester her, it'll only make her unhappy. This is not the way to truly love someone."
After Felipe's words fell, Jeremy's mind echoed the words Madeline had said to him not long ago.
"Jeremy, do you know what it's like to really love someone? It's definitely not what you did to me.
"So, you don't love me at all."
No.
He did.
Jeremy denied it.
He lowered his eyes desolately as he looked at Madeline who was gradually regaining consciousness. She was about to wake up. In his tears, he forced a smile on his face.

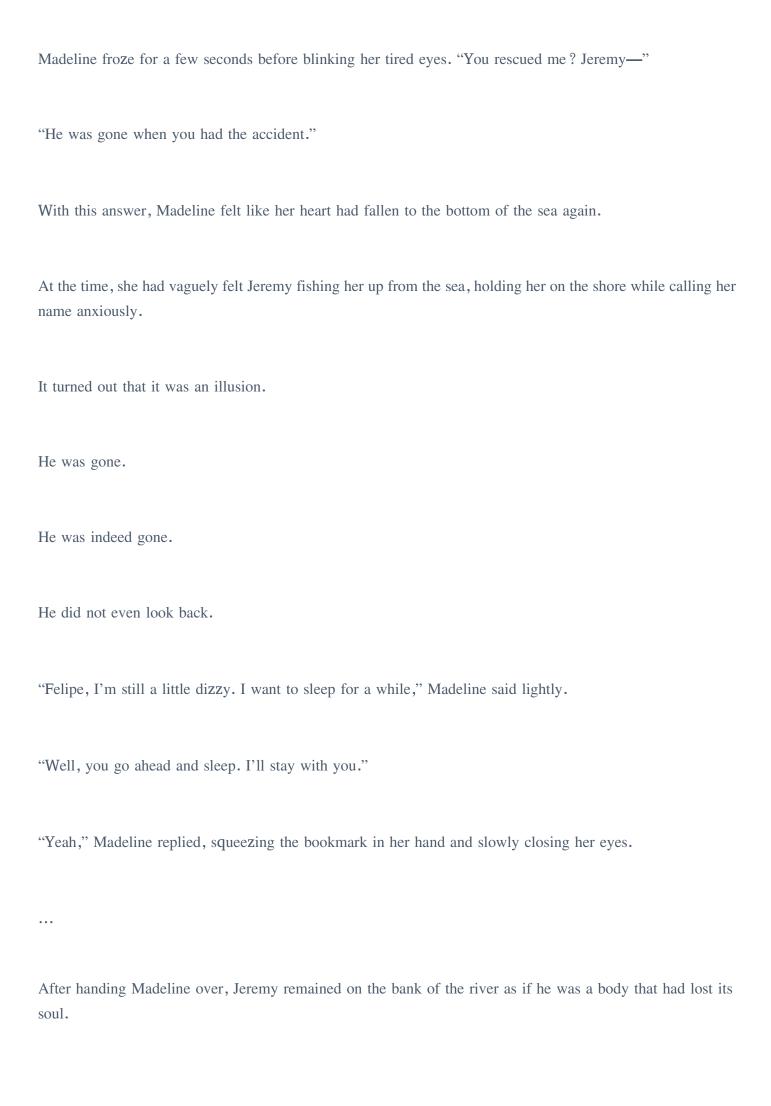
"Linnie, I love you."

His confession fell lightly before Madeline woke up. Felipe then walked to his front and took Madeline away from his arms.

Jeremy dropped his empty arms, his heart feeling the same way.

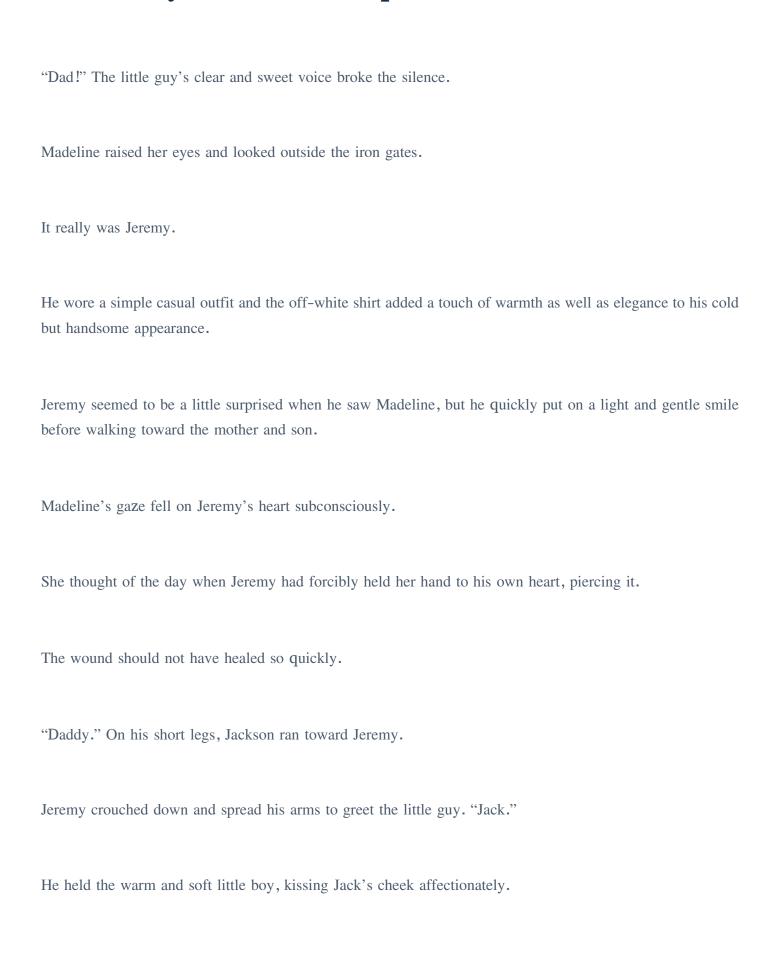
He watched Felipe hug Madeline aboard the boat before it quickly sped away. The ripples that spread gradually across the waters recovered their calm, but his heart seemed to have fallen under the deep sea, falling down and never to return in this life...





His wound was bleeding and inflamed, but he was indifferent.
The piercing heartache had made him lose all his other senses.
It was getting dark. He looked at the vast sea and faced the sea breeze, desperately shouting Madeline's name at the borderless sea
Madeline was picked up by Felipe, and they returned to his single-family villa in the suburbs.
After a few days of recuperation, Madeline's state was almost recovered.
For fear of more disturbances if they delayed things a few days more, Felipe booked flight tickets to return to F Country for Madeline and Jackson. He also decided to return to F Country with the mother and son.
When Madeline knew about it, she had said that she would definitely board the plane this time, but she suddenly proposed to go back to Montgomery Manor in the last two days to spend some time with her biological parents.
Felipe agreed.
He also had to deal with some matters in these two days.
Eloise and Sean learned that Madeline would be taking Jack to live in F Country. They felt really reluctant in their hearts, but they still agreed.
They had only gotten her to call them 'Mom' and 'Dad' because of Madeline's amnesia. In exchange, they got this rare happiness as a family. They could no longer be greedy and could not ask for more.
However, Jackson did not seem to be very happy. He pulled Madeline's skirt and blinked suspiciously. "Mommy, are we really going to live elsewhere? What about Daddy? Shouldn't Dad come with us?"

Madeline heard the words, and the image of Jeremy's back after he had left her alone on the coast suddenly appeared in her mind. Her heart hurt for no reason. In her daze, she heard Jack suddenly shout, "Dad!"



"You'll be going to live somewhere else with your mom tomorrow. Listen to your mom, okay?" he whispered his smiling eyes hiding his unspeakable struggle.
Jackson blinked as he looked at Jeremy with his large, clear, and innocent eyes. "Jack wants to live with his parents."
Jeremy's heart ached when he heard the words, but he smiled reluctantly and touched Jack's little head. "Daddy has a lot of things to do. It'll take a while. Once I'm done, I'll come to you, alright?"
"Then, Daddy must come to see Jack. Mommy and I will always wait for Daddy," Jackson said, stretching out a cute little pinky.
Jeremy understood and stretched out his little finger to hook it with Jackson's.
Madeline silently watched on the side. There were no ripples on her gentle and demure face, but there were rising and falling waves in her heart.
Jeremy was done hooking pinkies with Jackson. Then, he handed over the beautifully wrapped gift box in his hand.
"This is a gift from me to Jack. I hope Jack will like it."
Jackson embraced him with joy. "Thank you, Daddy."
"Good boy."
"Daddy must also have something to tell mommy, so Jack won't stand in the way now," Jackson said mischievously before his small body ran into the house.

Neither Jeremy nor Madeline had thought that such mature words would pop out of Jackson's cute little mouth. As soon as the little boy ran away, Jeremy and Madeline then faced each other. They were separated by a small distance, but they seemed to also be separated by a wall of air that obstructed each other's footsteps. Jeremy stood up slowly. He had always been calm and comfortable, but for some reason, he actually felt a little tense looking at Madeline who was standing in front of him at this moment. Thinking about how she had looked when she passed out after falling into the water the other day, and then seeing her look ruddy and glowing at this moment, he quietly breathed a sigh of relief. "I... I didn't know that you'd be here. I just wanted to come and give Jack a gift before leaving," Jeremy said after a long silence. He seemed to be unnaturally avoiding Madeline's beautiful, clear, and moving eyes. Looking down with a smile, he said, "I won't bother you now." The fluttering words fell as Jeremy slowly turned around. His eyes were blown red by the wind the moment he turned around. In fact, he had also wanted to say, 'Linnie, it's really nice seeing you today.' Linnie, you'll be leaving tomorrow and you'll never see this scumbag again. Without me, you'll be happy. What I actually want to say is... I'm sorry, Linnie...'

In the end, he could not say these words. He resisted the choking in his throat, and the scene in front of him was getting blurry.

Madeline silently looked at Jeremy's fading back, recalling the same scene on the coast the other day. It was also as thin and lonely as it was at this moment.

Somehow, there was an indescribable sense of emptiness in her heart, and something had come up to her throat.

She wanted to call out to Jeremy, but she had just uttered the word 'Jer' when Felipe appeared in her eyes.

"Linnie, I love you."

He looked at her beautiful shadow and confided his true feelings in the far distance. After the words fell, he smiled tearily and left.
A thorny green vine climbed up from the bottom of his heart, growing denser and denser until engulfing his very breath.
•••
Montgomery Manor.
Felipe spoke to Eloise and Sean as their son-in-law. Knowing that the couple felt guilty and reluctant with regards to Madeline, he promised that he would try his best to bring Madeline and Jackson back to see them, or he would just charter a plane to pick them up to F Country.
Madeline listened with a smile and nodded from time to time, but Jeremy's face would involuntarily appear in her mind constantly.
However, she quickly stopped herself from thinking further.
That day on the coast, he had already been determined to leave without even turning his head to look at her, so there was no need for her to long for him still.
Since they were now separated, they would forever be separated.
Not long after, Felipe said that he would leave Montgomery Manor first.
He drove to Jeremy's villa alone. The door was open and he raised his phoenix eyes before going straight in without any shade of gentleness on his face.

A servant was cleaning the house when they suddenly saw a strange man coming in. The servant hurriedly stepped forward to stop and inquire, "Sir, you are..."

Felipe glanced over at them with cold eyes, and with just a glance, the servant was so scared that they did not dare to ask further. They just moved to the side in fright and called upon Jeremy.

Felipe did not care and went straight to Old Master Whitman who was basking in the yard. The old man slowly opened his eyes when he heard the footsteps. When he saw that it was Felipe, his expression instantly changed.

"Why does my uncle have such an expression when seeing me? Am I not welcome here?" Felipe approached, his tone sounding amused. There was a dark force hidden in his smiling face.

The old man stared at Felipe fearlessly. His lips moved with great effort, but he could not utter a word.

Felipe looked at the old man as a deep and incomprehensible sneer appeared in his eyes.

"Back then, you planned to kill my parents and make me an orphan for your own selfish desires.

"In those years, you restricted my development in every way to give Jeremy the best resources. You also handed over the entirety of the multinational group to him and threw me to F Country where you ignored me. You thought that this would break my wings and kill my ability, no?"

He vented all the dissatisfaction in his heart, his gaze falling sharp.

"Aaron Whitman, you will reap what you sow."

Old Master Whitman pressed his lips tightly, his eyes widening as if he was struggling to say something, but it did not help.

Felipe sneered lightly while looking at the old man's vigorous appearance.

"Tomorrow, I will take Madeline and your great-grandson to leave Glendale. We'll never come back. Your most favored grandson will lose his beloved son. Do you think that he'll find it so unbearable that he would want to die?"

He raised a triumphant smile and put his hand in his pocket.

"However, before that, let me give you a lift."

Old Master Whitman did not know what Felipe wanted to do to him, but he did not have a good premonition.
Yet, he did not think that Felipe would dare do anything extreme in broad daylight.

Felipe just smiled indifferently before taking out a two-inch photo from his suit pocket.

He showed the photo to the old man, and his black phoenix eyes were filled with a treacherous smile. "Do you still recognize the person in the photo? One of them is your brother and the other is your sister-in-law. They were a loving, married couple with a well-behaved, sensible son. They had a blissful family and successful careers, but what was the result?"

Felipe said in a cold tone as he fiercely pushed the photo onto the old man's face. "They were ruined by you!"

"Hnghh..."

The old man whimpered out with difficulty, his eyes wide.

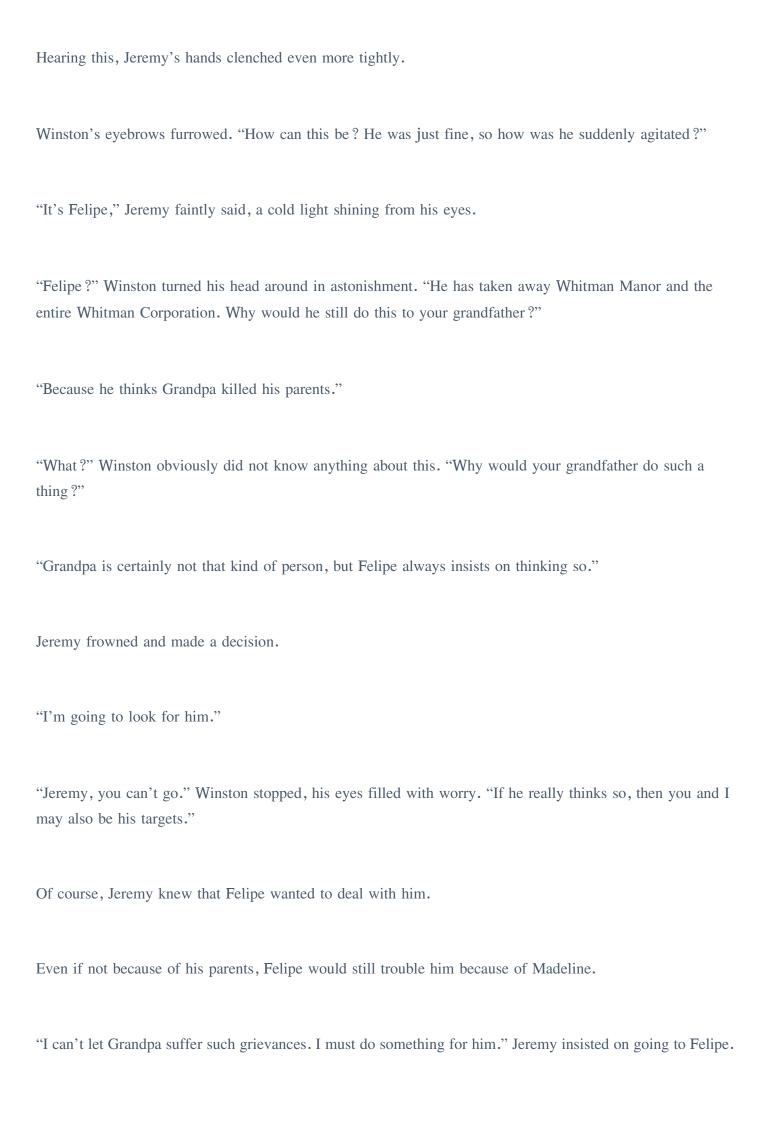
Felipe raised his lips cheerfully. "What's wrong? Do you feel uncomfortable? Is it painful? The way you are now is your retribution."

"Hngh hmph..."

"Don't worry, I won't do anything to you for the time being, but I will let you have a taste of a ruined home!"

He dropped these last words before walking away freely.

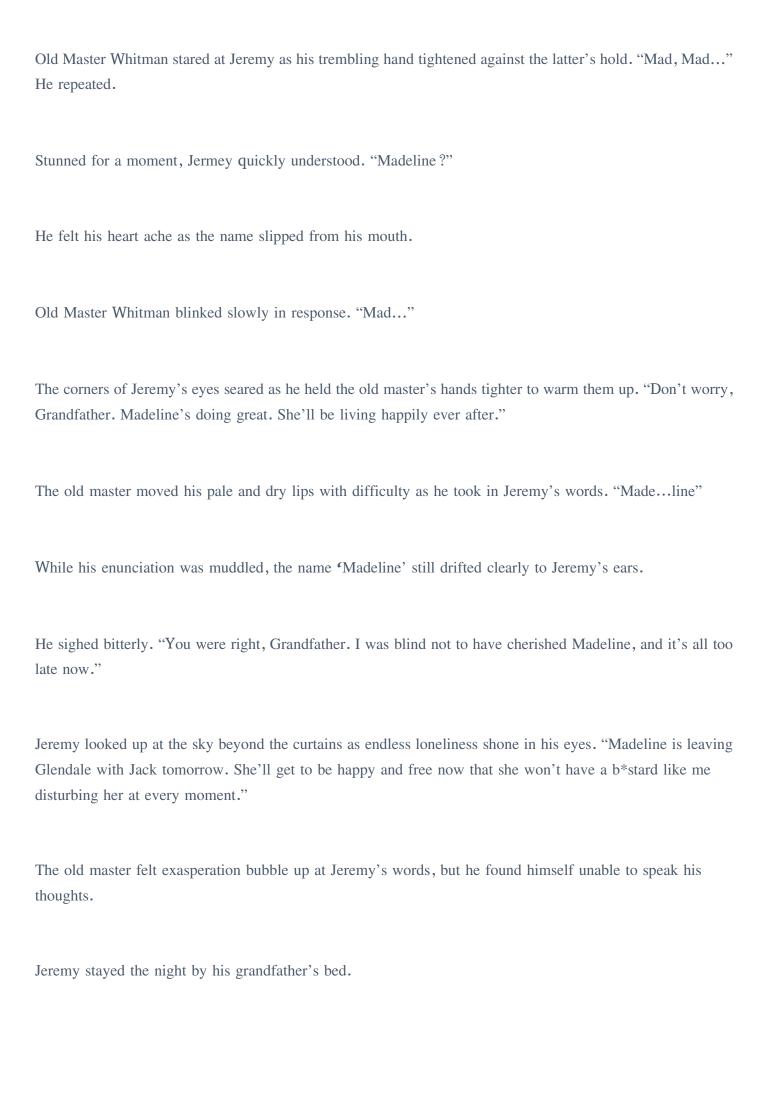
The old man stared at Felipe's back. His face suddenly flushed, and his breathing became more and more rapid. "Uu... Cough, cough!" Jeremy was on the way back to the villa when he received a call from the servant all of a sudden. He sped up, and as soon as he reached the gates of the villa, he saw Felipe passing by his car. He had a bad feeling and immediately stopped the car to run into the yard. As soon as he looked up, he saw the old man in the wheelchair coughing violently. It was followed by big mouthfuls of blood spilling from the corner of his mouth. "Grandpa!" Jeremy stepped forward quickly just as the old man lost his consciousness and went into a coma. City Centre Hospital. The old man was in the emergency room for an entire hour before the doctor came out. The doctor in a white coat shook his head helplessly. "The old man's condition has suddenly worsened. You must be prepared." Hearing this, Jeremy squeezed the two-inch photo he had found in the yard. It was Felipe. "Doctor Lloyd, why did my father vomit blood so suddenly?" Winston stepped forward and asked anxiously. The doctor frowned. "The old man must've been agitated, causing his blood to attack his heart." He sighed. "Try not to agitate the old man anymore so that he can complete the final journey of his life safely."



However, Winston stopped him. "If your grandfather can talk now, he'd definitely stop you! In any case, I can't let my son take risks like this!"

Jeremy had no choice but to still himself for the time being.

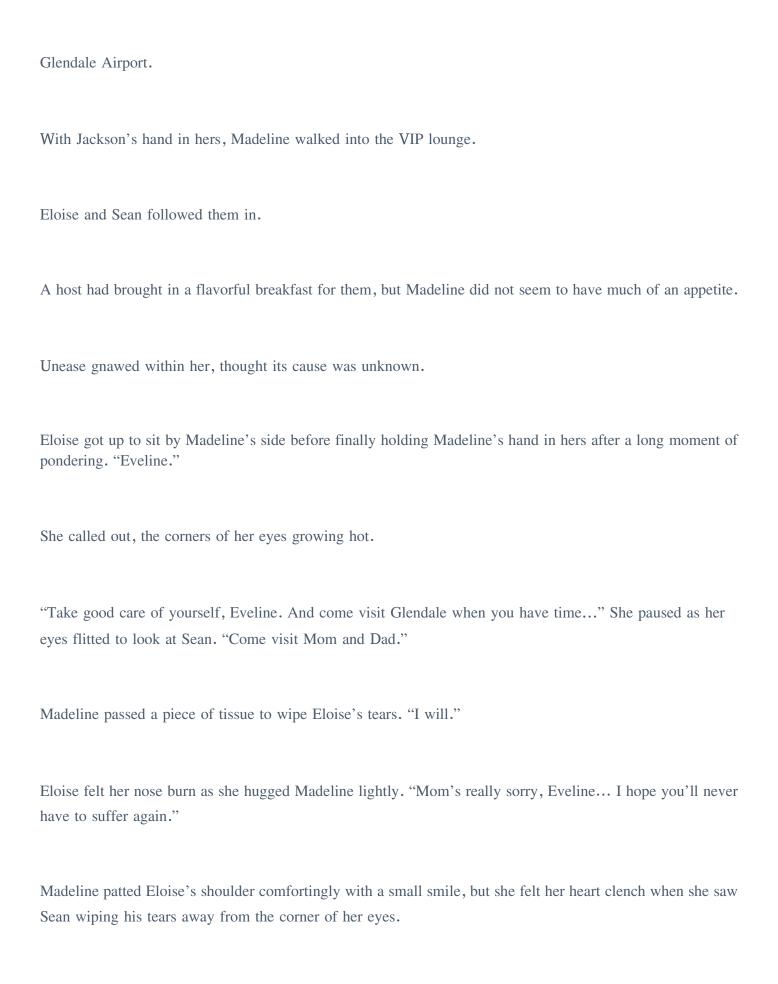




Dawn began to fall, and Jeremy stared blankly in the direction of the airport. He was wondering if Madeline and Jackson had boarded the flight already.
The thorn in his heart throbbed. Running his hands through the wound Madeline had dressed for him, the corners of his lips curled into a small smile.
"Linnie."
I'm sorry Linnie, but I must hide Grandfather's condition from you.
I do not wish you to waste any more of your time and life. Be happy, Linnie, and laugh freely.'
Over half an hour later, Winston arrived to take over.
He was elated to know that Old Master Whitman had spoken last night.
Jeremy washed up and left to buy breakfast.
Winston watched over the old master. As he tidied the table, he heard Old Master Whitman murmur. "Madeline"
Shocked, Winston leaned over joyously. "Dad! You You can finally speak again! What are you saying?"
"Madeline"
"Madeline? Madeline Crawford?" Winston clarified in disbelief as Old Master Whitman blinked intentionally in response.

The old master spoke with difficulty, "Made...line... I need to... see..."

Winston was startled. "You want to see Madeline?"



She may have lost memories of the past, but the pain in her heart could not feel more real.

With the check-in procedures completed, Felipe returned while smiling warmly as he was met with the sight of Eloise sobbing with Madeline in her arms.

"I'll bring Eveline back frequently, Aunty. You and Uncle don't need to feel so sad."

Eloise nodded. However, sadness could rarely be chased away just by a few words.

They had searched for over 20 years and experienced so much before their family could finally reunite and before they could hear Madeline call them 'Mom' and 'Dad'.

Now they were going to separate again when they had yet to reap all the warmth a family brought.

"We board in 20 minutes, Eveline. You still haven't had breakfast yet, so eat up." Felipe reminded softly, his eyes bleeding with gentleness. "You too, Jack."

Jackson shook his head as he played with the limited edition mini Giant Robo figurine that he had assembled last night. He turned around to hold it in front of Madeline. "Look, Mommy. I've already assembled everything already, so why isn't Dad here yet? Won't he come to send me and Mom off? I want to show him my Giant Robo. I want Dad to praise me."

Madeline felt her heartstrings tug at the mention of Jeremy.

Felipe's smile remained on his face, but a rush of displeasure swarmed him anyway.

He looked at the time and was about to give the order to his subordinates who remained at Glendale when a figure suddenly rushed into the VIP lounge.



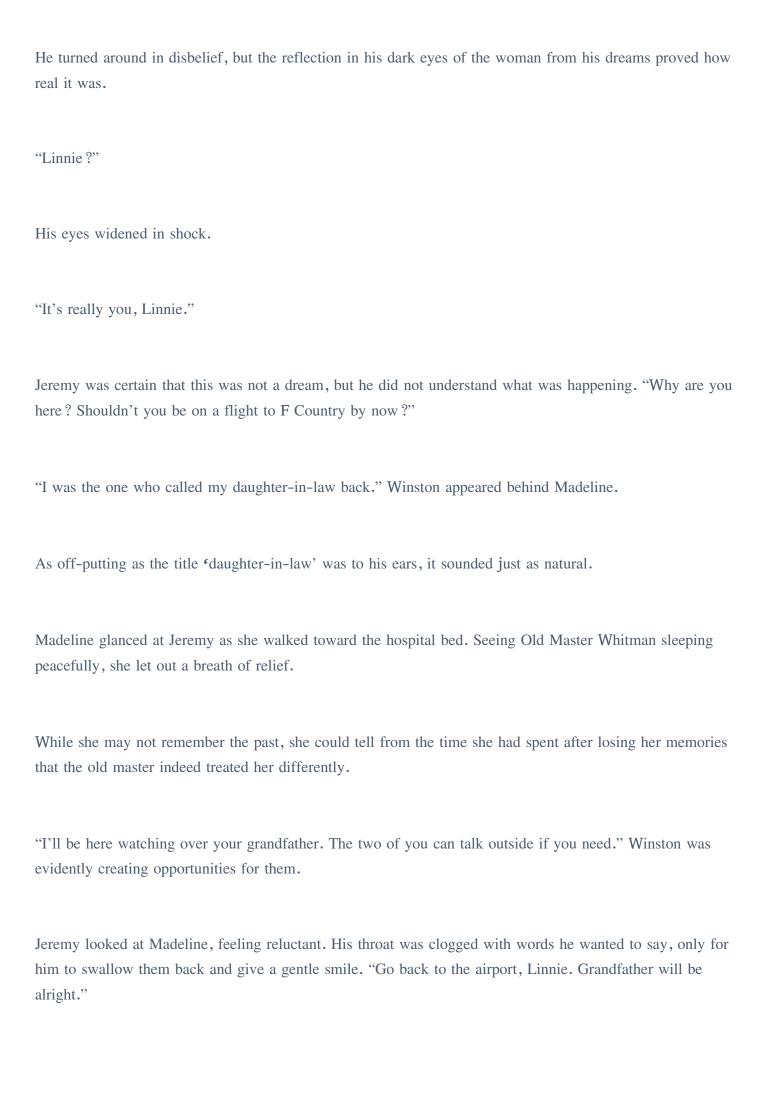
Madeline felt her heart clench.

Felipe looped an arm around Madeline's shoulders. "Let's go, Eveline. It's time to board."
"Alright." Madeline nodded and held Jackson's hand. "Let's go board the plane, Jack."
"But Daddy isn't here yet." Jackson pulled his pink lips into a pout, reluctant to leave. "Won't we wait a little longer for Dad, Mom?"
Madeline walked out of Felipe's embrace and comforted him with a small smile. "We're not waiting for Dad anymore, Jack. He's too busy with work to come."
"Jeremy isn't busy with work. He's staying with the old master in the hospital!" Winston blurted out the truth.
Felipe's eyes darkened as Madeline turned to look at Winston in confusion, urging him to go on.
"The old master is in the hospital. The doctor told us to be prepared for the worst since he might not have much time left. Still, the old master just woke up and he kept calling your name. Jeremy told me not to disturb you, but I couldn't help come looking for you either."
Madeline was shocked. "The old master was calling my name?"
Winston nodded in certainty, his eyes glistening with worry and pleading. "The old master hasn't said anything but 'Madeline' since he woke up. He really wants to see you."

Reading hesitance in Madeline's appearance, Felipe stepped up decisively and grabbed Madeline's hand. "We've gotten so far, Eveline. Don't look back now." Madeline found determination in Felipe's eyes. She was about to open her mouth when she heard Winston's sincere voice. "I know you hate every one of us in the Whitman family, Madeline, but the old master was the one who treated you the best the years you were married into the family. He was the one who believed and supported you no matter what, and even if you've lost your memories, I think your heart still remembers the kindness the old master showed you." Felipe had run out of patience. "Enough. You just want to gain time for Jeremy." "Felipe," Madeline called out to an enraged Felipe. "I want to see Grandfather." Relief washed over Winston's features while Felipe's expression darkened, but he could not hold Madeline back. . . . At the hospital. Sitting by the old master's bed, Jeremy's gaze was fixed on the world outside through the window. He watched an airplane fly over him, but he had no idea if it was the one that carried the person he loved the most. As he guessed sadly, he heard footsteps drawing close from behind.

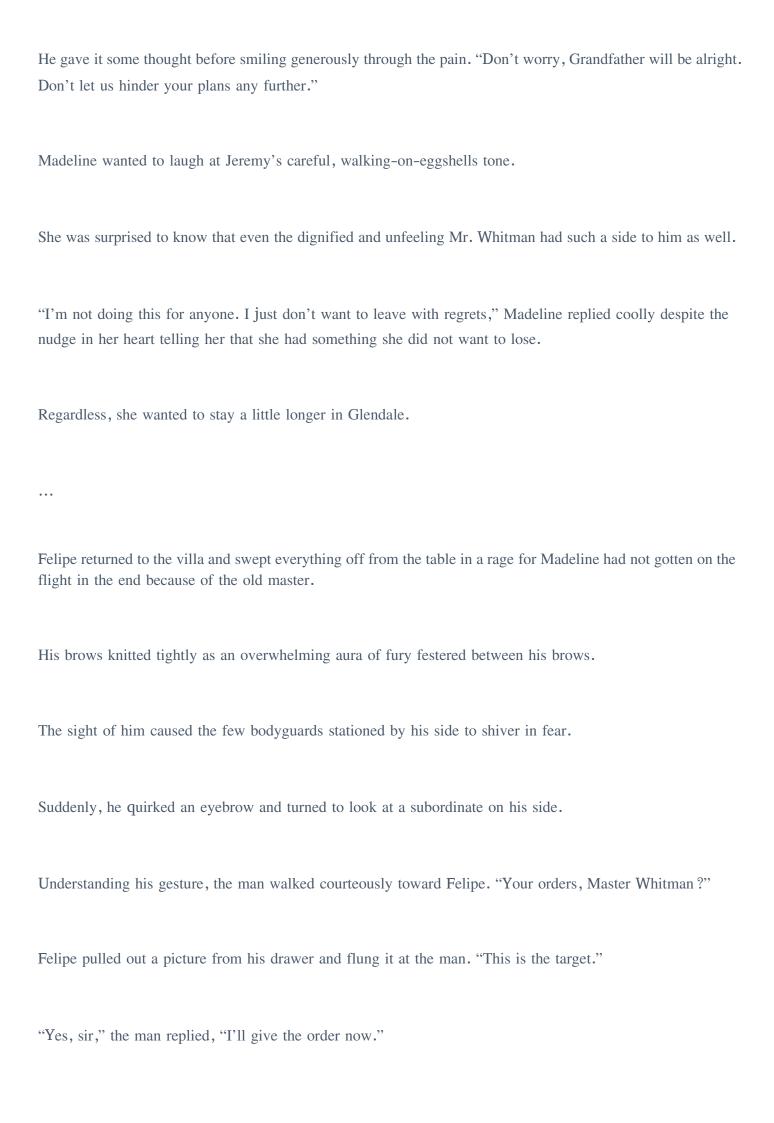
He initially thought that it was a nurse, but the familiar tempo of the steps had Jeremy's heart lurching in its

cage.



"This is what you wanted to tell me?" Madeline looked at Jeremy and asked, her eyes sharpening despite her calm expression. "You might not have anything to say, but I do."			





Felipe's brows remained furrowed in displeasure as a storm brewed in his frosty eyes. "Looks like I have to be a little more thorough or I'll never get rid of the lingering feelings she has for you."
•••
Old Master Whitman's condition had gotten neither better nor worse during the few days he spent in the hospital.
As such, Jeremy brought the old master back to be taken care of at the villa by a care worker he had employed especially for the case.
Seeing the old master being brought back, Karen wanted to greet and talk to them but did not dare to engage in a face-to-face conversation with Jeremy.
Jeremy still remembered how Yvonne, her partner-in-crime, had tried to plot against Madeline in the jewelry competition last time.
He was still angry, and Karen feared that prodding him now would be no different from shooting herself in the foot.
Winston too had no longer talked to her ever since that day.

Winston had advised Karen not to come in contact with Yvonne after the truth of her beating the old master came to light. However, not only did she ignore her husband's wishes and continued to keep in contact with Yvonne, they had even come up with such a revolting scheme to hurt Madeline. Winston had never thought them more abominable.

Karen stood by the door as she watched Jeremy and Winston help the old master lie down. Mulling over the thought, she decided she would talk to them after all.

"Jeremy, Win, you must be tired with how busy you've been the past few days. I'll take care of the old master." She volunteered, looking like she was trying to redeem her merits.

Ignoring her, Jeremy turned around and left.

Karen called after him, "Jeremy, Jeremy, I'm still your mother. How—"

"You claim that you know your place, so why did you do it? How could you join forces with your niece to harm your own daughter-in-law?" Winston accused angrily.

Karen huffed in indignance. Realizing Jeremy had walked out the door, she opened her mouth to scold, "What daughter-in-law? Are you acknowledging her as your daughter-in-law? She's the reason so much has happened at home! Yvonne only made such a mistake because of that woman. Ever since we met her, Yvonne's and my luck has only made a turn straight to hell!"

"You're hopeless." Winston had no energy to argue with Karen. "Dad doesn't need your care. Someone will come to look after him, so go spend time with that niece of yours if you have nothing better to do."

"Hmph!" Karen's fury bubbled at how Winston seemed to be berating her. "Those are your words, not mine. I'll go find Yvonne now!"

"You..." Winston turned around in infuriation to instruct the care worker, "Please take good care of the old master. I'll be out for a while." "Understood, sir." The care worker nodded and entered the room quickly, not wanting to be a part of her employers' personal affairs. Karen's rage grew now that both Jeremy and Winston were gone. She took her phone to call Yvonne. "My mood's especially great today, Yvonne! Come to the villa, I'll bring you out for a shopping spree! Don't worry, they're not here." Yvonne, who was drunk, immediately shot up and pushed the man by her side away when Karen promised her a shopping spree. She had lost her job ever since her reputation was tarnished during the jewelry design competition, and with no money, she resorted to wasting away with different men in nightclubs. Yvonne blearily hailed a ride to the villa and walked in as if she owned the place, knowing that neither Jeremy nor Winston were there. "Aunty Karen," she called out, but the lack of response had her making a beeline for Karen's bedroom. Reaching the entrance, her thieving eyes zoned in on the wallet by the end of the bed. Yvonne's eyes shone, her mind still muddled by the influence of alcohol.

Yvonne was about to run out of the room with the valuables when she heard Karen's complaints.

table. She swept them all into a jewelry box before turning to leave with the box in tow.

She quickly entered the room and took the wallet. Turning her head, her eyes fell on the jewelry on the vanity

"Hmph. You're all going to boycott me because of that b\*tch, right? Then don't blame me when I buy with your money to my heart's content!" Yvonne was about to turn around, but it was too late. Karen was one second away from appearing in front of her. Yvonne felt indignant about the fact that the valuables she had just acquired would be lost to her, so she decisively lifted the jewelry box with a fierce expression on her face. Karen turned around, and before she could see what was happening, she saw a fleeting shadow before a pang of pain shot up her head. "Ah!" Karen exclaimed, falling to the floor. She lifted her arms instinctively to shield her face. Yvonne then turned around and ran down the stairs. Running down the stairs, she saw someone push Old Master Whitman out of the room. Their eyes met as they stared at each other. Knowing the old master could not speak, Yvonne simply glared at him without fear. However, just as she was about to run out the doors, she was met with Madeline entering. Panicked, Yvonne threw the wallet and jewelry box toward the flowerbed before squatting behind them to hide. With her head bleeding from the hit, Karen held a hand over her wound to stop the bleeding as she staggered to her feet and ran down the stairs. She then came face to face with Madeline. Marching forward, she grabbed Madeline by the wrist.

"It was you! How could you be so cruel, Madeline?"

Madeline	had	just	gotten	through	the	doors	when	Karen	decided	to	unleash	her	fury	
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Calmly, she shot her a sharp gaze. "What are you even saying?"

"Stop pretending, Madeline!" Karen pressed the bleeding wound on her forehead. "You were the one who hit me just now!"

Madeline glanced at Karen's forehead and frowned slightly when she caught sight of her bleeding wound. She replied, "I suggest you make a trip to the hospital immediately since something's wrong with your head. Don't just start framing people left and right."

She flung Karen's hand off and walked toward the old master who had left his room.

"You..." Karen's expression paled. Reaching out to grab Madeline, she felt her head throb dizzily.

"I'm here, Aunty Karen!" Yvonne ran in, pretending to have just arrived. Seeing Karen's situation, she quickly ran over with a frantic expression to help her. "What happened to your head, Aunty Karen? Why are you bleeding so much?"

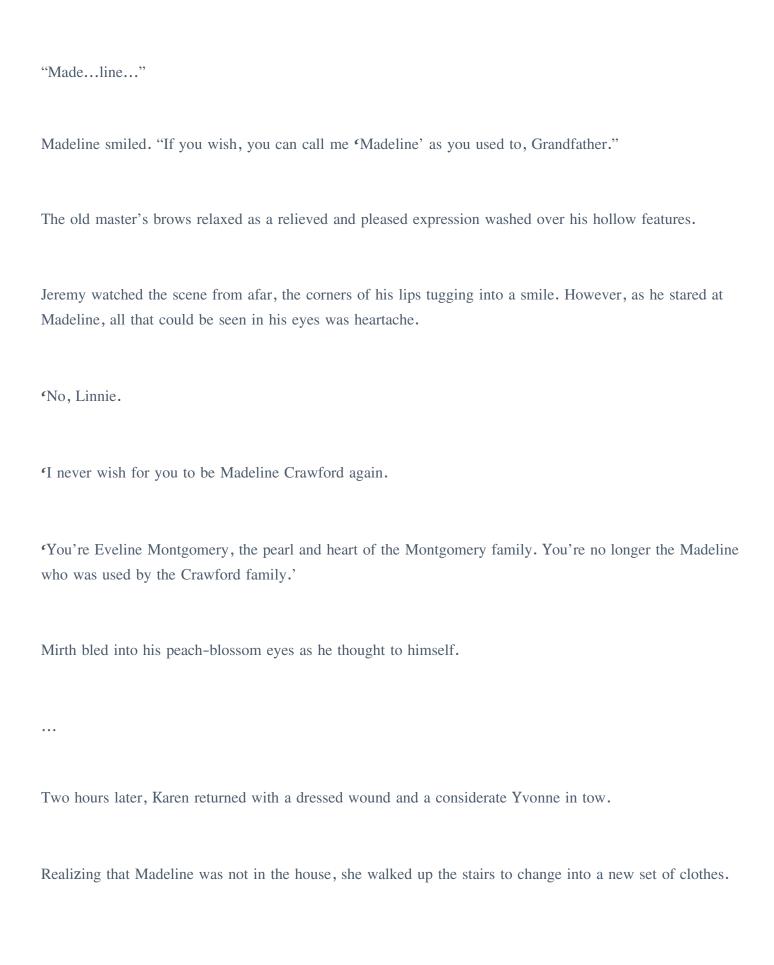
"What do you mean bleeding? Ah... Blood!" Only then did Karen realize the intensity of her wound. The flowing blood had her face losing more of its color.

"What's happening?" Winston returned as well, meeting a bloodied Karen right as he entered the house. He immediately went to check up on her. "What's with all this blood? Quick, we've got to get you to the hospital!"

"It's Madeline! She was the one who hit me, that evil woman!" Karen's tone was weak, but her expression was fierce when she clenched her jaw to point at Madeline.
Jeremy chose to walk in just in time to hear Karen point fingers at Madeline. He denied it in displeasure. "Nonsense. Linnie would never do such a thing."
Madeline stared quietly at Jeremy's strong demeanor. Was he protecting her?
Karen was frustrated and indignant. "I am your mother, Jeremy! Instead of believing me, how could you opt to believe the b*tch who caused our family's downfall?"
"I will not stand for such vocabulary about Linnie." Jeremy's brows furrowed as his expression grew cold. "Go to the hospital and get someone to look at the wound before it scars."
As frustrated Karen was of Jeremy defending Madeline, she was also afraid of scarring.
"Jeremy's right, Aunty Karen. Let's go to the hospital first, alright? Let's cool down a bit first." Yvonne agreed to Jeremy's words and helped Karen out.
With Yvonne turned around, Old Master Whitman began to whimper distressingly at her.
Everyone assumed that the old master was merely unwell, while Yvonne glared secretly at Old Master Whitman.
'So you think that you can tell them about what you saw, old man?
'You can forget about speaking until the day you die!'
Yvonne cursed him internally, sparing a glance at the flowerbed as she stepped out the door.

It was unlikely that anyone would find the jewelry box and wallet that were still there.
She thought to herself as her lips curled secretly.
The old master huffed and widened his eyes as he watched Yvonne leave so easily. With difficulty, he lifted his index finger and pointed it at the door. "Yvo"
Madeline and Jeremy shared a look before looking in the direction where the old master was pointing in.
They found a few drops of blood on the floor, probably from Karen's wound.
Jeremy immediately had the servants clean the floor for them. Realizing that neither Madeline nor Jeremy understood his meaning, the old master pouted like a child throwing a tantrum.
Madeline walked up behind the old master and slowly pushed him toward the courtyard outside.
Jeremy followed. "What happened just now, Linnie?"
Linnie.
He called her that again.
Madeline remembered being annoyed by the nickname in the beginning, but she found herself already used to it now.
"Your mom grabbed my hand and said that I was cruel the moment I walked in through the doors. She claimed that I hit her head and made her bleed."

At that, the old master tried hard to form words but could only make muffled sounds.
Madeline stopped pushing the wheelchair and went in front of the old master with a small smile. "Are you feeling unwell, Grandfather?"
The old master stared at Madeline, his eyes brimming with kind affection. "Mad"
"Are you trying to say 'Madeline'?"



Entering the room, Karen realized that her wallet and the jewelry she had placed on the vanity table were gone—including the jewelry box!
"Madeline Crawford!" Karen fumed, banging open the door and running down the stairs.
Pretending to be confused, Yvonne followed closely after Karen. "What's wrong, Aunty Karen? Aunty Karen!"
Madeline was just tucking the old master in bed when she heard a ruckus from outside the room.
Not wishing to disturb the old master, she closed the door behind her when she left.
Karen was furious as she searched for Madeline. When she saw her appear in front of her, Karen immediately rushed over without another word.
"Aunty Karen, Aunty Karen!" Yvonne pretended to hold her back, while in truth she wished for nothing more than to see Madeline get in trouble.
"Madeline Crawford!"
Madeline turned around at Karen's infuriated yell and was met with a fierce-looking Karen strutting up to her.
Karen raised a palm and aimed it at Madeline's cheek.
While Karen's actions were sudden, Madeline's reflexes were fast as well.
She grabbed Karen's hand and stared coldly at her. "Again?"

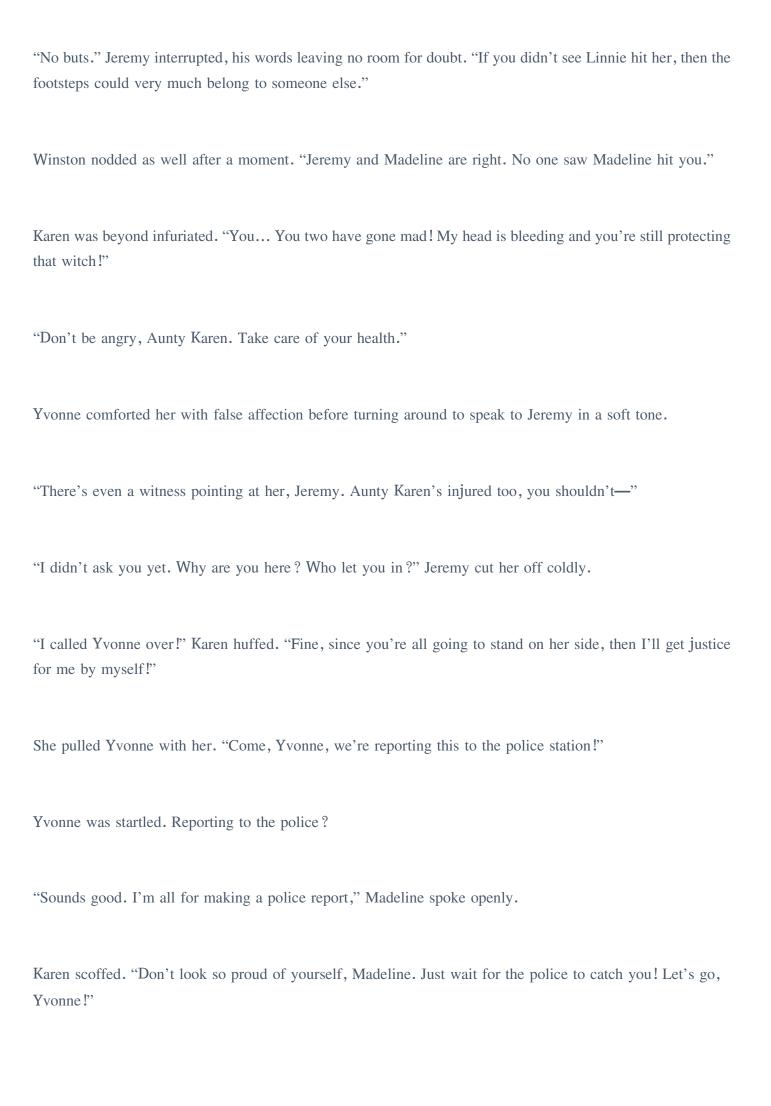
Karen's eyes widened angrily. "After what you've done, what's a slap to you?"
Madeline smiled. "What did I do this time?"
"You hit Aunty Karen's head!" Yvonne accused Madeline of her crimes. "And you stole Aunty Karen's accessories!"
Karen pulled her hand out of Madeline's grasp and took the cane lying on the sofa. "You think I'm afraid of you, Madeline? I'm telling you, even if Jeremy wants to protect you, I'll hit him too!"
With the cane striking down, Madeline felt a gust of wind brush past her.
Jeremy looped an arm around Madeline's shoulders and pulled her into his chest while the other reached out to hold the cane in place. His actions were followed by a cold tone drifting from his lips. "As long as I'm alive, no one will bully Linnie again."
Yvonne could not help but shiver as his bone-chilling eyes bore into them.
Karen refused to back down with how furious she was. She pointed at Madeline, her expression pale. "Jeremy! This woman made my head bleed. She also stole my jewelry and wallet! It's obvious that she's against me!"
"Bullsh*t." Jeremy chuckled. "Ignoring the fact that Linnie has both wealth and fame now, she would never touch your money even if she doesn't have a cent to her name."
Winston entered the room as he heard the chaos.
Understanding the situation, he spoke sternly, "There's no way. Why would Madeline steal your jewelry and wallet?"

"You're on her side too?" Karen was so frustrated that she was one step away from vomiting blood.

At that moment, the old master's care worker approached them carefully. "Excuse me, but I... I think I know who hit Madam just now."

At that, everyone's gazes fell on the female care worker.
Yvonne's heart thumped, remembering the scene where she had stolen the jewelry box and wallet before running down the stairs.
She had coincidentally stumbled upon Old Master Whitman who was being pushed out from the guest room o the first floor. They had locked eyes when they saw each other.
She had been too frantic that very moment to realize that there was a care worker behind Old Master Whitman
Thinking that she had been seen, Yvonne staggered two steps backward.
"You know who hit me?" Karen asked, pointing at Madeline, "Was it her?"
Displeased by Karen's interrogation method, Jeremy was about to open his mouth when he saw the care worker look at Madeline while nodding.
"Yes, it was this lady."
Both Madeline and Jeremy showed the same shocked expression at her response.
Winston was stunned and pointed at Madeline. "Are you sure it was this lady?"
The care worker took a closer look at Madeline's face and replied without a doubt, "It's her. This lady has lovely looks, so there's no way I would mistake her."

The care worker continued to explain. "I was pushing the old master to the courtyard when I heard someone running down the stairs. When I pushed the old master out the room, I saw this lady standing right there."
She pointed at the spot by the stairs.
Yvonne was dazed as she heard the other speak. She was overwhelmed with joy.
Of course, she saw Madeline about to enter the house when she was trying to run away. She could not believe that by doing so, Madeline had become her scapegoat.
That was great news!
"You've heard her! I'm not framing her!" Karen grew bold. "She must have first run into my room to steal my accessories and wallet, then hit me when she was afraid that I would find out. I'd like to see how you're going to object to this, Madeline!"
"Linnie doesn't need to object to anything because she hasn't done what you're accusing her of." Jeremy was adamant about Madeline's innocence.
Seeing the determination and trust in Jeremy's eyes, Madeline knew he meant his words.
"Have you truly lost your rationality to this woman's charms, Jeremy? She hit your mom and you're still defending her?" Karen glared venomously at Madeline in her infuriation.
Madeline was unfazed. She turned to ask the care worker, "You said you heard someone run down the stairs, then you saw me standing there, yes? I'd like to know if you actually saw me hit her."
The care worker frowned. "I didn't, but—"



Unable to reject her, Yvonne followed.

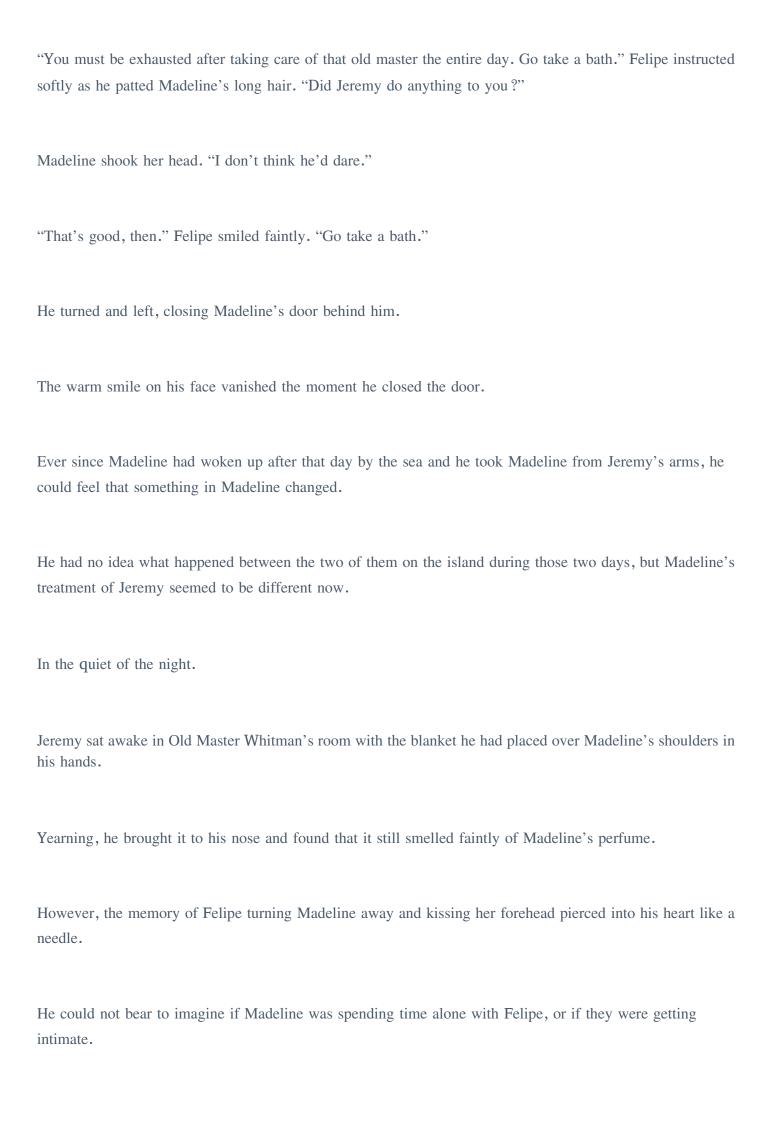
watched her leave.

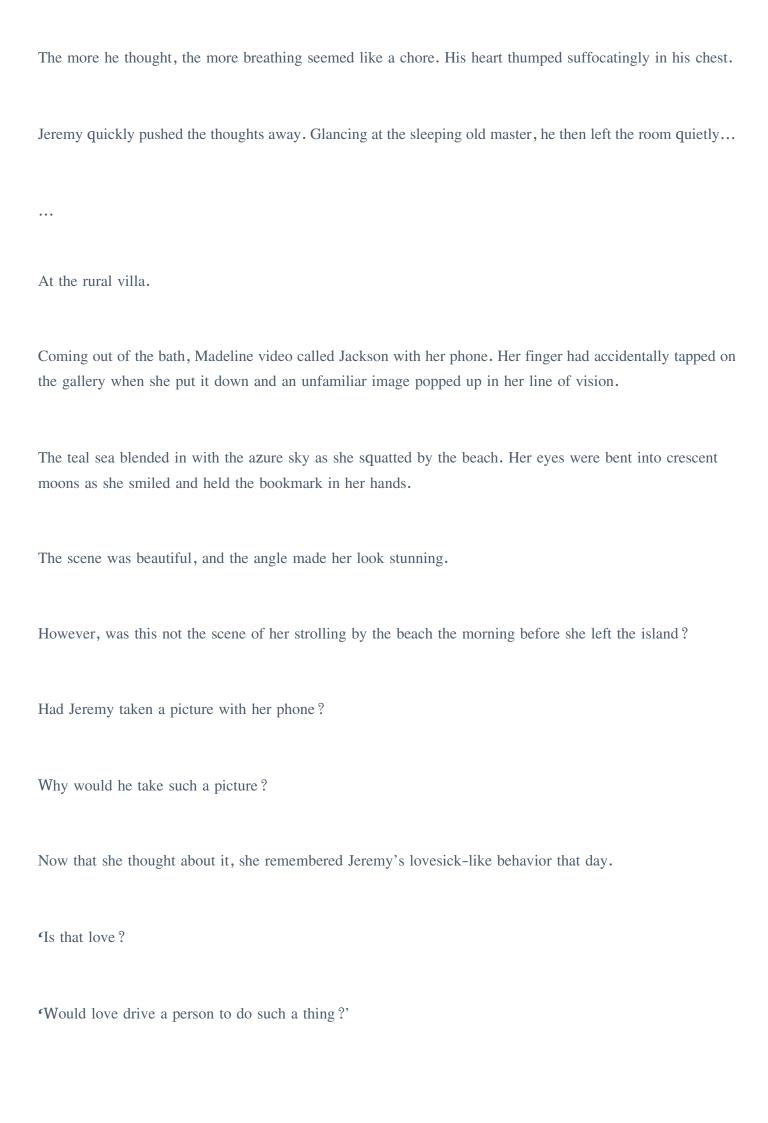
"I'm sure this has nothing to do with you. I believe you," Winston told Madeline sincerely before turning to tell the care worker, "Don't worry about it. If the police come and ask, just tell them the truth about what you saw."
The care worker gave Madeline and Jeremy a fearful glance before she nodded and left.
Jeremy and Madeline were now alone in the room.
His gaze was warm and confident as he took away the arm he placed around Madeline's shoulder.
"I believe you, Linnie."
Madeline smiled faintly. "I've had my fair share of these 'conclusive evidence' situations, haven't I? I'm probably used to it already."
Used to it.
Jeremy found the phrase extremely ironic.
She had gotten used to being wronged, which meant she had suffered too many unwarranted slander and charges.
Seeing the pain and regret in Jeremy's eyes, Madeline turned around without a care.
Jeremy did not want to disturb her, nor did he want Madeline to hate him anymore, so he stood quietly as he

•••
Madeline spent the rest of the day with the old master until the sky turned dark.
Jeremy left the study now that he was done with work and walked toward the old master's room in hopes to speak to Madeline. He saw her lying on the study table.
With a book in hand, she had fallen asleep quietly. She was unguarded in a way that reminded him of an innocent child.
'She must be exhausted.'
Jeremy thought to himself caringly as he turned to leave the room. He returned shortly after with a blanket in hand as he carefully walked toward Madeline and covered her body with it.
Jeremy had intended to leave and not disrupt her any further after placing a blanket on her, but he found himself unable to hold back as his warm fingertips fell on and massaged the crease of her eyebrows.
His heartbeat slowly turned joyful. He understood the sudden sweetness that washed over him.
However, his heart clenched painfully as his fingertips fell on Madeline's cheek.
Her fair and flawless cheek had been marred with a wretched gash back then when Meredith disfigured her face.
She had been in so much pain, yet he tore the bandage away and mocked about how her wound was fake.
'I'm sorry, Linnie.'

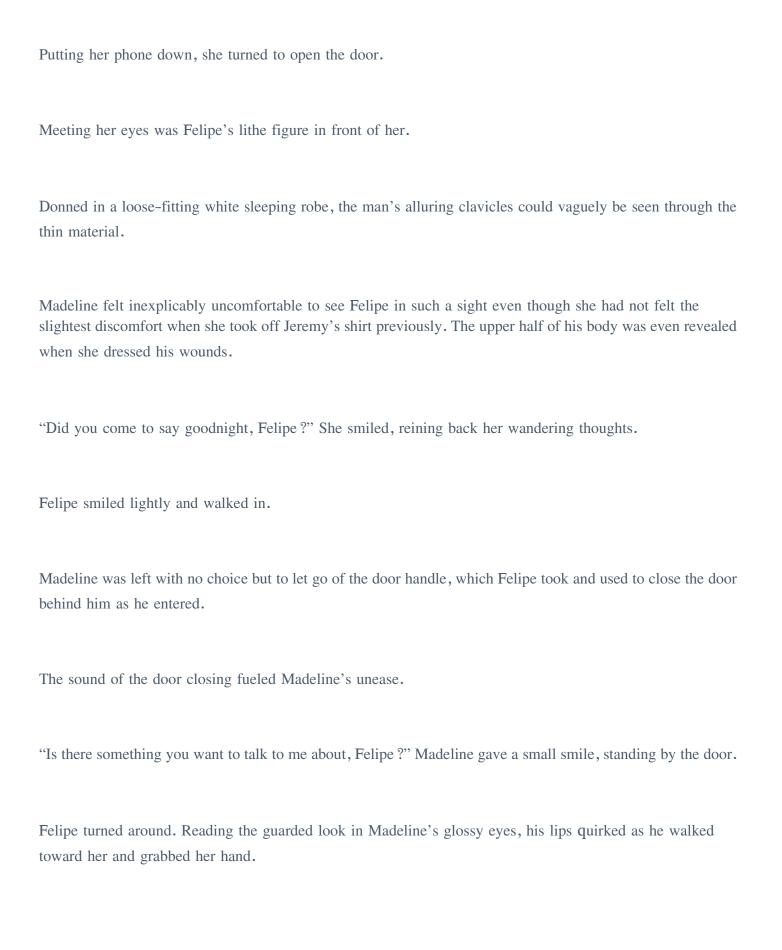
He apologized internally as he leaned down to steal a peck on Madeline's cheek.
The temperature of her face swarmed his heart with warmth.
Like a thief who had stolen something, he immediately fled and pretended as if he never went to the room at all.
Soon after, Madeline woke naturally to find herself covered by a blanket. There was a slightly minty scent. If memory served her right, that was also how Jeremy smelled like.
Dazed, her phone vibrated in notification of a call from Felipe.
He had already arrived at the villa's gates to fetch Madeline home.
Madeline replied before packing up to leave after seeing that the old master was still serenely asleep.
She closed the room door behind as she left, only to have Jeremy appear before her.
"Are you going back? I can send you if you want."
"No thanks." Madeline rejected curtly. "Felipe's already waiting for me outside."
Madeline turned to leave before Jeremy could even retract the disappointment in his eyes.
Seeing Jeremy walk out with Madeline, Felipe alighted the car to wrap his arms around Madeline. The corners of Felipe's lips tugged into a smirk as he looked at Jeremy before suddenly leaning down to press a kiss between Madeline's brows.

Felipe's peck was sudden, and as shocked as Madeline was, she could not help but remember that Jeremy was right behind them.
Something told her that Felipe kissed her just for Jeremy to see, but she got in the car quietly without commenting on it.
Felipe gave Jeremy, whose expression screamed of frost, a glance from the corner of his eyes as his lips curled into a mocking smile.
He alighted the car and stepped on the accelerator.
In the passenger seat, Madeline's eyes could not help but stare at the diminishing figure from the rear-view mirror.
Under the moonlight, the heavy loneliness and torment could not be more clear on the man's face.
He was evidently displeased, but he was also suppressing it.
Madeline thought Felipe would send her back to Montgomery Manor, but the car had instead stopped at a single villa in the outskirts of town.
As far as she could remember, she had never spent the night here before.
Felipe brought Madeline to her designated room and had the maids bring her amenities and sleepwear.

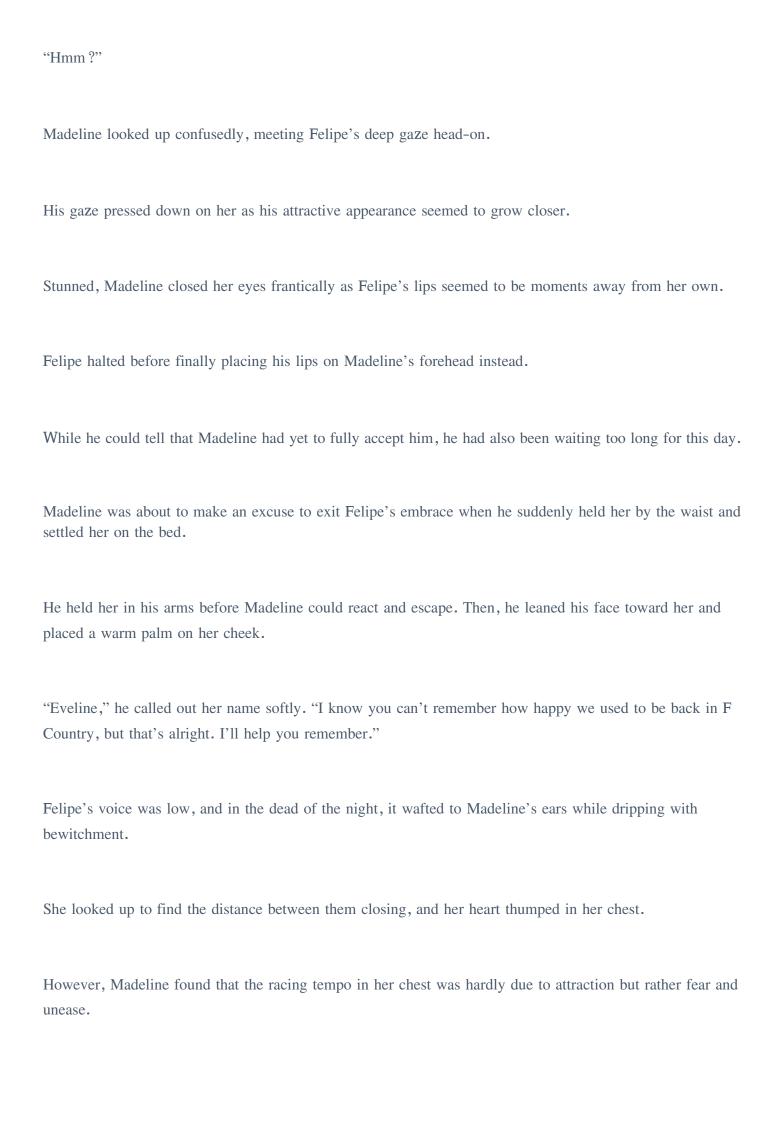




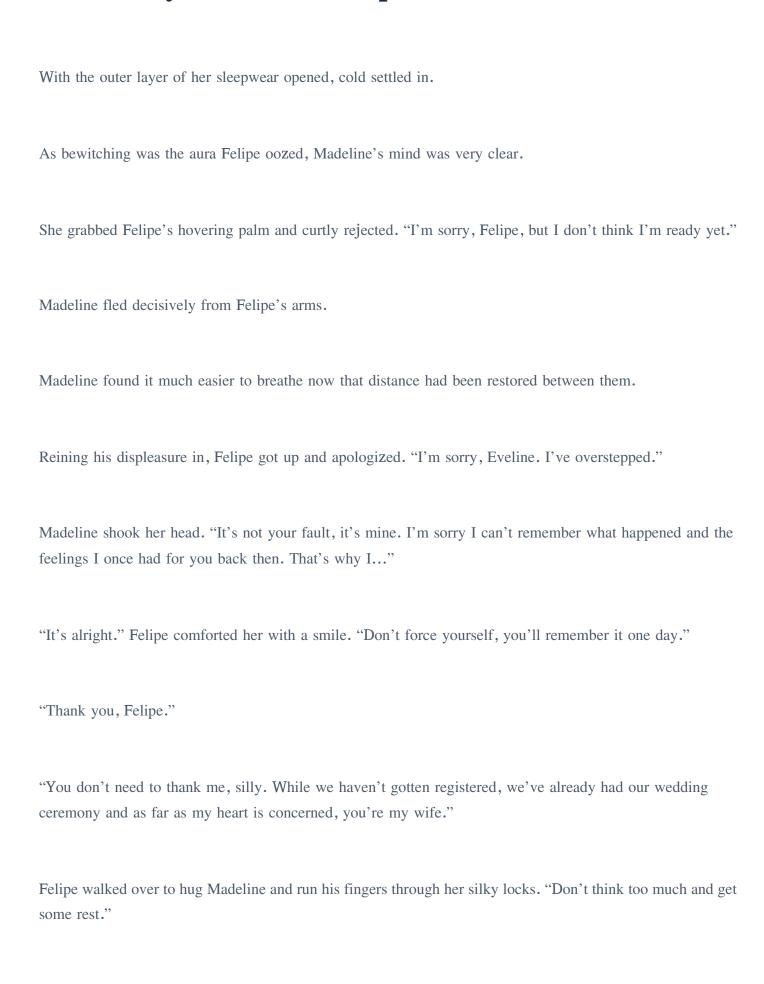
Madeline was deep in thought when the light knocks on the door brought her out of it.	



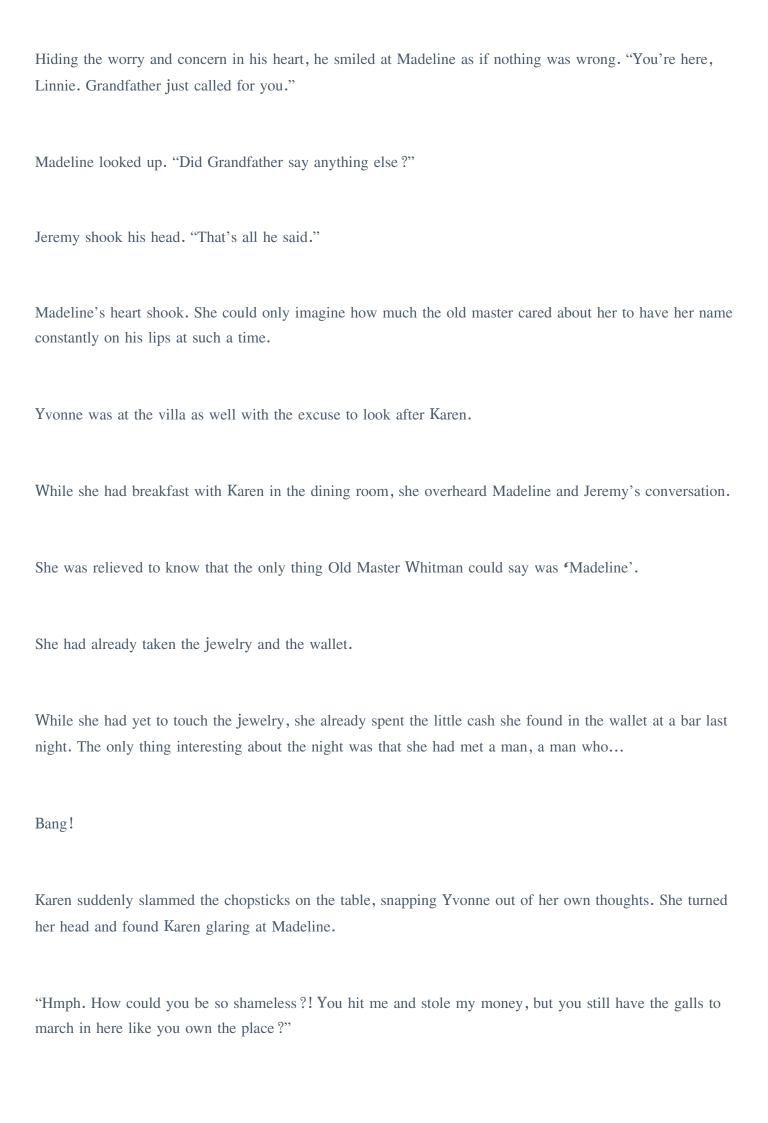
"Vera, or perhaps I should call you Eveline, considering that's your birth name." Felipe's tone was gentle as it drifted to her ears like the soft evening summer breeze, while a slender finger reached out to tug wisps of her hair behind her ear.
"I swore to myself the moment you almost died on the operating table because of Jeremy and Meredith that I would never let anything harm you again."
The walls in Madeline's eyes slowly gave away, leaving gratefulness in their wake.
"Thank you, Felipe. You saved me once back then, and you saved me again when I fell into the sea. I would've died had it not been for you."
"I won't let anything happen to you." Felipe's gaze was deep. "I promised myself ever since we met by the seaside on April Hill, and I promised you as well that I'd protect you forever."
Madeline lifted her sparkling eyes at his words to take in every detail on the man's face.
The familiar sharp bows and starlit eyes bore warmth, yet her mind seemed to supply her with Jeremy's appearance instead.
Before she could think deeper into it, she found herself pulled into Felipe's arms.
The man had a cooling fragrance to him, faint, but rather enchanting.
Madeline's heart raced.
Felipe's thin lips tilted into a provocative angle as he looked down at the dazed woman in his arms.
"Eveline."



Felipe placed his lips between her brows as his slender fingers fell on the buttons of her sleepwear, unbuttoning them slowly						







"Don't be too loud, Aunty	Karen. We don't want	t to irk Jeremy in case h	ne hears us." Yvonne	reminded her
with mock kindness.				

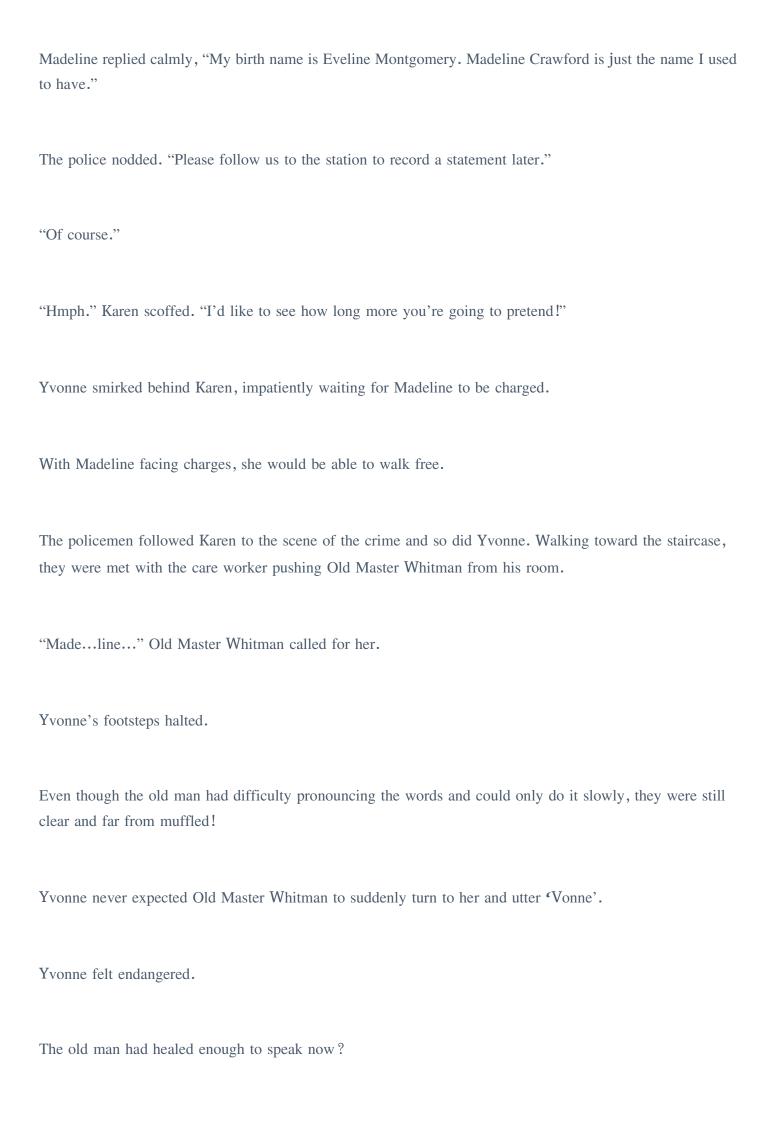
However, her words only managed to fuel Karen's fury.

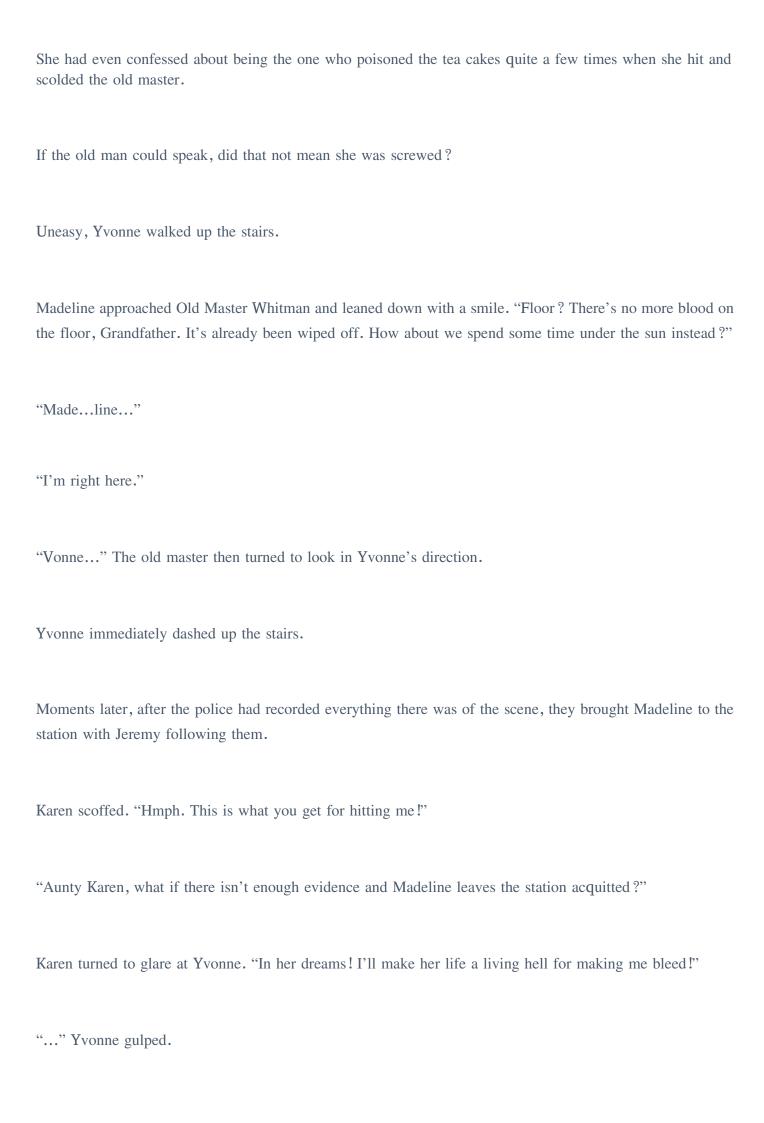
"So what if he hears? I'm the victim here. Are you telling me I have to keep quiet when the culprit is standing in front of me?" Karen threw her cutlery down and marched furiously toward Madeline.

"Jeremy isn't your husband anymore, Madeline. You have nothing to do with the Whitman family, so why do you still come here every day? To make my life difficult by being an eyesore?"

Madeline turned back and smiled. "You're very welcome to turn and look the other way if you think I'm an eyesore."



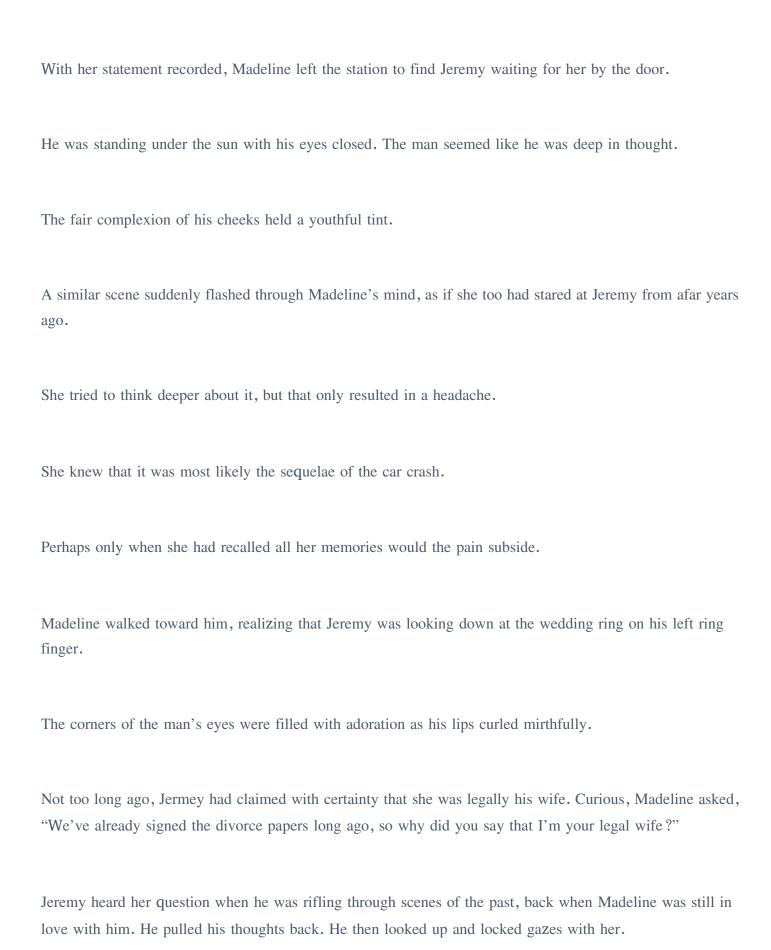


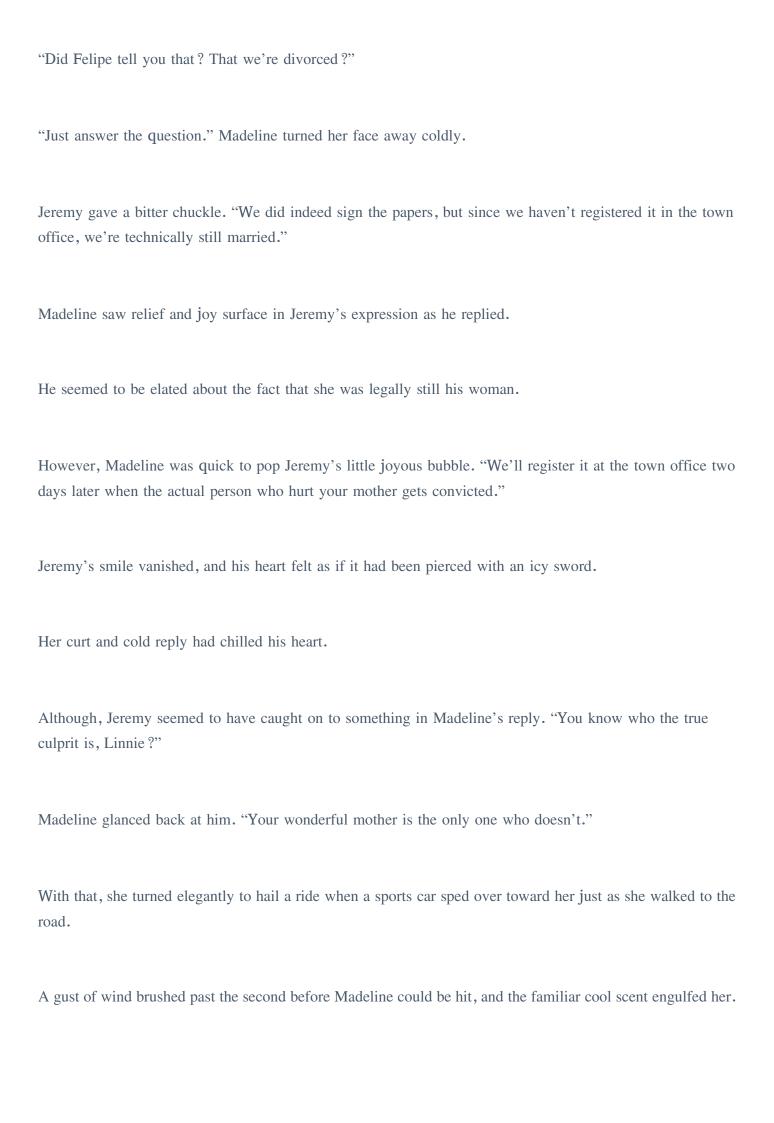


Turning around to find Old Master Whitman glaring at her, Yvonne clenched her fists quietly.

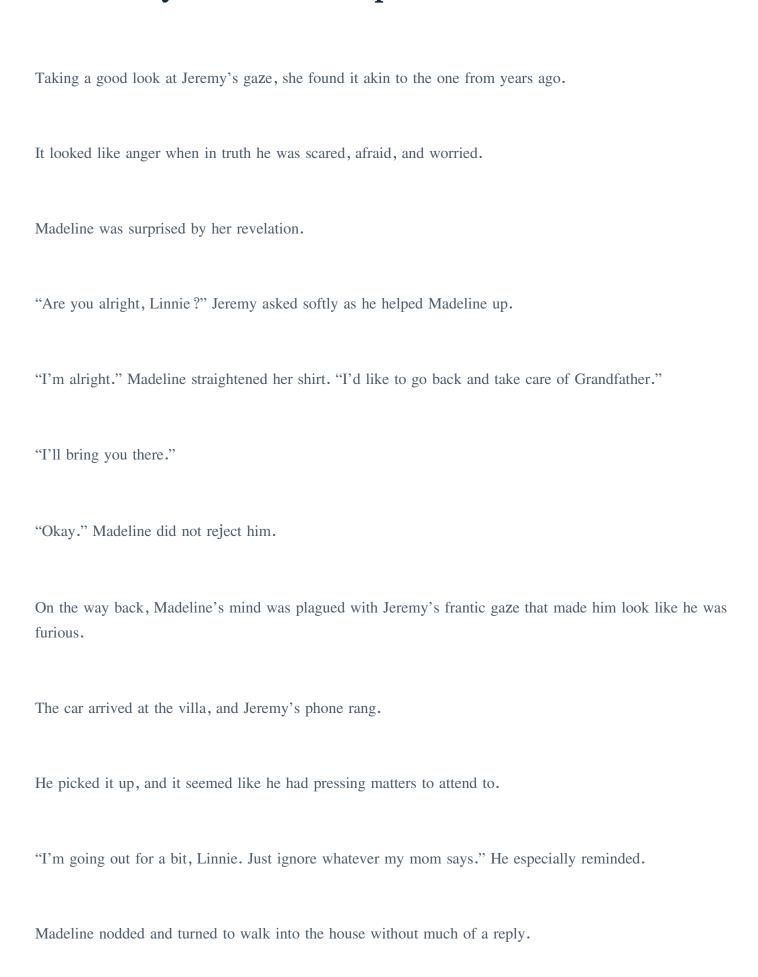
She would do anything to prevent Karen from knowing that she was the true culprit, even if it meant shutting Old Master Whitman up for good! After all, he was the only person who knew the truth.

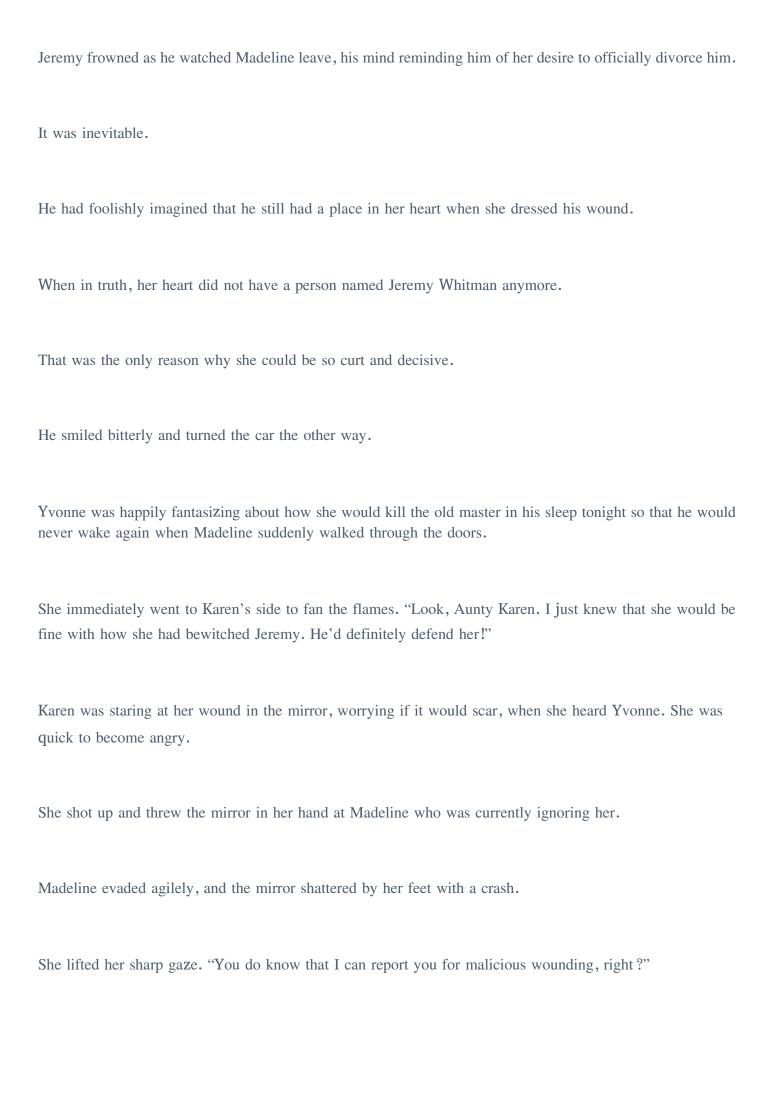
Yvonne glared at Old Master Whitman with a sinister smile. She would act tonight.





Jeremy pulled Madeline into his arms, albeit he had used too much strength due to his concern. Madeline lost her center of gravity, and the two rolled onto the asphalt.
Jeremy had a hand over the back of Madeline's head as he held her close to him until they came to a halt.
"Are you alright, Linnie?" Jeremy asked worriedly as his grip loosened slightly.
Madeline's blank but widened and glossy eyes reflected Jeremy's concerned expression.
Her nerves tugged, and her mind flashed with another memory that had been sealed deeply away.
She saw herself standing in the middle of the street as she tried her best to avoid the man who had hurt her thoroughly.
She wanted to die, only to have Jeremy rush toward and pull her into his chest as they rolled to the side of the street as they did just now.
The man had even warned her, saying, "Madeline, listen to me! Even if you really want to die, you can only die by my hands!"
'Can only die by his hands'
"Linnie? Linnie!"
Madeline's blank look had Jeremy frightened.
Only after a few calls did Madeline's eyes spark. She was conscious and aware now.





"Hahaha!" Karen doubled over as if she had heard the best joke in her life. "How are you shameless enough to talk about suing me? Let me tell you, Madeline. If this wound of mine scars, I promise you, I'll give you the same scar on your face!"

Yvonne felt as if someone had hit her head twice.

Realizing Jeremy had not come in with Madeline, Yvonne immediately helped scold Madeline, "How could you be so sinister, Madeline? First, you poisoned the old master. Now you hit Aunty Karen? You're obviously taking revenge! You're trying to kill them!"

"Don't think you'll get away with this, Madeline! I'll make sure Jeremy sees your true identity. When that happens, you can spend the rest of your days in jail and never come out!" Karen cursed her harshly.

Madeline's eyes grew cold and her tone frosty. "That's right! So what if I am taking revenge? I can't wait for all of you to die! You hurt me first!"

She stepped closer to Karen as she spoke, causing the latter to shiver and stagger backward at Madeline's overwhelming aura.

Madeline's eyes were cold as she glared at her. "Oh, how I regret not hitting you harder that day. I should have killed you, then you wouldn't be bothering me, you eyesore!"

Karen and Yvonne's eyes widened in shock.

'What? Why would Madeline confess to hitting Aunty Karen when I was the one who hit this idiotic and annoying woman?'

Karen's was twitching from frustration. "You... So you're finally admitting to being the one who hit me, huh, Madeline?!"

She pointed a trembling finger at Madeline b her, Jeremy! She	pefore suddenly	turning to look at	the door. "Jerei	ny! You heard

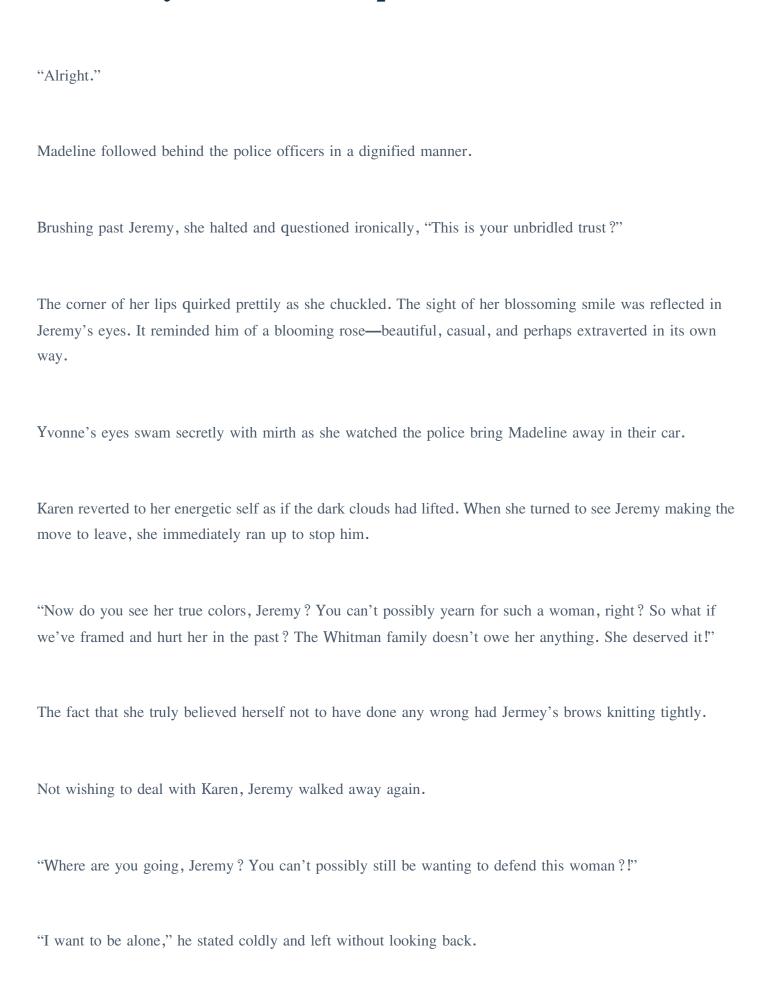
Madeline turned around to see Jeremy standing by the entrance.
While the fact that Jeremy had turned back around shocked her, she ensured that her expression betrayed nothing.
She did not care whether Jeremy had heard the words she said.
"Jeremy! You heard what this woman said, right? She admitted it! She admitted to hitting Aunty Karen! How could she be so cruel? Even after doing something like that, she still has the galls to act innocent too!" Yvonne took the chance to make Madeline look bad.
"You can't possibly still believe that she's innocent, right, Jeremy? All it took was a bit of taunting from me and she admitted everything! How can she be so wicked?" Furious flames flared in Karen's eyes.
Jeremy stared at a poised Madeline and slowly walked over.
His gaze dimmed with every step, the look on his face turning into disappointment.
"I can't believe that it really was you, Linnie." He seemed to have believed her.
Karen's expression bloomed into a relieved smile at Jeremy's sigh.
Yvonne was ecstatic now that Jeremy would no longer defend Madeline!

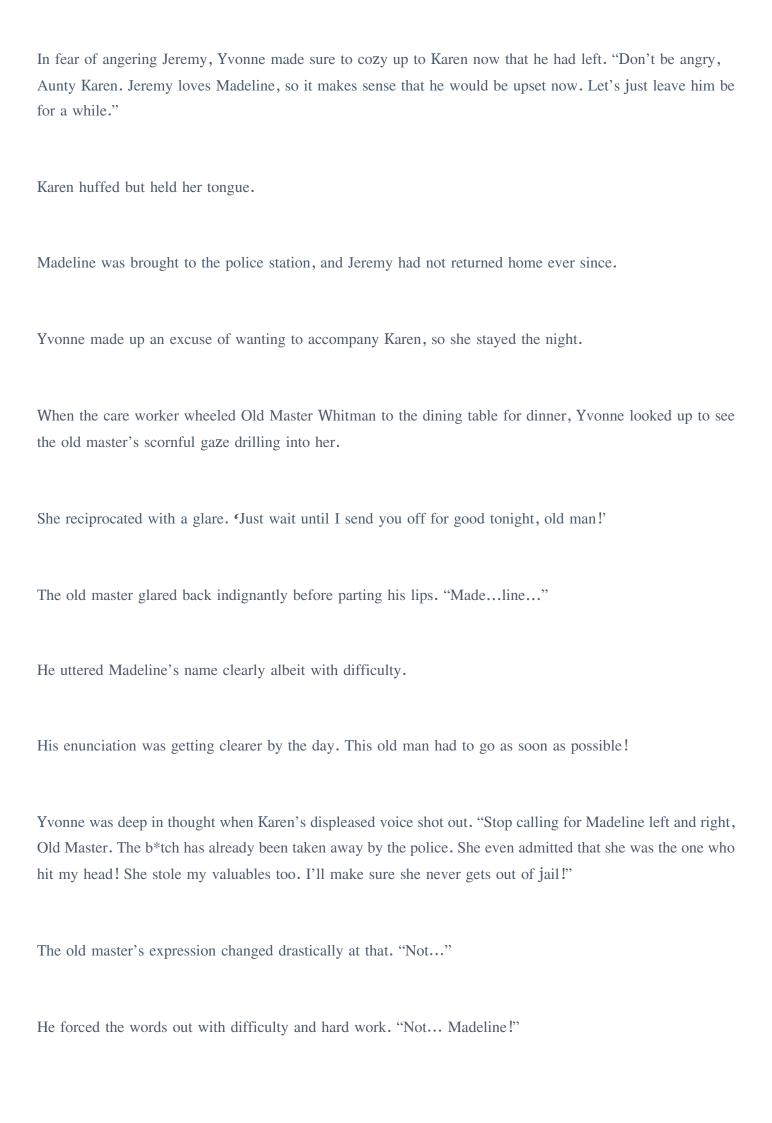
Even if Madeline's confession was purely fury-driven, as long as Jeremy believed that Madeline was the one

who hurt Karen, then that would be the final truth.

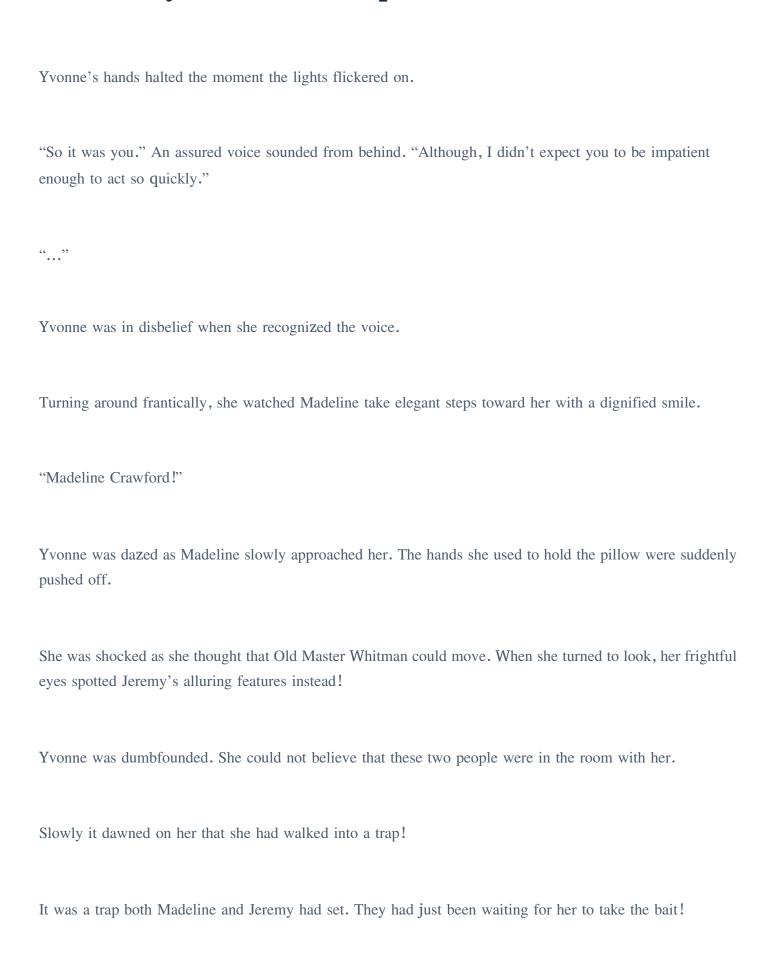
In the end, all she had to do was ensure that Old Master Whitman would never speak again. If Yvonne succeeded, she would be able to walk free!
Elated, she looked up to see Jeremy frowning at Madeline with his peach-blossom eyes that were filled with disappointment.
What a wonderful turn of events!
"Answer me, Linnie. Was it really you?" Jeremy asked again, refusing to believe that she did it.
Madeline responded with an indifferent glance, "So what if I did? You've already called the police, didn't you? Arrest me if you have evidence."
"You Madeline Crawford, have you no sense of self-preservation at all?" Karen was infuriated.
Yvonne pretended to comfort her, saying, "Don't be angry, Aunty Karen. People like her will be punished sooner or later!"
"Shut it." Jeremy shot back at Yvonne, his gaze still lingering on Madeline. "Why would you do such a thing, Linnie?"
Madeline scoffed. "Why? Are you honestly asking me 'why' now?"
She fired back sarcastically as she walked toward Jeremy, her emotionless eyes sharpening instantly.
"Ask yourself and your gracious mother how have you guys treated me in the past, hmm? What is the speck of blood she bled today in comparison to the blood that poured out of my wounds back then?

"So what if her forehead scars? You lot played an indirect role in the disfigurement of my face as well. How do you want to account for that?"
Madeline questioned as her sharp gaze fell on Karen's face.
"What do you have to complain about when you didn't even take responsibility for the time you pushed me onto the floor? My forehead bled when it hit the corner of the coffee table and you didn't even apologize. Not even once!"
"" Karen's initial confidence to yell back at Madeline shrunk. "You So you did do it for revenge, Madeline Crawford! You were the one who hit me!"
"So what if I did? Are you telling me you've never hit me? Who are you to accuse me?"
"" Karen had nothing to retort. Her expression flashed from anger to humiliation as she ordered Yvonne, "Call the police, Yvonne! Call the police! This woman has admitted to everything!"
Yvonne immediately obliged, unable to wait for Madeline to be locked behind bars. The fact that Jeremy did not stop her only elated her mood.
The police arrived shortly with Karen and Yvonne both accusing Madeline.
Before the police's questioning, Madeline admitted calmly, "Indeed, those were my words."
"Please follow us to the police station for an investigation. We'll let you go accordingly if we conclude that you're innocent."





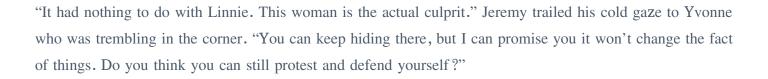
Yvonne's heart skipped a beat in fear that the old master would continue to force his words out, so she got the care worker to immediately bring the old master away.
Karen did not care, and with neither Jeremy nor Winston at home, she had nothing to fear.
After dinner, Yvonne waited patiently until the dead of the night when she dressed herself in the same clothes she had worn to the nursing home when she pretended to be Madeline. With both the wig and the mask, Madeline would be the one charged even if she were found out.
Having been seen last time on the cameras, Yvonne made sure to keep the lights off as she tiptoed into the old master's room.
Ensuring that the old master was fast asleep and snoring on the bed, she took a pillow and covered the old master's face with it.
"Die, old man! I'd like to see how you're going to talk when you're dead!"
She smirked sinisterly and pushed harder.
Just then, the lights were switched on!



Yvonne was frantic, but upon remembering that she had a mask on and could not be considered completely exposed, she calmed at the knowledge that she still had a chance to flee and save herself.
With that, Yvonne turned around to run toward the door.
Madeline was standing in her way, so she lifted a hand to push her away fiercely.
However, Madeline evaded it agilely while she stuck a leg out.
Focused on leaving, Yvonne tripped on the leg and landed on the floor face down with a thud.
"Ah!" she shouted in agony and climbed up to run again, ignoring the pain from the fall. However, she then found Winston appearing by the door.
Yvonne staggered backward in shock, knocking into the closet. Her legs felt heavy as if they had been filled with metal.
Indeed, it was a trap!
She had taken the bait!
"What's happening? What's with all this noise? It's the middle of the night. Old Master, what are you doing?" Karen walked over with a groan as she rubbed her bleary eyes.
A good part of her drowsiness vanished at the sight of Winston. "Win? Didn't you say you were going on a business trip? I thought you'd only be back in another two days? Why are you"
At that, her eyes fell on Madeline who was standing in the middle of the room.

"Madeline Crawford? What are you doing here in the middle of the night? How could the police release you so quickly already? I suppose your parents must have tipped the guards quite the amount, huh?" Karen mocked, her eyes burning with hatred before she turned to complain to Winston. "Did you know, Win? This woman admitted it herself this morning that—" "Linnie didn't do anything illegal, so why wouldn't she be let off?" Jeremy's casual tone drifted from the room. Karen was stunned. She immediately entered the room to find Jeremy also inside, defending Madeline. She was about to express her displeasure when her eyes fell on another woman standing by the closet with her back against them. The woman was dressed like Madeline, and even their heights were similar. "Who's this?" Karen pointed at Yvonne. Madeline quirked a delicate brow and replied coldly, "That is the woman who made your head bleed and stole your jewelry."

"What?" Karen was shocked as she stared at Madeline. "But the one who hit me was..."



" ; ;

Karen was confused. "What's going on? Who's this woman?"

Winston walked over and ripped Yvonne's mask off her face before pushing her toward Karen. "Take a good look. This is the woman who hit you and stole both your wallet and your jewelry!"

Looking at the person in front of her, Karen was dazed.

"Yvonne!"

"It's not me, Aunty Karen!" Yvonne argued frantically. "Madeline is the one who set a trap to frame me! It really wasn't me. I didn't do anything! You're my aunt, the only family I have in Glendale. Why would I hit you and steal your things? It really wasn't me!"

"You've already been exposed, so why try and shift the blame to Linnie?" Jeremy had long lost his patience. "The fact that you slipped into Grandfather's room just now to try and suffocate him with a pillow is enough evidence of your crimes."

"No, I didn't..." Yvonne tried to force tears out of her eyes pitifully. "It really wasn't me, Aunty Karen. You have to believe me!"

Taking in her niece's sobs, Karen turned to glare at Madeline. "It's you, isn't it, Madeline? You did all this because you want to shift the blame to Yvonne! Yvonne's an innocent child who I've raised ever since she was a child. How could she do such a thing? Not to mention that I'm her aunt!"

Not in the mood to argue, Madeline parted her lips calmly. "I did all this to lure the culprit out, just like how I purposely told you that I was the one who hit you. I did that to lower the culprit's guard."

"What?" Karen was stunned. She said it on purpose?

Not giving Karen the time to digest, Madeline continued.

"Do you remember when Grandfather pointed at the entrance and kept saying the word 'Vonne' that day? Both Jeremy and I thought we heard him wrong and he was saying the word 'floor' as in the blood splatters on the ground. When in truth, Grandfather was pointing at Yvonne who had walked out the door with you."

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"Grandfather said the word 'Vonne' again as he stared at Yvonne who was walking up the stairs. I understood, but I pretended not to for the same reason.

"I also realized the way Yvonne would look at Grandfather, so I deduced that Grandfather must have seen you get hit. To walk free, there was no doubt that Yvonne would think to kill the only witness. And with Grandfather's current physical state, no one would suspect it if he passed in his sleep."

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Yvonne's expression turned ashen.

Madeline had seen through her plans all along!
Even Jeremy's disappointment toward her was fake for they had joined forces to sniff her out!
Seeing the shift in Yvonne's expression, it finally made sense to Karen.
Without holding back, Karen landed a resounding slap across Yvonne's face. "Yvonne Yaleman! So this is what I get after everything I've done for you? I fetched you back from overseas, I gave you a place to stay, I made sure you're well-fed, and I even gave you allowance to spend! How could you think to steal from me? I'll kill you for stealing my money!"
"I didn't, Aunty Karen! Don't believe her lies!" Yvonne continued to argue. "I'm being framed! They have no proof!"
"Of course, we have proof," Madeline replied nonchalantly, crushing the last embers of hope within Yvonne. "While this piece of evidence may not prove that you stole and attacked others, it proves that you were the one who dressed like me and sneaked into the nursing home to poison the old master's tea cakes. You then shifted the blame to me."
"What? You were the one who poisoned the old master?" Karen was baffled.
Yvonne sobbed and shook her head. "I didn't poison anyone! I didn't hit anyone!"
"You did!"
A strong voice sounded and Yvonne's expression froze as she turned in the direction of the voice.
Her spine grew cold when she saw the person. She was utterly screwed.

Karen turned to look as well and was taken by surprise. "Old Old Master?"
The care worker pushed Old Master Whitman into the room.
Yvonne's lips twitched as she felt her body grow cold.
The old master might not be in the best state of mind, but his eyes were sharp and awake.
He glared at Yvonne and spat out the words slowly but clearly.
"You That day You were the one. I saw. You ran down the stairs with a jewelry box. There was blood on the box! You You wanted to run But did not expect Mad-Madeline to be there. You had no choice, so you hid in the flowerbed. When Madeline came in she became your scapegoat!"
""
While the words were said with difficulty, they were clear and left Yvonne with no way to deny it.
"You! You heard him, Yvonne! How could you still deny that it wasn't you?" Fuming, Karen slapped Yvonne again.
Yvonne shouted and stopped protesting as she cupped her cheek.

"You b*tch! How could you be so cruel as to steal my money and hit me?! You even pretended to be kind and stayed by my side, you sinister woman!"
"Hmph! She even hit me, let alone you!" The old master scoffed. "That's not all. She even dressed like Madeline and poisoned the tea cakes! She thought I would never speak again, so she confessed when she beat me!"
"What?" Winston now came to know the truth behind the poisoning. "You've been beating the old master this entire time? You even poisoned him and shifted the blame to Madeline?!"
Instantly furious, he turned to slap Yvonne across the face!
"Ah!" Yvonne's lips bled from the slaps and both her cheeks were donned with purple handprints.
"I'm ashamed to call you my niece, Yvonne Yaleman! What is wrong with you, you psychological pervert?!"
"She's definitely wrong in the head. Or why would she fall in love with her cousin? For Jeremy to like her, she did so much and shifted the blame to Madeline so that she could break them up!"
Winston and Karen were shocked when they heard the old master state the reason behind Yvonne's actions.
Jeremy was shocked too, but Madeline appeared rather calm.

She had guessed long ago that the only reason this woman would go to such ruthless ends was because

of her twisted love for Jeremy.

"You How could you fall in love with Jeremy? You You shameless b*tch!" Karen's mind was going haywire as she raised an arm to slap her again.
Yvonne's eyes hardened as she pushed Karen away.
"Shut up, you old witch!" She roared.
Karen widened her eyes. "You're calling me an old witch?"
"So what if I am? That's what you are, a dumb old witch! You spend the whole day thinking you're so smart when in truth you're just a f*cking idiot!"
Karen was infuriated beyond words. "What? You You"
"Why can't I love Jeremy? A great man like Jeremy should have a smart woman like me by his side!"
Yvonne's reddened eyes glared at Madeline like she had been possessed by the devil.
"You have no right, Madeline! You're not worthy to be with Jeremy!"
"There will be no other woman who will ever own my heart. Madeline is the only one. The unworthy person is me," Jeremy spoke calmly, his words dealing the most fatal blow to Yvonne.

She clenched her fists	indignantly before	suddenly turning	ng to push K	Caren harshly	out of the way	. She then ran
toward the gates.						

"Ow!" Caught off guard, Karen knocked into Winston.

"Take care of Grandfather, Linnie. I'll catch her." Jeremy immediately ran after her.

"That b\*tch! I should never have taken care of such an unfilial rascal!" Karen shouted.

The care worker looked at Madeline sheepishly from behind the old master's wheelchair. "My apologies, Miss Crawford. I've misunderstood you."

"My name's Eveline Montgomery. You can call me Miss Montgomery." Madeline smiled softly. "I don't blame you for telling the truth."

She walked toward Old Master Whitman and broke into a smile. "That was cheeky, Grandfather. I didn't know you could speak such coherent sentences already."

Old Master Whitman responded with a deep gaze. "You've been wronged again, my child."

Madeline shook her head with a smile. "Misunderstandings tend to unfurl sooner or later. I don't mind being misunderstood, but I'm afraid not everyone is willing to admit to their mistakes when the truth is written in front of them."

Karen looked ashamed as she felt Madeline's words were implied at her.

"My sincerest apologies, Madeline. For all my horrendous words and accusations when I misunderstood you for poisoning the old master." Winston apologized. Both the man's attitude and tone were nothing short of sincere, and his eyes shone with sympathy which Madeline had not expected. "You've suffered too many wrongings and slanders ever since you married into the Whitman family. Now that I think about it, none of those things had conclusive proof. I can completely understand if you hate us and wish for revenge." Winston's gaze was warm as he pulled Karen over. "Apologize to Madeline already. If you, as her mother-in-law, had been a little smarter, Madeline would never have suffered as much as she did these years as our daughter-in-law." "..." Karen struggled out of Winston's grasp in displeasure. "What does it have to do with me? It's not like

I'm the one who hurt her."

"You're still claiming that it has nothing to do with you? Are you telling me you've never hurt Madeline?"

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"It's alright, Mr. Whitman." Madeline interrupted with a smile. "I don't need a forced and insincere apology."

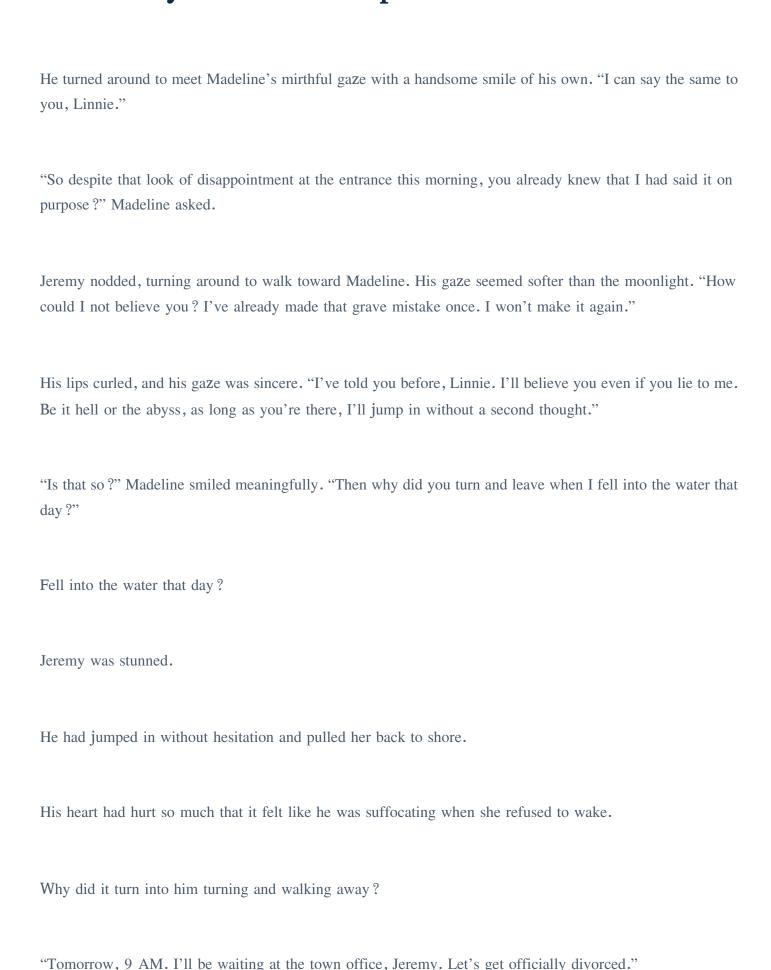
She glanced at Karen's arrogant expression.

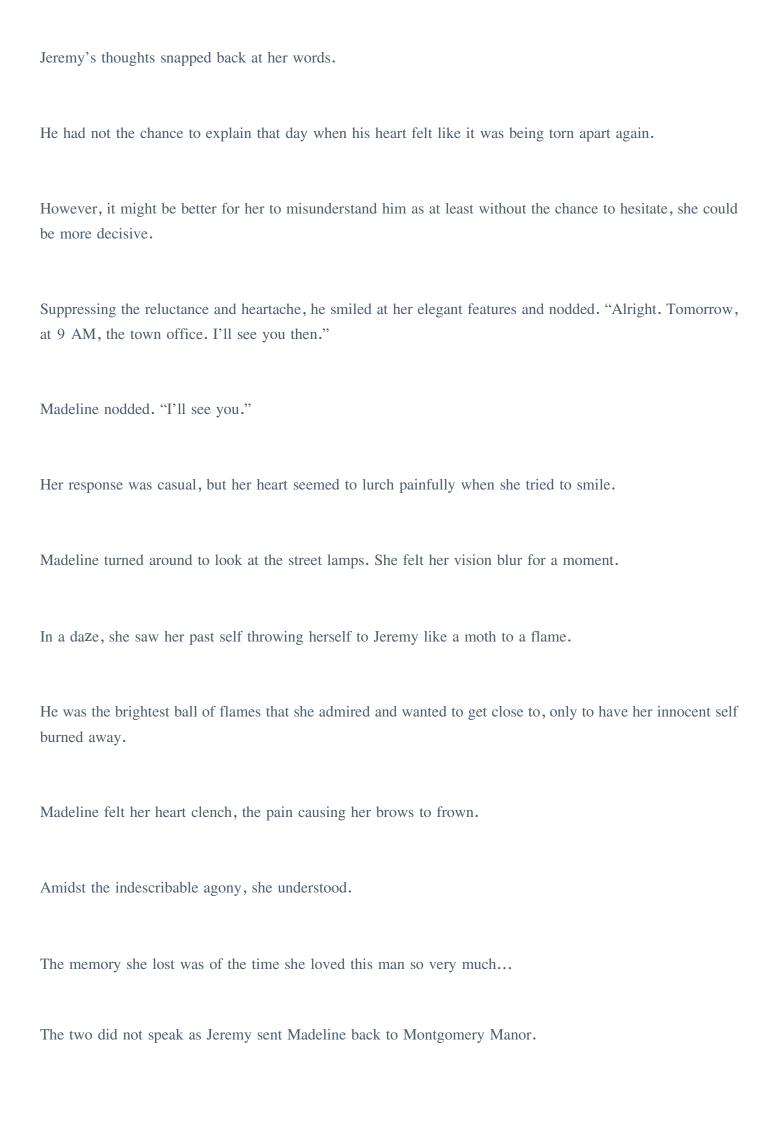
"It's very late, Grandfather. I'll be going home now. You should get some rest soon."

"Madeline..."

"I'll be back to visit you tomorrow."

Her promise brought a comforting smile to Old Master Whitman's face. "It's already very late. You might as well stay since you and Jeremy are still husband and wife." Winston persuaded. "Jeremy knows he made a mistake, so give him another chance." "Jeremy and I will be registering our divorce at the town office tomorrow. We aren't husband and wife." Madeline's response had both Winston and Old Master Whitman sighing under their breaths. Madeline made her way to the villa's gates, and in the dark of the night, she stared at Jeremy's approaching shadow. Realizing she was about to leave, Jeremy merely smiled but did not say ask her to stay. "She got in a car and ran. Don't worry, though, she won't get too far." Under the silver moonlight, his eyes warmed now that Yvonne's situation had been solved. "It's late. Let me send you back." He turned and walked to the garage. Staring at his retreating figure, Madeline suddenly smiled. "I must say, you have quite the acting skills, Jeremy." At that, Jermey's footsteps came to an abrupt halt.

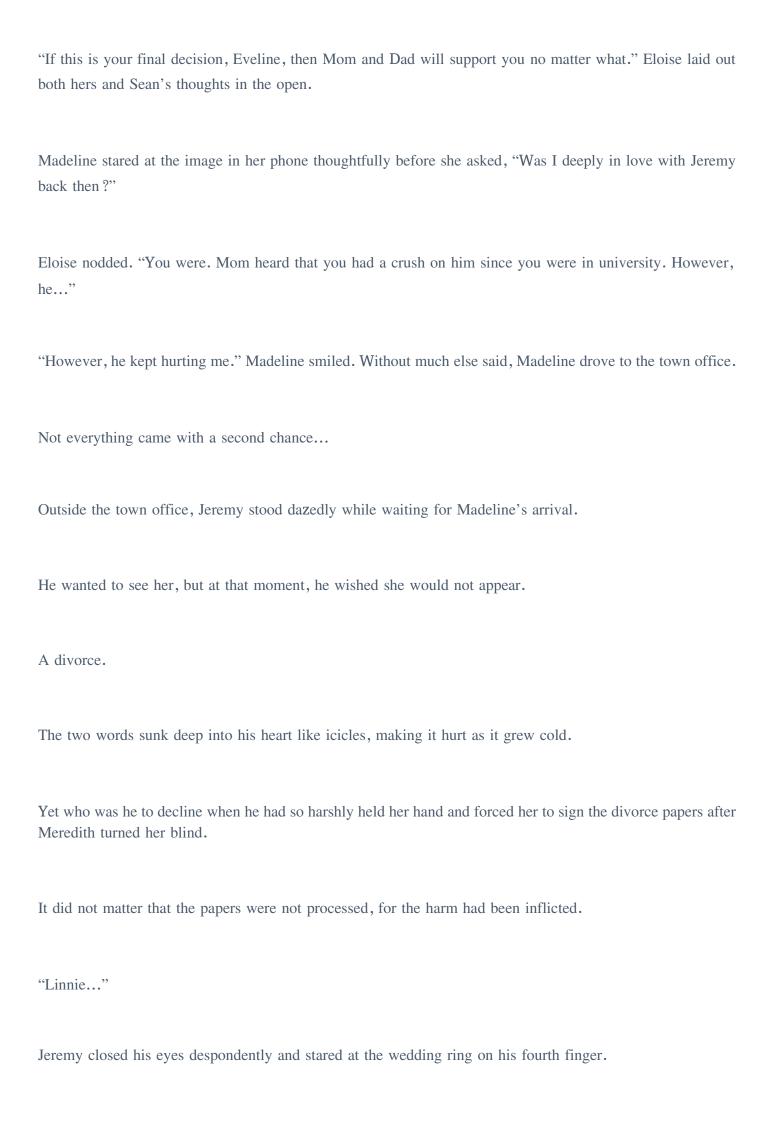


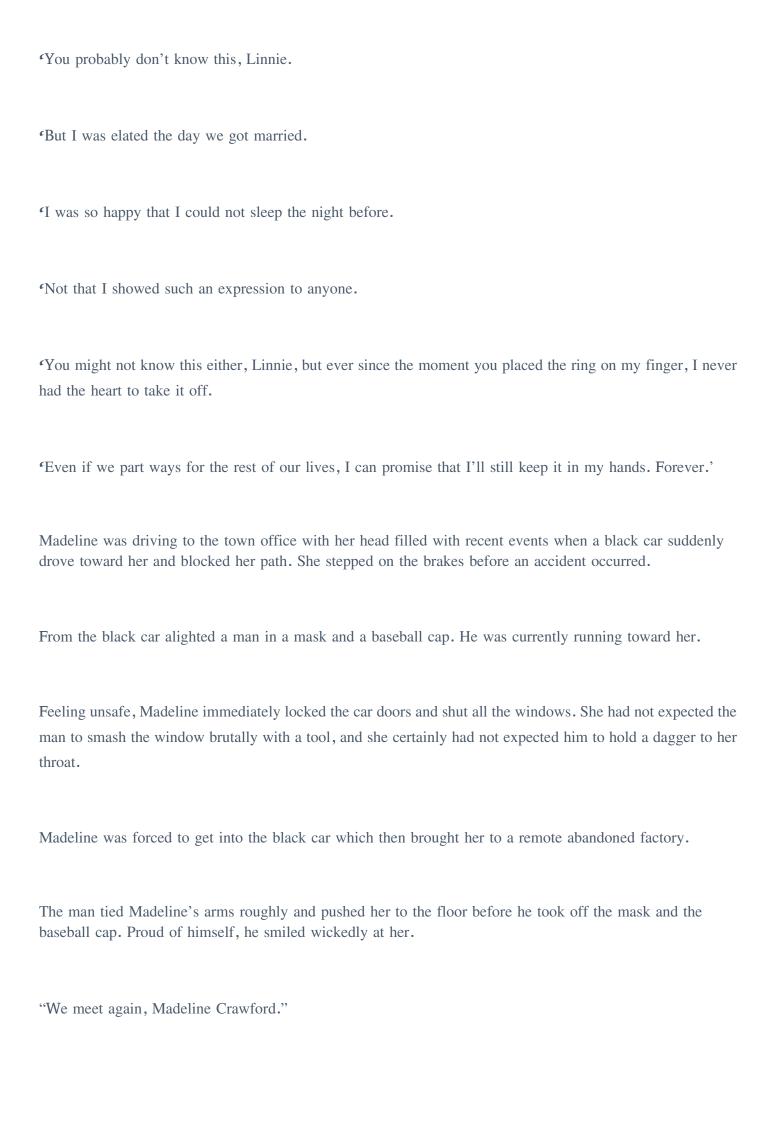


The radio just so happened to play the song 'Evil in Innocence'. As the lyrics 'You would know, the cruelest things that have been done to me' came up, both Madeline and Jeremy stared coincidentally at each other from the corner of their eyes.
He did not forget, and she seemed to have remembered something.
The song ended as the car arrived. Madeline alighted and entered Montgomery Manor without looking back.
Madeline entered Jackson's room after taking a bath and stared at the little boy's sweet features. Reaching out to caress his brows that looked just like his father's, her thoughts began to wander.
Madeline turned on her laptop and searched up the video of her wedding ceremony with Jeremy years ago on the internet.
The video showed a scene she no longer remembered. She was holding a bouquet in the clip, and despite the veil, the happy smile on her face was evident.
In front of her stood a reticent and dignified man, his appearance otherworldly.
Facing her, the man's expression was emotionless and his gaze was cold.
Yet with a deeper look, it was certain that his gaze had never left her face, and while there were no cracks in his aloof expression, his eyes had flashed with warm mirth—even if for just a little while.
Madeline replayed the video and the warmth in Jeremy's eyes could not be denied.
Still, none of this seemed meaningful anymore.

She had once flown to him like a moth to a flame, as careful as she could. It was only when she could not breathe anymore did she realize that she could no longer love this man so innocently anymore.

Her phone vibrated. It was a call from Felipe.
Walking to the balcony, Madeline picked up the call and told him that she would be registering hers and Jeremy's divorce tomorrow.
Felipe was elated at the news but expressed his shame for not being able to fetch Madeline as he had things to do tomorrow.
They ended the call, and Madeline closed her eyes in thought as she let the wind blow past her face. Jeremy's face seemed to be the only thing clear in every snippet of her recovered memory.
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Madeline woke up early the following day.
Venturing to the kitchen, Madeline made breakfast for Jackson and the Montgomery couple. It was a rare scenario that both Eloise and Sean were grateful for.
It was good news to them that Madeline had not gone to F Country as planned.
For at least now they could see their daughter frequently.
After breakfast, Madeline stated that she was going to meet Jeremy at the town office to register their divorce which stunned both Eloise and Sean as they stared at Madeline. Their mouths opened and closed, but no words came out.





Madeline looked up to stare at that wretched smile. The man was a stranger, but she felt like they had crossed paths before.

She was certain that he must have been an enemy of hers before she lost her memories, or he would not do something so extreme, let alone say something along the lines of 'we meet again'.

Tanner squatted down to grab Madeline's delicate chin as she stared at him with a sharp and analytic gaze.

"Tsk. What? You don't remember this old friend of yours?"

Madeline turned her face to fight Tanner's hold with a dignified look in her eyes. "Good friend? Who are you to call yourself that?"

Tanner was displeased. "What are you even arrogant about, Madeline Crawford? Let me tell you. Now that you've fallen into my hands again, I'm never going to let you go!"

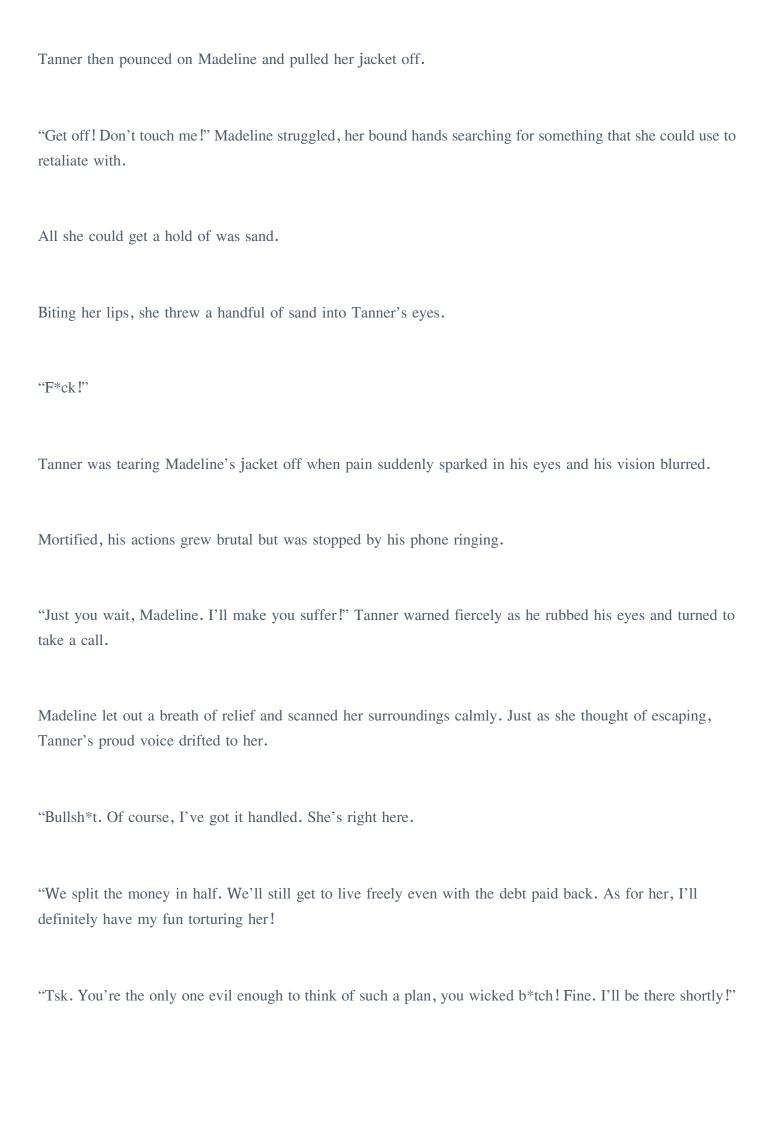
He stood up and gave Madeline a gluttonous look from above. Regardless of what angle he stared from, Madeline was still breathtaking.

No. It would be more accurate to say that she had grown even more beautiful and alluring than before.

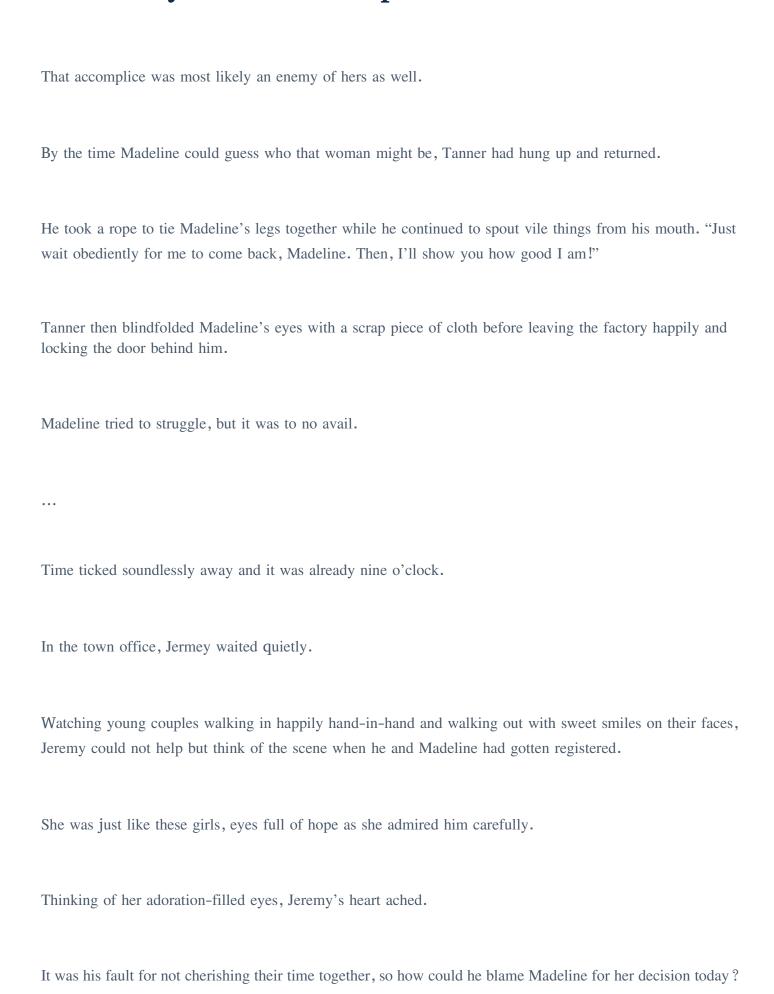
Feeling Tanner's gaze roam over her, Madeline tried to evade it, though it was to no avail as there was a limit to how much she could do with her arms tied together. There was nothing she could do but sit as Tanner looked at her.

Soon enough, Madeline had a bad feeling.

Indeed, wicked thoughts had surfaced in Tanner's head after all that staring.
He bent down and began to take Madeline's jacket off.
"Get off!" Madeline lifted her foot to kick Tanner's abdomen. Her sharp eyes glowered, and her voice was strong. "If you touch a hair of mine, I'll make your life a living hell!"
Realizing Madeline was about to kick him again, Tanner grabbed her legs in a death grip, holding Madeline in place no matter how she tried to kick him away.
His eyes swam with shameless and abhorrent thoughts as he slowly approached Madeline.
"Now that I've caught you, there's no way I'm holding back!"
His gaze was wretched while his smile was sinister.
"I wouldn't mind dying if I get to have fun with you. To sleep with a girl Jeremy Whitman once did, doesn't that mean I'm just as good as him?"
Jeremy Whitman.
The name made its way to Madeline's heart.
He should be waiting for her at the town office, right?
"I've had my eyes on you for a long while, Madeline! I've been wanting to sleep with you since seven years ago. This day has finally come!"



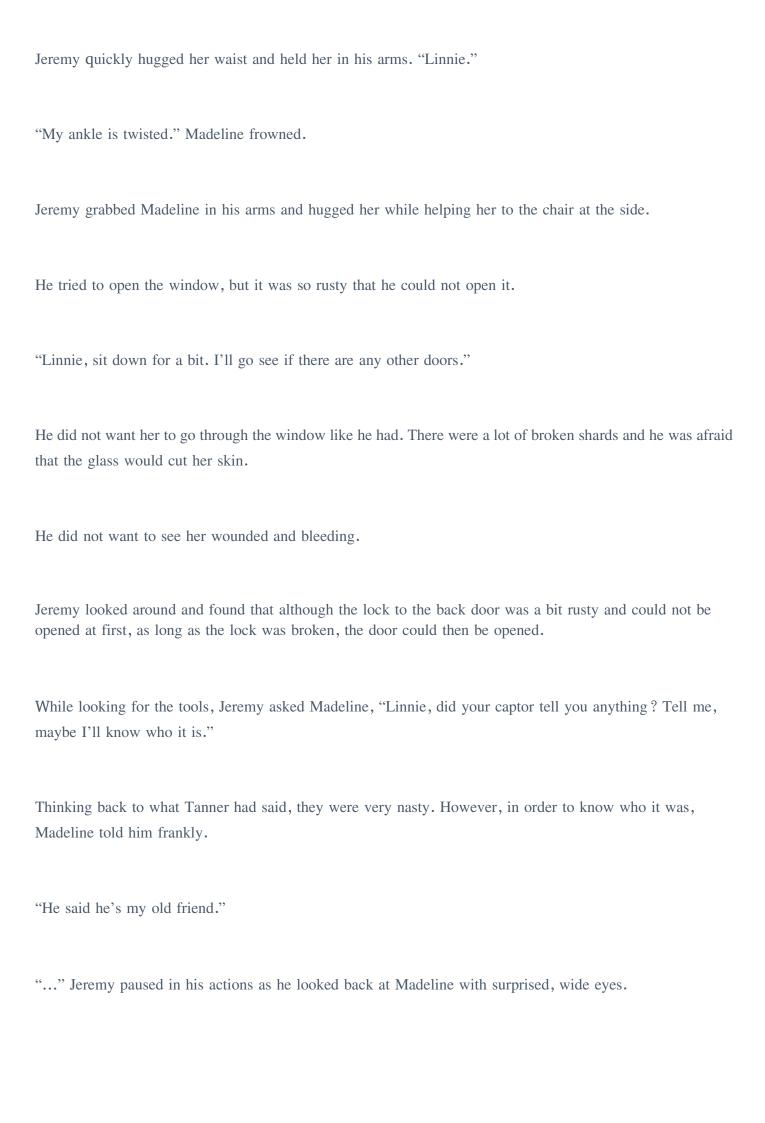
With that, Madeline now knew that there was an accomplice on the other side of the phone and that the	e
accomplice was a woman.	



Jeremy snapped back from his thoughts and looked at the time. It was already nine-thirty.
As selfishly as Jeremy wished for Madeline not to appear, they had promised to meet at nine o'clock and she was late. Jeremy felt uneasy.
He immediately called Madeline, but no one answered.
He was about to call her again but instead received a call from the police saying that Madeline's car had stopped by the road. Its window was smashed and the person was gone.
They had called him because Jeremy was still listed as her husband when they searched for her kinship.
Jeremy knew something was wrong before the call ended.
Thinking about how Madeline might be in peril, Jeremy frantically contacted Jackson who was still in kindergarten.
Jackson's phone was the only device with the application that could track Madeline's immediate location.
Soon enough, Jackson sent the address to Jeremy. Hiding in the bathroom, he called his father secretly. "Did something happen to Mommy, Daddy?"
Jeremy was driving nervously but made sure to comfort Jackson warmly. "Don't worry, Jack. Daddy will bring your Mommy home safe. Go back to class, baby."
Jackson obeyed and did not ask anymore.
The call ended and he stared at the blinking red dot on his phone, his large glossy eyes blinking in tandem.

Arriving at the location as fast as he could, Jeremy realized he had arrived at an abandoned factory.
He stopped the car at the gate and went to stand at the windows when he realized the door inside was padlocked.
He thought to take a look at the situation inside first, but looking up, he was met with the sight of Madeline being tied up.
Her hands and legs were tied while her eyes were blindfolded. Her jacket had also been ripped up, leaving her fair shoulders and arms for all to see.
Jeremy felt his heart hurt as he watched her struggle against her binds. Raising a fist, he punched the glass window in front of him.
Crash! The window shattered.
Madeline tucked her feet toward her reflexively and looked up despite only seeing black.
"Who's there?" she asked skeptically although she knew that this was most likely not the same person who took her. After all, Tanner would not need to break the window if it was him.
Jeremy ran toward Madeline, his heart aching at the sight. He took his jacket off to wrap it around Madeline's shoulder.
Taking in the cool and familiar scent of cedar, Madeline felt her heart quicken. "Jeremy? Is it you?"





"He also said that he wanted to sleep with me seven years ago but didn't succeed."

After these words were uttered, Madeline observed a dark undercurrent in Jeremy's eyes.

Madeline continued, "He also said that if he could sleep with the woman you've slept with, he would be as capable as you."

Jeremy was already suppressing his anger from the last sentence, but after hearing this, his handsome face was shrouded by clouds for a moment. Blue veins burst on his forehead. The cold light in his eyes was more like ice cones. It was as if the sharp coldness was about to overflow from his eyes in the next second.

In the end, he suppressed his anger for Madeline's sake and uttered an affirmative from his thin lips, "It's Tanner."

"Tanner?" Madeline repeated the name, finding it unfamiliar. "He seems to have an accomplice. That accomplice should be a woman. She hates me very much."

The first person Jeremy thought of was Meredith, but Meredith was already dead. Besides her, which other woman was there?

Tanner and his accomplice had just returned after their discussion when they suddenly saw an expensive sports car parked in front of the factory.

He took a closer look and confirmed that it was Jeremy's sports car.

Tanner suddenly felt angry and annoyed. He had not even f\*cking sent out any news of the kidnapping and extortion, so how did Jeremy find Madeline?

How was he to extort money now? How could he repay the loan sharks without the money? If he did not pay the loan sharks, he would be hacked to death by the gang!

If Madeline was to be rescued by Jeremy now, he would die even sooner!	

He promised, smashing the door lock harder.

Tanner quickly tried to think of something in a panic as he quietly walked to the iron gates.
He heard the voices of Madeline and Jeremy talking inside. Jeremy already knew that he was the one who kidnapped Madeline.
"MD, I really know that I did it!" Tanner quenched his dissatisfaction.
He glanced at the barrels of gasoline at the gates, gritted his teeth, and shook his head.
Jeremy found the tool to unlock the door and was about to act when Madeline suddenly caught a strange smell with her keen senses. "It smells of gasoline."
Jeremy turned around. "Gasoline?"
"It's getting more and more intense." Madeline nodded and suddenly saw a red glow in the surroundings. "Someone has set a fire."
The moment Madeline's voice fell, the tongue of the flames followed the path of the gasoline, and in an instant, it spread around the entire abandoned factory!
They did not expect to encounter such a situation again.
Jeremy calmly picked up the tool and slammed the door lock. "Linnie, don't be afraid. I'll definitely rescue you from here."

Madeline looked at the look of worry tinting the corners of his eyebrows and was dazed for a bit. It took a while for her to return to her senses. "Jeremy, you can leave me."

"What stupid thing are you talking about? How could I leave you?!" Jeremy's tone was aggravated. After he said this, he realized that he had lost control of himself a little. He then quickly said softly, "Linnie, I can't close my eyes and watch you get hurt again. If something were to happen to one of us, let it be me."

His tone was determined, and there was no pretense of affection.

However, the fire was spreading quickly and the suffocating smoke rolled over. Madeline's throat began feeling uncomfortable.

She coughed twice, and Jeremy noticed Madeline's discomfort. He clenched his fists and slammed the chisel against the door lock.

With a clang, the door lock fell and the door in front of him opened.

"Linnie, the door is open!" Jeremy turned to hug Madeline but saw a heavy box falling from the upper left side.

His heartstrings tightened as he strode forward to hug Madeline. "Linnie, be careful!"

However, as if it was a prank from the heavens, a wooden box more than three feet high fell before the newly opened door and blocked their way.

"Cough, cough." Madeline became more uncomfortable and breathless. The fire was so strong that she could no longer open her eyes because of the smoke.

Seeing that the raging fire was about to devour them, Jeremy did not hesitate to hold up Madeline and push her on top of the big box.

"Linnie, jump off the box. As long as you jump to the door, you'll be safe."

Madeline reluctantly opened her eyes. There was a sea of flames on one side and a safe zone on the other.

She squinted her eyes and looked at the smoke rolling down on Jeremy. She stretched out her hand to him, her heartbeat showing just how anxious she was. "Jeremy, I said I didn't want to owe you anything. If we leave, we leave together. Come on!"

Jeremy saw Madeline's outstretched hand but could not ignore his calf that had just been hit by the wooden box. It was obvious that he had injured a bone. He could hardly move his left leg now.

"Jeremy, what are you spacing out for? Grab my hand!" Madeline urged him anxiously, her voice trembling.

The box was more than three feet high, and there was no other help. With his injured and immobile leg, Jeremy did not want to waste any more time.

He saw Madeline's hand stretched out among the smoke with his blurry vision. Smiling, he gently held her hand and lowered his head before kissing it gently.

Madeline was surprised by Jeremy's actions and suddenly heard him say, "Linnie, do you know what the two luckiest things that have happened to me in my life are? One is that I met you when you returned once again. Another was a long, long time ago when I met you by the sea."

Hearing this, Madeline did not know if it was because of the smoke that her eyes were acrid, but her tears fell all at once.

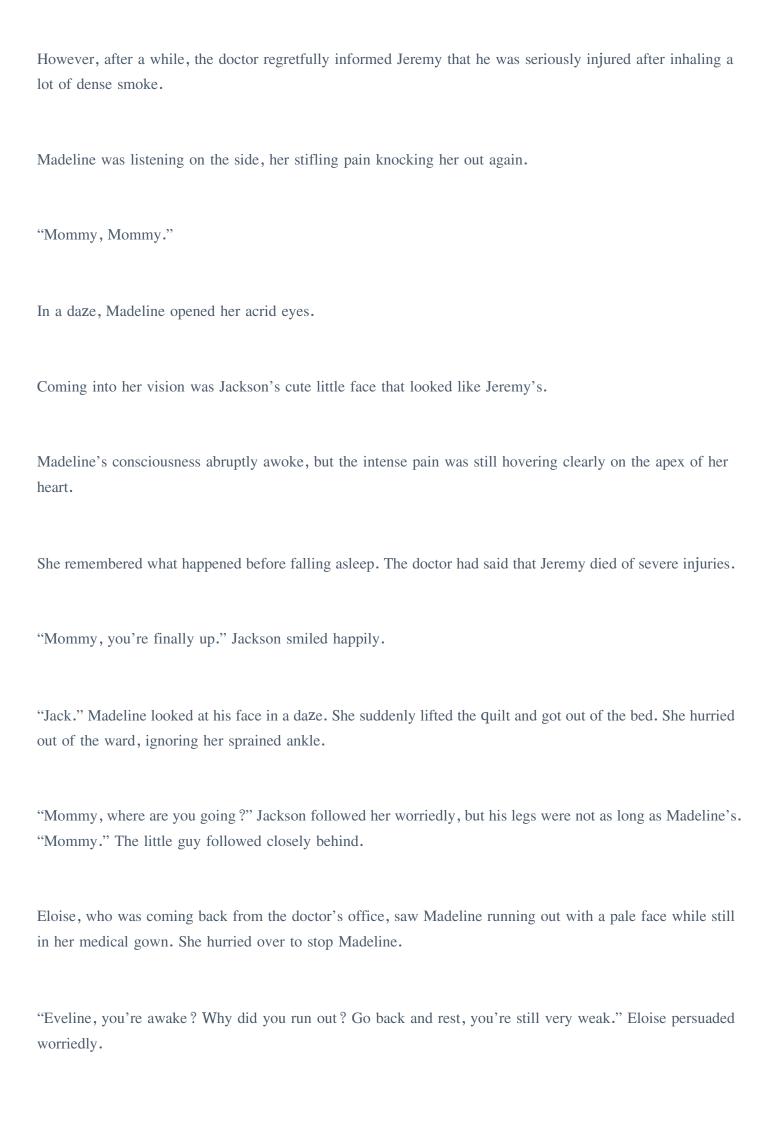
In a daze, Jeremy let go of her hand and pushed her out hard.

"Linnie, we'll meet again if there really is another life."

The moment Jeremy let go, Madeline's hands were cold and her heart seemed to have fallen into an icy abyss.
She called Jeremy's name but received no response.
As Jeremy pushed her to safety, she heard a dull crash.
She did not know what it was but faintly felt that Jeremy was injured.
Madeline rolled from the wooden box to the ground. She coughed in discomfort. Ignoring her sprained ankle, she immediately stood up and ran to the door that was blocked by the wooden box.
"Jeremy, can you hear me? Jeremy? Answer me quickly!" She called out to Jeremy in a panic, but she could not get any response except for the sound of burning fire.
Madeline's vision suddenly became blurred. She tried to push the wooden box, but it was to no avail.
The black smoke in front of her had blinded her sight and it seemed to swallow her breath and heartbeat as well. Seeing the tongue of the fire rushing out in front of her, Madeline dazedly opened her large eyes that were filled with tears. Her eyes flickered through similar scenes.
It was also a large fire with thick smoke.
There was a plump woman with a hideous smile pointing at her and cursing like a mad person, "Madeline, you b*tch! Let's see if you still won't die this time!"

The woman was still splashing gasoline everywhere frantically, and there was a wimpy-looking man lying on the side. As the fire spread, Jeremy had carried her and Jackson who was bound out of the window. The crazy woman took advantage of this moment and used a fruit knife to stab Jeremy's arm fiercely. Blood was flowing, but Jeremy did not let go of his hand that was holding Jackson. The firmness and worry in his eyes at that time were so real. Madeline suddenly withdrew her thoughts and felt the scorching temperature spreading around her, but she also felt a chill all over. "Jeremy..." She uttered his name blankly as tears fell silently from her eyes. Madeline bit her lip and rushed to the door that was separated by the wooden box. As she shed tears, she shouted to the space in front that was about to be swallowed by the smoke, "Jeremy, there is no next life. We only have this life! If you really want to atone your sins toward me, then use this life to atone them! Jeremy, do you hear me?" However, only the increasingly arrogant cries of the fire answered her. Madeline dropped her hands, her eyes gradually dimming. The colors in front of her seemed to be fading slowly, turning to black... Not long after, the firefighters and an ambulance arrived. They sent Jeremy, who was unconscious, to the

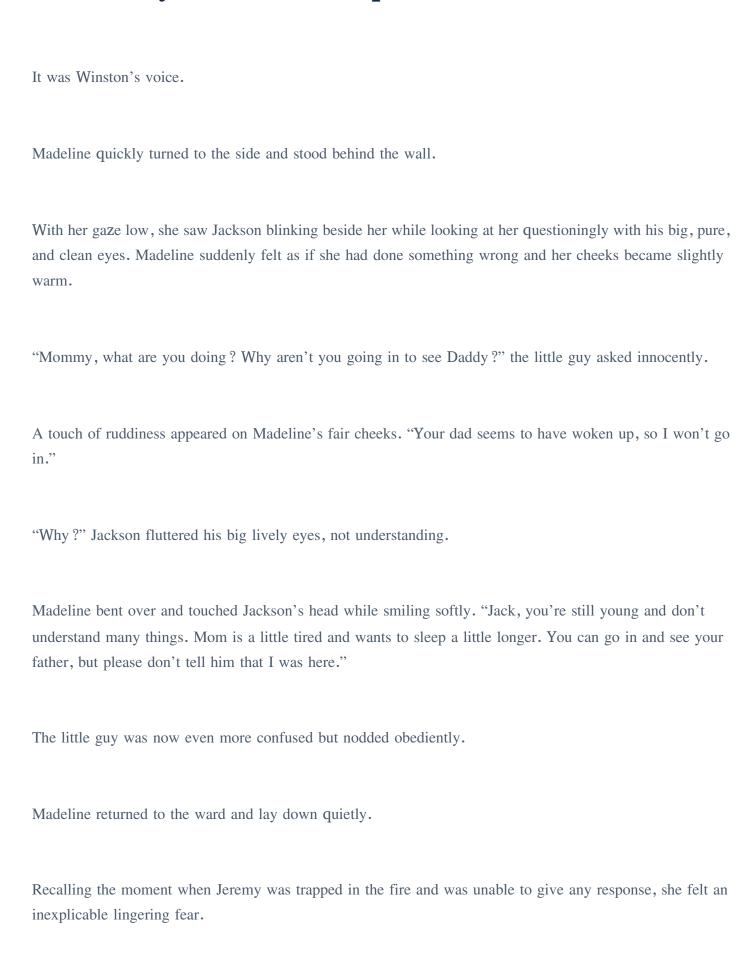
hospital for emergency rescue.





After calming down, Madeline asked lightly, "Mom, which ward is Jeremy in?"
Eloise heard her calling her 'Mom' and was very happy. She replied, "He's in the ward next to yours."
He was actually next door?
Madeline turned around and had just moved when she felt the pain in her sprained ankle.
She moved cautiously and was about to walk into Jeremy's ward when Felipe quickly walked over to her. Madeline's path to Jeremy's ward was obstructed.
Felipe had a worried expression on his face. He was holding a beautiful bouquet of flowers in his hand. "Eveline, you're awake? Why are you standing here? Go back to the ward."
He took Madeline's shoulders with concern and hugged her, leading her back.
Madeline passed by the front of the ward where Jeremy was in and a sense of inexplicable loneliness emerged out of the blue.
"I thought you and Jeremy would settle your divorce certificate soon. I didn't expect something like this to happen midway." Felipe raised his long eyebrows, a touch of hurt appearing on his gentle, graceful, and handsome face. However, as he soon said that, he hid the hurt. He would never let Madeline see the unknown side of him.
Naturally, he would not let the person who kidnapped Madeline go.
Of course, he was also quite dissatisfied that Madeline and Jeremy had been obstructed again from getting their divorce certificate.





After Jeremy woke up, his throat felt dry and it was dark in front of his eyes. He stretched out his hand, but he could not even catch the outline of his palm.
Seeing that the situation was not quite right, Winston immediately called the doctor over. However, the first thing Jeremy asked about was Madeline's condition.
"How is Linnie? Is she okay?" His low voice was a little hoarse and weak.
"Madeline is fine, don't worry."
Jeremy breathed a sigh of relief silently, a peaceful smile overflowing from the corners of his lips. However
He raised his left hand again and opened his eyes, looking at it for a long time. Still, he could not see anything.
He laughed at himself calmly.
The doctor arrived soon and checked Jeremy's condition again.
Jeremy told him that his vision was blurry and that he could not even see anything. The doctor hurriedly did a test and examined him. It turned out that Jeremy's retina was damaged by the excessive smoke, which meant that he was now almost similar to a blind person.
Was this retribution?
Jeremy still smiled, finally feeling deeply Madeline's confusion and helplessness back then.
After learning that Madeline's ward was next door, Jeremy quickly made the decision that he was leaving the

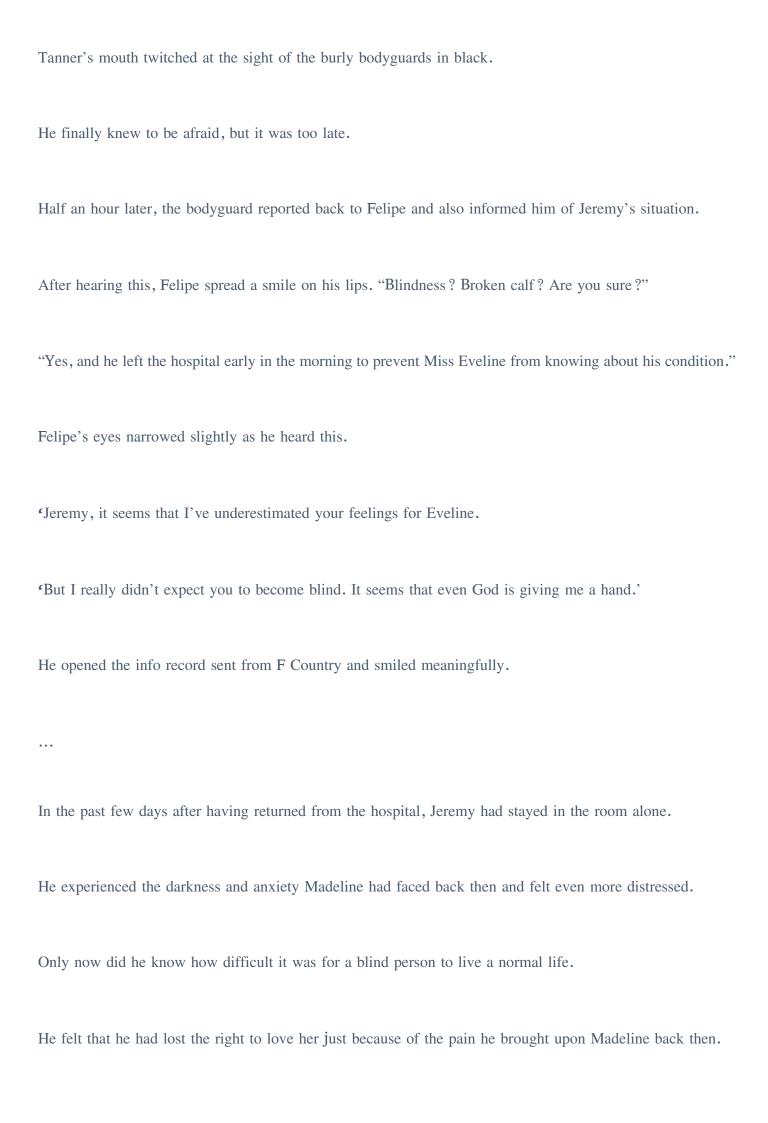
"Don't tell Linnie about my blindness." He told everyone who knew about his condition that he did not want to cause Madeline any trouble.
He no longer had any regrets the moment she reached her hand out to him during that critical moment.
At least he knew that Madeline did not really hate him to the point of wanting him to die.
For him, this was enough.
Madeline slept deeply all afternoon, and when she woke up, there was no one in the ward.
She immediately got out of bed and carefully avoided stepping on her injured foot to go to Jeremy's ward again.
She wanted to take a look at his condition and then leave, but she found that the ward was empty.
A nurse happened to be passing by, so she stepped forward and called out to them, "Excuse me, the patient in this ward, where did he go?"
The nurse glanced at the ward, smiled, and replied, "He was discharged not long ago."
Discharged?
Madeline was stunned.
Although, since he was discharged from the hospital, it meant that he was not seriously injured.
She was thinking silently, but there suddenly seemed to be a feeling of loneliness flowing in her heart.



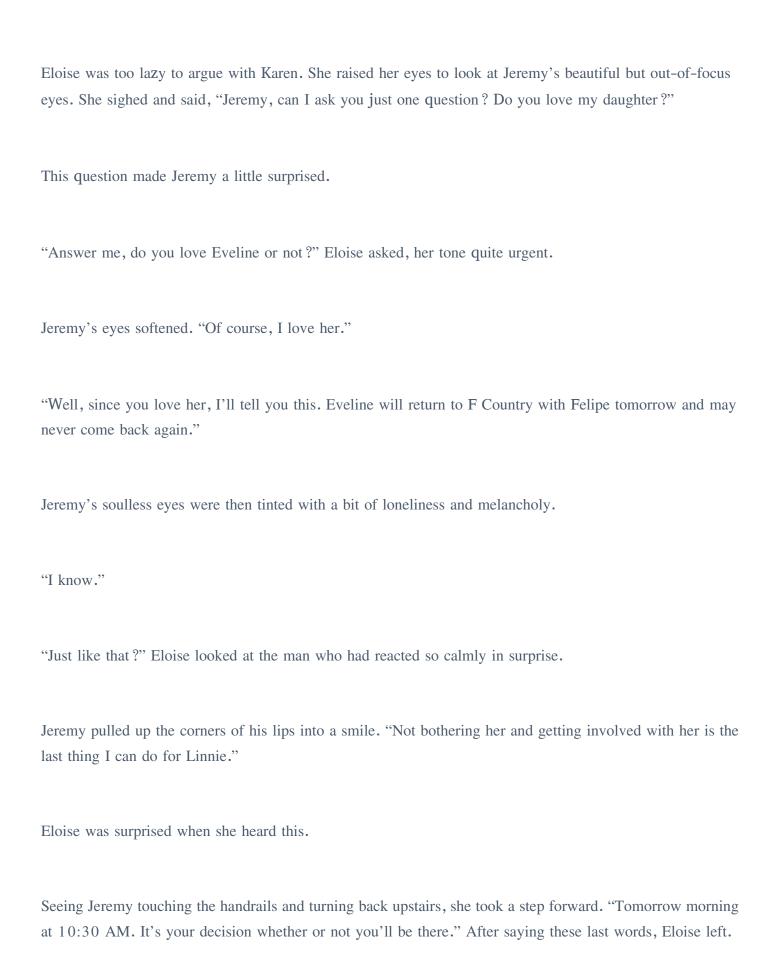
The sunset was magnificent here.





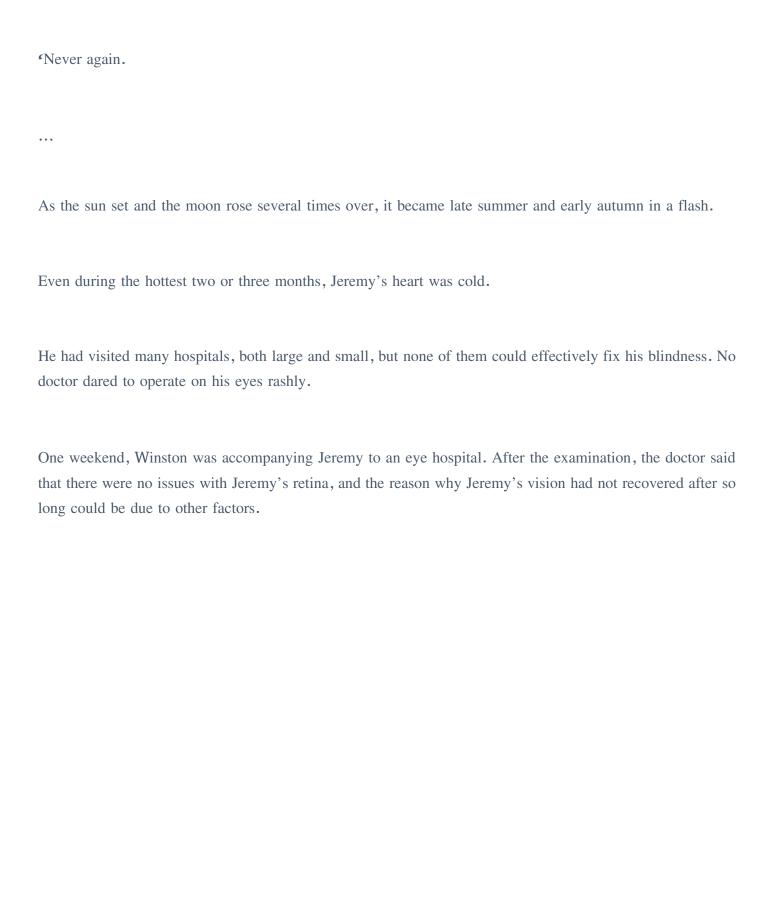


Jeremy repeatedly listened to the song 'Innocence and Evil' that Madeline once sang under the heavy cloudy sky. Suddenly, there was a dispute from downstairs.
He listened carefully and found that Eloise had come over. Karen was angry and complaining about how Madeline made her son blind.
Although Jeremy's leg injury had not healed, he did not have major problems walking. He fumbled downstairs.
Seeing him approach, Eloise walked toward him quickly.
"Eloise, your daughter has already hurt my son like this. Can you stop pestering Jeremy?" Karen ran over to stop her.
Jeremy looked up and showed his dissatisfaction with Karen before opening his mouth to ask Eloise worriedly, "Did something happen to Linnie? Why did you come to me so suddenly?"



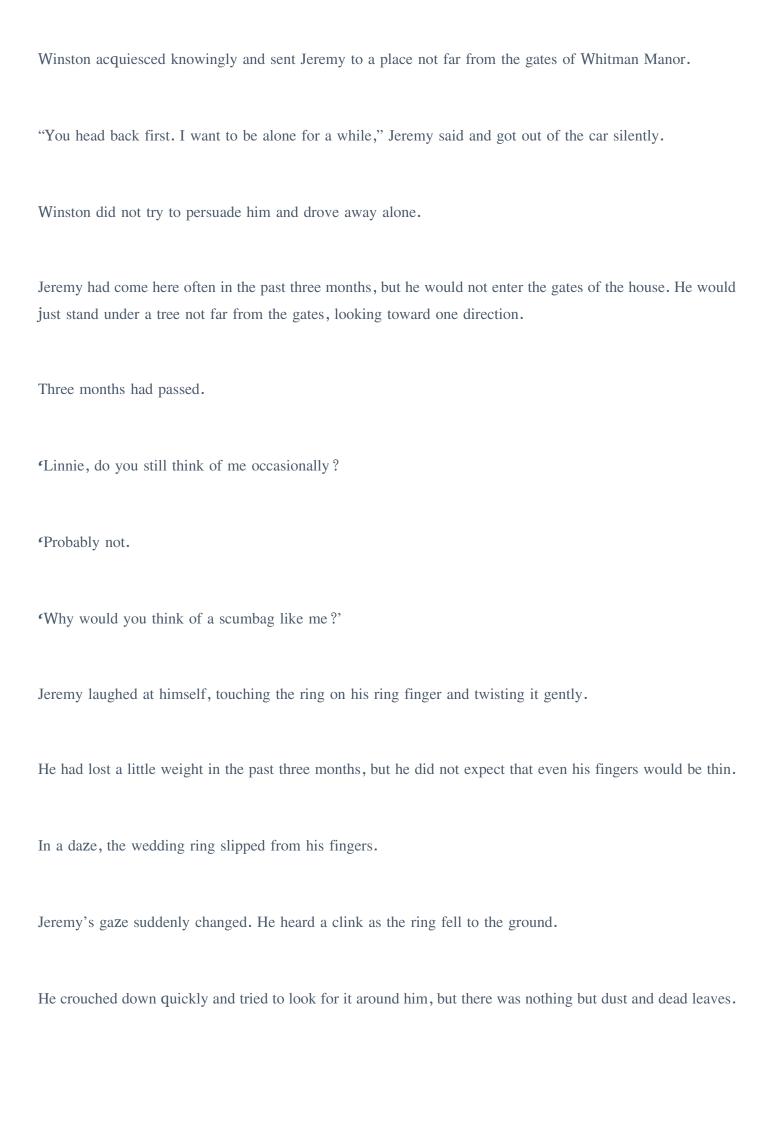
Jeremy paused as he was heading upstairs, then moved on.
Karen followed Jeremy and repeatedly emphasized, saying, "Jeremy, you must not go. You and Madeline are not a match for each other at all.
"Jeremy, listen to your mother's advice. There are many women in this world who are better than Madeline. You don't need to think about her anymore."
No matter what Karen said, Jeremy ignored her.
Step by step, he returned to the bridal chamber that used to be Madeline and his.
However, there was no longer the remaining fragrance of her—only loneliness and desertion.
He found their wedding album from back then in the dark and stroked the grains of the photo. Jeremy's fingertips were cold, and the coldness reached his heart.
Linnie, as long as you're happy, I'll be happy. Even if there will be this gap and regret that I won't be able to fill up this life.
Linnie, I've just come to know that there really are people in this world who cannot be together because timing really is important.
I never did cherish the time when you regarded me as your only love.
Now when I have seen the light and truly regret what I've done, you already have hatred for me and not love.
Perhaps separation is the best ending for you and me.'

•••
The next day at Glendale Airport.
Madeline followed Felipe, joining the line to check-in.
Felipe held her hand with a gentle smile. "Eveline, I know you're reluctant to be here, so let's go back to F Country to see Lillian. We'll come back to pick up Jack after a while."
Madeline nodded and looked toward the direction of Eloise and Sean who came to send them off. She could not help but look behind them.
She did not know what she was looking at or what she was waiting for, but she was looking forward to something in her heart.
Yet in the end, she could not wait for anything.
Yet in the end, she could not wait for anything.  Madeline boarded the plane to F Country. The moment the plane took off, she felt weightless as if her heart had suddenly gotten lost.
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Madeline boarded the plane to F Country. The moment the plane took off, she felt weightless as if her heart had suddenly gotten lost.  She took out the leaf bookmark, and for a moment, she could not tell whether the boy she had met at the beach was Jeremy or Felipe  Jeremy stood at the balcony silently, hearing a whistling over his head. Something in his heart shattered









His eyebrows knitted tightly as his expression grew more anxious.
It was also at this moment that he realized what Madeline must have felt when she was lying on the ground, looking for something in a panic.
This wedding ring was the only token he had left of his bond with Madeline.
For him, it was a piece of treasure—the only one.
He was looking for it all flustered. A moment later, he unexpectedly heard familiar footsteps approaching him through the fallen leaves.
"Are you looking for this ring?"

	The	sound	in	his	ears	put	a	sudden	stop	to	Jeremy	r's	search
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He felt a touch of surprise as he gently lifted his eyes that could no longer capture any light and color. "It's you? When did you return to Glendale?"

"Yesterday." There was suddenly light in Jeremy's bleak eyes after he received that answer.

He slowly stood up, facing the man before him. "Is Linnie back with you too?" Felipe looked at Jeremy who was blind, then looked down at the wedding ring he had just picked up.

He played with it with his fingertips with interest, only to lift his lips. "Yes, Eveline came back with me too."

As he spoke, Felipe saw the joy in Jeremy's eyes. He smiled, saying, "Eveline and I are here to bring Jack back to F Country this time."

His answer had very simply and decisively shattered the shade of joy on Jeremy's face. "Eveline doesn't want to see you again, so you'd better not appear in front of her, especially with the way you are now."

"With the way I am now?" Jeremy laughed lowly. "Are you afraid that I, a blind man, would steal Linnie from you?"

Felipe's sharp brows knitted into a frown unhappily. "Jeremy, you were not a qualified husband before and I hope you can be a qualified predecessor now. A qualified predecessor should be the same as dead."

Jeremy's gaze sank, and without answering Felipe's words, he stretched out his palm nimbly. "Give me back the ring."

"I can give the ring back to you, but you'd better remember what you said and don't bother Eveline again."
"I know what I'm doing, I don't need you to tell me that." Jeremy's voice had become colder. "Give it to me."
"Eveline and I will return to F Country in a week. I will have someone send you the ring then."
Hearing this, it was obvious Felipe did not want to return his ring now.
Jeremy frowned. As he was about to reach out to pull at Felipe's collar, he suddenly heard the sound of a car coming from a distance.
"Eveline is back," Felipe said leisurely, smiling at Jeremy whose expression had changed slightly.
"You should stand behind this tree now and never show up again in Eveline's sight. Otherwise, this ring will disappear. Also, you don't want Eveline to be unhappy, right?"
Felipe's tone was threatening. Smiling, he turned around, put Jeremy's wedding ring in his pocket, and walked toward the approaching car.
After the car stopped, Felipe, ever the gentleman, opened the car door for Eveline. There was a small smile on his gentle and handsome face.
"You're back."
"Felipe." Madeline smiled and nodded. Jeremy, who had already stood behind the tree, suddenly heard the voice he had been thinking of day and night. There was suddenly a sweetness in his heart even though she was calling another man's name.



"Mom, can I r	really see	Brother.	Jack	later ?"	Lillian's	tender	voice	was	like	the	clear	spring	in a	mountain
stream—it was	s extremel	ly sweet.												

Madeline's eyes curved as she smiled. "Why would I lie to you? You'll get to see Brother Jack in a while."

"Great, I want to give my favorite lollipop to Brother Jack." Lily happily patted her cute little hand.

The sound of clapping hands reached his ears, like a metronome hammering in his heart. Each click made Jeremy's heart ache.

He could clearly feel Madeline walking less than a yard in front of him, accompanied by laughter.

He imagined the smile on her face at the moment and imagined her gentle, kind side while being the good wife and mother she was. He imagined that she would be sleeping peacefully in the arms of another man every night. Jeremy's eyes were practically blown red by the wind.

He turned around quietly and drifted away from Madeline...

When Lillian first met Jackson, the two little babies were very friendly with each other. Now knowing that the other party was their own sibling, they were especially happy.

Although the two words 'close relatives' had vague meanings to them since they were young, their happiness was real.

Sean and Eloise had prepared a gift for Lillian early on.

Looking at such a beautiful and lovely little doll, the husband and wife blushed happily.
They thought these two children got along very well even though they were from the same mother but different fathers.
Madeline looked at the two siblings who were playing happily and could not stop Jeremy from popping up in her mind.
Seeing that Felipe had gone aside to make a call, Madeline sat next to Eloise. "Mom, has Jeremy's leg injury from before healed?"
Eloise was looking at the two children when she suddenly heard Madeline's question.
"He got injured from saving me. It'd be best if he's fine now." Madeline hurriedly explained.
Eloise nodded to express her understanding. "His leg injury has healed, but his eyes"
"Grandma, Grandma!" Two little babies suddenly ran over happily, interrupting Eloise's unfinished words.
After being interrupted, Eloise suddenly remembered Jeremy's instructions.
She could not say anything.
She could not let Madeline know about his blindness.
Madeline's attention was also drawn to the two of them, but she also noticed that Eloise was not done speaking.

When Felipe returned from his call just then, Madeline got up and immediately said, "Felipe, I want to take this opportunity to visit Grandpa again."
Of course, going to see Old Master Whitman meant that she might meet Jeremy.
Jeremy refused in his heart, but of course, he could not deny what Madeline wanted.
He smiled softly. "It's not convenient for me to accompany you. Do send my regards to Grandpa for me."
"Alright." Madeline nodded, an inexplicable expectation suddenly surging from the bottom of her heart.
Under the setting afternoon sun, she coaxed the two little kids to sleep before driving to the villa.
After getting out of the car, she walked slowly through the gates.
Everything here still gave her a sense of familiarity.
Jeremy had originally been sitting in the yard with the old man to soak up the sunshine when he suddenly received an unfamiliar call. He found that the call was from Felipe.
Felipe told him that Madeline would be coming to visit Old Master Whitman and asked him to avoid her and leave.
Madeline was coming. That made Jeremy's heart beat disorderly.
He immediately got up and groped around for a familiar route. He wanted to go back to the house, but as soon as he turned around, he sensed an additional figure not far in front of him.
"Linnie?"

"Linnie?" he	called or	ut tentative	y, his	nervous	heart	beating	rashly	in h	nis he	art j	ust	like	the	day	he	met
Madeline in c	ollege. I	He actually	felt or	n edge.												

Jeremy did not know whether he should be happy or not. God had given him a chance to see the most beloved woman in his life again, but he could not see anything.

Madeline looked at the handsome face in front of her, her delicate eyebrows becoming a little less cold and a little more gentle.

She walked toward him calmly. "It looks like your leg is alright."

Hearing Madeline's voice, Jeremy's heart was filled with incomparable satisfaction.

It was just that her words had slightly startled him.

Could it be that Linnie had come here specifically to see if his injury was healed?

Thinking of this, a smile overflowed from Jeremy's lips, but he was only happy for a few seconds when Madeline's cold voice followed, "I have nothing to do with you anymore, so I don't want to owe you any favors."

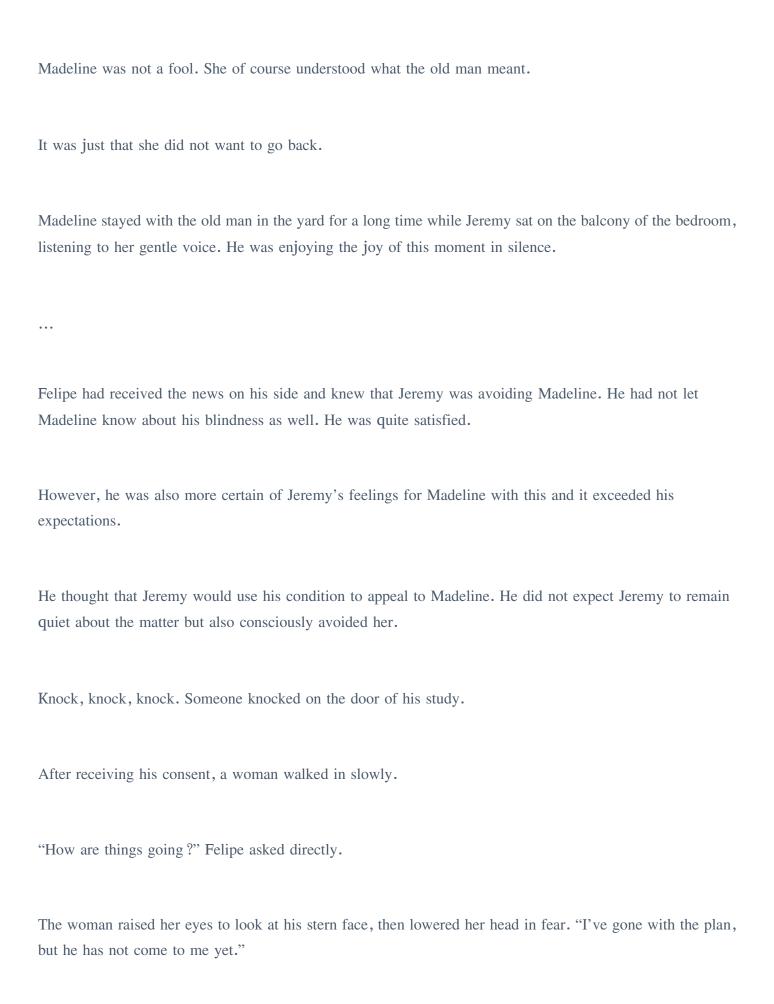
Jeremy's heart went cold, but he kept a smile on his handsome face. "Linnie, you've never owed me anything. I, on the other hand, owe you too much."

"You don't owe me anything. If it's a life, you've already paid it back last time. If there's anything you owe to me, it's a divorce certificate. You still owe me that."





"Grandpa, leaves don't go back to their branches after they've fallen. Jeremy and I are just like this leaf here. We can't go back again."
Standing at the entrance, Jeremy heard Madeline's words and felt as if a cup of bitter wine had been poured down his throat. The sour taste spread to the bottom of his heart.
That's right, we cannot go back.'
Linnie, who had loved him the most, no longer loved him.
Jeremy laughed at himself bitterly before going upstairs quietly.
In the yard, the old man sighed and said meaningfully, "These dead leaves might not go back when they leave the branches, but come spring the next year, new branches and leaves will grow."





Winston took Jeremy to a cafe in the city center. In the car, Winston asked doubtfully, "Jeremy, do you really think you being unable to see till now is because of a psychological problem?" "My retina has recovered after being damaged, but I still can't see anything. I can probably rule out my eyes being the problem." Jeremy had calmly opened his mouth to say, but he understood the matter very well in his heart. He had caused Madeline to suffer such painful injuries back then. He could not let go of it even today and it was still gnawing at his mind. Of course, Winston also wanted Jeremy's eyes to heal quickly, but he could not help a little sigh when he thought of the appearance of the psychologist named Felicity Walker. Not long after arriving at their destination, Winston took Jeremy to sit down in the corner of the outdoor cafe. "Jeremy, will you really be alright by yourself?" Winston was not convinced. Jeremy nodded calmly. "You can go ahead." Winston decided not to be reluctant. Not long after he left, Felicity arrived. Seeing Jeremy sitting in the corner, her eyes suddenly brightened. With her red lips, she walked over. "Mr. Whitman, hello. I'm Felicity Walker." She introduced herself, her eyes lingering on Jeremy's face since the start.

'Jeremy, I'm sure you wouldn't have expected that you and I will sit at the same table again one day.'
Jeremy could not see the expression on Felicity's face, but he gave a polite smile. "Miss Walker, please sit."
"Thank you," Felicity replied. She turned her head and glanced at the stairs. When she heard the footsteps of someone coming up, she immediately made a move to fall on Jeremy's body.

Madeline had	followed	Felipe out	to shop.	After	a round	of shopp	ping,	Felipe tool	Madeline Madeline	to th	nis far	nous
outdoor cafe.												

As soon as she walked onto the terrace, Madeline saw a woman leaning in the arms of a man not far in front.

She glanced at them indifferently, but as she was about to look away, she realized that the man was Jeremy.

Jeremy was holding a woman.

"Eveline, what's wrong?" Seeing Madeline staring blankly in a certain direction, Felipe asked in a concerned tone.

Madeline hurriedly turned her head. "It's nothing. I just think that this cafe is very special."

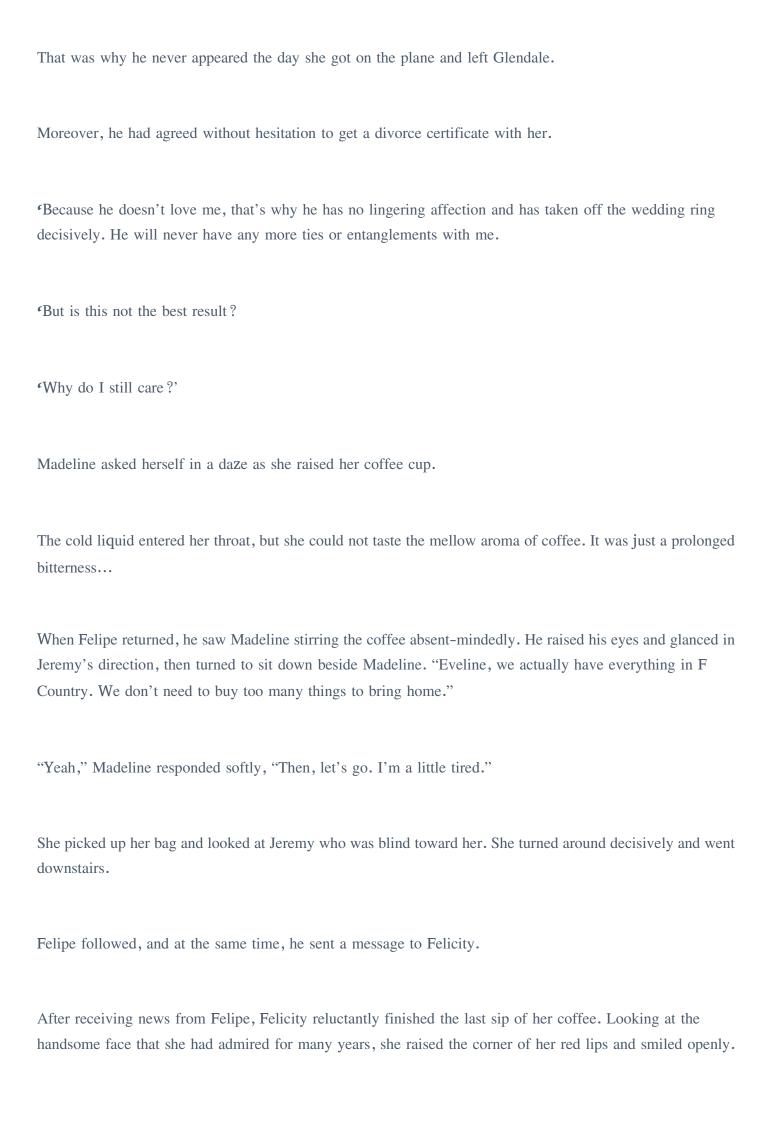
She sat down on the side casually, and when she raised her eyes, she saw the woman who was in Jeremy's arms just now. She was currently sitting opposite Jeremy.

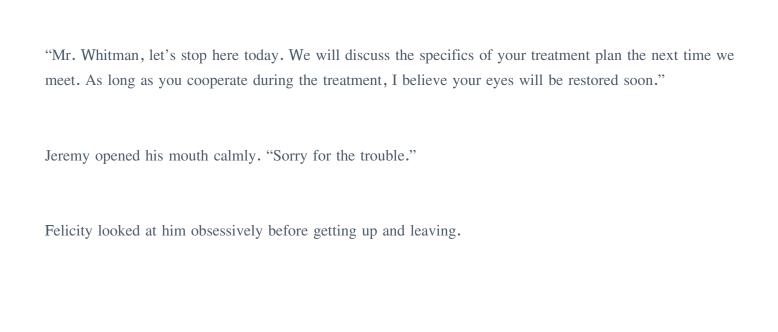
Felicity sat with her back facing Madeline. Madeline could not see her appearance. However, just by looking at her back, Madeline felt her manner as a woman to be quite good, so her appearance should be decent as well.

When the waiter handed over the menu, Madeline looked back.

On the other side, Felicity had sat down and apologized to Jeremy with a smile on her face. "I'm sorry, Mr. Whitman. I've just bought these shoes and am not accustomed to wearing them. Thank you for helping me just now."

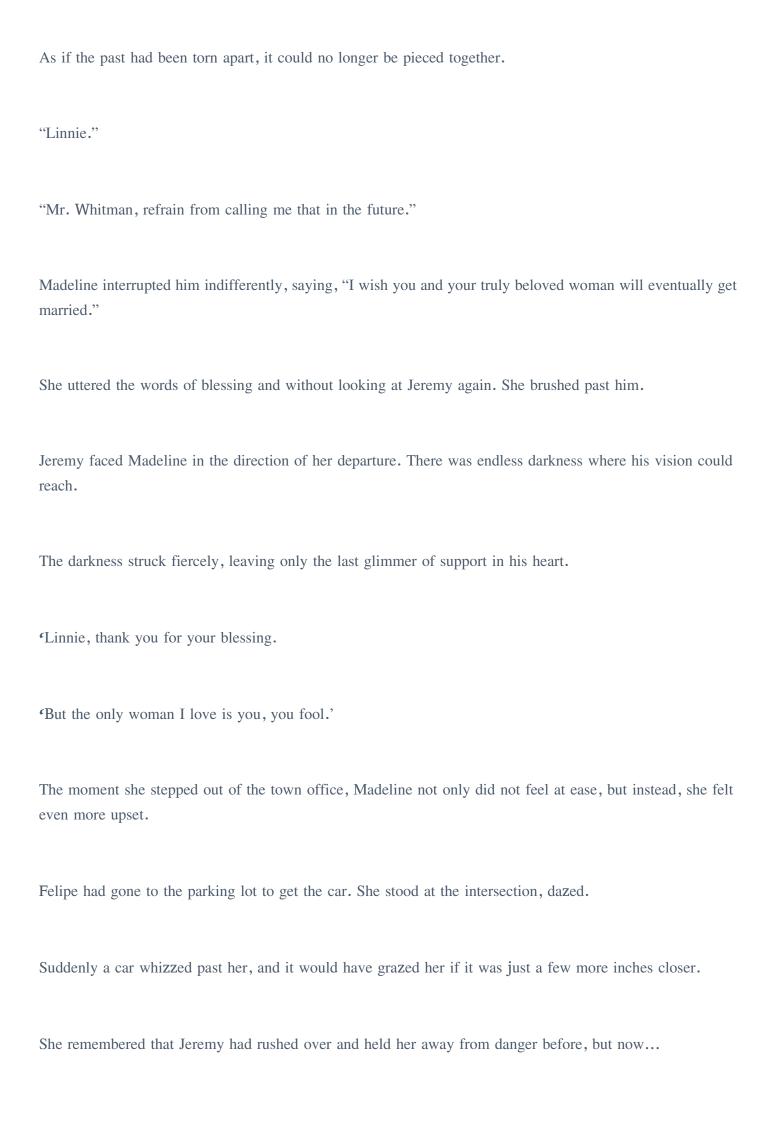
Jeremy's jade-like face was cold. "I hope there'll be no next time."
The smile on Felicity's face froze, and two seconds later, she gave a seemingly generous response. "Don't worry, Mr. Whitman. There will be no next time."
Madeline ordered a cup of iced coffee and could not help looking in Jeremy's direction.
Felipe naturally noticed but pretended not to see anything. He then made an excuse to go to the bathroom and walked away.
Madeline and Jeremy were facing each other from a distance of more than ten yards, but Madeline realized that Jeremy did not seem to have noticed her presence.
He had been talking to the woman sitting across from him when Madeline suddenly noticed Jeremy holding a coffee cup in his left hand. She clearly saw then that his ring finger was bare.
Sure enough, he had taken off the ring.
Madeline smiled suddenly, laughing at her self-righteous and naive thoughts.
At the gates of the police station the other day, his eyes had been drooping as he was looking at the wedding ring as if he was reluctant. Yet, it turned out that it was all just an act.
Sure enough, he did not love her.
His so-called love was nothing more than his guilt after having severely hurt her.
He did not look back when she fell into the waters exactly because he did not love her.  That was why he did not give her any notice when he was discharged from the hospital that day.











Madeline looked back and saw Jeremy emerge from the town office desperately. His eyes were hollow as if he could not see the steps in front of him. He stepped onto the air.

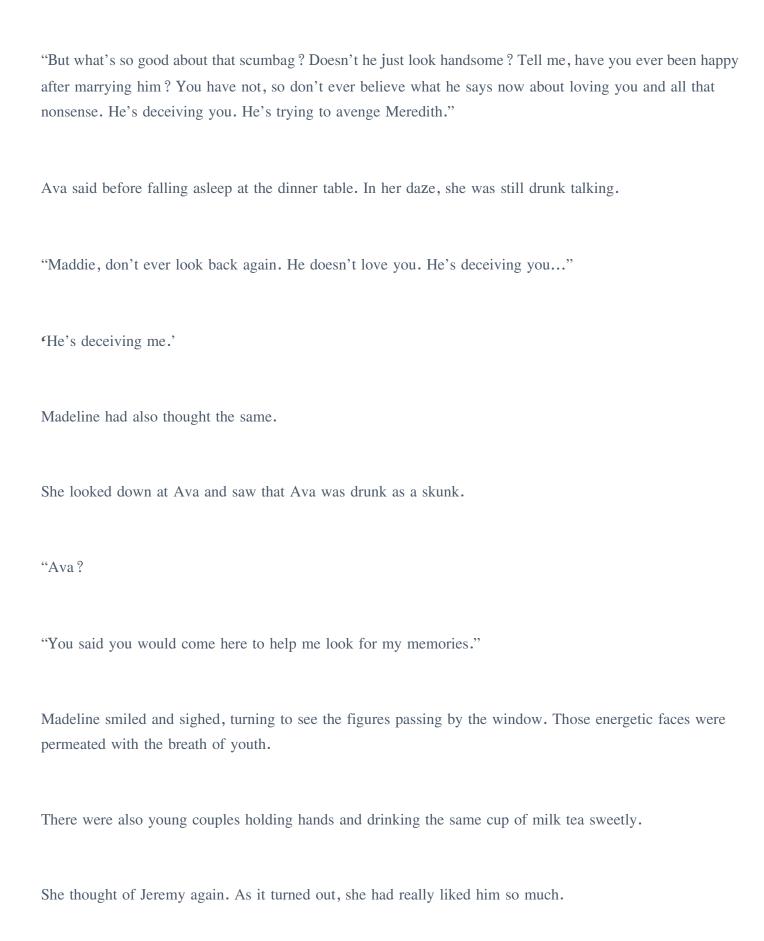
Seeing this, Madeline's heart suddenly trembled as she hurriedly turned and ran toward him.

Madeline reacted instinctively and wanted to help Jeremy, but right at this instant, a woman got out of the car that passed by in front of her.
That woman had run to Jeremy faster than her and held his arm.
Madeline stopped in her tracks and looked at the woman's back. She suddenly thought of the woman who had had coffee with Jeremy yesterday.
She stood still as if she had suddenly come to a realization.
Geremy Whitman, it turns out our divorce has helped you.
'You already have a new lover.
'And I was never your favorite.'
Felipe stopped his car in front of Madeline. When he got out to open the car door for her, he glanced toward Jeremy from his peripheral vision as the corners of his lips curved upward quietly.
The sudden appearance of Felicity surprised Jeremy.
However, Felicity's explanation was reasonable. "I have a client who has been mentally abused by her husband for a long time and has some psychological problems. I came here today to accompany her to get the divorce certificate. I didn't expect to meet you here. Mr. Whitman."

She pretended to be confused but asked while knowing clearly in her heart, "Mr. Whitman, is that also a divorce certificate?"
Jeremy put the divorce certificate in his palm. "It's none of your business."
Jeremy was unexpectedly cold, and Felicity was taken aback for a moment. She turned her head and saw that Jeremy had fumbled to the side of the road.
He had lost his sight, but his sense of direction was still so precise.
Seeing Jeremy taking a taxi to leave, Felicity chased after him. "Mr. Whitman, let me send you back."
"You and I only have a doctor-patient relationship. Apart from this, we're strangers. I don't need you to send me back." He rejected impassively, got into the taxi, and left.
Felicity did not expect such a rare opportunity today, but she could not even open Jeremy's heart.
She thought there would be progress today, but now it seemed that she had no chance at all.
Felipe left after sending Madeline back to Montgomery Manor.
Madeline went back to her room and looked at the divorce certificate absentmindedly. She thought of the marriage certificate that Jeremy handed to the staff just now.
She vaguely remembered the photo of herself smiling sweetly on the marriage certificate.
"Eveline." Eloise walked in and saw the divorce certificate Madeline was holding. She sighed silently. "Let bygones be bygones. Don't think about it anymore."

Madeline nodded and asked, "Mom, do you think that if a person truly loves someone, they would do something irrational or even extreme?"
Madeline recalled how Jeremy had taken her to the small island forcibly and committed self-harm.
Eloise thought for a moment. "If they really love someone very much, I think they will. To not lose the person they love, reason is often overshadowed by persistent feelings."
Madeline thought for a while, then went out.
She asked Ava to meet her at a small restaurant near Glendale University.
Knowing that Madeline and Jeremy finally got the divorce certificate and were completely cut off from their relationship, Ava drank a few bottles of beer happily. Then, she put down a bottle forthrightly.
"Ha! That's great, Maddie! You're finally self-aware!" Ava smiled happily and said proudly, "Before this, Dan made a bet with me and said that you'd love Jeremy even more after you recover your memories, but now it seems that I've won! You'll never fall in love with that scumbag again!"
Madeline was a little tipsy, but her consciousness was clear at this moment. "Did Dan really say that?"
Ava nodded repeatedly. "Yes, Dan must be talking nonsense because he got heartbroken."
"Dan's heartbroken?"
Ava bumped into Madeline's shoulder drunkenly. "Maddie, did you forget? Dan likes you. When you were in college, he liked you very much. He even confessed to you in public at the graduation ceremony!"

"But at that time, you—" Ava burped. "At that time, you were relentlessly in love with Jeremy. He was all that you could see. You would watch him quietly during your morning run and you would go to the library every night to see him. You even studied jewelry design for that scumbag."



She would peep at him during her morning jogs, would go to the library to wait for him, and even deliberately studied jewelry design for him
Was this considered young and frivolous?
She did crazy and obsessive things for a boy she admired.
Madeline laughed. She lowered her gaze and saw the notebooks hanging under the table. She picked up a book curiously and read it, finding that it was full of notes written by the guests who came to eat here.
There were various words and sentences on the pages. Some people asked for contact information, some people wrote 'I was here', and others even expressed their feelings.
Madeline flipped through it casually, but unexpectedly, she saw her own name on one of the pages.
[Madeline Crawford, I like you.]
The five words written were concise and straightforward. The fluent handwriting was so clean that it struck her heart.  The time of the inscription was when she was in her freshman year, but there was nothing else other than the five words and the date.
She had no way of knowing who left this confession
She had no way of knowing who left this confession.
At this moment, Ava's phone suddenly rang. Madeline retracted her thoughts and saw that it was Daniel who called.

Seeing Ava who had passed out from drinking and Madeline who had flushed cheeks, he could not help but smile. Madeline helped him carry Ava into the car.

"Why did you guys come here to drink?" Daniel asked with concern.

Daniel arrived in a hurry about half an hour later.

"I couldn't recall a lot of my past, so Ava said she wanted to help me find my memories here, but she got drunk instead." Madeline glanced at Ava worriedly. "Dan, I still want to walk around for a while. Please help me send Ava back home."

Daniel looked at Madeline worriedly. "Maddie, let me send you back first."

Madeline shook her head. "Don't worry, I'll be careful," she said before turning around.

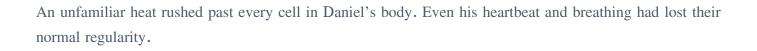
Daniel did not stop her again. He drove back to the apartment with a drunk Ava.

Ava was still drunk talking on the way back. She kept on telling Madeline not to look back, not to be fooled by Jeremy, and even enumerated Jeremy's faults while calling him a scumbag.

Daniel could not help but smile. He suddenly felt that Ava's friendship with Madeline was really precious.

After arriving at the apartment, Daniel helped Ava into the room. He wanted to leave after putting her to bed, but Ava was very drunk.

She grabbed him by the collar and forcibly dragged him down on the bed. Daniel hurriedly wanted to get up and step aside, but Ava suddenly fell on him in the next second. Not only did she throw herself on him, but her mouth also fell on his lips by accident...



"Mm..."

Ava did not know that she had kissed Daniel's lips and murmured uncomfortably. She looked for a comfortable posture, turned her face, and lay on Daniel's body before continuing to sleep.

"Maddie, listen to me, don't ever be stupid again.

"You were... really such an idiot. You only had that scumbag Jeremy in your eyes. You couldn't even see the handsome, gentle, kind, and outstanding Dan...

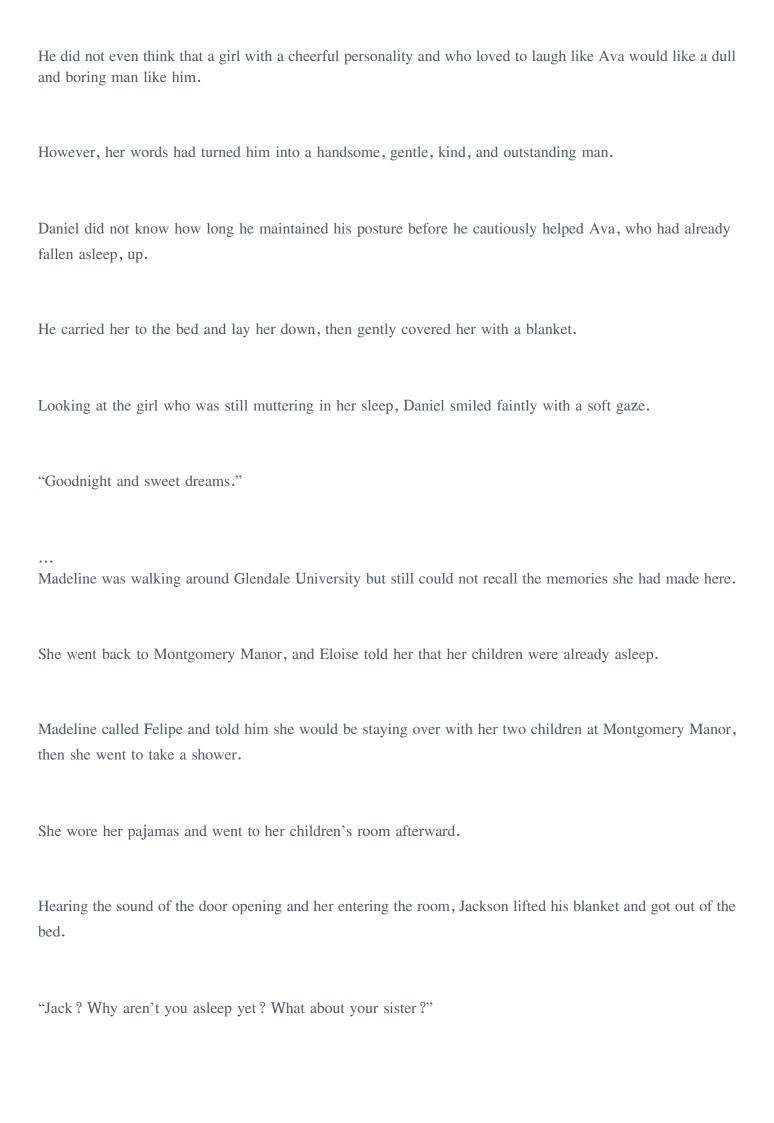
"Do you know how much I envy you, Maddie? Aren't you curious why I haven't found a boyfriend? It's because... Because all this while, I've liked Dan, but Dan only has you in his heart..."

Hearing the drunk Ava spitting out the truth at the moment, Daniel looked down at the sleeping girl lying on his chest in shock.

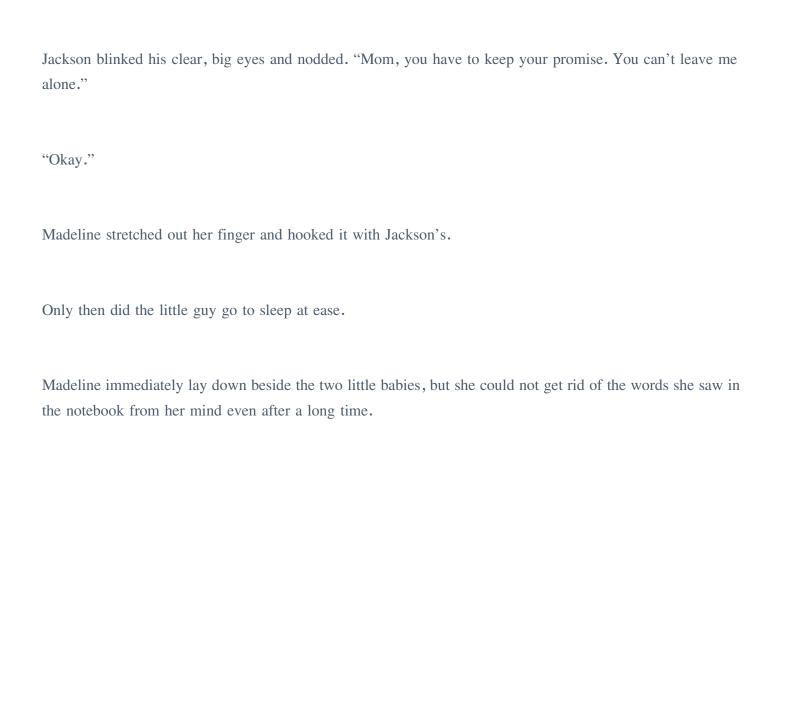
She was very drunk and her cheeks were abnormally rosy. Beneath her delicate and willowy eyebrows, the woman's thick eyelashes fluttered from time to time. Her tiny mouth was still muttering drunken words. She kept on repeating what she had told Madeline and that she liked him.

Daniel listened motionlessly, his thoughts a mess.

He really never realized that Ava had a crush on him.









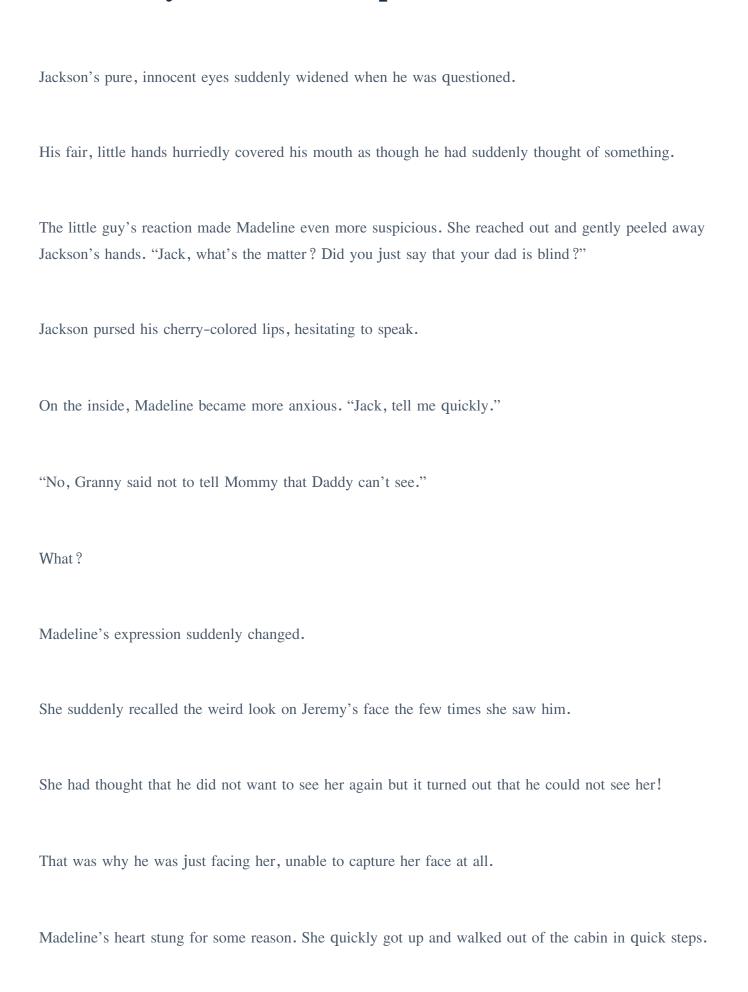
Madeline was once again on the flight to F Country. Jackson was sitting beside her while Felipe carried Lily to the washroom. Before the flight took off, Madeline had received a call from the head who managed the store on Crystal Street, asking her to confirm something. Madeline turned on her computer to settle some work matters, but when she was about to shut it down, she accidentally clicked on a folder she had never seen before. She randomly clicked on one of the txt files in the folder. She spaced out after opening it and seeing the contents. [I never thought that you would leave me like this. You wouldn't, right? This must be a prank, right? Don't joke about things like this, Madeline. It's not funny. [You said you loved me and that you'd bother me forever. Why is your forever so short? It can't be. I refuse to believe that it is... [You must be doing this on purpose, Madeline. You're doing this so that I would never forget you and so that I would miss you forever. You're sly, but I won't fall for it. Madeline...] It was a diary. She did not know whose diary it was, but she saw the person's reluctance and heartache in the text. After being frozen for a while, she clicked on the next document. [Madeline, I miss you so much. Didn't you say I'd regret it? I really regret it. Can you hear me?]

A short and simple sentence contained the repentance of the person who wrote the text. Madeline's fingers trembled slightly as she continued reading them one by one.

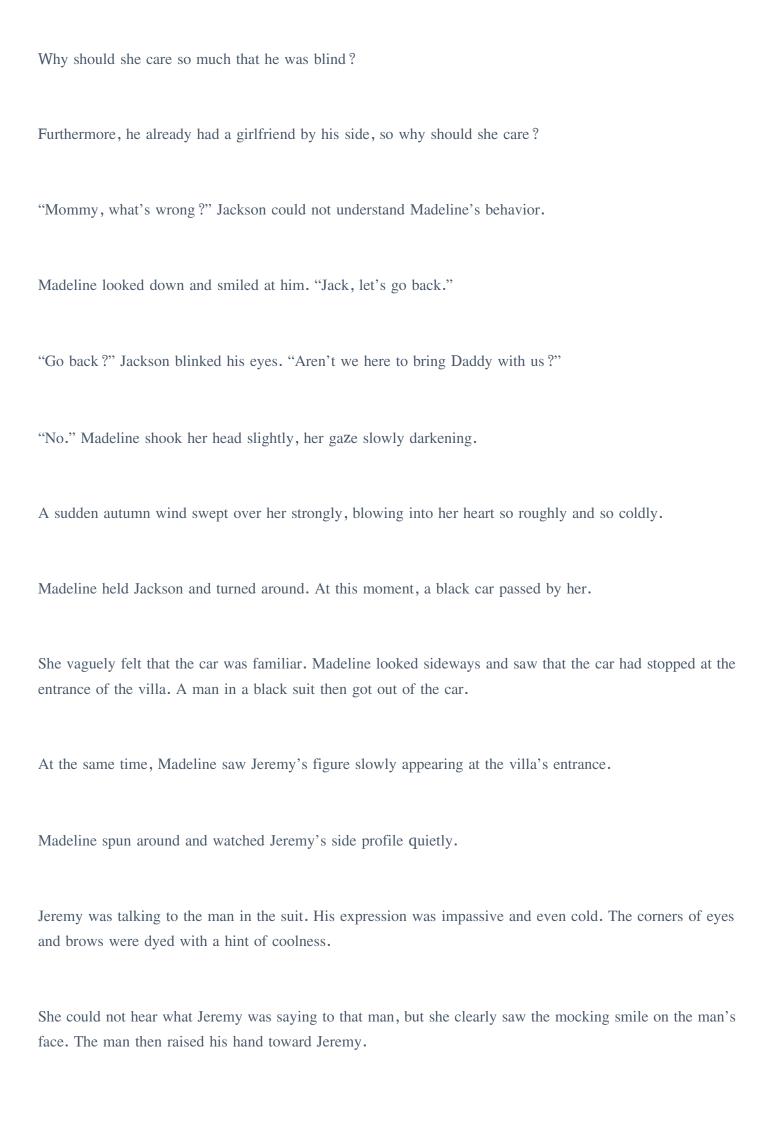
Then, she saw Jeremy's name in the document. [Madeline, this is the 100th day since you left. I never thought that the color of the sky could be so dark, but my world has become like this ever since I lost you. [I always thought that you were not important to me, but the moment when you fell into my arms on the brink of your death, I wished the one who died would be me, Jeremy, instead. [Madeline, I really miss you. I miss you so, so much... If I could do this all over again, I would rather we never met as long as you're well.] Seeing this, Madeline's emotions gradually wandered on the verge of losing control. These words and sentences that contained such affection were actually written by Jeremy. He actually missed her and liked her this much. However, his love and yearning for her had obviously expired. He took off the wedding ring which was enough to show that he had moved on. "Mommy, are we really not waiting for Daddy to go to F Country together?" Jackson's soft and childish voice was filled with reluctance for Jeremy. He gently pulled at Madeline's hands. "Mommy, can we wait for Daddy and then go together?" Madeline controlled her emotions and smiled at Jackson. "Jack, from now on, Lily's dad is your dad." "Why?" Jack's cute eyebrows frowned. "I want my own dad." "Jack..."

"Mommy, is it because Daddy did something wrong and that's why you're not bringing him to F Country? Is it because Daddy can no longer see that Mommy doesn't want him anymore?"

Madeline's heartbeat stopped a bit upon hearing this. Her beautiful eyes widened in disbelief. "Jack, what did you say? Your dad can no longer see?"

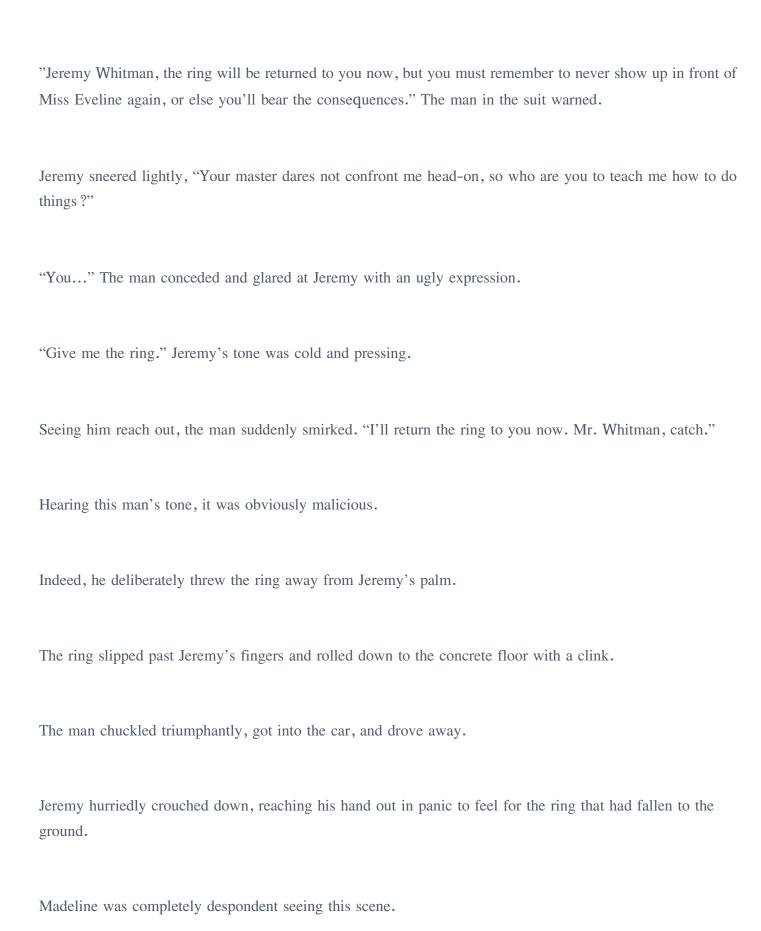


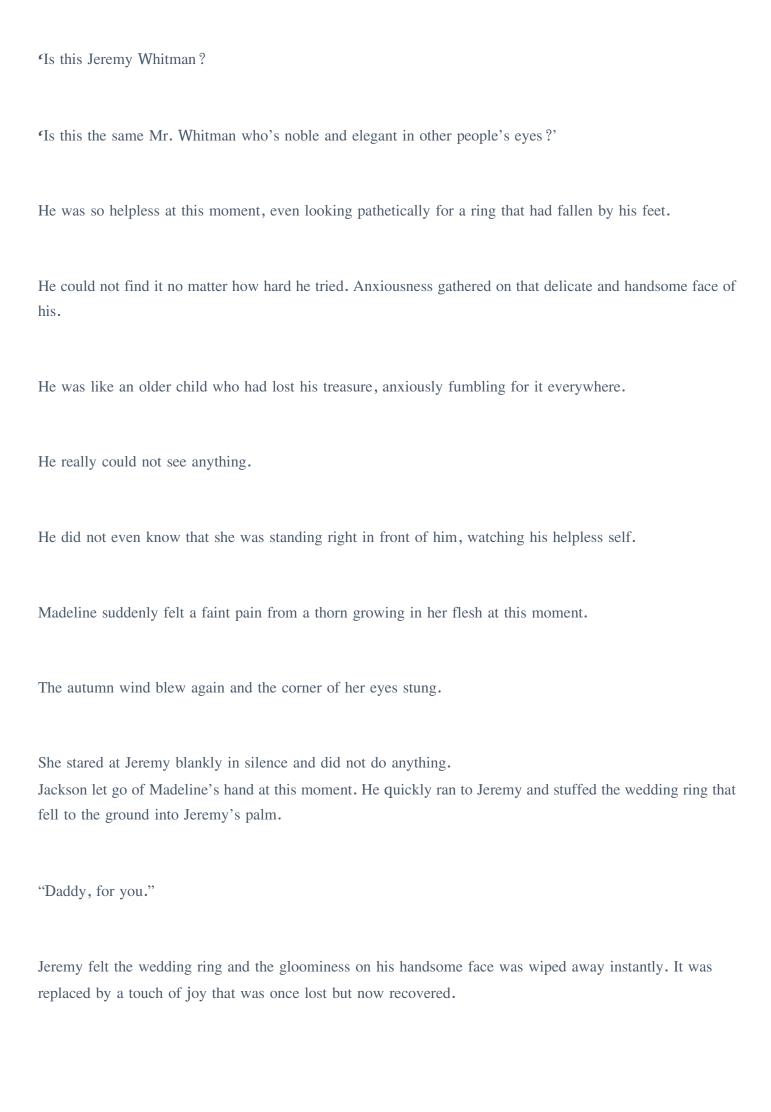
Felipe came back while carrying Lily. Seeing Madeline hurrying back while holding Jackson's hand, he called out to Madeline, puzzled, "Eveline, where are you going?"
Madeline looked back, her face full of anxiety. "Jeremy is blind. Did you know about this?"
Felipe was slightly stunned upon hearing this, then he showed a surprised expression. "Jeremy is blind? How could it be?"
"If he's alright, then I'll come back immediately."
Without giving Felipe a chance to stop her, Madeline walked away while holding Jackson. She did not look back.
If he was alright, then she would come back.
That meant she would not be coming back.
Jeremy was indeed blind.
Felipe stood fixed in his spot while carrying Lily. Seeing Madeline leaving in a hurry, darkness surged in his eyes.
Eveline, why do you still care so much about him even after you've lost your memories?
Even when you know this man has once hurt you so much.'
Madeline and Jackson took a taxi to the villa, but after she got out of the car, she stopped in her steps again.



He was holding a ring in his hand.

Madeline looked at the ring fixedly, her thoughts wandering far away.





He took the ring and gently blew the dust off the surface, then put it back on the ring finger of his left hand. He cherished it as he held it, turning it slightly as if he would be at ease by doing this.
Madeline's vision was suddenly blurry.
It turned out he did not discard the wedding ring but it had been taken away for some reason.
Jeremy seemed to have now realized something.
He reached out and felt the little boy in front of him. "Jackson?"
"Daddy, it's me," Jackson answered seriously.
Jeremy's gaze softened. He gently caressed the little guy's cheek. "Jack, why are you here? Didn't you get on the plane with your mother?"
"I was about to leave, but Mommy suddenly brought me to look for you," Jackson said as he looked at Madeline who was standing not far away.
"" Jeremy was stunned hearing this. His heartstrings were pulled into a mess by the wind for a while. "Your mom is here?"
"Yes," Jackson answered without hesitation. "Mommy, come here quickly. Daddy can't see. We're not playing hide and seek with Daddy anymore."
Madeline's tears fell instantly.

Jeremy froze for a few seconds, then he slowly stood up. He roughly estimated where Madeline was standing based on his senses. A hint of haste flashed across his face as his twinkling eyes further showed his awkwardness at the moment. However, he smiled gently.

"Silly, how can I not see? Get on the plane with your Mommy." He smiled and gently pushed Jackson toward Madeline before saying, "Linnie, take Jack and go. I have things to do right now. Hopefully we can meet again in the future."

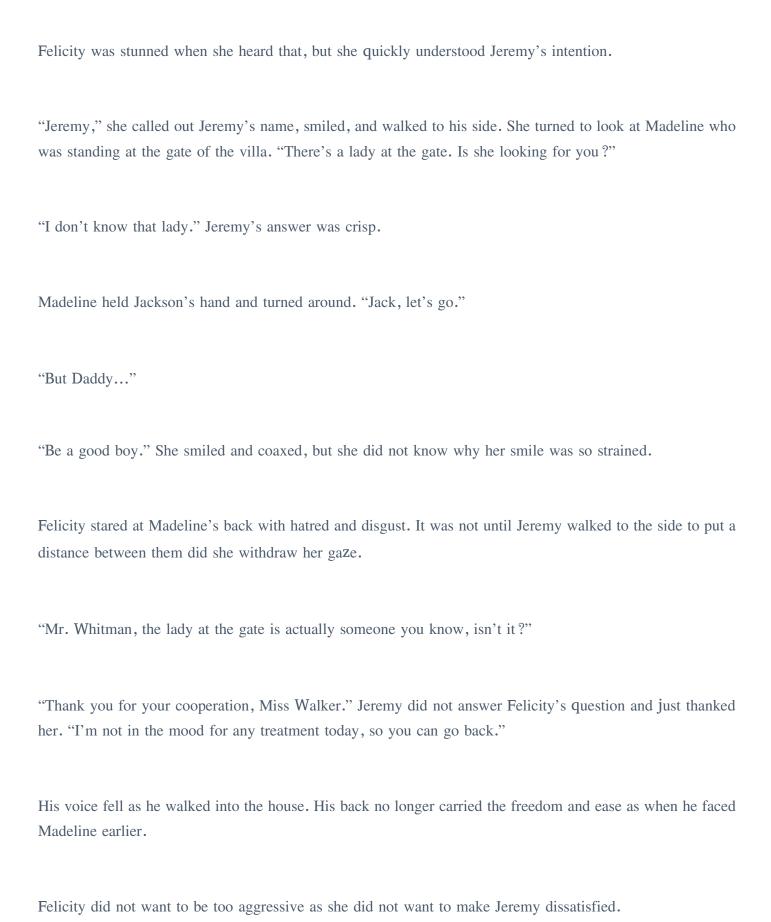
He turned hurriedly after he was done speaking, but his disordered mind made him lose his sense of direction. As soon as he turned around, he bumped into the flower bed and almost fell.

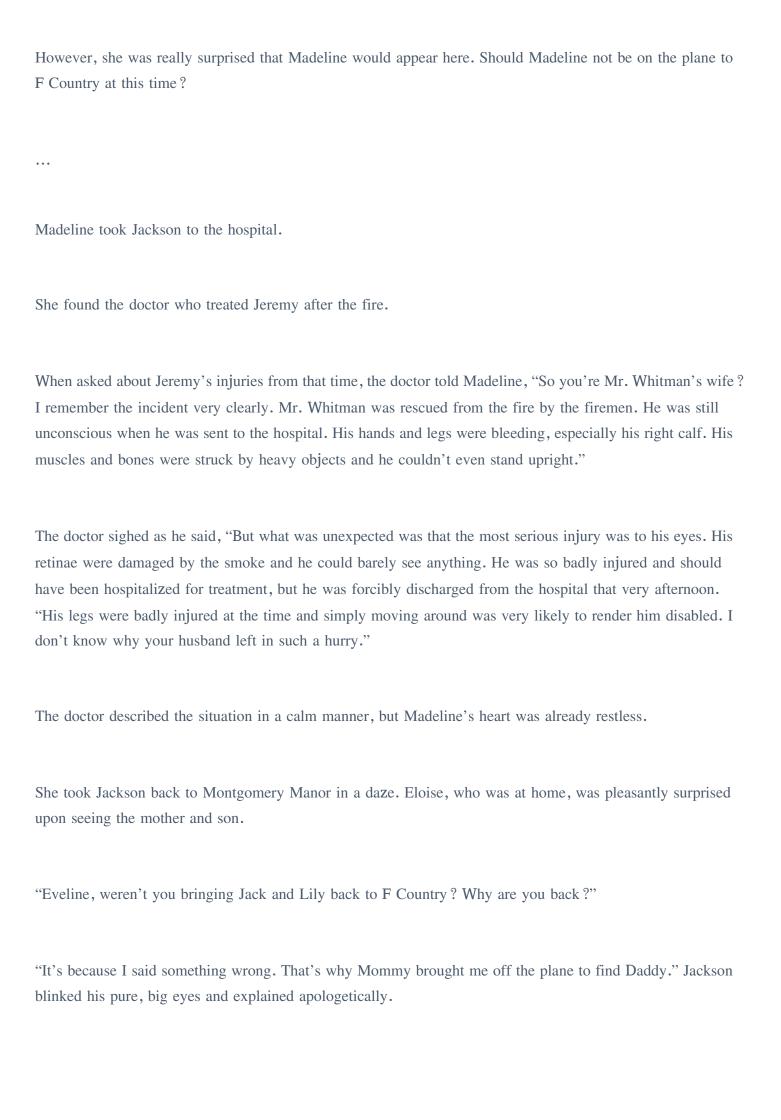
Madeline suppressed the pain that spread in her heart seeing this scene. She let out a laugh and said, "Jeremy, do you not want to see me that badly?"

Jeremy's fleeing footsteps suddenly halted, and he heard Madeline's approaching footsteps.
His heartstrings tightened even more, but he forced a calm smile and turned his face slightly. "Take Jacksor away and live the life you want. You'll be happy staying away from a scumbag like me."
Madeline walked to his back, the tears overflowing from the corners of her eyes getting blown dry by the autumn wind.
Seeing the calm and motionless appearance of the man in front of her, she chuckled again. "Live the life I want? Jeremy, do you know what kind of life I want to live?"
Jeremy lowered his beautiful eyes dimly and smiled. "At the very least, a life without me must be what you want."
After his voice fell, the air was silent for a few seconds. Then, Jeremy opened his lips lightly.
"Now that we've gotten the divorce certificate and I've let you go, we'll have nothing to do with each other from now on. I won't bother you anymore, let alone pester you."
As he said, he reluctantly turned his face away with his back now facing Madeline. "Miss Montgomery, I wish you a happy and long life with your loved ones."
Miss Montgomery.
He called her that.

It felt so distant and alienated. He walked around the flower bed and slowly stepped into the house. The view of his back appeared free and at ease as though he had put down all of the past. However, she recalled the scenes of him losing control and hugging her as if he was paranoid, him kissing her side profile, and him whispering sweet nothings in her ear. The words and sentences he wrote in the diary were also vivid. At this moment though, he said he had already let go. Seeing his retreating back, Madeline's heart was filled with unspoken sadness. She chuckled indifferently. "Mr. Whitman, don't get me wrong. I just wanted to ask you, did you lose your sight because of the fire?" "Miss Montgomery, you think too much. There's nothing wrong with my eyes, but thank you for your concern." Jeremy did not even look back and continued walking as he said. His tone was distant, as if she was just a stranger. Madeline stood fixed on the spot as she watched Jeremy's retreating figure. She thought of his reluctant look when he quietly followed her on the small island that day. She suddenly felt that the time had long passed. She did not chase after him and planned to go to the hospital to ask about Jeremy's situation. Just as she turned around, a car stopped in front of her.

Madeline vaguely saw a woman driving. She seemed to be the same woman who had stayed with Jeremy before.
As she was guessing, the woman opened the car door and got out.
The moment Felicity turned her face and met eyes with Madeline, there were strange expressions on the two's faces.
Jackson blinked his big eyes twice, looking at the women in front of him who looked very similar to his dear mother in surprise.
"Nice to meet you. I'm Felicity Walker. Are you Mr. Whitman's friend?" Felicity greeted first.
Madeline smiled politely. "I'm not his friend. I have nothing to do with him."
Jeremy, who had not yet gone far, laughed bitterly upon hearing Madeline's answer.
He thought for a moment, took a deep breath, and made a decision.
"Felicity," he called out Felicity's name, sounding so intimate.





"Said something wrong?" Eloise gradually understood. "Eveline, d-did you go to see Jeremy? Then, did you see that he's..."

"I saw. He's blind." Madeline's tone was light as if she was talking about something that was irrelevant to her, but she knew that she was very restless at the moment. "Do all of you already know that he's blind?"

"Eveline, I didn't intend to hide it from you." Eloise was deeply sorry. "It was Jeremy who deliberately told each of us not to tell you that he has lost his sight."

After hearing the answer, Madeline found it a little unacceptable.

Then, she heard Eloise say, "In truth, in that fire, Jeremy completely ignored the safety of his own life in order to save you. But he didn't want you to know that he had been seriously injured and even lost his sight because of you, so he quietly left the hospital that afternoon. I lied to you and said that if he was discharged from the hospital, it meant that his injuries weren't serious, but in fact, he couldn't even walk then."

Every word of Eloise hit Madeline's heart painfully. She was breathing uncomfortably.

She felt extremely perplexed at that moment. "Why did Jeremy do that? Why does he not want me to know?"

In fact, she noticed that Madeline also cared for Jeremy.



He had smiled forcefully and pretended to be free and easy, but he did not have the courage to look back when he called her 'Miss Montgomery'.
She was clearly standing in front of him at such a close distance, but it seemed that she was across mountains and rivers, extremely far away.
He stroked the wedding ring on his ring finger to comfort himself.
The phone beside him suddenly vibrated, and he picked up the Bluetooth headset to answer.
Felicity's gentle voice sounded from the other end. "Mr. Whitman, 7 PM tomorrow is a good time for psychological intervention. I hope you can come over for psychological treatment on time."
"Got it," Jeremy replied coldly and hung up the phone.
He raised his dull eyes and looked ahead. Only Madeline's appearance was clear and profound in the dark void.
He thought about it all night.
The next evening, Madeline drove to the villa.
She was walking in when she happened to see Karen walking out.
Karen's face instantly fell upon seeing Madeline. Her tone was extremely unfriendly as she said, "Madeline, why are you here? Have you not hurt Jeremy enough? Do you want our whole family to have no peace before you'll be happy?"

Madeline did not want to argue with Karen. She calmly opened her mouth and said, "I came looking for Jeremy to discuss something."

"There's nothing to discuss!" Karen refused. "Jeremy became blind because of you and you still don't want to let him go? When will you be satisfied?"

Madeline curled her l	lips and smiled.	"Do you want me	e to be satisfied? It	's simple. I'll be	satisfied if you shut
up."					

"You..." Karen was exasperated. When she was about to drive Madeline out, she saw a car stopping at the entrance.

Seeing Felicity getting out of the car, she was startled. She turned her head and looked at Madeline's face again.

The two faces were so similar!

Madeline had also noticed Felicity. She looked at that face suspiciously and could not help but feel strange.

'Is there really someone in this world who would look so much like me?'

"Who are you?" Karen pointed at Felicity and asked, looking closely at this face that was very similar to Madeline's.

Felicity glanced at Madeline and showed a bright smile. "Hi Aunty, I'm Jeremy's girlfriend, Felicity Walker."

"What? Jeremy's girlfriend?" Karen's eyes widened in surprise as she looked at Felicity's face with some disgust. However, after thinking about Madeline, Karen's face immediately changed. "It turns out you're my future daughter-in-law."

She obviously chose to stand on Felicity's side and did not forget to cast a provoking glance at Madeline after she was done speaking.

"Madeline, did you hear that? Jeremy already has a girlfriend. You and Jeremy have gotten your divorce certificate and have nothing to do with each other anymore. Don't come looking for Jeremy from now on. Just leave!" Karen dismissed with dissatisfaction.

Felicity looked at Madeline in surprise. "So you're Jeremy's ex-wife."

Madeline looked back and vaguely caught the flash of an extremely strange shade in Felicity's eyes.

"I'll be taking my leave." She smiled gracefully and calmly. She turned around and walked away, but a feeling of loneliness dispersed in her heart.

Seeing that Madeline was gone, Karen rolled her eyes and snorted while feeling quite pleased.

She turned her head to look at Felicity. This face that looked so similar to Madeline's made Karen feel repulsed and confused.

"You're Felicity Walker? Are you really Jeremy's girlfriend? Why do you look so similar to Madeline?"

"Hi Aunty, this is my business card." Felicity smiled and handed her business card over. "I'm a psychologist and I'm carrying out psychological intervention with Jeremy, hoping to help him regain his vision. As for why I look so much like Jeremy's ex-wife, I'm also quite surprised."

"What psychology intervention? What do Jeremy's eyes have to do with psychotherapy?" Karen stuffed the business card back to her for some unknown reason, then glanced at Felicity again. She said unhappily, "It seems that Jeremy hasn't given up on Madeline. Even his new girlfriend looks so much like her!"

She was roasting her softly when Jeremy came out of the house.

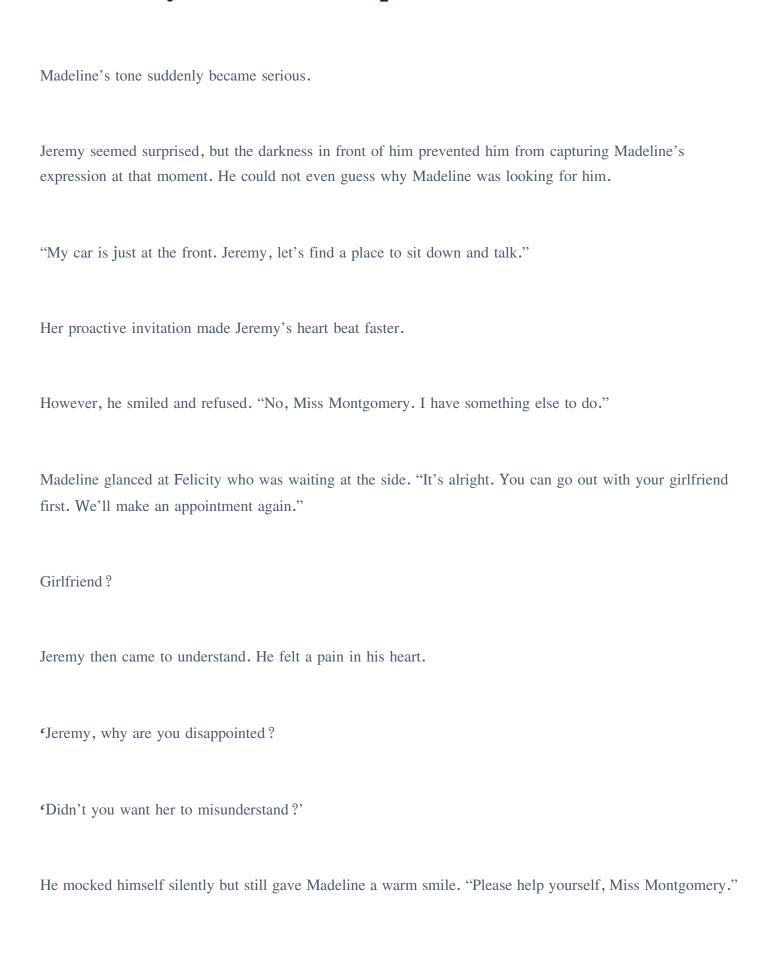
He had vaguely heard Madeline's voice from his room, but when he walked to the entrance, he only heard Karen and Felicity.

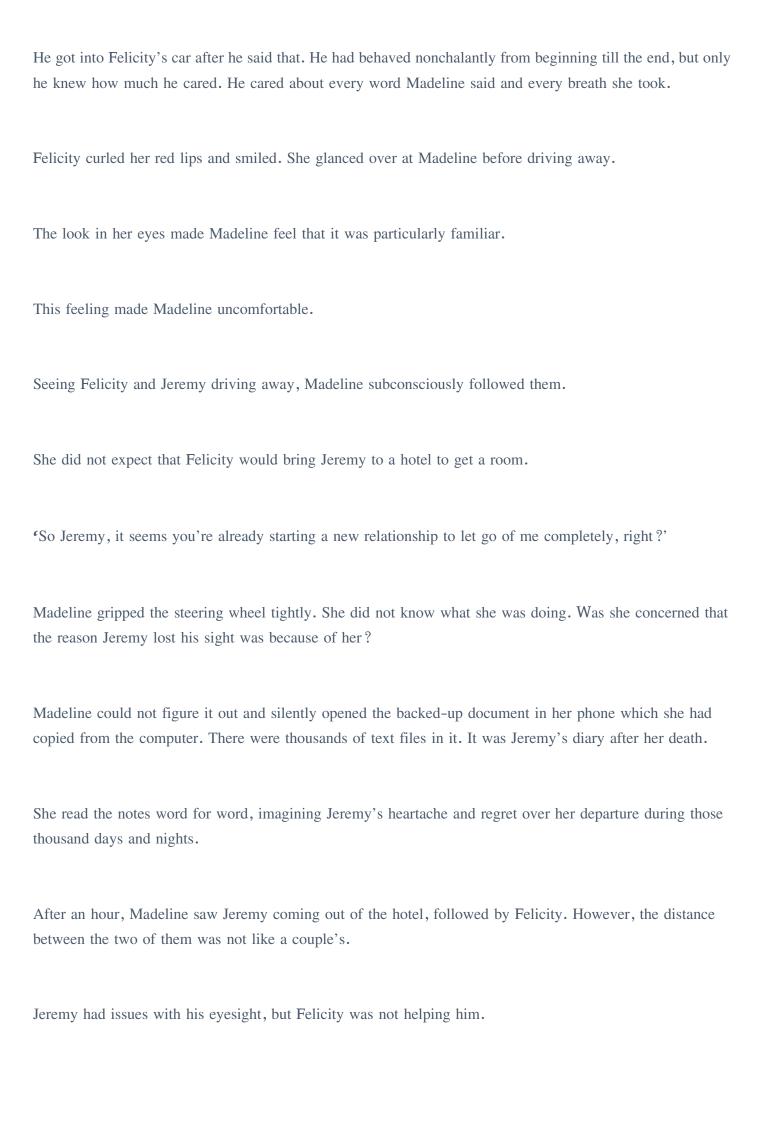
"Why are you here?" he asked Felicity.
"I was afraid you couldn't find the place, so I came over here to pick you up. Psychotherapy is also about timing. It'll be just right if I take you over for treatment now."
Jeremy nodded. "Wait for me here. I'll go change."
"Okay." Felicity smiled. After seeing Jeremy entering the house, she took out a few coupons to a high-end spa. "Aunty, our first meeting is a little sudden. I don't have a gift prepared, so I hope you'll like these."
Karen was initially a little repulsed because of Felicity's appearance, but when she saw the gifts, she immediately smiled.
She had not been to a high-end spa in a long time.
After Madeline walked out of the villa, she sat in the car and did not leave.
She thought that she would look for Jeremy again after Karen and Felicity left, but now she saw Jeremy and Felicity coming out one after another.
Seeing that Jeremy was about to get in the car and leave, Madeline decisively got out of her car and walked toward him. "Mr. Whitman."
When Jeremy suddenly heard Madeline's pleasant voice, he realized that what he heard earlier was not an illusion.
"Linnie?" He called out the name almost reflexively, but then changed his words and calmed his tone. "Miss Montgomery, were you looking for me?"

Madeline walked up to him. Her tone was amused. "Can't I look for my ex-husband?"

" "

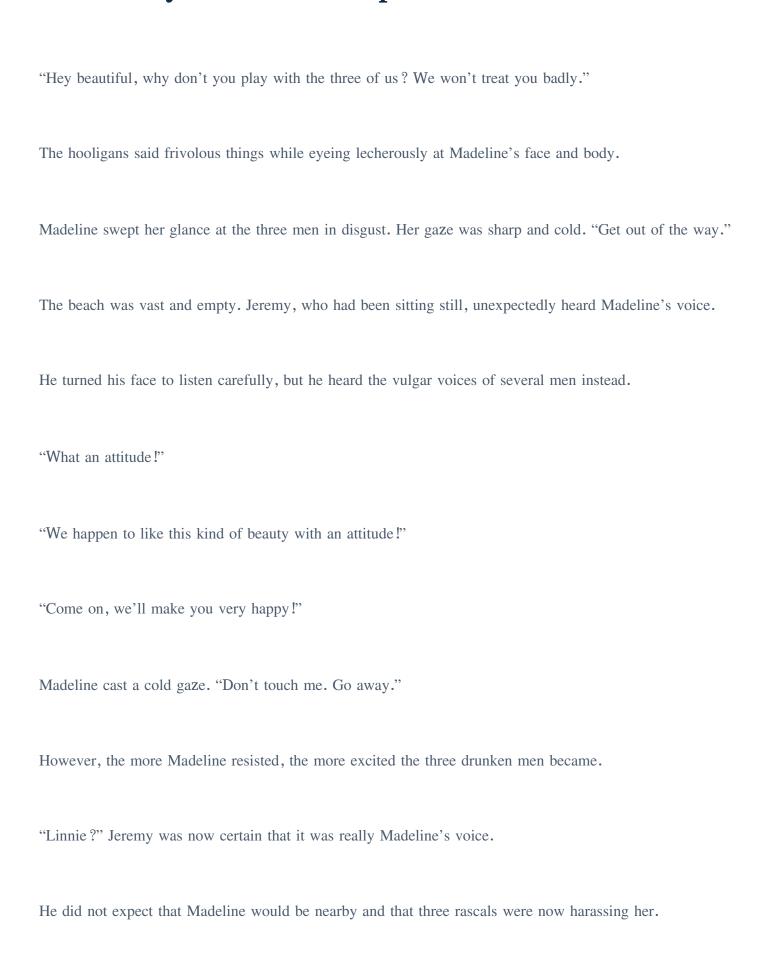
"Jeremy, I need to talk to you."

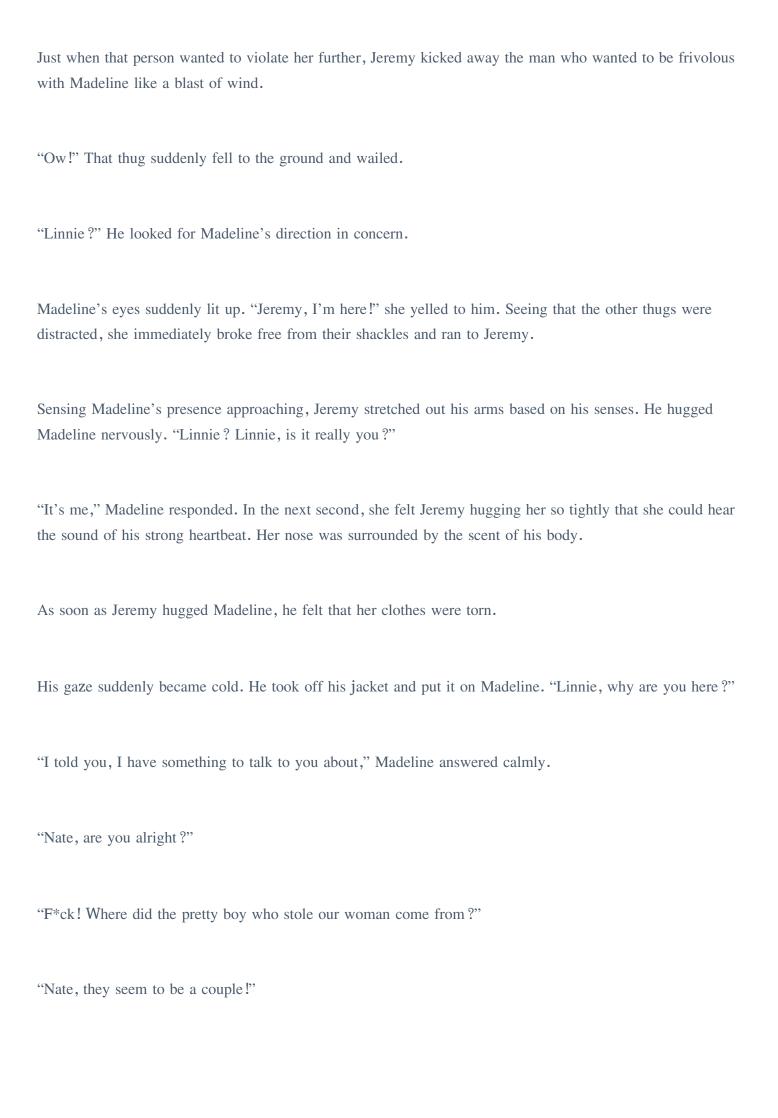




He fumbled to the side of the street alone, got in a car, and left.
Although the sky was dark, Madeline clearly captured the unhappy look on Felicity's face.
Madeline felt as if she had seen this dissatisfied look before.
However, Madeline did not think too much of it. She quickly followed the taxi that Jeremy had gotten on.
Unexpectedly, she followed the taxi to the beach of April Hill.
There was no one at the beachside at this time and season.
Jeremy sat alone on the bench by the sea for half an hour.
The taxi was also waiting by the side. It could be assumed that Jeremy had paid and booked it.
However, the driver seemed to be a little bored while waiting. He was holding a pack of cigarettes and smoking while walking forward.
Seeing this, Madeline opened the car door and moved a little closer to Jeremy.
In the dark blue night, Jeremy was like an intricate and elegant ancient Greek statue that was sitting motionlessly in the wind.
If it were not for him gently turning the ring on his finger all the time, Madeline would have thought that he was paralyzed.

However, there was a sudden drizzle and Madeline thought for a moment before starting to walk towa Jeremy.	rd
Just as she stepped forward, three rakish thugs rushed up from behind and surrounded Madeline.	
"Hey, since when was there a beauty around here?"	
"Tsk tsk, how pretty."	



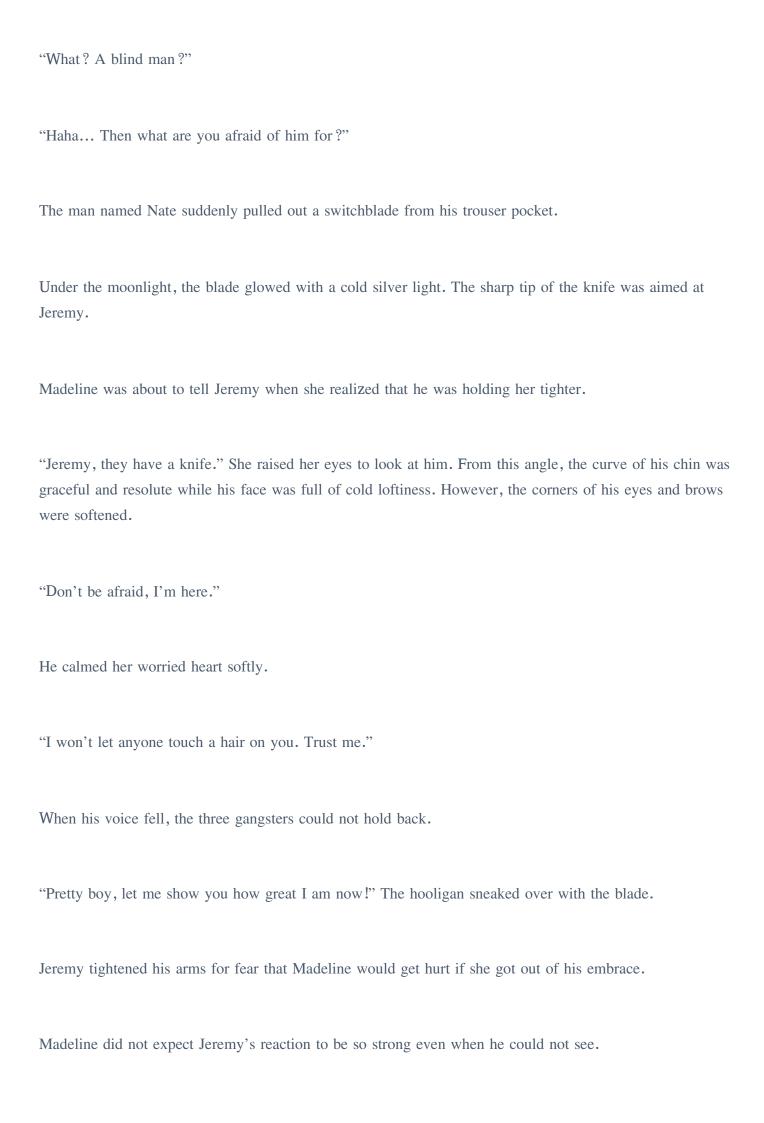


The two other thugs looked at Jeremy's extremely handsome and unusually cold face. They were feeling a little frightened, but the head, Nate, got even more arrogant.

"I don't care if they're a couple or not, I must fck this woman today! I must fck her even if this pretty boy is her husband!"

"Nate, I think this pretty boy is blind."

How could Jeremy tolerate a man using such vulgar and frivolous words about Madeline's body? His eyes sank, and his words were like ice.
"Although you guys have simple minds and simple limbs, you have good vision. She's indeed my wife."
His voice fell, and with his sensitive hearing, he knocked the three hooligans to the ground with thunderous force.
"Ow, ow!" The b*stard named Nate yelled, blood oozing from the corner of his mouth.
Jeremy retracted his hand and once again embraced Madeline in his arms, spreading wings of shelter over her.
The rain gradually got heavier, but Madeline felt a warm current passing from Jeremy's body to hers. This warmth made her feel inexplicably at ease.
Although blinded, Jeremy's eyes were still sharp and were dyed with a breathtaking vibe.
"If you don't want to die, apologize to my wife immediately."
His commanding tone made the three hooligans tremble.
When the one named Walter was about to apologize, one of them suddenly realized that Jeremy's eyes were a little off.



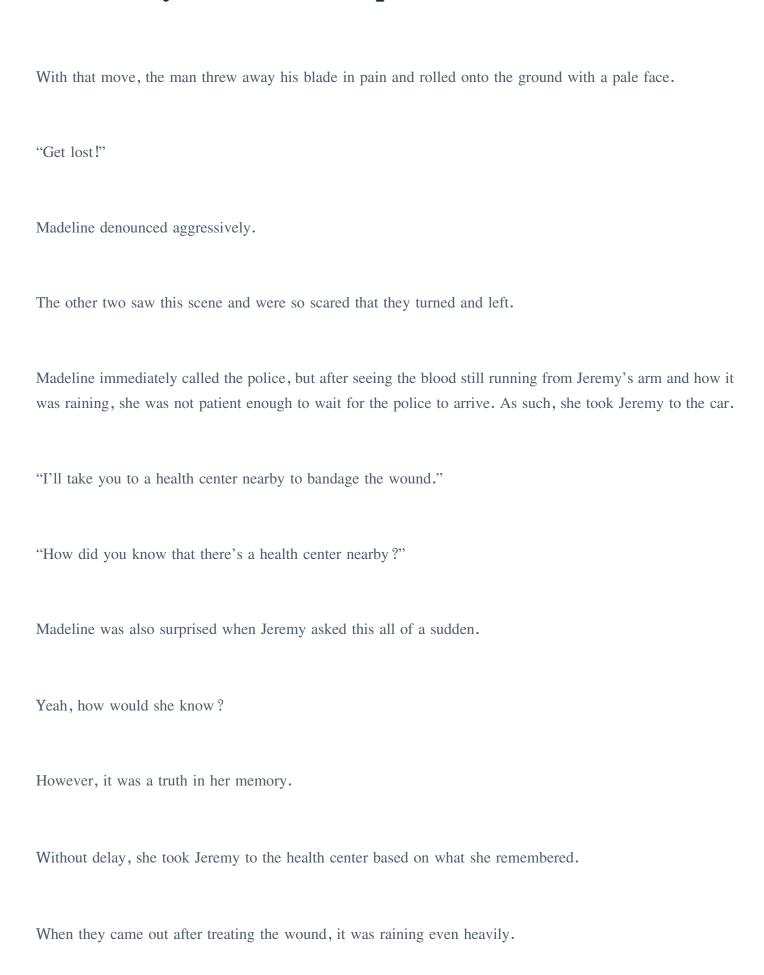


Seeing that Jeremy had been cut	, Madeline suddenly remembered	something. She took o	out the self-defense
spray that Jackson had given fro	m her pocket and sprayed it on the	ne man who was laughi	ng wildly.

The man immediately screamed and covered his eyes that were stung by the pepper spray.

Madeline unceremoniously raised her foot and kicked the man in his lower half.

"Ow!"



Just then, Madeline received a call from Felipe. He was asking her where she was.

Madeline glanced at Jeremy who was standing beside her and said, "I'm with a friend, and there's something I need to settle."

Felipe did not ask who this friend was, but he had guessed that Madeline was with Jeremy.

After hanging up the call, Madeline held up an umbrella for Jeremy.

"Let's go, Mr. Whitman." She reminded, stepping onto the sidewalk.

"I'm sorry to trouble you, Miss Montgomery." He had switched back to this unfamiliar term of address.

Madeline chuckled. "You don't have to be so polite with me, Mr. Whitman. You were blinded saving me and the wound on your arm is also because of me. It's not bothersome at all for me to just hold the umbrella for you now."

When Jeremy heard this, he did not know if it was a misperception, but Madeline sounded a little angry.

In the silence, Jeremy heard the sound of a car driving from ahead. He subconsciously raised his hand to put his arm around Madeline's shoulder, bringing her into his arms as if to prevent her from being splashed by the rain and mud on the road.

Madeline was caught off guard, so when she was suddenly brought into Jeremy's chest, the tip of her nose plunged into a familiar cool fragrance. The smell pierced her heart, strumming her heartstrings.

Jeremy and Madeline did not speak another word, and there was only the trickling sound of the rain falling onto the umbrella.

After returning to the car, Madeline handed Jeremy a dry towel. She had been entangled with the three gangsters in the rain for too long and was almost completely wet.

She was about to start driving and head back when the police called and told Madeline to go to the nearby police station to make a record.

When she was done giving her statement, it was already close to the wee hours.

The rain had stopped, but the autumn breeze was still blowing and the coolness penetrated one's skin. Madeline could not help sneezing twice.

Jeremy frowned lightly. He thought for a moment before opening his mouth to say, "Didn't Miss Montgomery have something to discuss with me? If there is something you wish to discuss today, why don't we head to a hotel nearby and have our talk in a room?"

Madeline glanced at Jeremy in surprise and was just about to speak when she sneezed again.

Jeremy frowned again but smiled nonchalantly. "Miss Montgomery, are you worried that I'll make a move on you? Don't worry, I'm blind now and can't do anything to you."

"If I was afraid of you, I wouldn't have come here with you." Not to be outdone, Madeline immediately took Jeremy to a nearby hotel and got a room.

Upon entering the room, Madeline was first going to take a bath.

She was drenched all over, so if she let herself remain in this state, she might really catch a cold and fever.

Jeremy took advantage of Madeline taking a shower and fumbled downstairs to find the proprietress. "Please help me prepare two cups of ginger tea, thank you."

He was worried that Madeline would catch a cold and was even more worried about being unable to take care
of her if she really did get a fever.
Jeremy returned in the same way and opened the door with his room card. As soon as he opened the door, he heard Madeline screaming in the bathroom.
"Ah!"
"Linnie ?"
Thinking that something had happened to Madeline, Jeremy held no consideration for his own situation and bumped his way into the bathroom. He looked panicked and worried.
"Linnie, what's the matter? Linnie! Where are you?"

just now, so I screamed a little."

Jeremy's face appeared worried, but he was still blankly looking for Madeline's figure in the darkness.
Although Madeline was no longer a weak woman, she was still inevitably surprised when a gecko had crawled to her side so suddenly. She also did not expect Jeremy to just suddenly enter so anxiously.
"Linnie? What happened to you? Where are you?" Jeremy fumbled around. There was intense uneasiness and worry in his tone.
Madeline was standing aside, and she saw how Jeremy was searching for her in confusion as her heart trembled secretly.
"Linnie, please answer me quickly. Where are you?" he asked again nervously. Madeline could no longer remain silent.
"I'm here."
As soon as he heard Madeline's voice, Jeremy followed the direction it came from. The moment he touched Madeline's body, he embraced her tightly while wishing he could melt her into his own blood.
"Are you alright?" His low voice was trembling with a hint of tension.
Madeline was stunned for two seconds before she replied, "I'm fine. I saw a gecko that was crawling around

"Glad to know that. I'm glad to know you're fine." He seemed to only be able to give a sigh of relief now.

Although she was obviously the one who was surprised, it was him who was frightened.

Thinking of Jeremy's reaction just now, Madeline smiled lightly and said in a playful tone, "Mr. Whitman, don't you already have a new love interest? And don't you no longer care about your ex-wife from a long time ago? Why are you worrying about whether I'm alright now?"

Hearing her words, Jeremy realized that he had lost his composure.

However, he had already in fact lost his composure ever since the three gangsters were planning to dally with Madeline.

He could pretend that he had let go of the past, but during the emergency situation just now, he could not ignore her existence.

Jeremy Quickly released his hand. "Miss Montgomery is a woman, so as a man, I need to give a helping hand when a woman is in danger." He found a very reasonable excuse for himself.

"Oh..." Madeline responded meaningfully, "Then, Mr. Whitman, as such a good man who is so helpful, why did you treat your weak ex-wife so cruelly?"

As the words left her mouth, a trace of regret appeared on Jeremy's face.

Madeline picked up the bathrobe beside her hand and covered her body quickly.

"Mr. Whitman, you should also take a bath. I don't want you to catch a cold because of me again," she said as she put the daily necessities along with the bathrobe on the shelf. "Don't let your wound come in touch with water to avoid inflammation. I'll be right outside. If you need any assistance, you may call for me."

Madeline walked out of the bathroom after she said her words.

She glanced at him again before she closed the door and left.

After a short while, Madeline could hear the sound of the shower coming from the bathroom. Someone had knocked on the door then. She went to open the door and found that the proprietress had brought two cups of ginger tea.

Madeline felt her heart warm up as she said, "My lady, you're too thoughtful."

The proprietress smiled, putting down the cups and saucers. "It's your boyfriend who's considerate. He was worried that you might catch a cold from the rain, so he specifically asked me to brew this for you."

Madeline was surprised when she heard this from the proprietress.

She only came back to her senses when she heard a crash from the bathroom. By then, she had realized that the proprietress was gone.

Madeline walked toward the bathroom door, guessing that Jeremy might have bumped into something since he was unable to see.

She thought Jeremy would call her for help, but he did not say anything until he came out of the shower.

Madeline looked at the man who was walking forward cautiously. With a loose bathrobe draped over him, he walked slowly. A few strands of his hair on his forehead were still dripping with drops of water, adding a bit of bewitching charm on such a night.

Madeline handed a cup of ginger tea to Jeremy. "Drink this ginger tea from the proprietress."

Jeremy stretched out his hand to take it but did not manage to touch the cup for a while. Seeing him struggle blindly, Madeline inexplicably felt an unease in her heart.

She held Jeremy's hand and placed the teacup precisely into his palm.

The skin contact during this brief moment made Jeremy feel a little bit lost in his thoughts.

He felt Madeline's warm and soft palm on the back of his hand for a short moment. The ginger tea that slid down his throat was unusually sweet.

Madeline handed their wet clothes to the proprietress, and when she returned, Jeremy had already finished his ginger tea. He was sitting quietly by the window.

She walked toward him, and as she was about to speak, her nose suddenly itched. She then turned away to sneeze.

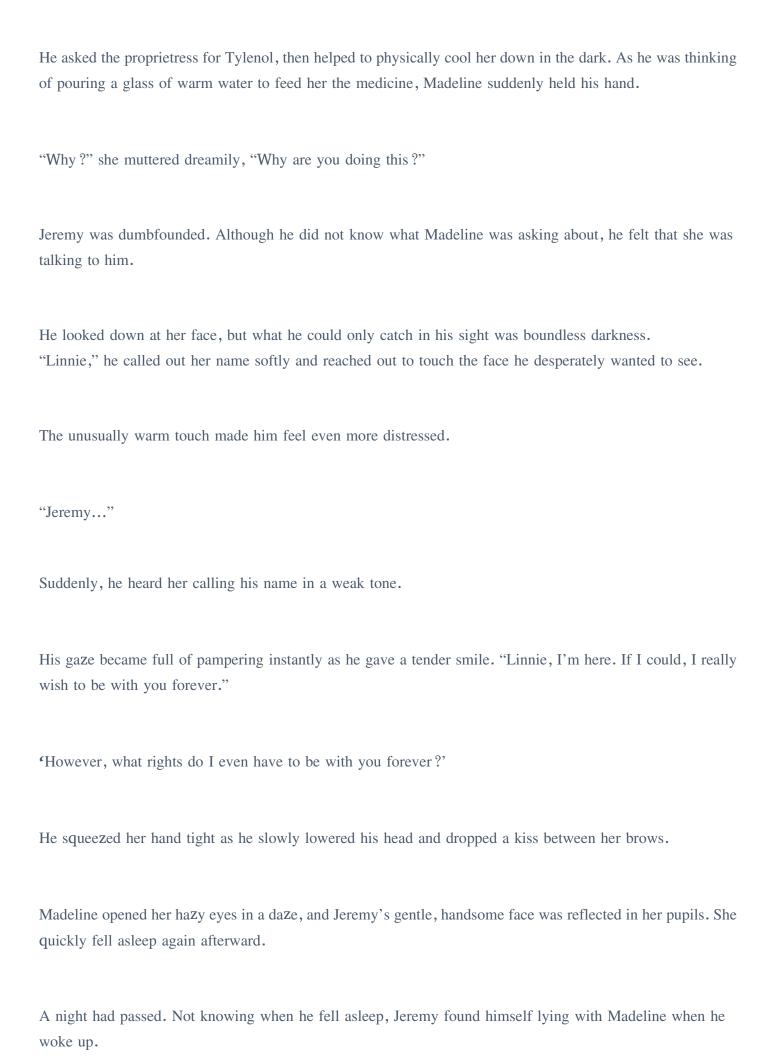
Jeremy turned his head and looked at her with his eyebrows furrowed. "Miss Montgomery, if you're feeling unwell, you should rest earlier. Don't worry, I won't leave until you're done discussing what you intend to discuss with me."

Madeline looked into Jeremy's eyes that had lost their glow and were now as deep as the sea. After staring at them for a long time, she then turned toward the bed and laid down.

The room had slowly quieted down, and Jeremy listened to Madeline's breathing as she gradually fell asleep. Yet, his eyes were filled with more worry.

Sure enough, just as what he was worried about, Madeline started developing a fever.

She had been tossing and turning on the bed in the second half of the night. He measured the temperature of her forehead with his own and found that she was really hot.



She was nestled in his arms, sticking by his side like a clingy kitten.

Jeremy's lips curled up satisfyingly and when he measured Madeline's body temperature again. He found that it had almost returned to normal.

He quietly let go of his worries and gently loosened his embrace.

After washing up, Jeremy wanted to order breakfast for Madeline but someone had coincidentally knocked on the door just then. He thought it would be the proprietress who had come to return their cleaned clothes. However, when the door opened, he felt an unusual airflow.

"Felipe?" Jeremy could feel the invisible smoke.

Felipe did not go straight in. He saw Madeline sleeping on the bed with rosy cheeks and only a bathrobe on her. His eyes became overcast and stormy in a moment. A cold murderous intention could even be seen from his eyes.

He walked decisively to the bed and carried Madeline who had not yet woken up.

Feeling Felipe pass in front of him while carrying Madeline, Jeremy grabbed Felipe's arm firmly and asked in a low voice, "What are you doing?"

Felipe squinted his icy eyes at him. "What are you doing?" he questioned back in a cold voice with a dark
expression. "Eveline is already my woman. She no longer has anything to do with you, Jeremy. Think about
what you did to Eveline before. If it weren't for me, Eveline would already be a handful of ashes."
Felipe's words hit Jeremy's heart hard.

If Felipe had not saved her, she would have gone to another world...

It was Felipe who gave Madeline the chance to be born again.

Jeremy seemed to suddenly have had all his strength sucked out of him. He released his grip on Felipe.

"Jeremy, remember what you said. Don't disturb Eveline's peace anymore."

Felipe left a final reminder before turning around while carrying Madeline in his arms.

Listening to the furthering footsteps, Jeremy felt as if Madeline was the tide in the ocean that was slowly fading away outside the window. She had become his past that he could no longer reach.

Madeline's fever had subsided, but her head was still feeling a little heavy.

She woke up from her deep sleep and felt that she was being carried by a man. She thought that it was Jeremy carrying her, but after a closer look, she found that it was Felipe.

"Felipe?" Madeline was surprised.

The coldness	in	Felipe's	s eyes	disappeared	immediately	as 1	he	lowered !	his	gaze.	He	gently	met	Madelin	e's
stare.															

"Are you awake? Your fever isn't completely gone, so I'll take you home first."

Madeline looked at Felipe in a daze, but she could only remember that she had spent the last night with Jeremy in a hotel.

In the middle of the night, she seemed to have gotten a fever. She had felt someone by her side, taking care of her restlessly. She even saw Jeremy's face when she was still groggy from sleep, but it was Felipe who was in front of her now.

Felipe brought Madeline back to the villa and had his private doctor check on her. After Madeline took her medicine, she fell back asleep again.

The moment Felipe closed the door and turned around, his eyes, which had always been gentle like a spring breeze, were suddenly covered with a cold current.

He walked to the study. Felicity had already been waiting for a while.

Seeing Felipe entering, she stood aside cautiously. "I really didn't notice that Madeline had been following Jeremy and I didn't expect them to..."

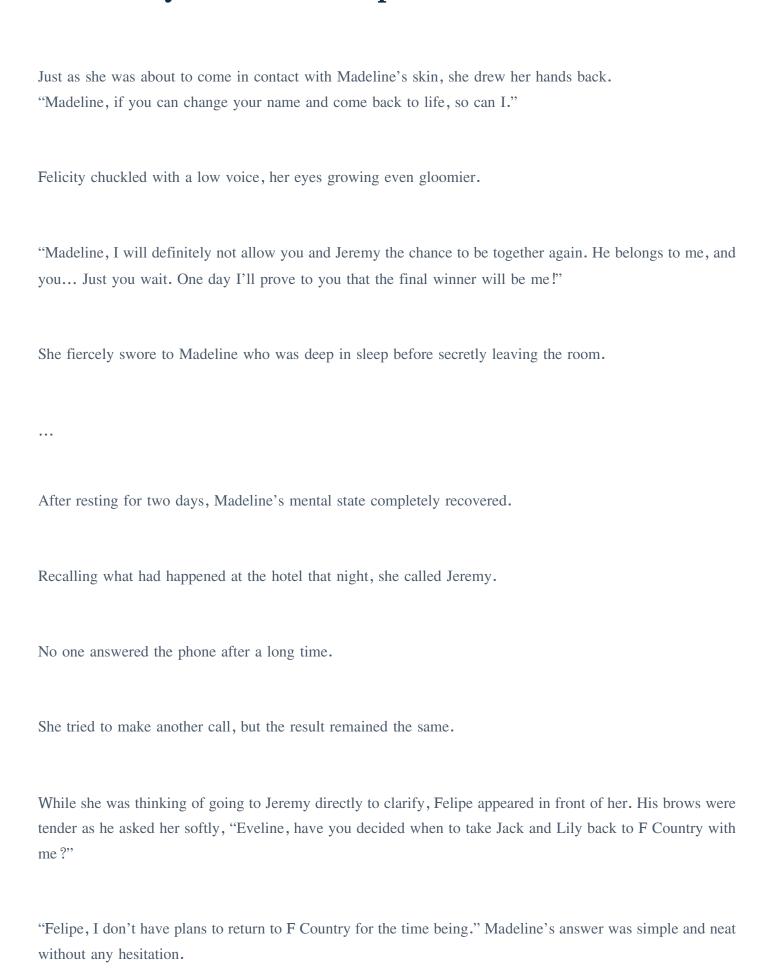
"If you would have thought of it, you wouldn't have been played in the palm of Eveline's hand to the point you almost lost your life back then."

Felipe's gaze was contemptuous as the cold words were spat out from his lips. "The reason why I allowed you to come back here alive is because you're still worth using, but if you can't even carry out the task I give you, I will personally send you to hell."

Hearing this, horror showed on Felicity's face as she quickly promised. "I will definitely complete the task! I will gain Jeremy's trust before his eyesight recovers!"
"Recover?" Felipe chuckled. "He will never be able to recover his eyesight in his life, do you understand what I mean?"
"" Felicity lowered her head timidly. She really dared not look back at Felipe.
The look in Felipe's eyes at this moment was even more spine-chilling and terrorizing than Jeremy's eyes back then.
"Do you still love Jeremy?" Felipe asked.
Felicity did not dare answer, but her silence was actually the best answer.
Felipe chuckled. "What kind of charm does my little nephew have to be able to attract admirers like you who would risk their lives like a moth to flames?"
The moment he finished his sentence, his phone rang.
Felipe picked the call up, said a few words in a foreign language that Felicity could not understand, then prepared to head out.
"Settle Jeremy as soon as possible. Otherwise, I won't have any use in keeping you alive." He warned mercilessly.
Felicity nodded her head nervously. It was only when Felipe was gone did she feel less strain on her breathing.
After leaving the study, Felicity secretly sneaked into Madeline's bedroom.

She opened the door and went in. When she saw Madeline who was still sleeping peacefully on the bed, hatred instantly sparked in her eyes.

Looking at Madeline's picturesque face, she clenched her teeth and stretched out her palms inch by inch, approaching Madeline's neck. She was thinking of choking Madeline to death just like that.



Felipe felt unsatisfied in his heart, but his smile still remained. "Why not?"
Madeline pondered for a moment and replied, "There's something I still can't let go of."
Felipe nodded thoughtfully. "In that case, we'll go back when you're done with what you want to do."
"Thank you, Felipe."
"Silly, there's no need for thanks between you and me," Felipe said with a soft and adoring tone. "I have something to deal with now. Call me if anything happens."
He had turned around with a smile, but at the back where Madeline could not see, Felipe's smile could no longer be found on his face.
She said there was something she still could not let go of.
Felipe knew that it was not a thing that she could not let go of, but a person.
This person was Jeremy!
He could no longer tolerate things continuing like this. He could not tolerate Madeline, who had lost the memory of the past, having feelings for Jeremy once again.
Felipe got into the car with a hostile aura before going to Jeremy's villa.
After Felipe left, Madeline called Jeremy again, but her call was still not answered. She could not tell whether Jeremy was deliberately not answering her call or if it was just inconvenient for him to answer it now.

After thinking for a bit, Madeline also drove out.
However, when she arrived at the destination, she was surprised to find that Felipe's car was parked not far away.
"Felipe?" Madeline found that it was a little strange.
Felipe said that he had something to deal with, so why did he come to Jeremy?
She subconsciously parked the car further away before walking over.
As soon as she walked to the gates of the villa, she heard Felipe's voice from inside. His cold, emotionless voice pierced her ears.
Madeline was dazed for a short moment. She could not believe that it was Felipe's tone of speech.
"Jeremy, tell me. What did you and Eveline do during the two days on the island?" Felipe questioned.
Did Felipe come for this?
Is he concerned about the two days Jeremy and I spent on the island?'
As Madeline was wondering this, she raised her eyes and looked into the courtyard.

Madeline saw Felipe's back that was facing her. His body was tall and slender, but a chilling aura spilled out from his body.

On the other hand, Jeremy was sitting on the chair calmly. His side profile appeared gentle and quiet.

A while later, Jeremy opened his mouth and said lightly, "That is mine and Linnie's memory. It's unrelated to you."

"Unrelated?" Felipe chuckled arrogantly. "Eveline is my wife now."

The word 'wife' pierced into Jeremy's heart. He pressed his thin lips tightly together and looked forward silently, not refuting anything.

Seeing that Jeremy was silent, Felipe raised a corner of his thin lips and smirked deeply. "Jeremy, you were the one who didn't cherish her at the beginning, so don't you ever hope to take Eveline back today. You don't deserve Eveline at all.

"Stop having any hopes toward Eveline. She no longer belongs to you. You should stop being two-faced and trying to get close to her again."

Listening to Felipe's shocking words, Jeremy raised his delicate eyebrows unhurriedly. "Two-faced?" Jeremy smiled and said with a low voice, "What do you mean by that?"

"Stop pretending to be stupid in front of me. You agreed that you'll never disturb or pester Eveline ever again, but the truth is that you keep looking for opportunities to approach Eveline again and again. You let her know about your blindness and let her think that the reason behind your blindness is because of her. You're making her feel that she owes you. That's why she has been reluctant to return to F Country with me for such a long time now. Isn't this what you're wishing for?"

Madeline was surprised when she heard this.
Unexpectedly, Felipe already knew about Jeremy's blindness.
She did not even expect that Felipe, who had always been gentle and noble, to have such a cold and hostile side.
Madeline did not know whether she should continue to eavesdrop, but as she was about to turn around, she heard Jeremy's voice.
"On the island that day, from the moment I handed Linnie to you, I had already made up my mind. I'll never take the initiative to look for her or to see her again in my life."
His voice was soft like the wind that blew past her ears, but his light and soft voice fell heavily into her heart.
Madeline stopped in her footsteps. Her eyes widened as she was stupefied.  'On the island that day, it was Jeremy who passed me to Felipe?
'How could it be? Didn't he leave me behind without looking back?'
"Felipe, as long as you can give Linnie happiness, I'll be a rightful predecessor as you wish and withdraw from Linnie's life like a dead person. I'll fade out from her memories."
He said this so calmly, but only he himself knew the pain in his heart.
In the next second, however, Jeremy's tone turned sharp and aggressive.
"But if you can't give Linnie the happiness she wants, I'll take her back from you even if I'm blind."

"Then, you would be better off as a dead person. Otherwise, the next time you meet her, there might be other missing parts from your body or it might even be the people around you who will be missing something."
Felipe's words were obviously threatening.
Only when Madeline heard the sound of footsteps approaching the door did she then come back to her senses. She hid quickly behind the stone pillar.
Felipe did not notice Madeline and drove away.
Madeline walked to the gates again and in a glance, she saw Jeremy who was still in the courtyard.
Under the warm autumn light, he sat quietly. A layer of haze lingered around his jade-like and gentle face.
Madeline noticed him moving his lips, saying her name gently, "Linnie."
At this moment, Madeline's heart broke in silence.
She saw Jeremy's cell phone that was placed on the side table. Madeline took out her cell phone expressionlessly and dialed Jeremy's phone again.
When the phone rang, she saw Jeremy's facial expression changing.
It was the special ringtone he had set for her. In addition to the three calls not long ago, this was the fourth call.
He was worried if Madeline was looking for him for an urgent matter, but he did not have the courage to answer it. As such, he only listened to the ringtone while his eyes became filled with loneliness.

"Why aren't you answering my call?" Madeline's question suddenly rang out.	

Jeremy was startled, completely unaware of someone approaching him. Furthermore, that person was even his beloved.

"Jeremy, I'm asking you a question. Why aren't you answering my call?" Madeline asked again with her indifferent tone.

Several seconds passed before Jeremy responded, "I didn't know that it was you making the call, Miss Montgomery. And there seems to be nothing to be said anymore between us."

Seeing his cold and indifferent attitude that appeared as if he wanted to cut off all relationships between them, Madeline's mind was filled with what he said just now.

Even though it was clear that she was the only thing that filled his heart and eyes, at this moment, none of those were mentioned.

Madeline chuckled, but her eyes turned hot as she said, "Jeremy, are you sure you have nothing to tell me?"

Jeremy shook his head quietly. "Not a word."

"Alright, Jeremy. If that's what you say..." Madeline continued with a determined tone, "Then, this will be the last meeting between you and me. From now on, you and I will no longer be related. Let's not think of each other anymore again."

Jeremy listened on as if nothing was happening, but each of his slender fingers was clenched tightly.

He heard Madeline's footsteps as she left and held in his sobs until he confirmed that Madeline had gone far away. Then, he hurriedly got up, fumbling as he walked to the gates. He was staring in the direction that she had left in.

After a long time, tears appeared in his eyes.
"Linnie, why did God arrange for two people who cannot love each other at the same time to meet?" he asked himself. Without realizing it, more and more tears accumulated in his eyes.
"Linnie, I hope Felipe can give you everything that I cannot.
"Remember to forget me, but you'll always be in my heart."
He confided what he could not speak from his heart in the direction Madeline had left in.  After a very long time, he turned around in despair.
However, he did not know that Madeline had not left. She had been quietly standing a few feet away from him, listening to him telling the truth with wet eyes.
Madeline was completely convinced at this moment that Jeremy was sincere toward her.
It was not the same as what Felipe and Ava had said, that Jeremy deliberately approached her in order to avenge Meredith and was lying to her about loving her.
He was not lying.
He really loved her.
This love was once stubborn and domineering, but at this moment, it became a secret he was keeping determinedly.
Madeline returned to the car so that she could sort out her emotions.

'From the moment I handed Linnie to you on the island that day, I had made a decision. I will never take the initiative to look for her or to see her again in my life.'
Jeremy's words rang in her ears again.
She had always thought that after she fell into the water, Jeremy continued to walk forward without looking back.
Now, it seemed that it was not the case.
However, she would not be able to know the exact situation. On the other hand, the different side that Felipe revealed just now shook her.
She had always trusted Felipe, never once suspecting or doubting him. This time, however, she really did not expect it.
Madeline decided that she wanted to seek clarification on this matter. As she was about to leave, she saw a familiar car driving to the door of the villa.
After the car stopped, Felicity Walker got out of the car.
Looking at this woman who looked like her, Madeline's instinct told her that something was off.
She snapped a photo of the license plate number and dialed a number. "Dan, can you check a license plate number for me?"
Daniel agreed and very quickly called Madeline back. Madeline was shocked once again after getting her answer.



Madeline stopped her thoughts when she heard his words. "We haven't met up since the day Ava got drunk. Is there a reason why you're asking this, Dan?"
"No, there's no problem." Daniel quickly denied it. "I was simply asking."
Madeline nodded but noticed that Daniel's expression was a little unnatural.
Not knowing whether it was because of the hot steam from his coffee, she noticed a blush appearing on Daniel's handsome face.
She thought for a while before saying, "I only have Ava and you. Both of you are two good friends of mine in Glendale. Although I haven't recalled the past, to think that I was able to survive my most difficult days back then, it must be from your support."
Madeline smiled and suggested, saying, "I've been back for some time now. Why don't we find a time to get together?"
Daniel immediately agreed. "Let's do it tonight!"
Seeing the smile on Daniel's face, Madeline's sixth sense told her that something might have happened between Daniel and Ava.
At this moment, Madeline received a call from Felipe.
Before today, Madeline had felt grateful whenever she was facing Felipe, but what happened earlier made Madeline feel differently now.
Felipe's tone of speech toward Madeline was still gentle like a spring breeze. He said he had urgent matters to deal with and needed to set off to another country immediately.

Madeline coldly replied a goodbye before hanging up the call. After separating from Daniel, Madeline returned to Jeremy's villa. As soon as she arrived at the door, Madeline could hear the voices of Karen and Felicity. They were talking and laughing inside. "Aunty, the weather has turned cool and dry recently. This pumpkin spice mix will be good for you." Felicity's intention to fawn was obvious. Karen liked the fawning very much and gladly accepted the gift. "Felicity, you're really sensible. Jeremy has finally found a daughter-in-law who's pleasant to me this time." "Aunty, was Jeremy's ex-wife not good?" "Of course, she was not good! That woman wasn't pleasant to me at all! I hated it whenever I had to look at her. I don't even know what Jeremy liked about her." Karen complained while feeling dissatisfied. Felicity's smile grew wider when she heard this, and she began testing the waters. "I heard that there was another person named Meredith who was with Jeremy before Madeline. Was she not pleasant to you as well?" "Hush hush, let's not talk about that btch." Karen's expression sank. "Jeremy never liked that Meredith. It was merely that btch's wishful thinking from the start till the end! "Let me tell you about this woman. Not only was she scheming, but her intentions were much worse! What a waste it was that I had trusted her so much back then. I didn't expect that she would be so bad that she would even dare to kill people. Now that she has been shot dead, she totally deserves it!"

Listening to this, Felicity's expression collapsed.

Her expression darkened and sh	e was holding	back her emotion	ns when she ca	aught a glimpse of	f a slender figure
who was walking in gracefully	•				

Felicity quickly put away the dissatisfaction in her eyes. She appeared surprised as she said, "Miss Crawford?"

Madeline raised her lips and said, "My name's Eveline Montgomery. You can call me Miss Montgomery."

Karen turned her head abruptly when she heard the sounds. "Madeline Crawford? What are you doing here again?" She opened her mouth and questioned immediately, showing her an unpleasant expression.

Ignoring Karen and Felicity, Madeline walked in freely. "I'm here to find my ex-husband who has become blind because of me. I'm not looking for you, so you'd better shut up."

"You..." Karen's face turned pale out of anger.

Felicity quickly retorted, "Miss Montgomery, how can you talk to Aunty like this? After all, you're Jeremy's ex-wife."

Madeline's beautiful eyes looked up a little as she glanced at Felicity who had a smile on her face. "You're Ms. Walker, right? I've always talked like this. If you don't like the way I talk, perhaps you can choose to not listen to me. Besides, you've said so yourself that I'm Jeremy's ex-wife. Since I'm his ex-wife, why should I be nice to my ex-in-law?"

" "

Felicity did not expect Madeline to be so witty and was speechless for a while. She could only look at her with a helpless and hurt facial expression.

Karen did not want to be embarrassed in front of Felicity and raised her hand to teach Madeline a lesson.

However, when she stretched out her hand, Jeremy said, "What are you trying to do?"

Felicity was expecting Madeline to get slapped and did not expect Jeremy's prompt appearance. "Miss Montgomery, are you here to see me?" he asked Madeline.

Madeline looked at him. "Yes."

Jeremy seemed to pause before he casually said, "If I remember correctly, you just said that we won't ever meet again, Miss Montgomery."

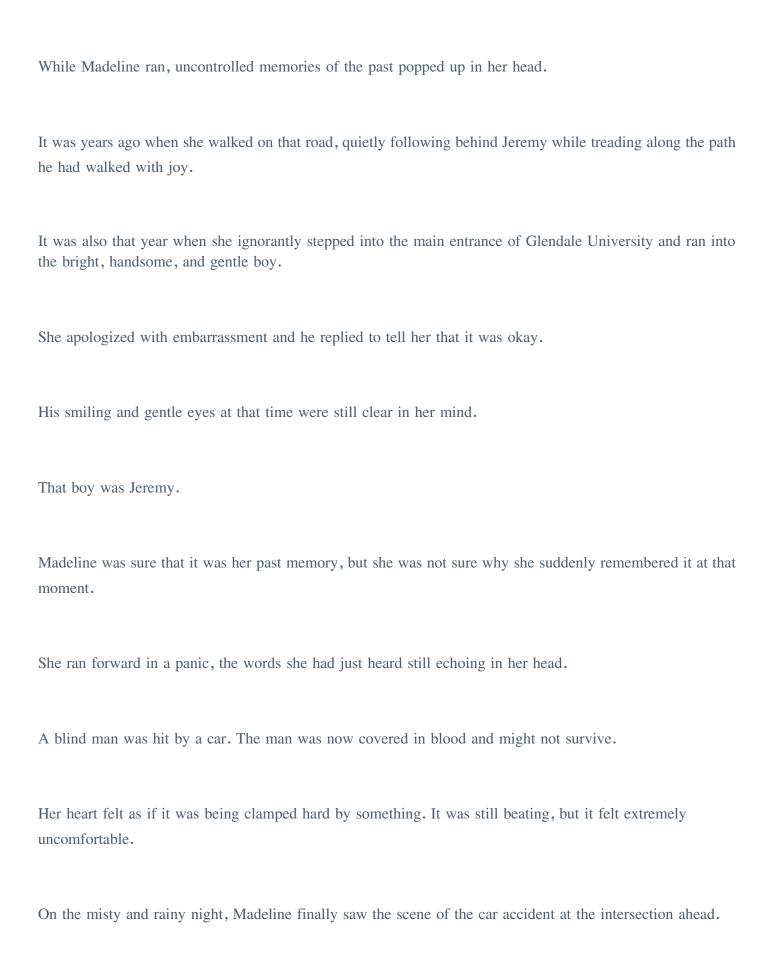
"If I remember correctly, Mr. Whitman, you seem to have said that I'll always be in your heart."

" "

Upon hearing that, Jeremy's facial expression changed. He suddenly remembered the words he uttered in the direction where Madeline had left.
'Could it be that Linnie was still there at the time?
'Did she hear what I said?'
Looking at the lively back and forth between Madeline and Jeremy, Karen and Felicity were both confused and displeased.
"Jeremy, I've invited Ava and Dan to meet and have dinner tonight at a restaurant near Glendale University.  I'll wait for you there until ten o'clock."
When Madeline saw Jeremy thinking deeply about it, she dropped the bomb on him and turned away before he could respond.
Karen immediately persuaded. "Jeremy, you must not go! You've already broken up with her. Besides, Felicity will be jealous if you go."
"Jealous? Why should my doctor be jealous?" Jeremy smiled before going upstairs.
That night, Madeline and Ava were drinking in a small restaurant near Glendale University again.
Daniel sat by the side and looked at Ava from time to time.
She did not seem to remember what happened after she got drunk.
However, his memory of it was still fresh. Every night before going to bed, he could not help but think of the accidental kiss and her confession.

"Dan, is there something on Ava's face? Why do you keep staring at her?" Madeline asked on purpose. At the same time, Daniel and Ava were taken aback by her remark. Ava looked up curiously, meeting Daniel's slightly uneasy gaze. She then felt around her face. "Dan, is there something on my face?" "No." Daniel quickly denied it. "It's just that the two of you are drinking a lot. I'm just worried that the two of you will get drunk again." "You have to enjoy a little! Sometimes it's nice to get drunk. Come on, Maddie! Let's have another shot!" Ava boldly took another shot. Following Ava's lead, Madeline drank a few more shots as well. When she glanced at the time, she noticed it was past nine o'clock and her phone had not rung yet. Jeremy had not shown up either. For some reason, she felt a little empty inside. Time slipped away silently, and it did not take long for Ava to get drunk again after drinking too much. Madeline thought it was nice to be drunk. There was a saying that if the woman did not get drunk, the man had no chance. She looked at Daniel with great interest. "Dan, you can send Ava back first. I want to stay here for a little longer." Although Daniel wanted to do that very badly, he was worried about Madeline being alone after getting drunk. However, Madeline insisted. As such, he had no choice but to take Ava back first.

Madeline sat there alone, drinking until it was ten o'clock.
After looking at her silent phone, she slowly walked out of the restaurant.
It was drizzling, and the cold chill that accompanied the night sky blew past her.
Suddenly, people in twos and threes hurried past. When Madeline looked over by chance, she heard them say "There's a car accident ahead!"
"Was the man blind? The car ran straight to him!"
"That sounds horrible. He won't be able to survive after losing that much blood."
Madeline's heart jumped when she heard that.
The man who was hit was blind?
'Jeremy?' The name popped up in her head. She turned around in a panic and ran to the scene of the car accident while braving the rain.



The sight of the blood at the scene suffocated her while the adrenaline from the alcohol made her heart beat even faster.
Madeline quickened her pace suddenly. The panic she felt caused her to ignore everything in front of her. She could only focus on the scene of the car accident.
In a hurry, Madeline slammed into someone and a thin fragrance wafted into her nose. However, she did not take notice of it.
"Sorry." She hurriedly apologized, eager to leave. However, her wrist was held tightly by the person in front of her.
Madeline thought that the person who had been hit by her would not let her go, but when she looked up, her pupils reflected the face she wanted to see most at that moment.
"Jeremy ?!"
She looked at him in astonishment as tears started to form in her eyes unconsciously.
It turned out that he was fine.
"It's me." Jeremy squeezed Madeline's wrist. "Why are you so anxious? Did you think that the person who got into the car accident in front was me?"
Madeline was stunned and took a moment to stabilize her emotions. She looked at the man in front of her.
He was dressed in casual clothes and holding an umbrella. Even if he was blind, the elegance that exuded from his bones was still there.

When Jeremy noticed that Madeline was not saying anything, he approached her while furrowing his sharp and handsome eyebrows. He looked worried. "Linnie, have you been drinking?"

Madeline broke away from Jeremy's hand and said bluntly, "Why aren't you calling me Miss Montgomery?"

" "

Jeremy's fingers that held the umbrella handle tightened slightly. Suddenly, he laughed as if he was laughing at himself. "Well then, Miss Montgomery, have you been drinking?"

When Madeline heard him change the way he addressed her, her intoxicated face bore a sarcastic smile. "Mr. Whitman, why do you care so much about your ex-wife?"

Jeremy looked away and changed the subject. "Miss Montgomery, you were the one who asked me to come here. What did you want to talk about?"

Madeline's heartbeat was stabilizing, but the adrenaline still lingered. She was fixated on the face in front of her as a smile appeared across her cheeks that were flushed from the alcohol. "Jeremy, do you love me?"

Out of Jeremy's expectation, Madeline had asked such a question. He was startled.

The traffic police arrived soon and dealt with the car accident. The crowd dispersed, and for a moment, it felt as if the two of them were the only ones left on earth.

Jeremy, who was dumbfounded for a moment, smiled and replied, "I don't love you anymore."

His tone was dull while the words were simple and clear. They came out of his lips without any pain or discomfort. His dark eyes made his appearance look even colder.

"Oh. It turns out that you don't love me anymore, Mr. Whitman." Madeline went along with him. "If you don't love me anymore, why does your new girlfriend look so much like me?"



He knew that who Madeline meant was Felicity, but he did not know what Felicity looked like and was even more surprised that Felicity looked very similar to Madeline.

'Is she telling the truth?'

Despite his doubts, Jeremy smiled nonchalantly. "I only met Fel after I became blind. I don't even know what she looks like."

"Fel? Is that a nickname for her? It seems like your relationship with her must be very good, right?"

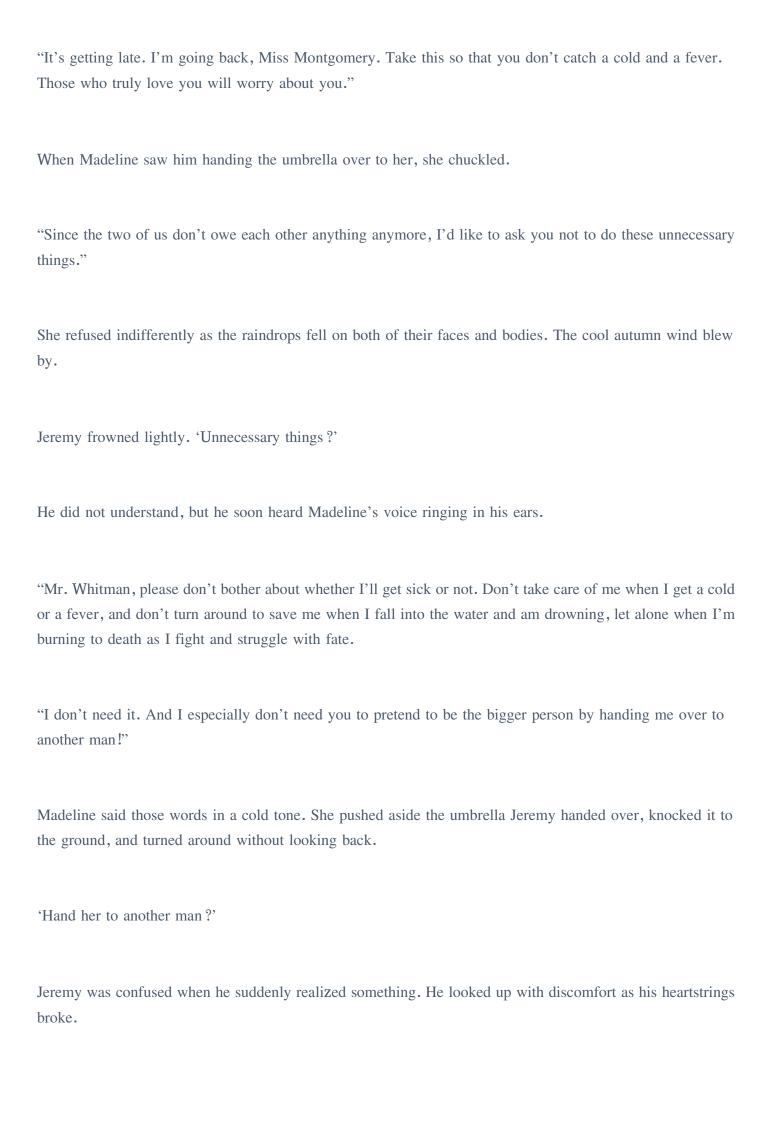
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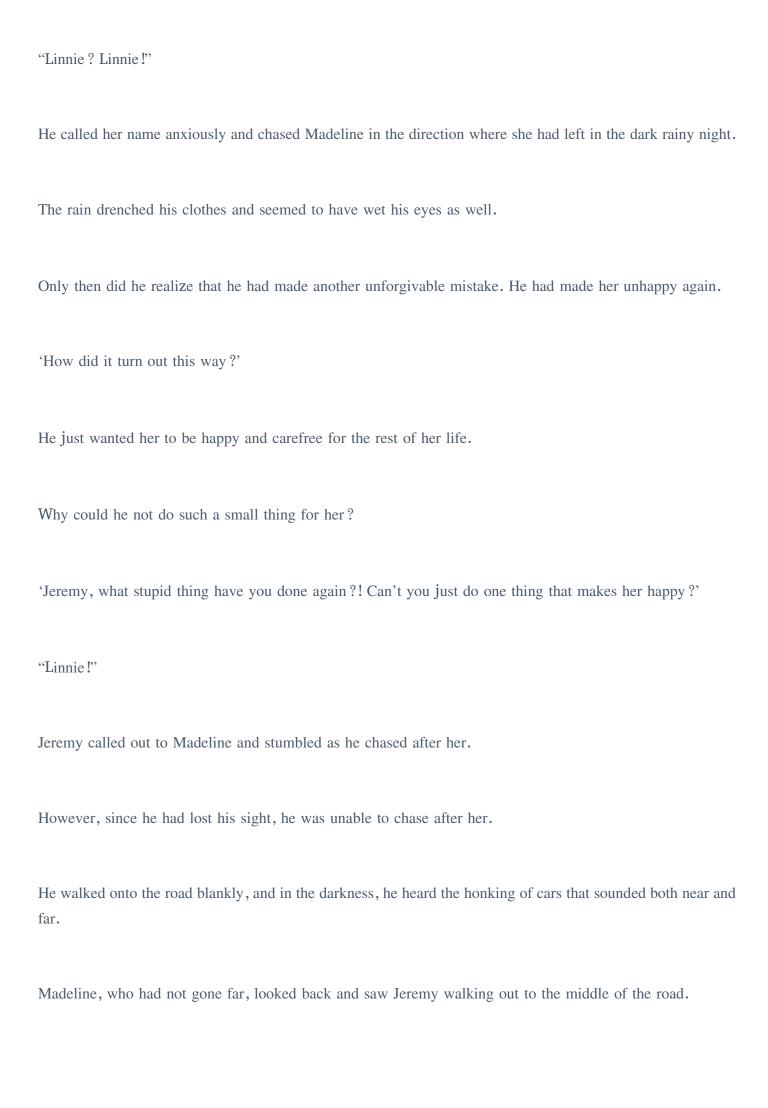
Jeremy pursed his thin lips lightly. He could not tell what Madeline meant, but he smiled and nodded. "Yes, Felicity and I have a very good relationship. We hit it off right after we met. She was the light for me at the end of the tunnel. She allowed me to understand what it's like to truly love someone."

He said something that he did not believe and smiled forcefully.

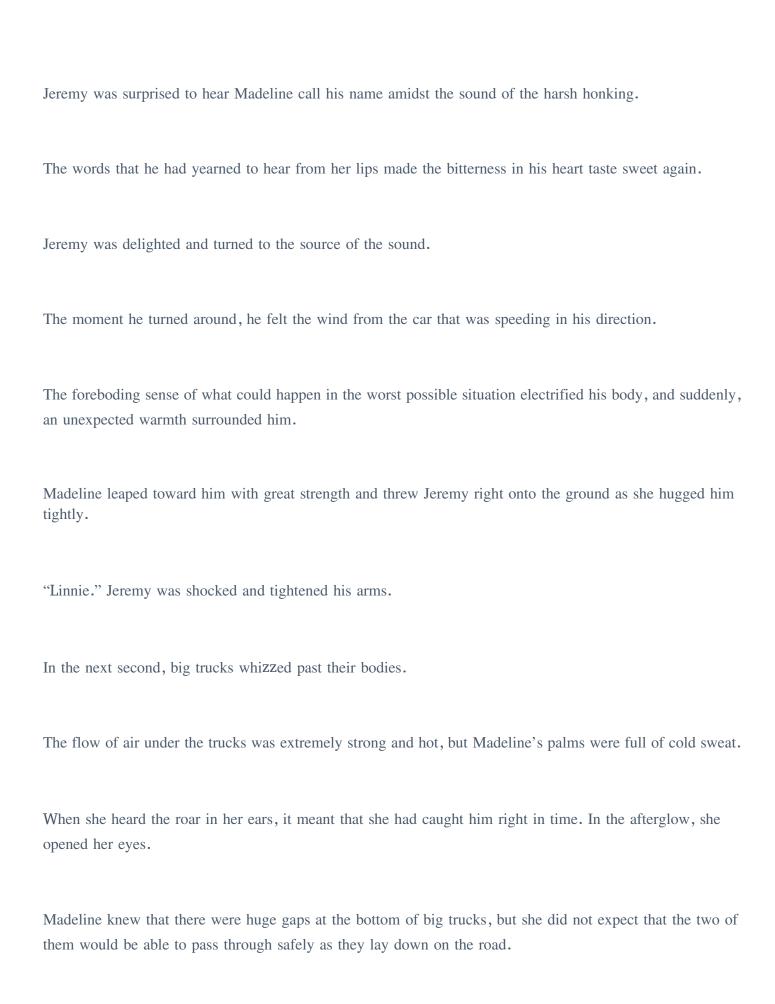
"Miss Montgomery, if you asked me to come here just to ask if I still love you or not, I've already given you the answer. I used to love you, very much, but now... I don't love you anymore. I love someone else now. Miss Montgomery, you and I are a thing of the past. As you said, we don't owe each other anything anymore and we should never see each other again."

He said those cold words without any fluctuations and handed the umbrella in his hand to Madeline.





When she saw a fast-moving truck about to hit Jeremy as it could not hit the brakes in time, a fear that she had never felt before instantly lifted Madeline's heart into her throat. The unspeakable panic made her scream uncontrollably, "Jeremy!!!"



The driver of the big truck hurriedly stopped and looked at the two people who had escaped from under the car in disbelief.
When he saw that Madeline and Jeremy were alright, he hurriedly stepped on the accelerator and slipped away for fear of being held accountable.
The autumn rain was lingering and still falling as the raindrops pattered away.
It was quiet around them as if there was no more sound. The only thing that sounded clearly was their two hearts beating irregularly.
With both of their lingering palpitations, Madeline lay on Jeremy's chest for a long time. She was out of it until he raised his hand to touch her face, whispering, "Linnie."
His voice slid into her ears with a warm and cool magnetism. He sounded soft and gentle.
Madeline sat up abruptly, and under the dim light of the streetlamps, she saw blood on Jeremy's hands.
He got hurt.
Madeline hurriedly called for a cab on the side of the road. Together with the taxi driver, she helped Jeremy into the car and they rushed to the hospital.
On the way, Jeremy sat next to Madeline. He was bleeding, but there was still a smile on his lips.
"Linnie, you called my name just now." His tone was weak, but he could not hide his joy.
Madeline turned her head and saw a smile on Jeremy's dust-stained handsome face. His eyes that could no longer see stared forward quietly.

When Jeremy noticed Madeline ignoring him, he became nervous again.
He suddenly stretched out his hand and touched Madeline's hand. He felt relieved but also anxious. "Linnie, did I make you unhappy again?"
Madeline withdrew her hand. "It's not like this is the first time. Mr. Whitman, when are you going to stop caring about my happiness?"
Jeremy hung his empty hand by the side and was unable to refute Madeline's words.
There was still a slight smile that hung on his lips, though. He would never forget how Madeline flew toward him at the moment of crisis.
At least she was reckless for him. If she did not care about him, he would have been crushed and bled everywhere.
Very soon, they arrived at the nearest hospital. After they arrived, Madeline found that Jeremy could not walk by himself.
She stepped forward and took his arm, holding him close to her.
Jeremy did not think that he would ever be in such close proximity with Madeline anymore. His hand on her waist tightened slightly.
The truth was, Felicity had been following Jeremy the entire time.
She had been following him since he took a taxi out to Glendale University.
She had seen everything that happened just now clearly.

The moment Jeremy was about to be hit by a big truck, she panicked.
Unexpectedly, Madeline saved Jeremy without any hesitation.
She could not figure out why she did that because she thought Madeline's memories were gone.

She was confused as to wl	y Madeline, who had	amnesia, would still do	such a thing for Jeremy.
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'Wouldn't she only act out through her emotions if she remembered that she once loved that man deeply?'

Felicity could not figure it out, so she waited at the entrance of the hospital. After a long time, Jeremy and Madeline still had not come out.

Felicity paced as she waited. After running out of patience, she edited the videos that she had recorded.

She originally wanted to take pictures of Madeline and Jeremy meeting up alone for Felipe to see, but she was having other ideas now.

She edited the video so that it looked like Madeline and Jeremy were arguing on the streets before Madeline eventually turned around and left. Then, she edited Jeremy chasing after her and almost getting hit by a car. The scene of the previous car accident with the pool of blood on the road was then added.

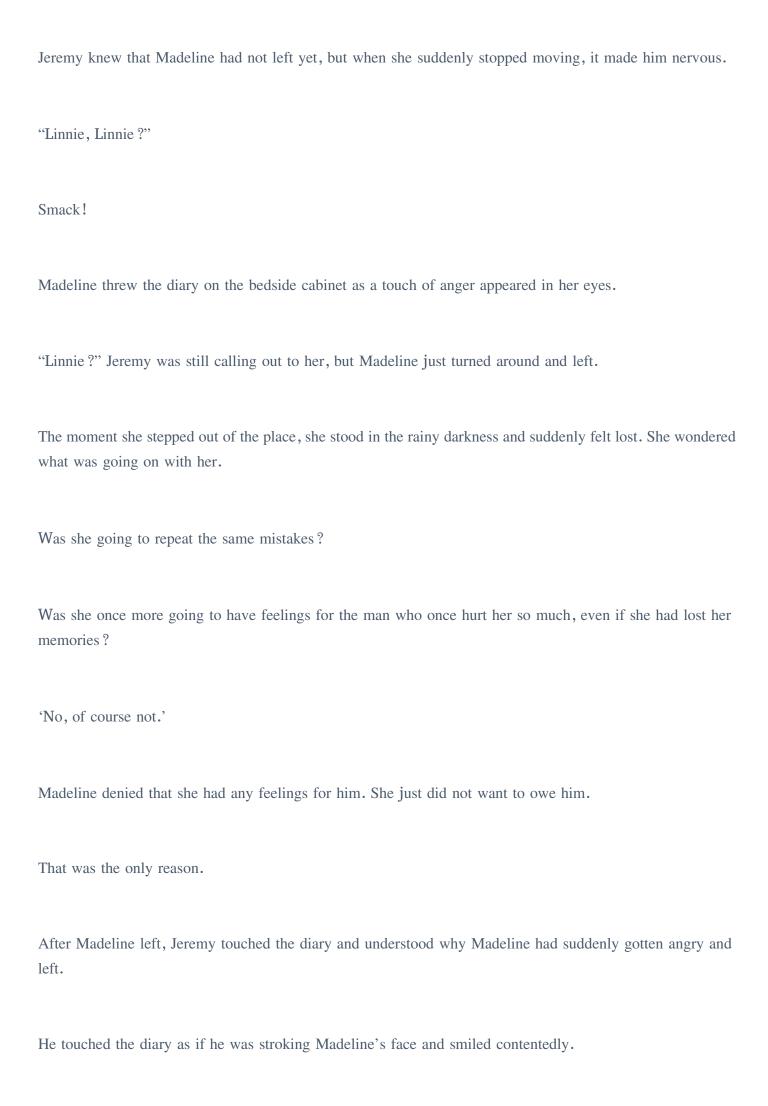
Finally, she included descriptions of how an unreasonable girlfriend and her blind boyfriend were arguing on the street before her boyfriend got killed in a car accident.

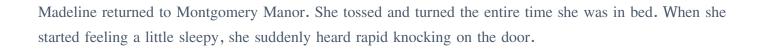
Felicity posted it on the internet on a throwaway account and paid for it to go viral. Soon, the video was quickly spread around.

Many netizens scolded Madeline badly after watching the video.

When girls saw the handsome blind guy in the car accident, they all felt distressed and sad for him. They also speculated that Madeline must have disliked him because of his blindness and that was the reason she broke up with him by the roadside.

Jeremy was hit by a car and ended up getting killed because he still wanted to stay with her.
Felicity felt really good when she saw the incoming flood of comments scolding Madeline.
When Madeline accompanied Jeremy for his full-body examination, she realized that his arm was badly injured.
It seemed that when they were under the truck at that time, he wanted to make sure that she was not hurt by the chassis of the truck and shielded her head. As a result, he hurt himself.
By the time he was discharged, it was dawn.
Madeline called a taxi and brought Jeremy back to the villa.
Initially, she wanted to go back home straight away, but when she saw how Jeremy could not even walk properly, Madeline got out of the car again.
At that moment, Old Master Whitman and both of Jeremy's parents were still asleep.
Madeline helped Jeremy back to his bedroom. Before she turned around, she saw their wedding photo album on the bed and a familiar-looking diary. She stopped in her steps.
She picked up the diary and flipped through a few pages, realizing that it was her own diary from a few years ago.
Inside it, she had written about her infatuation with Jeremy, but her love was only let down and trampled on by him.
In the end, she concluded, [I only wish to never meet him again in the next life]





She opened her eyes in distress and found that it was already morning.

"Eveline, Eveline. Are you awake?" Eloise sounded anxious.

Madeline got up and opened the door. "What's wrong? What happened?"

Netizens who did not know facts loved to convict people online.

Eloise sadly handed her phone to Madeline. "Eveline, look at this."
Madeline looked down and saw the headline: [Wayward and unreasonable girlfriend killed blind boyfriend in the streets.]
She clicked on the video and saw that it was the scene of her talking with Jeremy on the side of the road las night.
However, the video was clearly edited.
It was true that Jeremy had chased after her, but she was no unreasonable wayward girlfriend and neither was Jeremy hit by a truck which caused him to lose a lot of blood and die on the spot as the video implied.
It just so happened that there was a serious car accident near Glendale University last night.
"Eveline, what happened? Did Jeremy—"
"Of course, he isn't dead," Madeline replied without hesitation. She then clicked in to find out about the original poster's information. "It's just someone who wants to troll. That's why they deliberately wrote such a title."
She could not help feeling the absurdity of the entire situation when she saw the comments talking rudely about her.

When Eloise saw Madeline reacting coldly to it, Eloise could not bear the criticism and insults of the netizens toward her beloved daughter. "I'll get someone to take this video down immediately."
"Don't waste that kind of money." Madeline stopped her. "If you try to take it down, people will think that I'm actually guilty."
As she spoke, she glanced at the video again and there was a touch of clarity in her beautiful eyes.
···
Karen was eating breakfast leisurely when she suddenly saw Felicity rushing in.
Felicity ran to her in a panic with worry written on her face. "Aunty Karen! Where's Jeremy? Where is he?"
Karen looked at Felicity in surprise. "Jeremy is in his room. What are you in such a panic?"
Felicity looked anxious as if she was about to cry and took out her phone. "Aunty Karen, didn't you see this news?"
"What news?" Karen looked over curiously.
After reading the content, she was shocked.
"Jeremy!"
She hurriedly got up, and when she was about to run upstairs, she saw Madeline coming in from the front door.

Karen spun around and cursed without any explanation, "Madeline! Are you only going to stop when Jeremy's dead?! How can you be so evil? To what extent did the Whitman family wrong you that you have to treat us this way? When you were disfigured, blinded, and got your child taken away, it was all that b\*tch, Meredith's, doing! It wasn't our fault! Are you never going to stop until you kill Jeremy?!

"Meredith is the evil witch who harmed you back then! If you want revenge that badly, go to hell and find that b\*tch for your revenge. Can't you just let Jeremy go?!"

The more Karen scolded, the more agitated she became. Felicity was initially very happy to watch the scene in front of her, but she did not expect Karen to curse her instead!

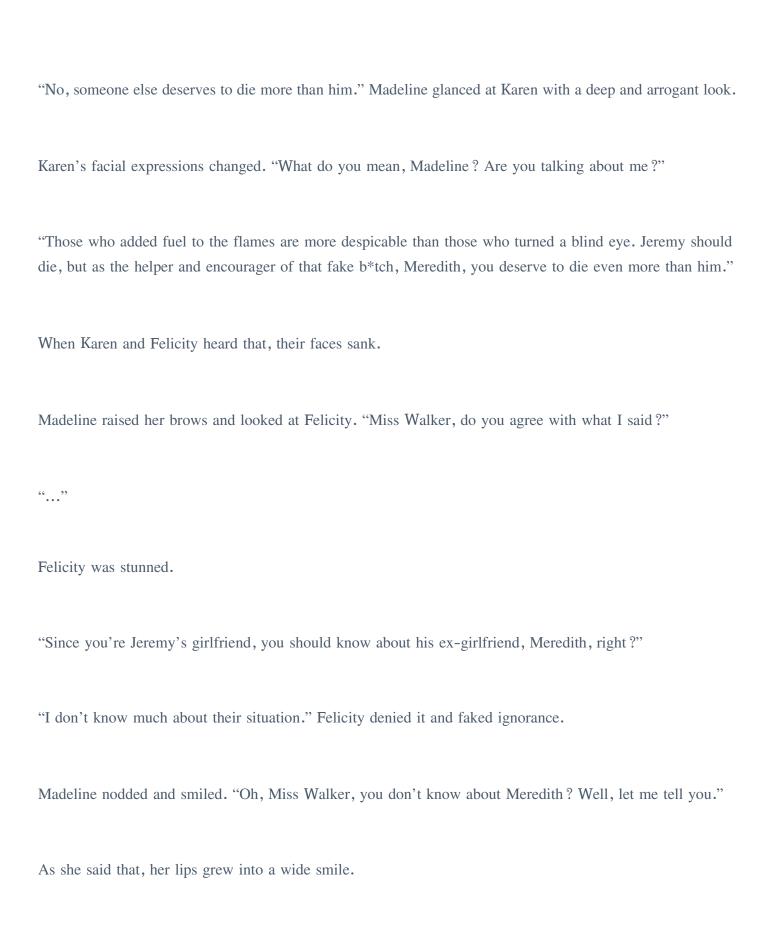
'B\*tch? Evil witch?

'She greets me with a smile but turns around and calls me those names?'

Felicity gritted her teeth as a flash of anger flitted across her gaze.

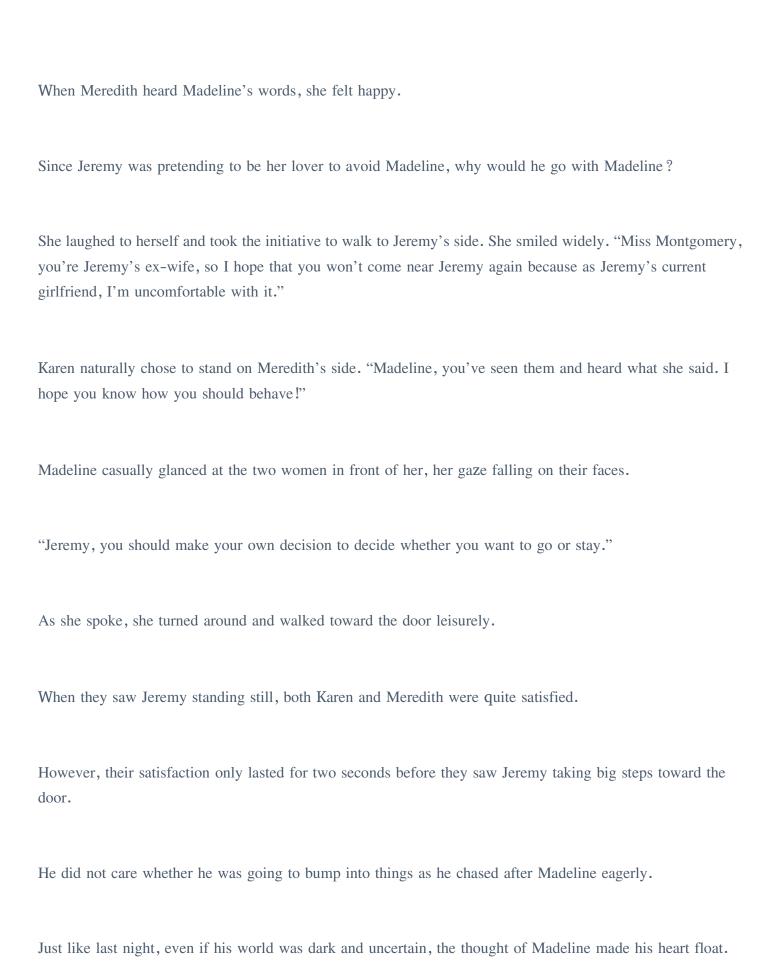
After indifferently taking Karen's scolding, Madeline looked at Felicity with a weird expression. She then said casually, "How can the death of Meredith quell my hatred when all I get is just another funeral?"

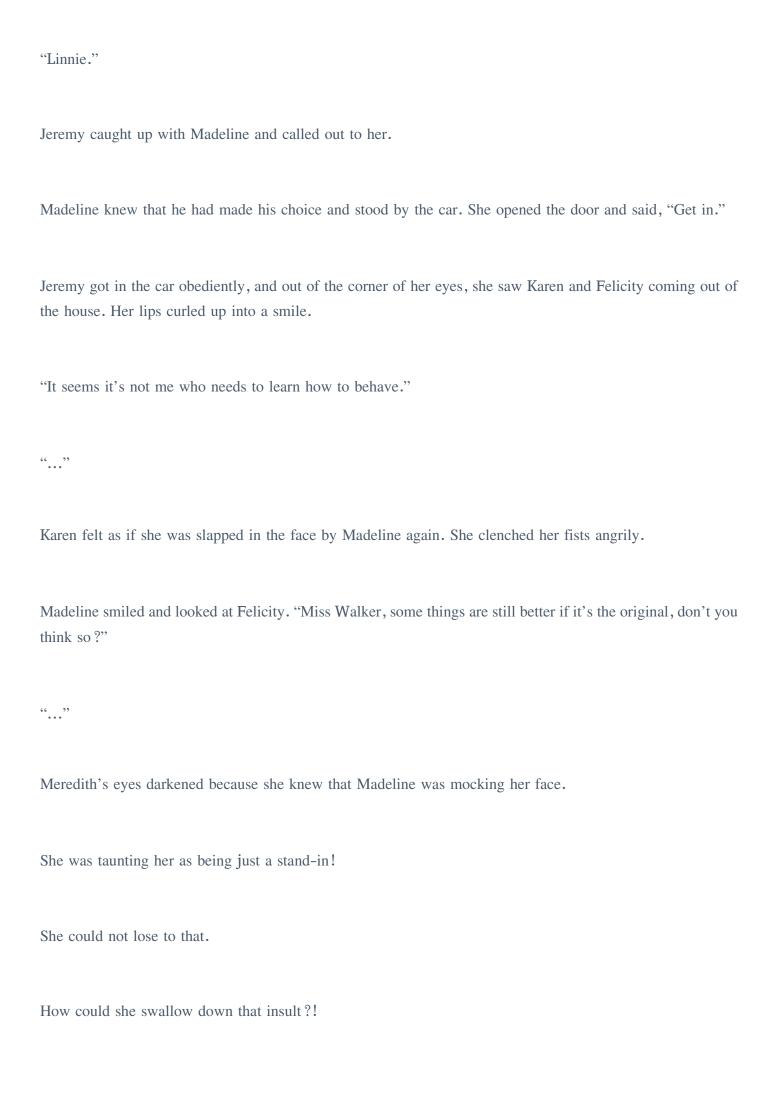
"A-Are you saying that you really want Jeremy dead?"











She had pretended to be Madeline for so many years in the past in order to make Jeremy think that she was that little girl. She never wanted to be a substitute for Madeline again!
She knew that Felipe had been out of Glendale for a while and she felt it was necessary to make Madeline suffer.
Otherwise, when Felipe came back, she would not be able to get her chance to do so!
···
Jeremy did not expect Madeline to take him to the hospital to change his dressing and re-dress his wound.
He could feel a vague sense of care from Madeline, but sometimes, he could tell that she still hated him very much.
After he got his wound bandaged, Jeremy followed behind Madeline.
Maybe it was because he enjoyed the time with her too much and coupled with the fact that he could not see, Jeremy started walking askew.
When Madeline saw that he was about to hit the trash can, she reflexively reached out and grabbed his hand. "Come here."
There was an unprecedented overbearingness in her tone, but it also sounded a little impatient.
Jeremy never thought that Madeline would hold his hand. Her warm and soft touch reminded him of his affection for Madeline.
The rhythm of his heartbeat became pleasant until they entered the elevator. There were murmuring whispers that pulled him back to reality. "I think it's her."



"Who said that my girlfriend's a siren? Why would you say such nonsense?" he said in a cold voice, a bitter aura oozing off him.

The gossipping ladies nearby were a little shocked by Jeremy's aura, but they still advised kindly and said, "Mr. Handsome, looks are useless. Your girlfriend's personality is much too horrible. Just break up with her!"

"Yeah! Even though you escaped a disaster, she'll be the death of you in the future!"

After they advised Jeremy, they pointed their fingers at Madeline to teach her a lesson.

"And you, what's the matter with you, girl? Quarreling with your boyfriend on the roadside? So what if he complains a little about you? A woman like you who's selfish and reckless just because you're beautiful will eventually get dumped by all men!"

Madeline smiled instead of getting angry. She glanced at Jeremy who had a sullen face and went along with it. "It seems that in order to prevent myself from getting dumped by you, I have to dump you first, right?"

Madeline pretended to let go of his hand.

Jeremy stretched out his slender fingers and hurriedly clasped her five fingers. He looked for her in a daze and stared eagerly at her beautiful eyes. "Linnie, I need you. Don't leave me."

When the people around heard it, they all said, "This handsome guy is too stupid! If he can't leave this kind of woman, he'll regret it for the rest of his life!"

"Regret?" Jeremy said coldly, "What do you know? If Linnie hadn't saved me, I would have died! How can you guys point fingers at my Linnie based on the untrue reports on the internet? If one day all of you find out the whole story, will you apologize to her? If you won't, then shut your mouth now!"

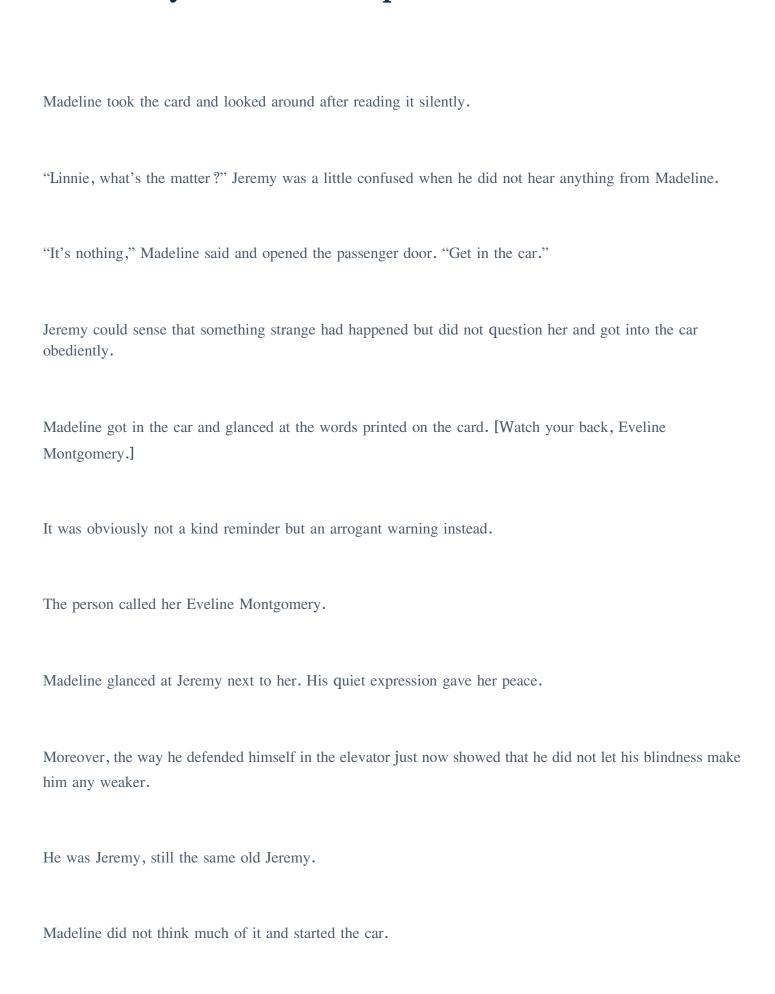
The chatty women acted as if no fake news could come from the internet. Since they saw the video, it would not be untrue!
"Just from you guys saying that I was hit by a car and went into the intensive care unit, it's enough to show how fake the things mentioned on the internet are!"
"Uh"
"I…"
Jeremy's words dumbfounded the chatty women and none of them dared to say another word.
After the elevator doors opened, Jeremy took Madeline's hand and strode forward.
He almost forgot that he was blind when he led her forward.
Only then did he find out that what happened last night was put on the internet with false and exaggerated information, making Madeline the target of attacks and abuse by netizens as well as keyboard warriors.
Everyone thought that Madeline was an unreasonable person who got him killed.
However, they did not know the truth of how desperate Madeline was to save him.
Jeremy held Madeline's hand with even more heartache, but she broke free from his grasp in the next second.
"I'll send you back now. I think your girlfriend should be waiting for you for your therapy session."

"She's not my girlfriend and I didn't know that Felicity looks a lot like you." Jeremy explained and felt for Madeline's hand again. "Linnie, I'm sorry. My self-righteous decision not only made you unhappy, but it also made you look like the bad person."

"It's not the first I'm made out to be the bad person." Madeline smiled indifferently and pulled Jeremy to the parking lot.

When she just walked to the car and was about to open the door, she saw a card stuck in the door handle.

Madeline thought it was an advertisement. Though when she picked it up and glanced at the content on the card, she was stunned by it.



. . .

After Jeremy and Madeline left, Felicity also left.

Karen sat in the living room with dissatisfaction and muttered to herself. After tanning, Old Master Whitman came back inside. When he saw Karen still cursing, he frowned and said in annoyance, "You still don't know what you did wrong after all this time? Why are you still blaming Maddie? Why don't you think about how you treated Maddie in the first place?"

"What did I do to her? I just scolded her a little but she's holding a grudge until now." Karen smacked her lips and was extremely dissatisfied. "I have something to say to you too, Old Master Whitman. She took our huge family business away and you're still talking for her? Well, all I wish for her is the worst!"

"Be honest with yourself. Did you only scold her a few times? At that time, Maddie was suffering so much and you only added fuel to the fire by exaggerating everything!" Old Master Whitman scolded angrily.

Karen still did not care. "The suffering she got was fated for her. You can't blame anyone for it. Even if she died back then, it'd be her own fate!"

"You... Ugh. It's impossible to talk to you." Old Master Whitman felt that he could not say anything to Karen to make her understand. He then steered his wheelchair into the room.

When Karen saw that Old Master Whitman was ignoring her, she snorted and grabbed a handful of pistachios. "It's Madeline's fault that she has bad luck. Why should he be angry at me?"

She said disapprovingly when she suddenly heard a noise from the door.

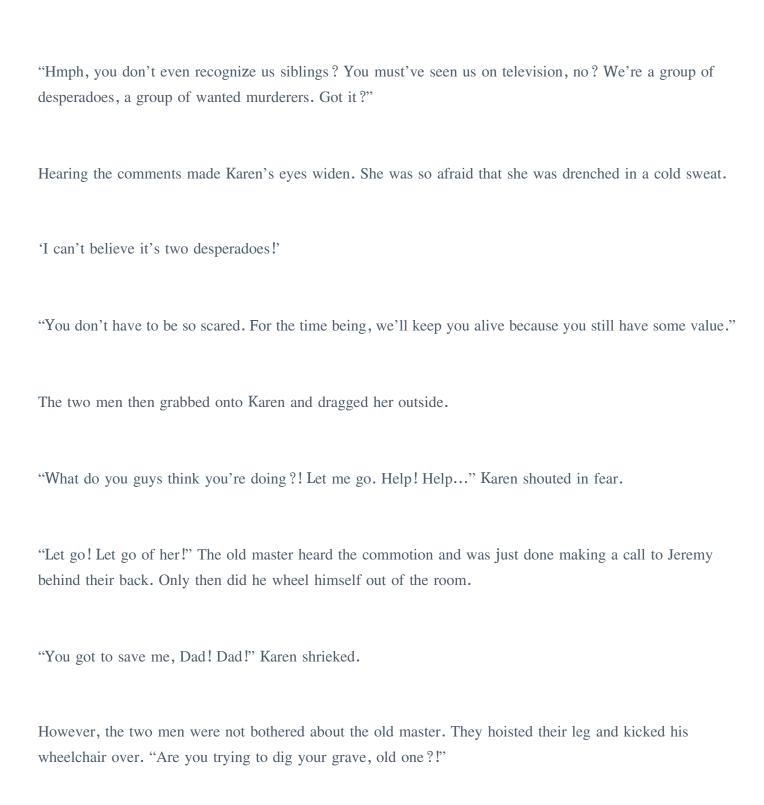
Karen thought that Jeremy had come back, so she got up and walked out. However, she only saw two masked men at the front door. They looked like a couple of hooligans.

"Who are you? What are you doing in my house?" Karen asked irritably while sending them off. "If you're beggars or salesmen, get out of here. Don't dirty my front porch." Just after she said that, one of the men took out a dagger and pointed it at Karen with a fierce look in his eyes. "Stupid b\*tch, who are you calling a beggar?" "Ah!" Karen was startled and all the pistachios in her hand fell to the ground. "W-Who are you? What are you trying to do?!" She ran into the house in a panic, but Winston was out for business while the servants were out grocery shopping. The housekeeper was not there either. There was no one else in the house except her and Old Master Whitman. The two men shook their daggers and drew closer. "Bring all the valuable things to me!" Karen turned pale and shook her head. She said, "I-I don't have anything valuable!" "You don't have anything valuable in such a big house? Are you trying to say that you don't value your life?" The man swung the knife viciously. Karen was so scared that she ran back and fell to the ground, twisting her ankle. "If you don't want to die, hand over all your cash and valuable items!"

She thought about calling the police or notifying Jeremy, but one of the gangsters kept following behind her with a knife.

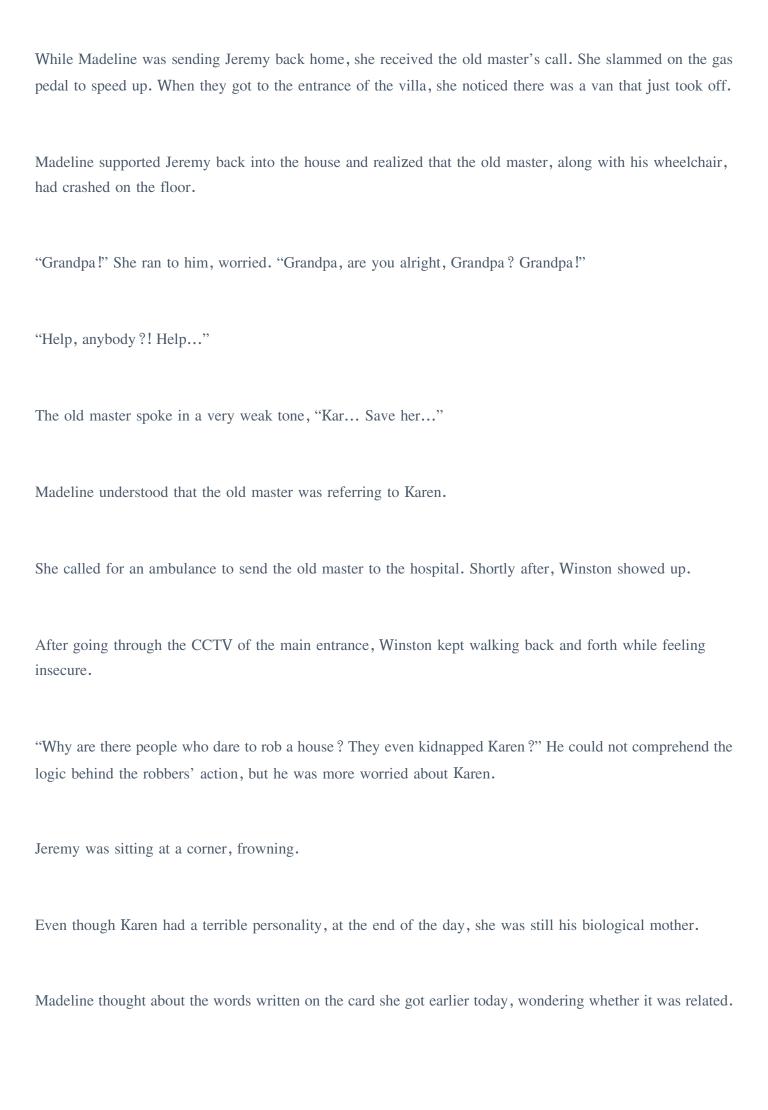
"Okay, I'll bring them!" Karen did not dare to refuse them anymore and limped upstairs with her twisted foot.

Karen endured the pain in her ankle and took out all the jewelry and valuables from the safe.
"Anything else?" the man asked forcefully, "If you dare to lie to us, I'll chop off your hands!"
"Yes! Yes!" Karen panicked and gave them her stash of money.
The two men were very satisfied. They looked at Karen shivering and raised her chin with the knife. "Aren't you usually arrogant? Why don't you dare to show off right now?"
Karen's expression changed when she heard what the man said. Did these two people know her?
"W-Who are you guys?"



"Dad! Dad!" Seeing the old master not moving an inch after falling to the ground, Karen started feeling scared

and nervous. She burst into tears.



In the meantime, Jeremy's phone rang. The incoming call was from an unknown number. He pressed the hands-free mode and answered the call. The man on the other end of the call declared his demand, "Tonight at 10 PM at the designated place I prefer, send in your wife, Madeline, to deliver 500,000 bucks in exchange for your mother. Or else, you'll end up collecting her corpse! Remember this, only send your wife alone. No one is allowed to follow and don't report it to the police!" The man immediately cut off the line, not giving Jeremy any chance to talk. The demand stated through the phone was heard by Madeline and Winston. Just when Madeline was still wondering the reason why the robbers insisted on having her deliver the ransom, Winston spoke, "Madeline, all this while, you and Karen have been on bad terms and she has always been against you. You can choose to reject their demand. I won't force you to take the risk." Jeremy felt the same way as well. He did not wish for her to take this path. Madeline did not answer, but she had already made up her mind. In a worn-down building, Karen was discarded at a corner full of cockroaches.

All this while being a prestigious rich lady who was always wearing and eating the best, it was unbearable for

"Who are you guys anyway? Why are you kidnapping me?" Karen asked, trembling with fear.

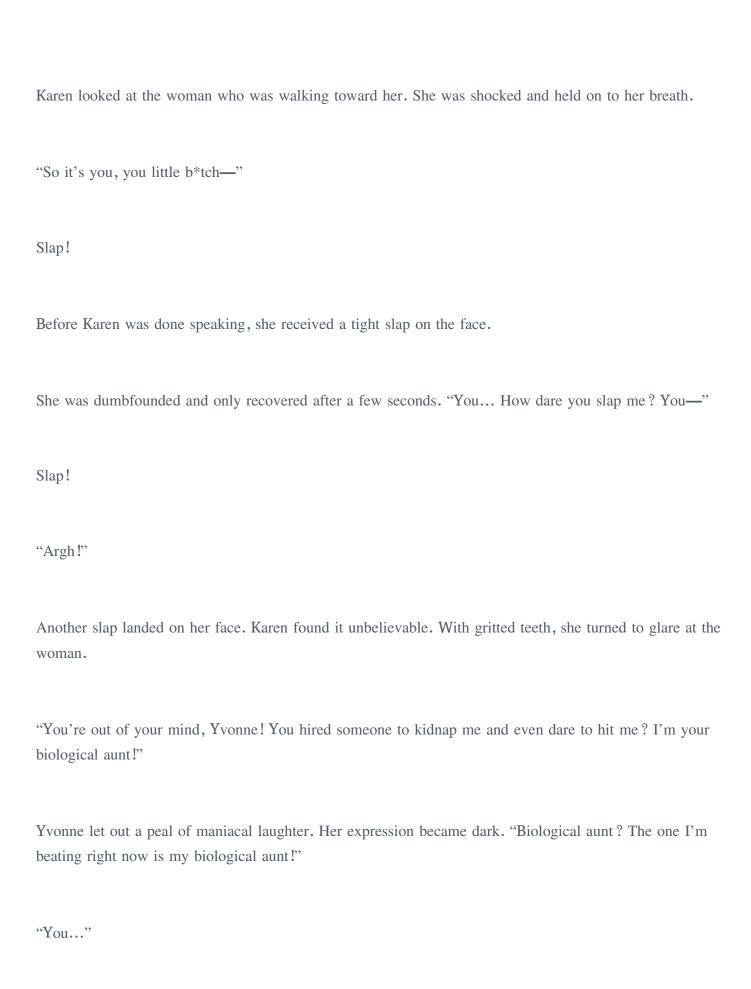
her to be treated this way. She was utterly terrified.

The two men took down their face masks and sneered, "That'll depend on you. Do you remember who you've
offended?"

Karen thought hard. "Madeline? She's the one at fault! That b\*tch, how cunning she is! Even after my son has treated her so well!"

She gritted her teeth when suddenly, she heard a very familiar woman's voice. That person was laughing arrogantly.

Karen raised her head to look and was flabbergasted. "It's you? Why is it you?"



Yvonne reached out to Karen's collar, putting on a malicious expression. "My dear aunt, let me tell you this. I've been tolerating you for a very long time now!

"You claim that you're my biological aunt, but have you ever treated me as your biological niece? Whenever you were being lectured by Madeline, I was the one who had to cover up the mess for you. You were always ordering me to do this and do that, even ordering me to serve that old man. I always followed your orders, but did you ever give me any benefit?!"

Yvonne vented out all her dissatisfaction. One could smell the heavy scent of alcohol and tobacco on her. Her expression became tense.

"All I did was get some money and jewelry from you. Did you have to treat me that way? Did you have to call me a b\*tch and slap me on the face that hard? At that time, did you treat me as your biological niece?! I'm telling you this Karen. Whatever that's happening today is all because of your doing!"

Karen glared back. "Do you have any idea what you're doing right now? You're going against the law!"

"So what?" Yvonne was not bothered. "After all, I'm already bearing a few criminal charges. There's no harm in adding one more to it. I think it's best if you start worrying about yourself."

Yvonne laughed out loud, shoving Karen away. She crossed her arms, and a smirk curled at the corner of her lips.

"You heard the call earlier. If Madeline doesn't bring the money here to bail you out, you won't be able to see the next daylight! However, think about it again. How is it possible that Madeline will show up to save you? How she wishes for your death!"

Her comment made Karen pale.

She could still recall what Madeline told her earlier that morning. 'Those who added fuel to the flames are
more despicable than those who turned a blind eye. Jeremy should die, but as the helper and encourager of that
fake b*tch, Meredith, you deserve to die even more than him!'

It looked like Madeline really hated her to a point where she desired her death!

'If that's the case, it's impossible to rely on Madeline to save me!'

While feeling the fear crawling through her, Karen then heard Yvonne's comment. "If Madeline is out of her mind and really delivers the cash, that'll be even better. I can hit two birds with a stone and get rid of you two together!"

However, Yvonne laughed and waved her hand. "I think it's best if you don't hold on to that hope. Unless Madeline is a fool, she'll never take the risk for such a 'good' mother-in-law like you! Hahaha..."

She laughed arrogantly, then spun around to order the two men.

"Keep a close eye on her. We'll divide the money equally if it arrives! If it doesn't, finish her!"

Karen's heart skipped a beat when she heard it. She was so scared that she curled herself in one corner, her palms drenched with cold sweat.

She thought that it was the end for her.

Yvonne was willing to reveal her true colors, and that would mean that she would do whatever it took to achieve her goal.

'Will Madeline take the risk and come save me?

'Madeline only wishes for my death!'	
Wideline only wishes for my death.	

'Never.

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Af	Whitman	Manor.

In the end, Jeremy made the police report and the cops showed up immediately to start the investigation. Coupled with the confession given by the old master after he was conscious, the cops were confident that those two robbers had already been planning it for a long time.

The cops came to Madeline to reaffirm the event that was going to take place that night and Madeline nodded in agreement.

Jeremy heard Madeline's answer from behind and spun around to face her. "Don't go, Linnie."

Even though he was unsure who the people who had kidnapped Karen were, he still found it weird that the kidnappers demanded only Madeline be present to hand over the ransom.

Madeline lowered her gaze to face him and said, "Don't you think that those who kidnapped your mom are also holding a grudge against me?"

"That's one possibility, so I can't have you risk your life," said Jeremy, determined.

Following his senses, he reached out to Madeline's hand. "I can't risk having you meet with any more accidents, Linnie."

"I'll only be in trouble if I don't identify the criminals behind this." Madeline was determined as well. "I must go. It's not to rescue your mom but to protect myself."

Then, she released Jeremy's hand and sauntered to the cops who were getting the things ready.

Jeremy felt the emptiness in his palm and also felt his heart sink.
He knew that Madeline agreed to hand in the cash all just so she could save Karen.
That night, with a bag full of cash, Madeline headed out to the designated destination.
There was a bracelet equipped with GPS on her wrist. It was specifically made by Jackson for her. She also brought along some mini-sized weapons for defense.
The police force was also keeping track of Madeline's location.
Madeline drove her car to the destination and carried the bag full of cash to a deserted area.
Looking ahead, there were only trees in her field of vision and not a single person was present.
The whistling of the wind and the sound of the branches swaying was creepy.
Suddenly, Madeline heard another car driving into the scene.
The same van that showed up at the entrance earlier in the daytime appeared before Madeline at lightning speed. A man came down while holding a dagger and threatened Madeline to hand over the bag of cash. He placed the dagger at her neck, beckoning her to enter the car.
This was in line with what she had planned as she wanted to intrude into the base of the criminals.
Jeremy was waiting anxiously in the villa. He could not calm himself when he heard from the computer that the kidnappers were asking Madeline to enter the car.

Winston halted Jeremy who was attempting to get out of the house. "Where do you think you're going, Jeremy?"
"Linnie will be in danger. They're obviously targeting her!" Jeremy then turned around and muttered, "I can't let her be alone. I can't let anything happen to her"
"Jeremy!"
Just when Winston was trying to stop Jeremy, they suddenly heard a police officer who was keeping track of the situation saying, "The line has been cut off. We can't track Eveline's location."
Jeremy quickly turned his head when he heard the news. "Where's the last location detected?"
"Near the east side of the city. There are only old buildings waiting to be demolished there. There are no more people staying there."
Jeremy turned to face Winston. "Bring me there, quick! I can't afford to let anything happen to Linnie."
Seeing Jeremy all determined and worried, Winston no longer hesitated. After all, besides Madeline, they had to save Karen as well.
···
Karen was famished for an entire day. Finally, Yvonne threw cold bread to Karen like she was giving food to the beggars.
Karen clenched her teeth, not willing to eat it.

"Wow, I didn't expect you to have some backbone." Yvonne snorted. She looked at the time. "It's almost half an hour since they left. Why aren't they back yet? That means Madeline is not planning to bring the cash here to save you. Just see for yourself! She's not willing to come here to save you. She really wants you to be dead!"

Karen was horrified and gritted her teeth in dissatisfaction. "Madeline, you won't even come and hand over the ransom. You—"

Just when she was complaining in dissatisfaction, the sealed door suddenly flung open. Karen lifted her head and was shocked at the sight.

Yvonne also spun around to look. She was shocked to see her comrades pushing Madeline into the room.
"Madeline?" Karen thought she was seeing an illusion, but the woman before her was in fact the actual Madeline.
"So it's you." Madeline did not seem too surprised to see that it was Yvonne. "Previously, it was you who sent a guy with the name Tanner Long to kidnap my daughter, right?"
Yvonne was startled as she did not expect Madeline to even figure out the truth behind that incident. Then, she curled her lips and giggled. "Yeah, it's me. So what? You still failed to catch me."
She strolled toward Madeline. "But I never thought that you'll risk your life for her."
Madeline looked at Karen who was at the corner with her hands shamefully tied up.
Her gorgeous eyes looked at Karen scornfully. She smirked and said, "For her? Do you think she's worth risking my life for?"
"Worth? What do you mean, Madeline?!" Karen was crossed.
Madeline's expression was elegant yet stony. "It means I won't be bothered even if you're dead."
"Then Then did you show up?!"

"Do you think I really want to come? It was Grandpa who pleaded with me, so I could only agree to come to deliver the ransom. Initially, I thought of leaving after handing over the money, but they dragged me into the car. If I knew things would turn out like this, I'd never have agreed to Grandpa's request in the first place. Whether you're dead or alive, I'm not at all concerned." Madeline roared as she looked at Karen disdainfully.

"You... You..." Karen was at a loss for words.

Yvonne witnessed the incident and chuckled delightfully.

"Like I said, how is it possible for you to risk your life for my aunt?"

She glanced at Madeline from head to toe and finally fixed her gaze on her face. Her red eyes were brewing with jealousy.

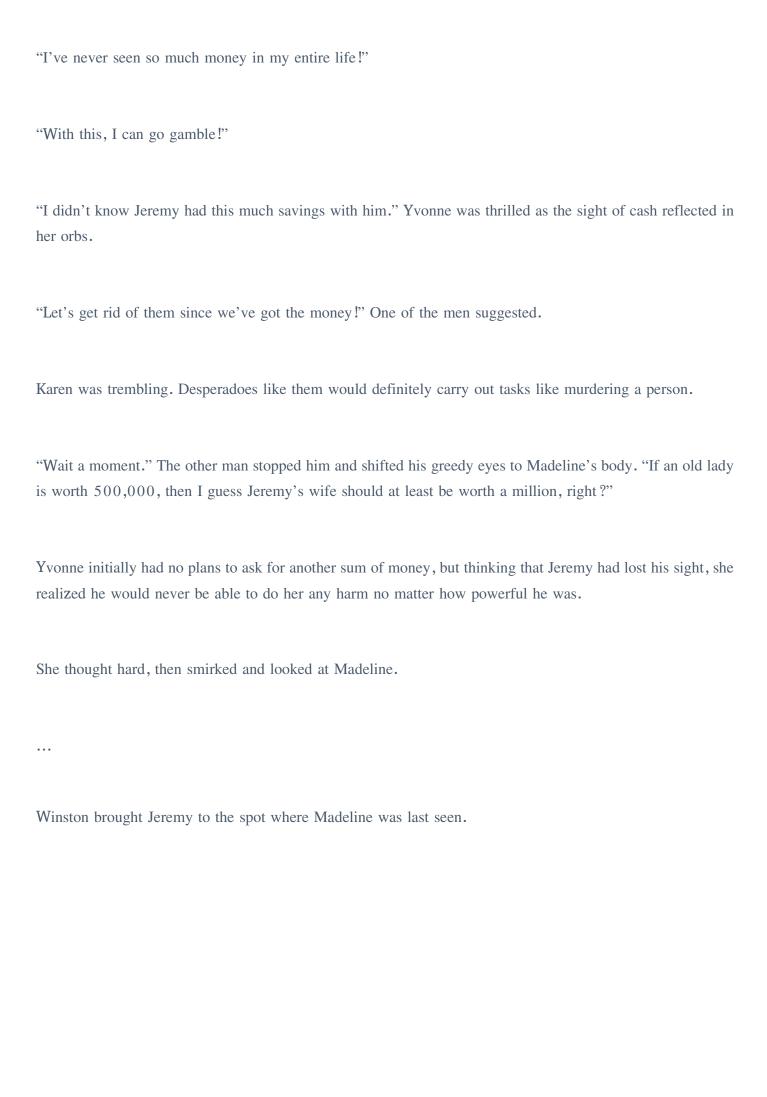
"Madeline, you relied on your face to cast a spell on my cousin, right? Say, if you're disfigured, do you think he'll still love you?" Yvonne stretched out her hand, attempting to touch Madeline's face.

Madeline grabbed hold of Yvonne's wrist. "You've received the money. If you don't wish to face any more trouble, you'd better escape now. If anything were to happen to me, you'll be the one in trouble."

"I don't need you to teach me how to carry out a task!" Yvonne was infuriated as she shoved her hand. She stared at the bag of cash that the two men were carrying and ordered, "Tie her up for the time being. We'll take our time to count the cash."

Madeline intentionally struggled and the two men advised her to behave with a fierce look. Then, they tied both her hands and pushed her to Karen. They then spun around and were eager to open up the bag to count the cash.

The three pairs of orbs sparkled when they saw the stacks of cash made up of 100-dollar bills.



Before them	were the	worn-down	buildings	that	were	about t	o be	demolished.	'It's indeed a	perfect p	place to
hide someon	e.'										

Winston scanned the surroundings with a worried look. "Jeremy, do you really think that your mom and Madeline are locked up somewhere here? It doesn't look like anyone is living here. Even the street lights aren't functioning."

Jeremy stood quietly for a moment, then walked two steps ahead and said, "Linnie must be nearby."

"But this place is so huge." Winston looked around but did not find anything fishy.

"Look around and see if there's any house with lights on. Then, observe the condition of the balcony of that particular house with the lights on. That should be enough to locate Linnie and the rest."

Winston came to an understanding after listening to his instructions.

The old houses were not very high. Hence, it was not difficult to observe the entire area.

Very soon, Winston noticed there were two suspicious houses.

"Jeremy, this house looks empty and there's nothing on the balcony, but its lights are on as if there are a few people in there. I'll notify the cops to let them decide whether we should head in."

Jeremy nodded, his heart suddenly racing. He could not explain the sense of insecurity that he was feeling.

Yvonne and her two comrades were discussing blackmailing Jeremy for another sum of cash. One of them decided to head over to the balcony to smoke and get some fresh air when he spotted two figures downstairs. He quickly headed back to the room with an anxious look on his face. "There are two men downstairs and one of them seems to be Jeremy!" "What?" Yvonne's face went pale. She opened the curtain sneakily to glimpse downstairs. Jeremy had a figure which was easily recognizable and Yvonne recognized him immediately. "It really is my cousin. I didn't expect them to find this place so soon." Yvonne started to get worried. "We have to leave this place soon, but before that, you have to finish off those two ladies!" Exasperated, Yvonne turned around. That was one of the plans formulated between Yvonne and the two men. Regardless of Madeline or Karen, Yvonne hated both of them. 'Since they're in my hands, I'll never let them have it easy!' On the other hand, Karen was still apoplectic with rage despite being famished the whole day. The moment Madeline arrived and was locked up together with her, Karen never once stopped complaining about Madeline. "Hmph, Jeremy really is blind for giving his all to love a woman like you. "This is entirely your fault. If it wasn't for you, Yvonne would never do such evil things!

"Madeline, even if I were to be tortured to death by them today, I don't wish to die with you alongside!"

Madeline was only focusing on how to escape and was not in the mood to argue with Karen. 'I guess Yvonne and her comrades are discussing how to blackmail Jeremy for more money.' Suddenly, they heard the door open.

Yvonne entered the room while appearing furious along with her other two comrades. Without speaking a word, Yvonne untied the ropes on Madeline's hand and threw a dagger in front of her.

Karen was even more afraid when she saw the scene unfold.

Madeline was staring at Yvonne with a steady expression. "What's the meaning of this?"

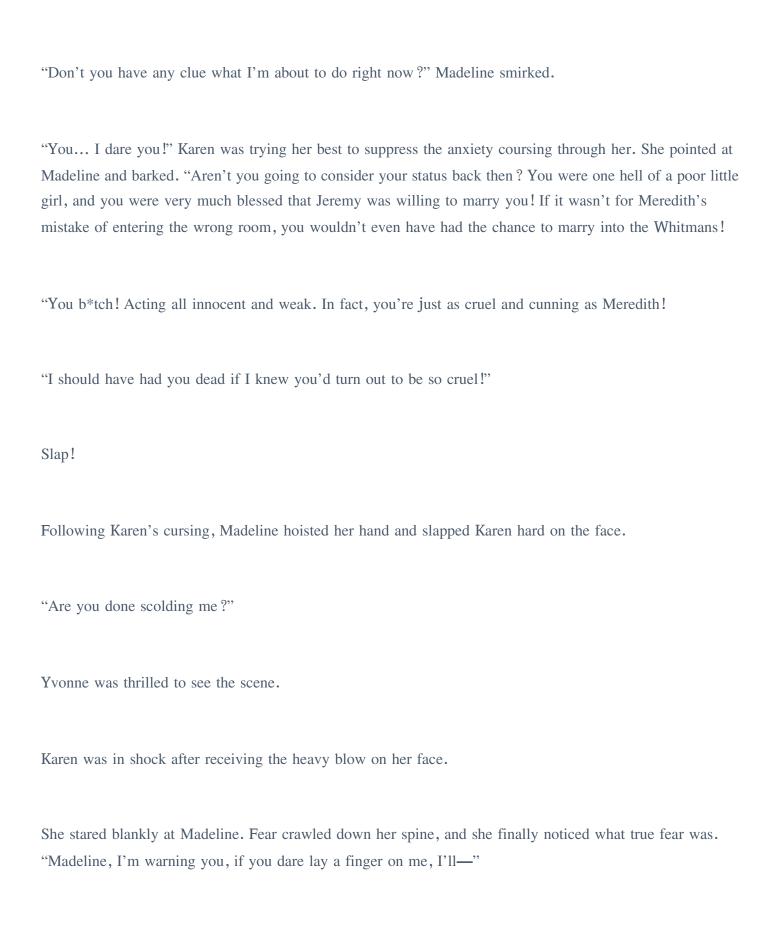
"I'm giving you a chance to seek revenge!" Yvonne said while looking at Karen, "Madeline, aren't you holding a grudge against my aunt? I'm allowing you to make her shut up forever and make her lose the chance to go against you for good!"

"What?" Karen's heart skipped a beat. "Yvonne, you really plan to kill me? No matter what, I'm still your biological—"

"Cut the crap!" Yvonne was out of patience. She tilted her head and forced Madeline to make a choice. "Madeline, now is the best chance to have your revenge. If you're not going to make a move, then I will!"

Karen never expected Yvonne to be so cruel. She saw Madeline picking up the dagger and pointed at her!

"Madeline, you... What do you think you're doing? Don't do anything rashly!"



"You'll do what?" Madeline cut her short. Her pretty eyes looked at her disdainfully as she walked over to her. "Anyway, the chances of me surviving through this is very slim even if I kill you. If that's the case, why can't I get rid of you, a cruel and disgusting old lady, first before fending for myself?!"

Karen backed off, her face turning pale. "Back then, it was Meredith who made you lose your vision and disfigured you, not me! How could you place all the blame on me? What I did at most was scold and beat you a few times!"

"Hmph, you still have the guts to blurt it out? Back then, if you had the slightest bit of sympathy for me, I wouldn't have gotten harmed by Meredith to such a miserable state!

"Karen, let me tell you something honestly. I've long ago hated you. I've always wished you were dead! It's all because of the existence of such a cruel mother-in-law like you that I suffered all those years! Jeremy is indeed a jerk, but you're far worse than him!"

Madeline's eyes glinted with hatred as she threw her sharp gaze that was like a sword to Karen.

"Now's the chance for me to vent out all the hatred I've been enduring!"

Madeline grabbed the dagger and narrowed her pretty eyes. The immense pressure she was giving out made Karen lose her mind.

Yvonne was witnessing this from a corner, feeling satisfied. Judging from Madeline's tone and expression, it was obvious that Madeline's hatred toward Karen had reached its peak.

Seeing Madeline raising the dagger and about to make a move, Karen took in a deep, cold breath as her body fumbled.

Just when Karen thought she was about to be stabbed by Madeline, Madeline pushed her out by force. "Run, quick!"



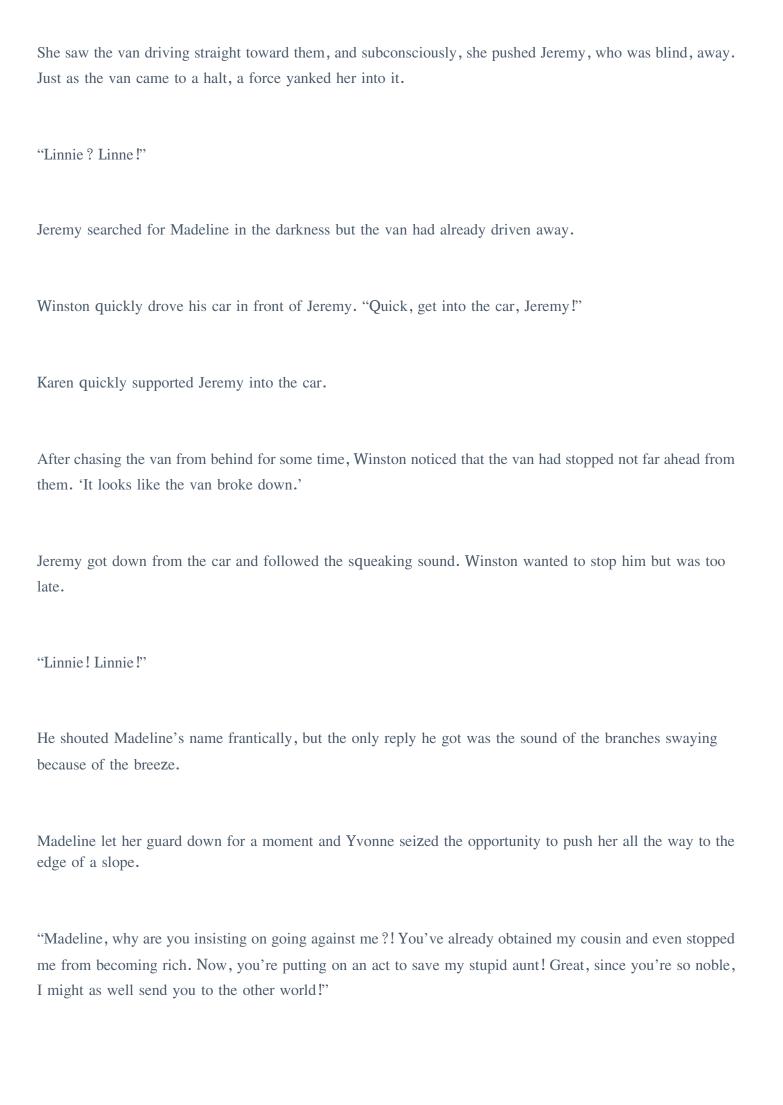
Yvonne gritted her teeth. "Madeline, I didn't expect you to put on an act!"
Madeline smirked. "You're the stupid one. How many times have you failed to see through my act? It seems I can consider making a debut as an actress."
"You" Grinding her teeth, Yvonne ordered the two men, "Hurry up and catch her!"
···
Karen ran downstairs, panicked. Her mind was still flooded with Madeline's previous actions.
Never in her wildest dreams would she expect Madeline to rescue her!
"Karen?!" Winston was escorting Jeremy to the stairs when he coincidentally bumped into Karen who came crashing down the stairs.
"Winston! Jeremy!" Karen was relieved to see her son and husband. Panting, she pointed upstairs agitatedly and anxiously. "Quick, go and rescue Madeline. I'm afraid something might happen to her!"
Jeremy's expression changed for the worst after hearing it. He freed himself from Winston and ran up the stairs.
"Jeremy! You can't see a thing. Please be extra careful!" Winston was worried as he reminded.
However, Jeremy rushed at lightning speed.
He could not see a thing, but after this period, he had gotten used to the world of darkness.

With his hearing ability	, Jeremy slowly inched clos	er to the place where Madeli	ne was being locked up in.

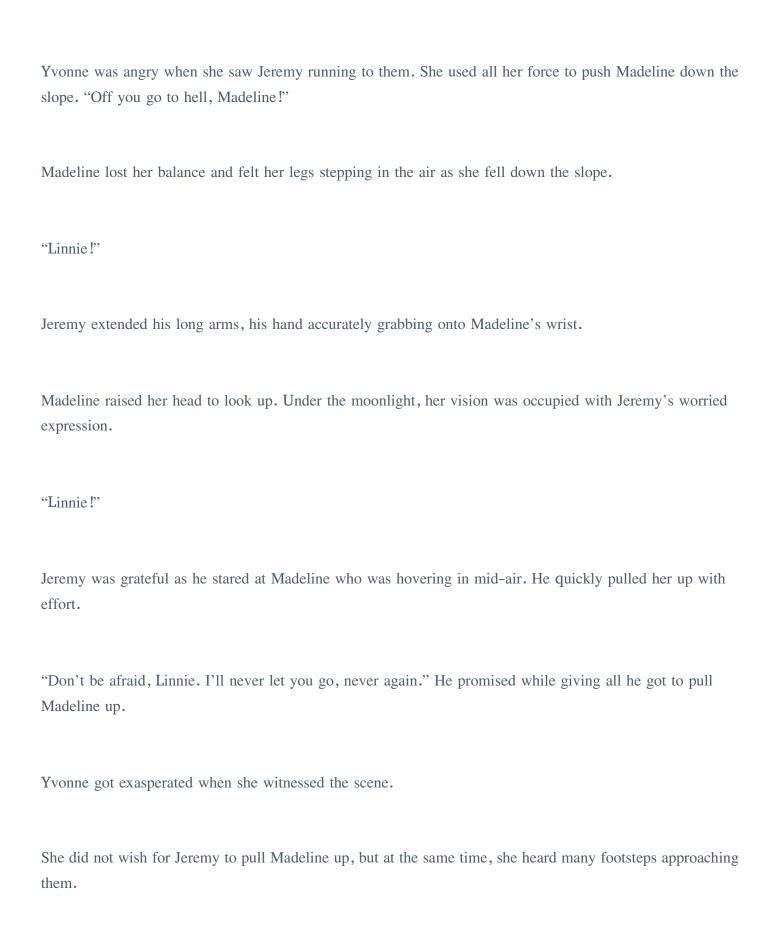
"I'm here, Jeremy," Madeline called out to him.

No matter how Madeline struggled, she could not defend against two muscular men. Her hands were locked, making it hard for her to move around.
"You really drive me mad, Madeline! You always look as if you've seen through everything. Then, do you know what I'm about to do to you?"
Yvonne gritted her teeth hard, putting on a fierce look.
"You two, tear off her clothes. I want to upload this b*tch's awful pictures up on the net and let everyone witness the prestigious Young Lady Montgomery being raped by others!"
The two men put on a devilish look after hearing her comment.
They grabbed onto Madeline, and at the eleventh hour when they stretched their hands out to Madeline, the door was kicked open.
Madeline looked up and saw Jeremy's outline appear before her.
Even though he had lost his vision, his eyes still gave off a sharp glare.
At that moment, a sense of security was injected into Madeline.
"Cou Cousin" Yvonne stuttered.

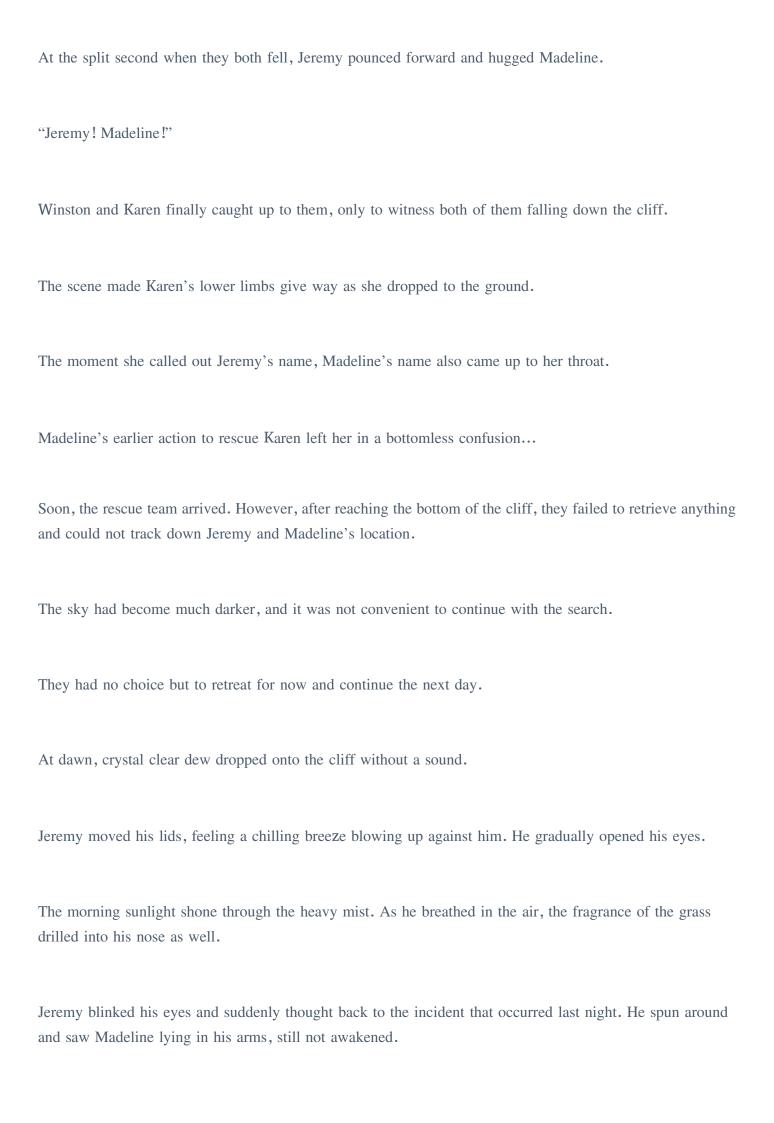
Jeremy immediately followed the voice but suddenly heard Madeline's anxious shriek. "Watch out!"
He came to a halt and accurately grabbed onto the hand of the man who was about to ambush him.
Jeremy raised his pair of infuriated orbs and increased the strength of his clench. "In this world, only I'm allowed to see Linnie's body!"
He blurted an icy cold statement before kicking the man before him and sending him flying away.
Madeline looked at Jeremy. His comment had struck straight to her heart, making her cheeks feel warm without her realizing it.
"Let's go, quick." Yvonne attempted to make a run for it, knowing that the situation was not favoring her. At the same time, she took along the bag of cash.
The man who got kicked by Jeremy quickly got up to his feet and sprinted.
Madeline and Jeremy wanted to chase them, but they both had their worries.
Madeline was worried because Jeremy could not see a thing.
Jeremy was worried whether Madeline was injured or not.
Although the criminals had escaped, they felt fortunate that no one was hurt.
Madeline escorted Jeremy to the stairs and saw Karen and Winston ahead. Just when they were about to reunite, a van drove straight toward them from beside. The lights of the van were on and it was so bright that Madeline could not keep her eyes open.



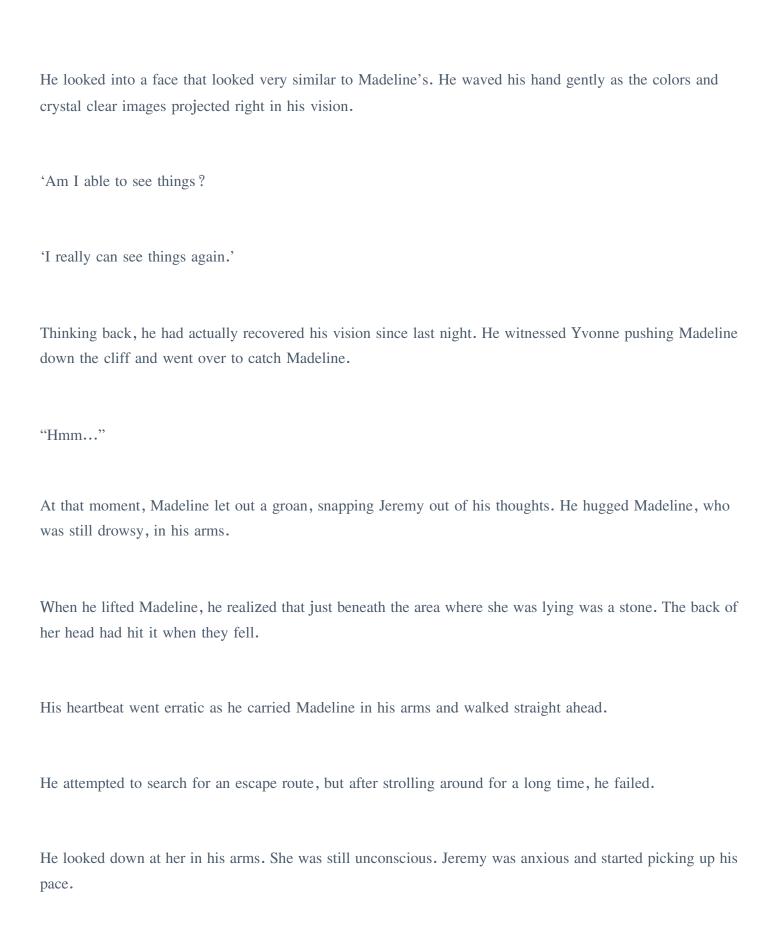
"Linnie!"
Just when Yvonne was about to make a move, she heard Jeremy's voice.
She did not hesitate any longer as she knew that bad people always ended up dead because they talked too much. Hence, she decided to keep her mouth shut. All she wanted to do at that moment was to kill Madeline!
Within the empty woods, Jeremy heard Yvonne's cruel speech. His instinct told him that something terrible was about to happen to Madeline.
Relying on his hearing and other senses, Jeremy sprinted his way to where Madeline was.
That short journey had seemed extremely long to him.
His heart was palpitating extremely fast to a point where his heart could no longer tolerate it.
The night breeze tickled his ears as Jeremy ran straight ahead with all his might. "Linnie, wait for me. You must wait for me."
He kept muttering to himself. He felt as if this entire world was empty and only Madeline occupied it.
He wanted to grab onto her hands and never let her go. He did not want her to leave his world.
Jeremy tried his best to locate where Madeline was. Then, it felt as though a glimpse of light had suddenly appeared in the darkness before him. That ray of light gradually enlarged and finally, Madeline's face appeared crystal clear in his orbs.
"Linnie"



Recalling that the 500,000 in cash had been taken away by her two other comrades, Yvonne was left with no choice but to flee the scene while gritting her teeth.
She did not wish to lose the money as well, not when she had failed to finish Madeline.
At that moment, Jeremy was not bothered by anything that was happening around him. All he cared about was Madeline.
Madeline never expected Jeremy to catch hold of her at the eleventh hour. She put in her effort as well and squeezed out all her strength to climb up.
However, given that the slope was too slippery, she felt she was moving downward as she continued climbing up.
She looked up and noticed that she was dragging Jeremy down the slope as well.
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"Let go of me, Jeremy. I won't be dead. At most, I'll just roll all the way down." She asked for Jeremy to let her go.  In the next second, she saw Jeremy's eyes giving off a domineering aura as he looked straight into her eyes.  "The biggest mistake I've ever made in my life is that I didn't hold on to you properly and never gave you the



He got up and gently tapped on Madeline's face.
"Linnie, Linnie, wake up," he called out to her softly but received no reaction from Madeline.
Jeremy noticed that her face was extremely pale. He started searching high and low all over her body to look for any injuries, but nothing unusual was noted.
He then called out to her again, but Madeline still did not respond.
Jeremy got more anxious, and when he extended his hand again, he was stunned.





Madeline was dumbfounded. Words could not describe her current emotions. She tried to suppress her palpitation and retrieved her hand, but she was still puzzled.
"When did your eyes recover?" She remembered that he could not see a thing when he came to her rescue last night.
'Did he recover after falling down the cliff?'
While still deep in thought, she heard Jeremy's reply, "Last night, I was so worried looking all over for you, but just when everything seemed hopeless, I suddenly saw Yvonne about to push you down the cliff. That's the moment I was able to see again."
Madeline was flabbergasted.
'Does it mean that I've got nothing to do with Jeremy losing his sight?
'I didn't expect him to regain his vision out of desperation when he couldn't find me.'
That just showed how much he cared and missed her, to a point where a miracle occurred.
Of course, she did not forget the moment when he rushed to grab onto her and said, "Listen up, Eveline. I'll never let go, not even death can make me let go of you!"
He did not let go of her and held her dearly in his arms, falling with her into the unknown danger.
However, Jeremy knew it deep in his heart that he could regain his vision in such a situation because he had overcome that psychological barrier within him.

Three years ago, Madeline lost her sight because Meredith took away her corneas. This had left a thorn buried deep in him.
He was unable to forgive himself, and even at this moment, he still could not free himself.
A hush befell among them, and Madeline turned around. Just when she took her first step, a burning and prickling sensation struck her, crawling from her toes upward.
She wanted to look at what was going on, but Jeremy suddenly went in front of her. His expression sank as he kneeled.
Madeline wanted to evade him, but Jeremy had already grabbed onto her left ankle.
"What are you planning to do, Jeremy?"

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Jeremy got down to his knees before her and pulled up her trousers only to find an enormous bruise on her calf.

Heartbroken, he frowned. "I'll carry you, Linnie."

"Thanks for your kindness, Mr. Whitman, but I don't need you to do so." Madeline rejected his offer. Bearing with the pain, she continued waddling ahead.

Jeremy knew she was mad at his previous actions, but he could not bear to see her torturing her body.

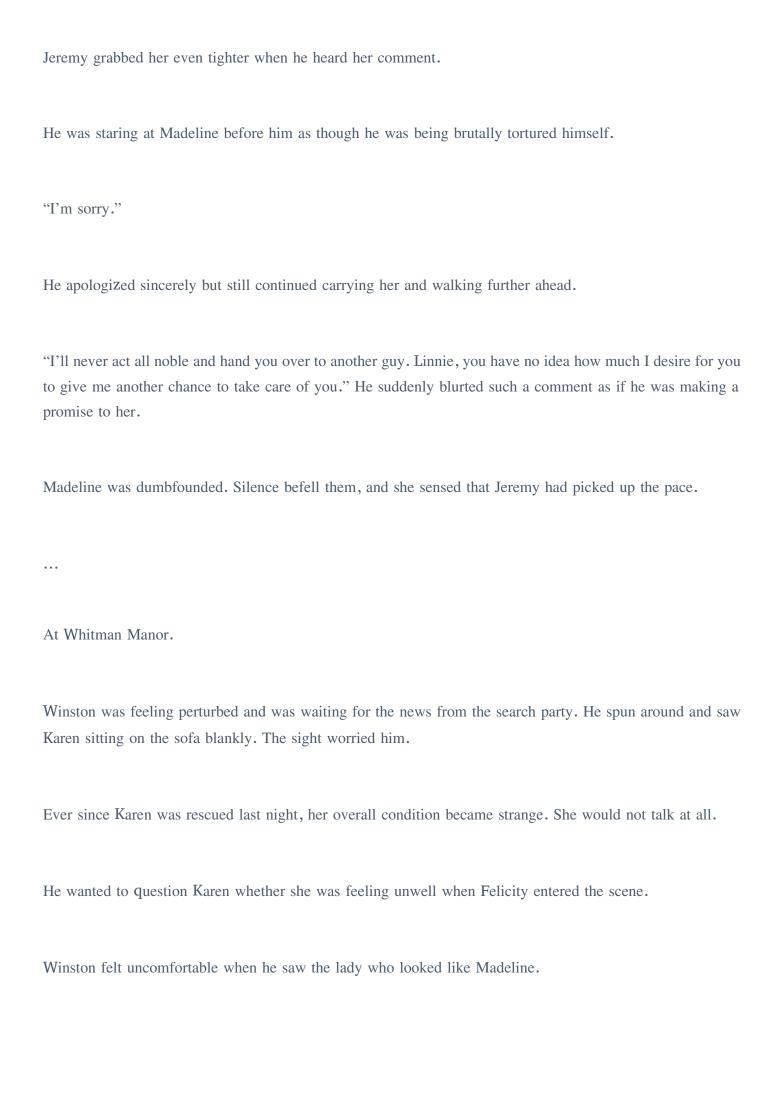
He quickly caught up to her, grabbed her waist, and hoisted her up.

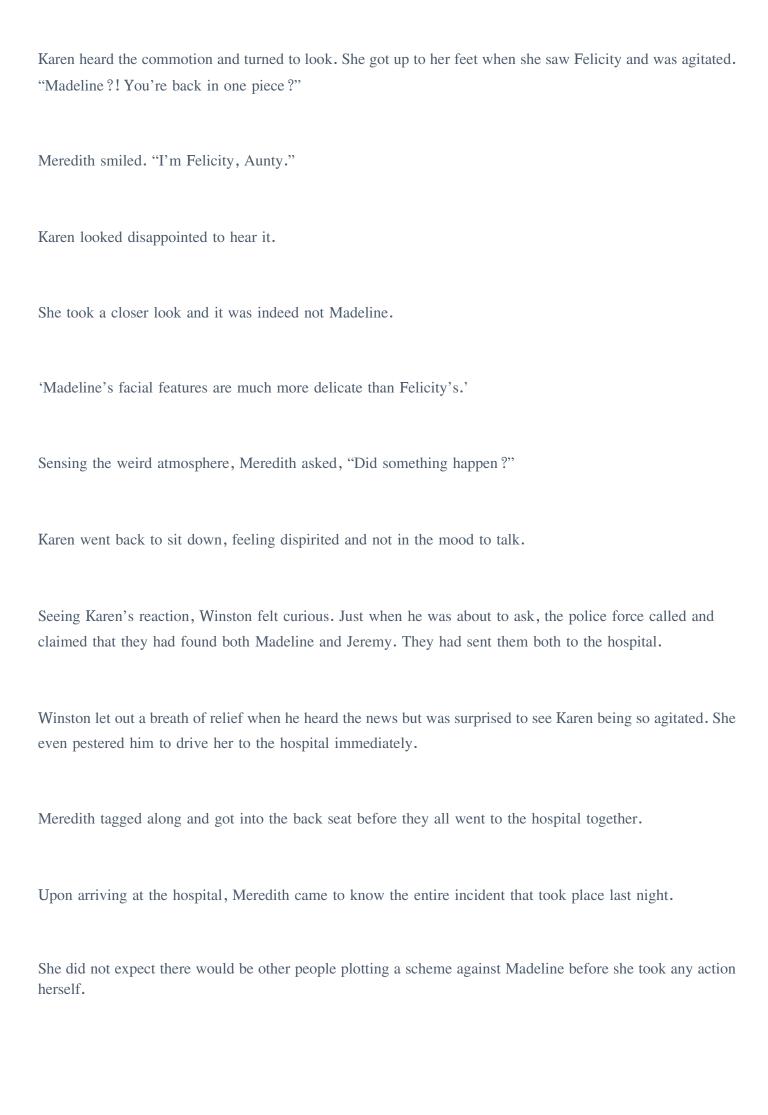
Madeline fumbled, and when she lifted her gaze, all she saw was the side of Jeremy's stony face.

"Put me down." Madeline rejected in an indifferent tone. After a few attempts of struggling which failed, she grabbed onto his collar. "Jeremy, I've made myself very clear back at Glendale University. I don't need your concern and you no longer need to treat me well."

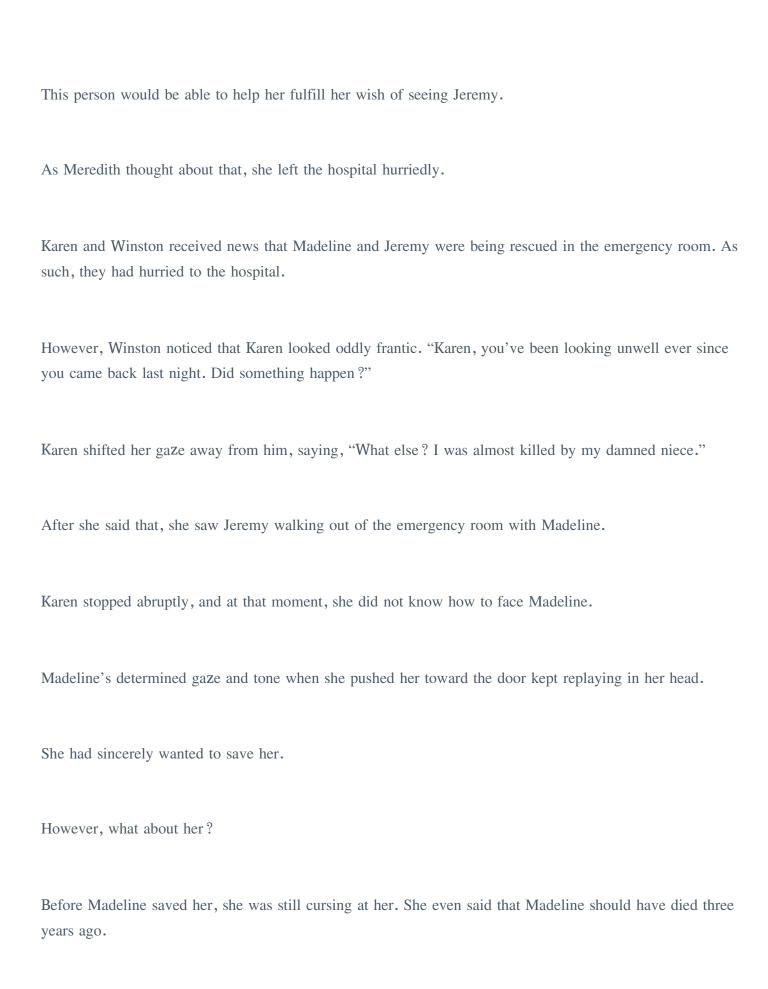
Jeremy looked at her with a passionate stare. "Linnie, I know you're mad at me. You can continue being mad or even hate me, but please don't harm your body just because of this."

Madeline smirked. "Don't you find it rather hilarious that today, you're telling me not to harm my body?"

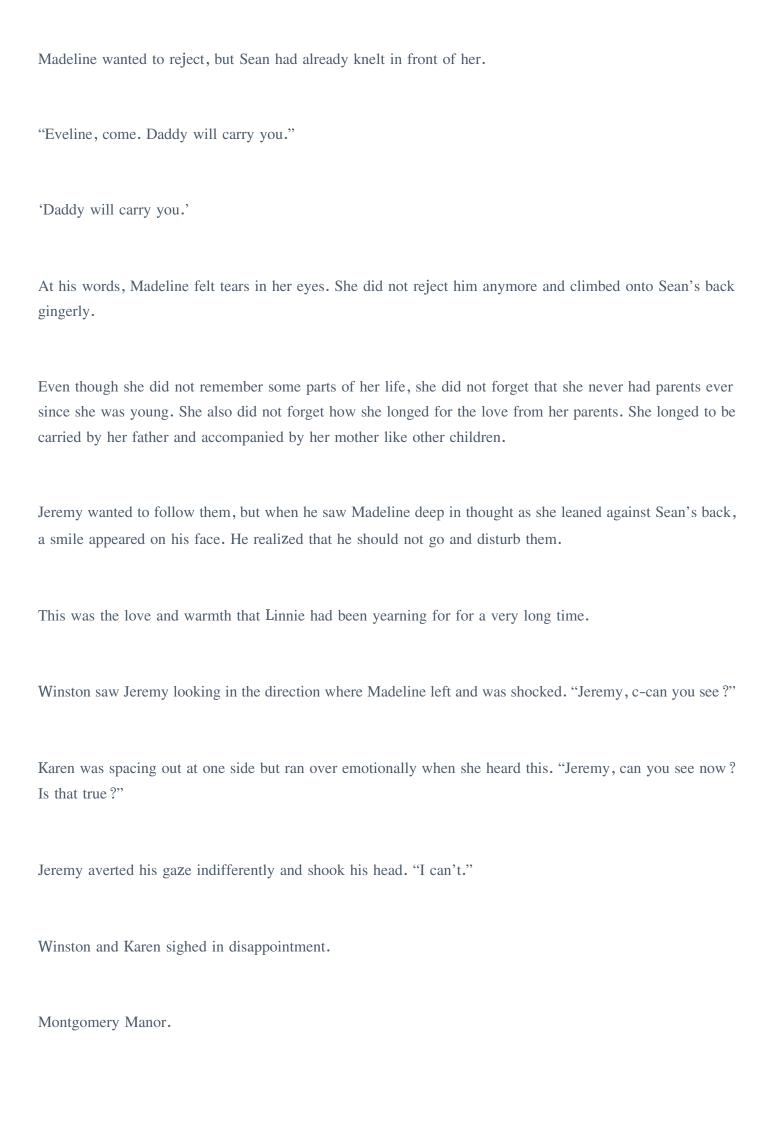




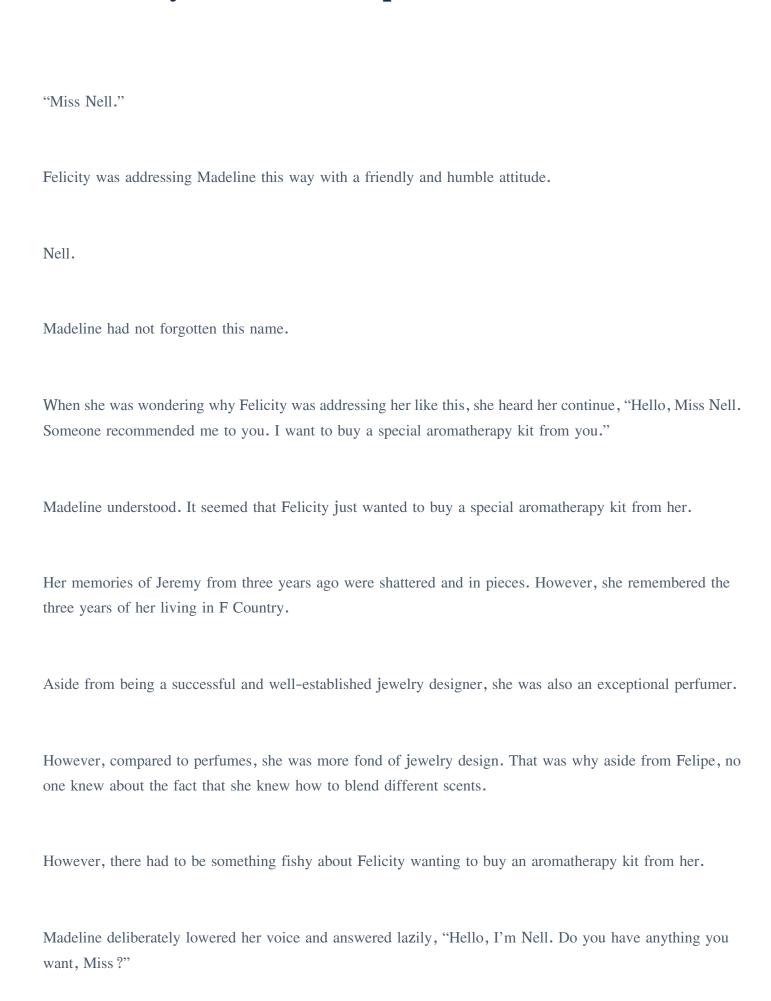
Knowing that Jeremy sacrificed himself just to save Madeline and ended up falling from the cliff with her, flames of jealousy within Meredith lighted once again.
She could not tolerate the fact that Jeremy cared so much for Madeline.
She felt that she should create a crack between them if Jeremy was so concerned about Madeline.
After Meredith made up her mind, she suddenly thought of someone else.

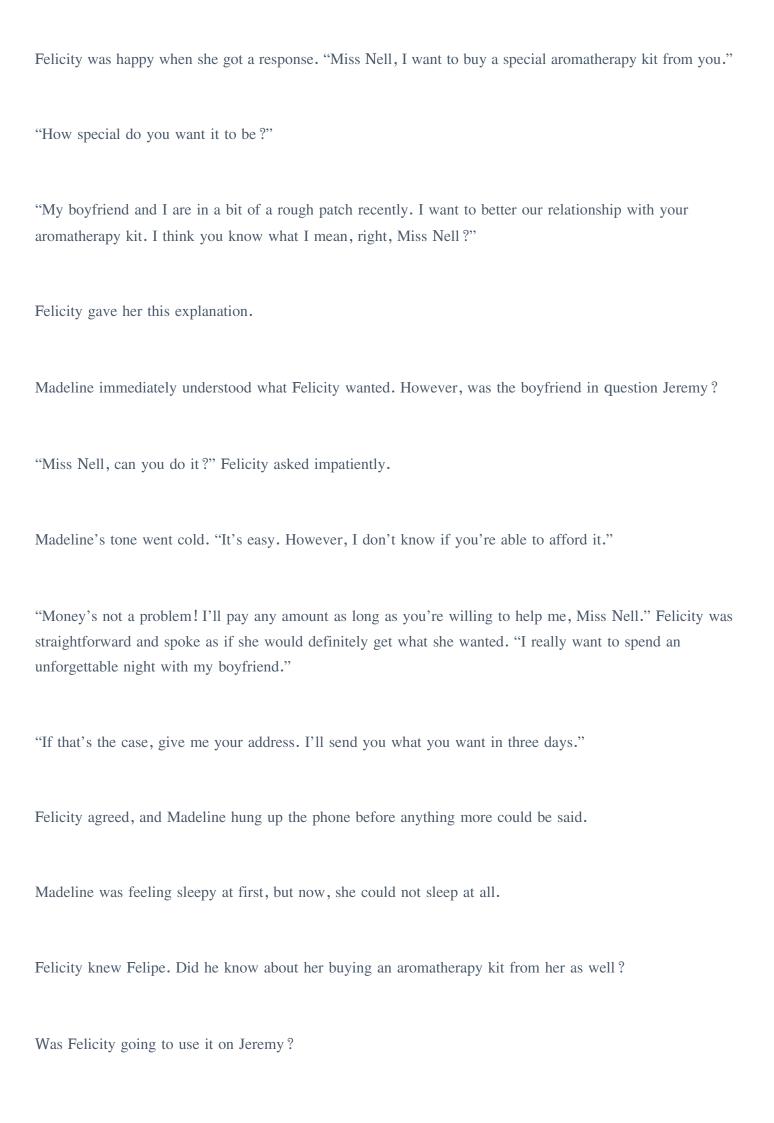


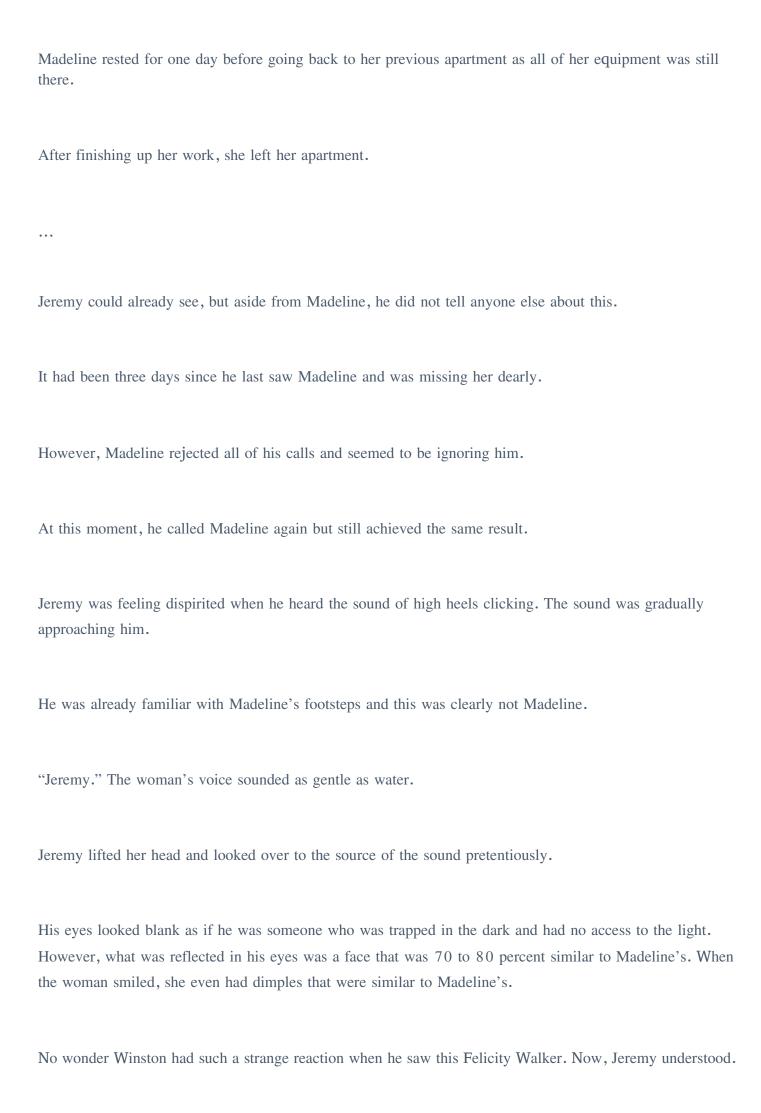
Winston patted Karen's arm when he saw her standing there without moving. "Karen, what happened to you?" Madeline and Jeremy looked over at the same time when they heard that. When Madeline saw Karen and Winston, her eyes remained calm. However, Karen averted her gaze in guilt. and felt that her face was burning at that moment. "Jermy, Maddie, are you hurt?" Winston walked over and asked. Madeline removed her hand from Jeremy's and asked, "Did they catch Yvonne and her accomplices?" "The two men were arrested but Yvonne escaped." "She's so good at escaping." Madeline smiled softly. She could see Karen looking at her from the corner of her eyes, but when Madeline looked over, Karen averted her eyes in a hurry. "Eveline, Eveline!" Eloise and Sean arrive hurriedly at this moment. When they saw the bandages on Madeline's left calf, they were heartbroken. "Why didn't you tell us about this? How could you risk your life like this?" Eloise held Madeline's hands with lingering fear. Then, she peered at Karen. "Even after you save that certain someone, they'll still think that you're just trying to hurt them." "..." Karen knew Eloise was hinting at her. If this was before, she would have fought with Eloise, but at this moment, she could not say anything. "Sean, you should carry Eveline home." Eloise hinted at Sean.



Sean carried Madeline all the way to her room.
When Madeline was in the shower, Eloise stayed outside the door. She was worried that Madeline would fall or bump into things.
When she finally lay in bed safe and sound, Eloise left while feeling relieved.
Madeline was exhausted after what happened tonight. When she was about to rest, her phone rang. She had never seen this number before.
After hesitating, Madeline still picked up the phone. However, she did not expect to hear Felicity's voice. Her attitude was pleasant at first, but she did not expect Felicity to say the words she said next.

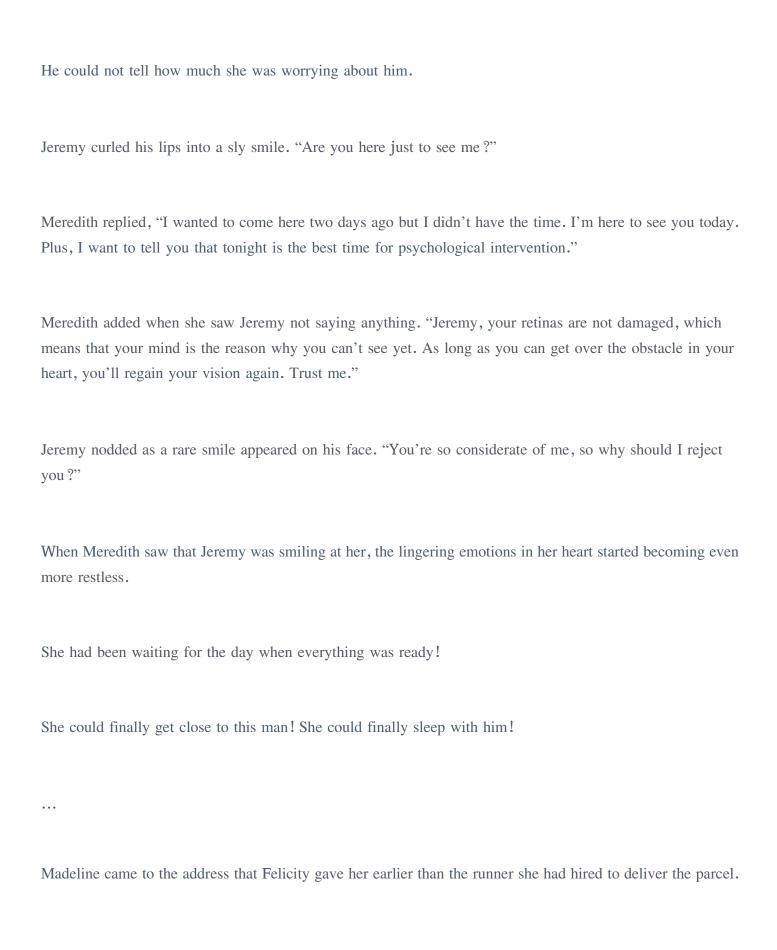






When Meredith saw Jeremy's blank and icy stare, she walked over with a smile.

"Jeremy, I heard about what happened a few days ago. I was so worried about you." Meredith's voice was filled with concern. However, there was a smirk that showed the opposite on his face.



After Felicity received the aromatherapy kit, a delightful glint appeared in her eyes.
She drove away quickly and had no idea Madeline was following behind her.
Indeed, the person Felicity went looking for right after was Jeremy. However, what surprised Madeline was that Jeremy willingly got into Felicity's car.
His vision had recovered, so it meant that he did not need any psychological interventions. However, he still got into Felicity's car.
Madeline followed behind Felicity's car. Then, she noticed Felicity and Jeremy were on their way to the same hotel they went to last time.
What else could a man and a woman do in a hotel at this hour?
Could it be that Jeremy and Felicity were really dating? Did it mean that Felicity was telling the truth? Did she really buy the aromatherapy kit to better her relationship with Jeremy and to have an intimate relationship with him?
When she thought about this, Madeline's grip on the steering wheel tightened.
If they were really dating, why should she stick her foot in their relationship?
However, if it was real, why did Jeremy risk his life to save her?
Madeline decided to follow them to see what was going on.
After a while, Jeremy followed Meredith into a room. She asked him to lie down on a sofa and proceeded to tell him about the treatment.

Then, in the next second, Meredith started undressing in front of Jeremy. Jeremy lowered his gaze as he was not interested in looking at Meredith. After Meredith changed into a flimsy and sexy nightgown, she walked to one side and poured two glasses of red wine. She knew Jeremy could not see, so she added something extra in the wine without a care in the world. Then, she played some soft music before lighting the candles. White smoke started rising from the aromatherapy pot. The refreshing scent filled up their hearts. At that moment, they felt like they were in an extremely relaxed state. Meredith felt that this aromatherapy kit was such a miracle. She lifted her sultry eyes and took a sip of her wine. Then, she held the other glass and walked toward Jeremy. Looking at his exceptional features and his breath-taking face, Meredith felt that the man exuded a certain charm that was able to be witch her. She could not wait anymore because she had been waiting for this day for about seven years! "Can we start the treatment?" Jeremy lifted his head and asked. Meredith got closer to him like she was in a trance. "Jeremy, drink some wine. The wine will help you relax and you'll get into the mood quicker like this." She purposely lowered her voice to make herself sound more alluring. Meredith could feel herself getting more and more delighted as she looked at Jeremy.

Madeline arrived after them, and when she passed by their room coincidentally, she could hear Felicity's soft voice coming from behind the door.
She turned around and realized the door was not closed. There was a card stuck at the door frame, so that was why the door was not fully closed.
Madeline pushed the door open quietly and smelled a familiar scent. It was the smell of her aromatherapy kit.
She looked into the room and saw Felicity in a flimsy nightgown, trying to lean against Jeremy's chest.
She did not expect them to be a couple. Madeline felt like such a clown for worrying that Jeremy might get scammed by Felicity.
Madeline turned around to leave. However, in the next second, Jeremy's action shocked her.

She thought Jeremy would go along with	Felicity's acts, but he lifted	d the wine glass in his ha	and and poured the
contents in the glass on her face.			

Meredith screamed, having not ever expected Jeremy to do that.

She was dumbfounded as her face was covered with red liquid. Then, she looked in utter horror as the man in front of her stood up slowly. "Jeremy, w-why did you splash me with the wine?"

Jeremy did not even want to look at her. He turned his face away in disgust. "Not only can red wine help one relax, but it can also wake someone up."

His voice was alluring, but it sounded icy. "Are you awake now?"

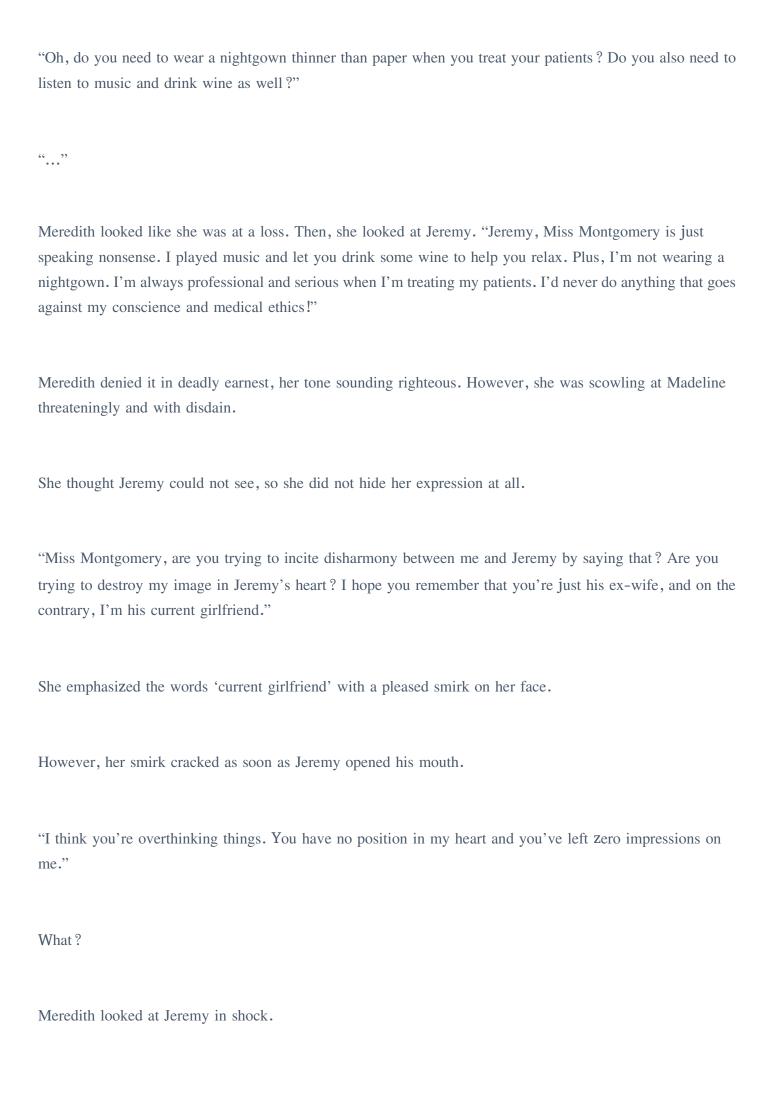
"..." Meredith was confused. Her face was filled with rage, but she asked innocently, "Jeremy, what's wrong? I'm doing this to help you regain your vision quicker. This is one way of psychological treatment."

"What a unique way," Madeline walked over as she said slowly.

Meredith wanted to flatter Jeremy some more when she heard Madeline's voice. She turned around and saw Madeline strutting over to her elegantly.

"Madeline?" Meredith was shocked. However, she changed her way of addressing Madeline immediately. "Miss Montgomery, why are you here? How did you come in?"

"I'm here to watch how a psychologist like you treats her patients." Madeline smiled with interest before inspecting Meredith's outfit.



Then, she saw him walking to Madeline smoothly. His deep eyes were twinkling softly as his gaze enveloped Madeline tightly.
"The only person I care about is just Linnie and Linnie only."
Madeline was dispirited after hearing what he said. The words had struck Meredith heavily.
However, how could she accept it? She had meticulously planned for a fun night with Jeremy when Madeline's sudden appearance ruined it.
Meredith tried to suppress the rage and dissatisfaction in her heart, wanting to make Jeremy stay. However, she saw his sharp gaze landing precisely on her face.
"Don't try to start anything with me. I won't feel anything even if you stand buck naked in front of me."
"" Meredith was frozen instantly. That sentence gave her such a huge blow.
However, Jeremy would not care about how she felt. He grabbed Madeline's hand and turned around.
Meredith stood frozen on the same spot, her face feeling like it was burning due to embarrassment.
She turned around furiously and pushed the wine on the bartop to the floor.

"Madeline, you insufferable b*tch!" Meredith clenched her fists and tried to suppress the rage inside her that
was threatening to burn everything in her way. The flames in her eyes were burning brighter and brighter. She
wanted so badly to burn Madeline into ashes.

Jeremy pulled Madeline into the elevator. Now, there were only the two of them in the enclosed space.

"Linnie, I knew you'd come." It was as if Jeremy knew what was going to happen and was not surprised about Madeline's appearance.

Madeline could already figure things out after listening to him. "You knew I was following behind you, so you also intentionally left the door open for me, right?"

Jeremy nodded. "I just wanted to see what Felicity was trying to do."

"So have you seen it now? She likes you and is even presenting herself to you."

Jeremy smiled and looked at Madeline after he heard that. He could sense a hint of jealousy in that sentence.

He took one step closer to her. "Linnie, you're concerned about me."

Madeline scoffed nonchalantly when he said that. "Jeremy, you're overthinking things just like Felicity. I'm not concerned about you."

After she said that, the door of the elevator opened. Madeline walked out of the elevator without even turning back.



Perhaps Jeremy's eyes were too bewitching, so Madeline was stuck in a daze for a few seconds before coming back to her senses. With a smirk, she said, "Jeremy, I feel nothing for you. The person I like is Felipe."

Jeremy shook his head after she said that. "The person you've liked this entire time is me. Even if you've lost your memories and have forgotten how you used to love me, it still won't stop you from developing feelings for me.

"It's because I still exist in your heart, Linnie. That's why you saved me without hesitating when I was almost hit by the car. That's why you frantically screamed out my name at that moment. These are the best proof of it."

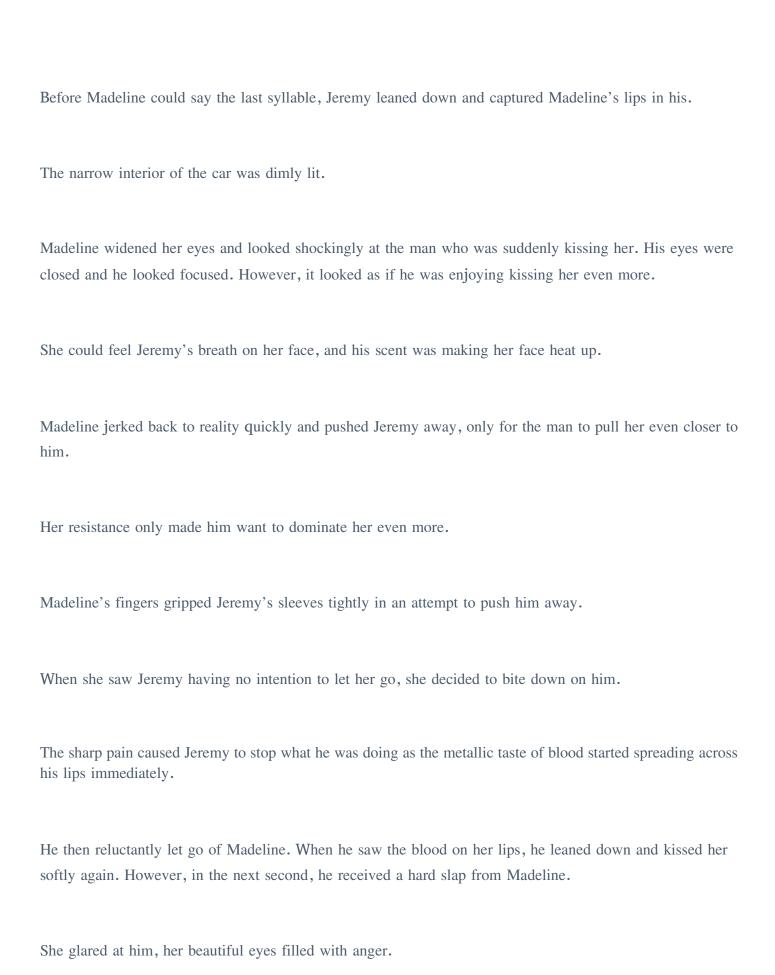
Madeline's eyes glinted ominously when she heard that. Then, she averted her eyes from him and said coldly, "Jeremy, shut up. I have no feelings for you. I told you, I don't want to owe you anything."

She was starting to not make sense as she chased him away. "Get out."

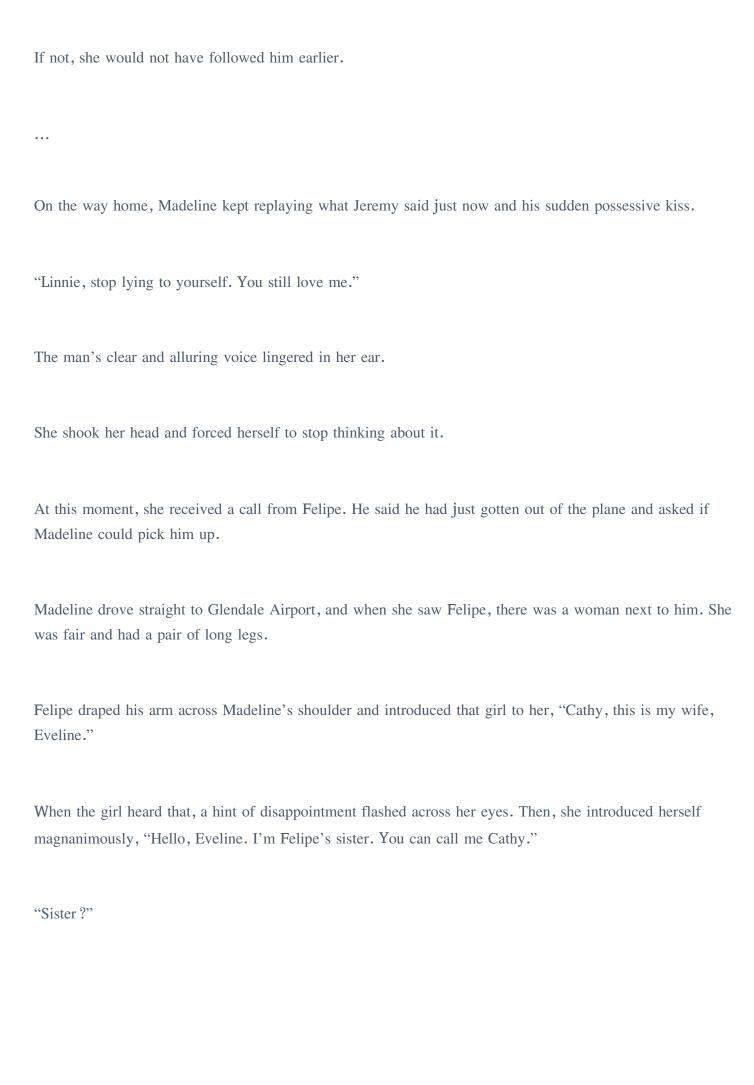
However, Jeremy reached over and grabbed her before putting his face close to hers. "Linnie, stop lying to yourself. You still love me."

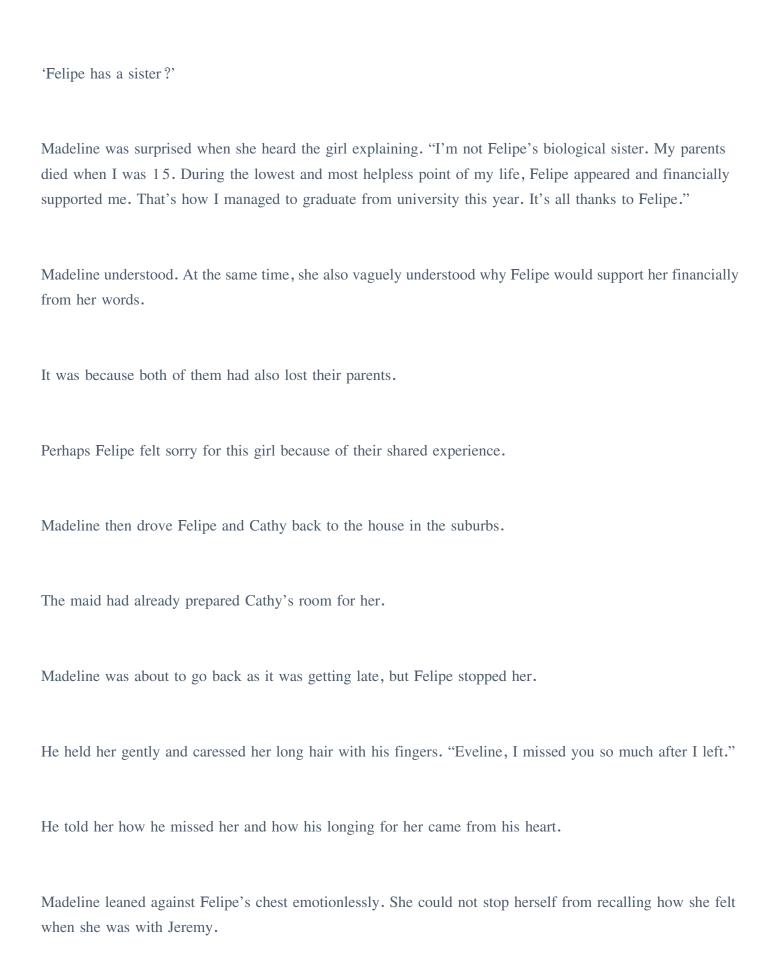
Madeline glared at him angrily. "Jeremy, I'm going to tell you one last time. I don't. The person I love is Feli... Huh?"

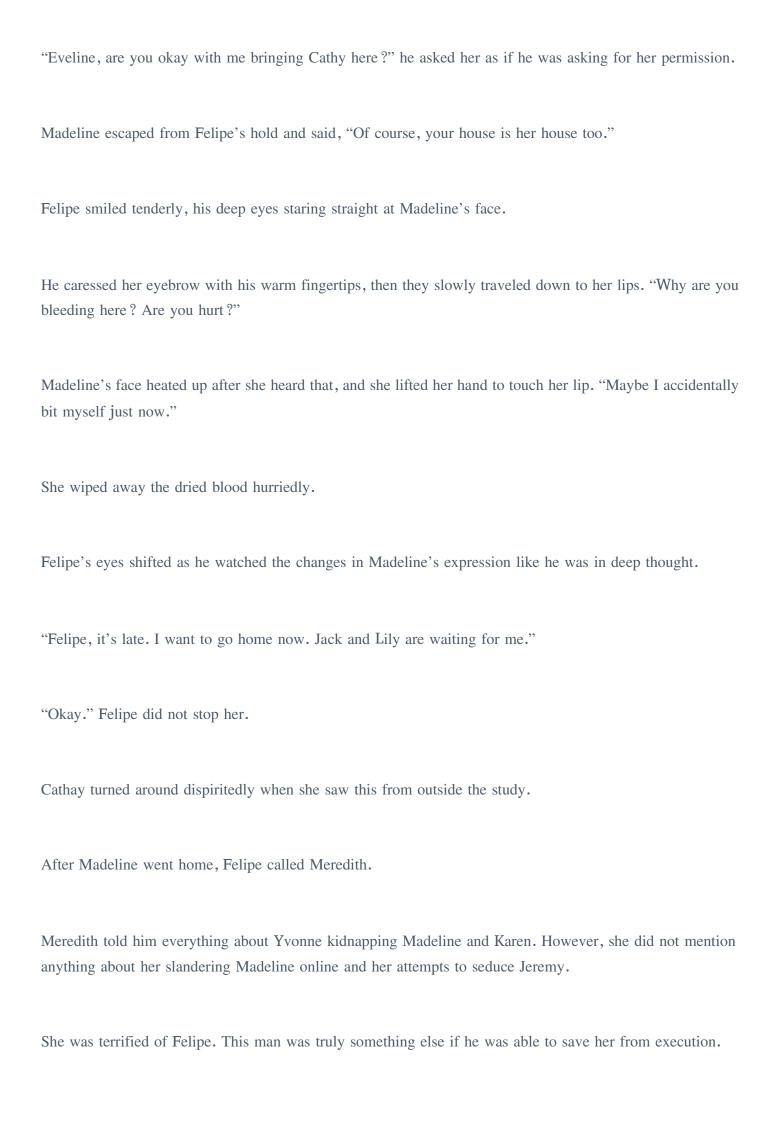
Before Madeline could utter the last syllable, Jeremy leaned down and captured her lips in his.



Despite knowing that he was acting impulsively before, Jeremy did not regret it at all. "I won't allow you to say that you love him." He suddenly emphasized this with a tone that was filled with stubborn childishness. His deep eyes were filled with intense possessiveness and prejudice for her. "Jeremy, who are you to not allow me to do that?" she asked him with a gaze that was even more intense than his. "Did you ever appreciate me when I loved you? Who are you to disallow me to love another man now? Do you think you can wipe away all of the hurt you caused me with just an apology?" Madeline asked angrily while trying to calm herself down. "You're right, I don't remember a lot of things, but your mother told me that you blinded and disfigured me for Meredith! Even if you hadn't disfigured me or blinded me, you're still the person who enabled Meredith's sinister intentions! "Get out." She kicked him out again. Jeremy looked at Madeline's icy gaze and finally got out of the car. Madeline drove away quickly, leaving Jeremy to stand on the same spot. He could still feel the fiery pain of Madeline's slap and the sting from where Madeline bit him just now, but he was not in pain at all. On the other hand, he felt rather satisfied. This satisfaction did not come from the kiss just now, but rather, he felt that Madeline was truly concerned and cared about him.







However, Felipe did not just have Meredith as his pawn. His subordinate whom he had planted here told him about Meredith's whereabouts these few days after a short while.

He also presented the photo of Jeremy and Madeline kissing in the car to him.

Felipe was livid and smashed the iPad into pieces. His usually calm and composed face was overtaken by a hint of darkness.

He called Meredith and ordered her to come to his place with a tone that was extremely cold. One could not decipher his emotions at this moment.

After he hung up the phone, he threw it onto the desk. He spat out a few words frigidly. "Teach her a lesson. Just leave her with one last breath."

"Roger, Mr. Whitman."

Meredith arrived at his place in the middle of the night, feeling terrified. When she got there, she was dragged to the basement by Felipe's bodyguards where she was beaten violently.

When she was gasping for air, Felipe appeared in front of her. He was towering over her as he peered at her. At that moment, he looked like a tyrant who had control over everything. He had a stern and murderous aura around him.

Meredith wheezed and begged for mercy. "I won't do it again. I really won't..."

Felipe squatted and looked disdainfully at her face that was similar to Madeline's. "I don't think you're taking what I say seriously."

"No, I won't do it again. I swear." Meredith's eyes were filled with terror.

Felipe scoffed. "You even went to that perfumer to buy an aromatherapy kit to try to seduce Jeremy. However, do you know who that perfumer Nell is?"