Shirley was stumped by what Camille said.

She could feel that Camille was not blaming her and that she was feeling sad for that child who had no chance to come to the world. However, that child was destined to not have a chance to be born.

Shirley's eyes turned red. She smiled bitterly, then closed her eyes and allowed her tears to fall.

She had so many grievances in her heart that she could not speak of, yet she felt that she brought this upon herself. Those were not grievances. Those were the consequences of her actions.

She was not worthy to be a mother.

When Camille saw Shirley in such pain, she did not continue her questioning.

After all, they had known each other for so many years, and she had always treated Shirley as her child. If Shirley had not let her down and left without a word back then, Camille would not have stayed mad for so long.

"Go wash your face. Get up and eat something. I made this porridge myself. Try it and tell me if it tastes like how it tasted back then."

Camille was still speaking softly, treating Shirley with warmth.

Shirley sobbed and opened her eyes. When she felt Camille's kindness, she could not bear to refuse her anymore.

Camille, feeling very relieved when she saw that Shirley coming to her senses, was about to ask the maids to come in to help.

However, just as Camille stood up, the door was pushed open.

Carter came through the entrance with a cold and spiteful aura. When he saw Camille in the room, he was surprised, and the coldness on his face subsided slightly.

"Carter, where have you been? How can you leave the moment you brought Shirley back?" Camille asked.

Upon hearing how Camille addressed Shirley, Carter simultaneously felt surprised and stunned.

"I needed to take care of something," Carter said immediately after returning to his senses and muddled through her questions. He then continued, "I need to talk to her."

Camille understood, nodding. "Let her eat something first. You can talk after."

"I got it."

Carter smiled and agreed.

Camille did not stay for long. Soon after, she left. When the door was closed, the smile on Carter's face disappeared.

He walked to the side of the bed and saw Shirley looking at him coldly. He frowned and the smoldering rage in his heart was ignited once again.

"Do you know where I went ?" Carter asked. "I went to Whitman Manor to look for Jeremy and Eveline."

When Shirley heard this, her expression changed. However, she merely stared at Carter without saying a word.

"Shirley, do you think Jeremy and Eveline will thank you once you gave them the only anti-toxoid test reagent? They won't. Yet, you ignored your own child because you wanted their forgiveness. You're the most stupid person I've ever met!"

After Carter's voice fell away, Shirley suddenly burst out laughing.

"I didn't do that to seek anyone's forgiveness. I just want to make up for all the bad things I've done before I die."

"We haven't done anything wrong! We don't need to take responsibility for anyone!"

Carter was still stubborn.

"We've just been doing what we want and what we should."

"Should ?" Shirley asked with a smirk. "Hurting the innocent just for the right to rule in St. Piaf? I finally know that the most stupid things I've ever done were the things I've done."

"Shirley, you..."

"The child shouldn't even have come into my womb. It's better for the child to have left parents like us."

"…"

Carter had been suppressing the anger in his heart, but when he heard Shirley saying that, his fist clenched tightly.

Although he was livid, he still unclenched his fist eventually, forcefully suppressing the blazing anger in his heart.

"Listen to me, Shirley. I'll make you realize how stupid you've been."

"Carter, don't make me hate you even more."

Shirley was calm. Her blank yet icy gaze was fixed on the furious Carter.

"Even if you used some illegitimate means to get the right to rule St. Piaf, it won't be honorable."

"Heh." Carter laughed mockingly when he heard what Shirley said. "You've certainly been 'reborn', Shirley."

Shirley turned her gaze away from him upon hearing that. "I've already seen through everything. I hope you'll come to your senses soon."

"Listen, Shirley. I won't. You sacrificed my child for Jeremy and Eveline. You don't even care that you're the mother, but I do. Just you wait"

Carter spat out the last sentence through his gritted teeth and turned around suddenly.

Shirley felt that something was wrong with that statement, but she no longer knew what she could say to stop him.

Soon after Carter walked out of the room, two maids came in to wash her up and feed her the porridge. Shirley had resisted, but when she thought about what Carter might do to Jeremy and Madeline, she suddenly felt that she could not die now.

Not only did she want to prevent any mishaps from happening, but she also wanted to stop Carter from making more mistakes.

She still remembered the boy who had saved her from the streets back then. He had been so warm, not as icy as he was now. Not devoid of warmth or humanity.

Even though Madeline did not take Carter's warning and threats to her seriously, when she thought about it, she felt that she needed to take precautions.

Of course, Jeremy was prepared as well.

Carter had already been targeting Jeremy. Now that Carter's child was miscarried, he despised Jeremy and Madeline.

While Carter was a noble and prestigious Viscount on the surface, his shrewdness did not match his gentle and elegant exterior.

Madeline started to take Jackson to school every day.

When they got home, she would stay with her children most of the time and take care of Cathy's children. She was almost inseparable from the children.

As for Lillian, Fabian would send them videos every day. Sometimes, when he was in a good mood, he would agree to a video call so that Jeremy and Madeline could see Lillian's condition in real-time. However, Fabian still did not agree to let Jeremy and Madeline take Lillian back.

Jeremy and Madeline could only let it be, though that was because they could see Lillian's condition improving.

Perhaps the reason Fabian was so firm with his decision was that he hoped Lilian could get the best treatment with him.

Jeremy had not managed the affairs of his company for a very long time. Presently, Madeline's body had slowly gone back to normal.

Furthermore, the poison remaining in his body was slowly disappearing. Now that everything had returned to normal, he could also focus on his work again.

On Monday morning, Jeremy hosted a meeting as usual. When it ended, he still texted Madeline at the first chance he had.

After he sent the message, Madeline did not reply immediately, and this disappointed him. However, when he thought about it, he felt that he was a little childish. Nevertheless, he still could not stop himself from missing her. He then decided to call Madeline. When he dialed her number, his assistant, Ken, approached him hastily.

"Did something happen?" Jeremy asked directly.

Ken nodded and pointed at the office. "That guy named Carter Gray is here."

Jeremy lifted his alluring eyes slightly. "He barged into the office ?"

"The receptionist had just gone to the toilet, so she didn't notice him, and he just came in," Ken explained.

Jeremy nodded to show that he understood, then strode into the office.

Carter was here for Jeremy, so when he heard the footsteps outside the door, he turned his chair and looked in the direction of the door.

When he saw Jeremy, Carter said in a mocking tone, "Are you done with your meeting, Mr. Whitman? I've been waiting for you for some time."

Jeremy peered at Carter coldly before walking carefreely to the desk.

"Let's not beat around the bush. Just spit it out." Jeremy was straightforward.

Carter's lips pressed together into a smirk. It seemed that he was impressed with Jeremy's carefree attitude.

Carter, too, straightforwardly stated his purpose. "I know Whitman Corporation is trying to get a collaboration project with ZF. You know better than anyone the benefits you'll get once it's successful. of course, I want to tell you that I won't let you succeed."

Carter smirked confidently. "Jeremy, from now on, you'd better be alert all the time. I won't let my child die in vain."

After saying that, Carter got up to leave carefreely.

Ken, who had been standing at one side for a while, had a confused and disdainful expression as he stared at Carter's back figure.

"Mr. Whitman, what does he mean by that?"

"His goal is not the project from ZF." Jeremy already saw through Carter.

That man was just going on a wild goose chase with him because of his innocent, miscarried child. He blamed Jeremy and Madeline for everything, so this man was now seeking revenge.

However, it was obvious that Carter's revenge had nothing to do with business. His target was Jeremy's family, especially his young and innocent children.

As Jeremy silently analyzed this, someone knocked on the glass door of his office.

He came back to his senses and, to his surprise, saw Madeline smiling at the door.

When Ken saw Madeline, he walked over to greet her politely before he left.

Madeline smiled and approached the man who was also walking toward her.

"What's wrong? You look so serious. Did you have an unpleasant meeting this morning?" Madeline asked with a small smile.

Jeremy's eyes were soft. "Linnie, why are you here?"

"I missed you," Madeline uttered those sweet words.

Jeremy felt as if there was honey flowed through his heart. It felt exceptionally sweet.

However, before Jeremy could feel happy for long, he heard Madeline say, "Actually, I've just sent Jack to school so I decided to come here since I was on the way."

Jeremy displayed a disappointed expression. "Oh, I was just on the way."

"What's wrong? Are you jealous of Jack?" Madeline smiled and asked after getting closer to him.

Jeremy lifted his eyes and saw Madeline's gentle and beautiful smiling face. She was like a bright star, shining brightly in his eyes. A smile also crept into his handsome face.

Jeremy reached out his arms and pulled Madeline into his arms immediately.

"I know my wife didn't come here because Iwas on the way. My wife came to see me because she missed me."

Madeline smiled when she heard that. Of course, she would not argue with him because she did come here to see him deliberately. She did not drop by because he was on the way.

"Oh yeah, Jeremy, I think I saw Carter when I walked out of the elevator just now. Did he come to find you or was I seeing things?" Madeline asked seriously.

"You weren't. He came to find me, and he just left," Jeremy said frankly.

"What does he want ?" Madeline's beautiful eyebrows knitted together without her realizing it. "He's clearly the one who caused all of this. He even indirectly

caused Adam and Cathy's deaths. Why does he keep thinking that he's not at fault ?"

"This is a problem with his character, and we can't change that. Carter is a very confident man. Conceited, to be more precise."

Jeremy could see through Carter.

"He's knowledgeable, and he knows psychology and hypnotism. Plus, he's royalty. Anyone would be arrogant and proud if they have this kind of status."

When Madeline heard that, she looked at Jeremy with admiration in her eyes.

Jeremy looked into her beautiful eyes in curiosity. He then grabbed her hand gently, "What are you looking at, Linnie ?"

"I'm looking at my husband. Aside from being royalty, everything about my husband is amazing, and yet you're never conceited."

Jeremy laughed upon hearing that. However, there was an intense regret in his eyes immediately after.

"No, Linnie. I was. Otherwise, how would I have let you down back then?"

When he said that, Madeline could see that the persistent regret and remorse in his eyes were here to stay. Madeline did not speak. She merely reached out her hand to hold him.

Jeremy knew Madeline was just comforting him. He felt glad and warm, but he never forgave himself for the hurt he had caused Madeline even though she had forgiven him.

After some discussion, Madeline decided to go to Gray Manor to look for Shirley. Madeline went alone but Carter was not there. Camille was walking out of the kitchen when she saw Madeline. She was surprised but she felt that this was expected.

"Are you here for Shirley ?" Camille was right.

Madeline nodded. "May I see her?"

Camille looked at the bird's nest porridge she held in her hands. "I think she'd prefer to see you now. Please take this to her and tell her to eat it."

Madeline paused. She then came back to her senses and took the porridge from Camille.

"I will," Madeline said then went upstairs.

Shirley was sitting on the bedside staring blankly at the view outside the French window.

Suddenly, she heard the door opening but she was not in the mood to turn around.

"I want to be alone," Shirley said without turning around.

Madeline looked at Shirley's side profile and she felt pity for her.

In truth, Shirley was not that evil. At least, she had turned back.

"It's me," Madeline said.

Shirley, slightly shocked when she heard that, turned around abruptly.

"Eveline ?"

"Yes, it's me."

Madeline saw surprise and confusion on Shirley's face.

"I have something to tell you, but you have to eat this." Madeline said as she walked to the side of the bed. However, when she was about to hand the porridge to Shirley, Shirley got close to Madeline, and Shirley was very emotional.

"No, there's no time for this. Carter might come back soon. I don't have much time to talk things over with you. Eveline, listen, you and your family will be in danger, especially..."

Before Shirley could finish speaking, she stopped.

Madeline heard footsteps approaching her from behind, and the temperature of Shirley's hand that was holding her plummeted as if she was frightened. Madeline, realizing something was off, so she turned her head to take a look.

Shirley's hand that was holding Madeline's hand fell slowly, and she murmured inaudibly. In the end, she did not say the final words. "You..."

Madeline could vaguely hear Shirley mumbling a word, but she could not hear it clearly. Madeline turned around and saw Carter who had suddenly appeared behind her, and her pulled herself together.

When Carter saw Madeline, he smiled faintly at her.

He walked carefreely to Madeline and looked at Shirley who stared at him with a conflicted look, then he opened his mouth.

"Mrs. Whitman, are you so free to visit the enemy who had poisoned and tormented your and your husband?" Carter sounded very sarcastic. It was obvious he was provoking her.

Madeline calmly looked at Carter, who was smirking arrogantly, then calmly said, "Carter, do you really think my husband and I don't know anything?"

"What do you mean ?" Carter frowned.

Madeline boldly met Carter's probing and questioning eyes.

"Shirley did everything for you, including developing the poison. It was all your idea. She had merely been following your orders the whole time."

Madeline said and looked at Shirley behind her.

"At most, she had been a fool blinded by love. Her pure heart was deceived by the person she loved and your sweet talk."

Carter laughed when he heard what Madeline said.

He looked at Madeline, his smile brimming with mockery.

"Eveline, do you see your previous self in Shirley?"

"Just spit it out," Madeline said decisively.

Carter looked at Madeline and said with a smile, "Back then, you, too, were blinded by love like a fool. You loved Jeremy with all your heart and then he severely hurt you. Yet, you still forgave him like a fool."

Madeline did not want to think about her painful past when Carter brought it up. She looked at Carter, and when she was about to retort, Carter took two steps toward her, and his eyes were right in front of her eyes.

"Eveline, look into my eyes. Don't try to find excuses for Jeremy. You were foolish back then. Jeremy didn't love you. He was so ruthless because he didn't love you. While he kept on letting you down, he was happily holding another woman."

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Madeline knew Carter was saying that on purpose, but she felt that her emotions were getting affected unconsciously, and she felt an intense pain in her heart. It was during this moment of daze and pain, Madeline heard Shirley's voice behind her.

"Don't look! Don't look into his eyes, Eveline! He's hypnotizing you!"

As Shirley said that, she used all her might to pull Madeline's wrist.

Madeline came back to her senses immediately. Her heart, which was beating painfully a second ago, instantly returned to normal.

Madeline then knew why her emotions were affected, it was Carter's hypnosis again.

"Carter, you're the noble Viscount of St. Piaf, and you're also highly educated. Why can't you be a straightforward and upright person?" Madeline looked at him in contempt.

Although Carter did not show any emotion despite his hypnotism was interrupted, he glared at Shirley.

Shirley, however, looked back at him fearlessly because she had seen through everything. If she was not afraid of death, what else would she be afraid of ?

"What can truly be considered straightforward and upright?" Carter asked Madeline in disdain. "Were the things Jeremy had done to you straightforward and upright?"

"Carter, don't try to distract me with the things that happened between me and my husband in the past. We don't need your meddling. You ought to mind your own business."

"My own business? Mrs. Whitman, pray tell, what business of mine needs your concern?"

Carter asked. There was a faint smile on his handsome face, but that smile did not look friendly at all.

"Carter, you're asking me? Why did you go find my husband? Aren't you making a fuss out of nothing?"

"Oh, that." Carter looked as if he came to a realization.

"I've warned you about that before, so why are you asking me again?"

Carter said slowly and walked to the side of the bed. His eyes were fixed on Shirley's face, then his gaze darkened.

"I've said that I want to avenge my innocent child. I won't let my child's sacrifice be in vain."

Intense hatred shot out from Carter's eyes as he spoke.

Shirley bit her lip. "Carter, I gave up on that child myself. It had nothing to do with anyone else."

"Nothing? You're telling me that it has nothing to do with anyone else?" Carter laughed. "If Jeremy hadn't injected the AXP69 poison into your body, you wouldn't have given up on our child."

"If you hadn't tried to get the AXP69'S anti-toxoid test reagent for Eveline, you wouldn't have used our child to deceive me, to get the ingredient for the anti-toxoid test reagent."

Carter suppressed his anger. He looked into Shirley's gradually reddening eyes and asked his last question. "We've reached this stage and you're still telling me that our child's death had nothing to do with them? Huh?"

Shirley pressed her lips together, sobbing, and said, "They had nothing to do with this. I developed the poison and you gave the order."

"…"

"Carter, you got one thing right. Our child was innocent, but you and l are not. We brought this upon ourselves. Thankfully that child is gone, otherwise, he'd also feel ashamed for having parents like us."

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After listening to what Shirley said, Carter's face darkened immediately. "Shirley Brown." Carter coldly spat out Shirley's name through his thin lips.

Shirley looked at the enraged man neither obsequiously nor superciliously.

"Carter, I've come to my senses now, and so should you. We were the ones at fault, and we killed our child. We can't blame anyone." Shirley lifted her red eyes and looked at Madeline at one side.

"Eveline, I hope it's not too late for me to do this. I won't ask for your forgiveness. I don't deserve it anyway."

Shirley's eyes grew solemn as she spoke.

"Eveline, you should leave. Don't come to me anymore. I'm grateful that you and Jeremy chose to believe me in the end. I finally know how it feels to be a good person instead of a bad person. Thank you. Go now. Don't concern yourself with me anymore. You just go..."

From the way Shirley was kicking her out, Madeline could tell what Shirley was worried about.

Shirley was worried that Carter might harm Madeline. However, Madeline had, of course, taken some precautions since she came alone. She held Shirley's hand and gave her a calm and steady smile.

"I'll go, but you have to take care as well. No matter what, you can't give up on your life. I believe Adam and Cathy would feel the same way as I do. We all hope you to be well."

After saying that, Madeline patted the back of Shirley's hand gently, then lifted her beautiful eyes and glared at Carter coldly before she left.

When Carter saw Madeline leaving the room, he eyed Shirley for a few seconds before he turned around.

"Carter, let her leave," Shirley quickly called out to Carter. "Don't do anything that you'll regret."

Carter stopped in his tracks. "The thing I regret the most is giving you the chance to confront me like this."

"…"

Shirley was dazed when she heard that. When she came back to her senses, Carter had walked out of the room.

"Carter! Carter! Don't do anything stupid!" Shirley yelled toward the entrance.

Carter heard her but he neither stopped nor turned back.

When Madeline heard footsteps, she could guess that it was Carter. However, she did not panic and continued walking calmly.

"Eveline."

Madeline heard Carter's voice behind her when she reached the bottom of the stairs.

"You're very bold to step foot in here again."

Madeline turned around calmly. "I've already been through hell once. Did you think your place is scarier than hell?"

Carter seemed baffled when he heard that. How could he have forgotten? The Madeline he remembered had always been so bold and confident. She never gave up even when she was disfigured from the yacht explosion.

"Carter, did you really care about that child that much? If you did, you wouldn't treat the child's mother like this."

Carter frowned. "You have no right to comment about me and Shirley."

"I don't. But ask yourself, do you really care about Shirley? If you do, you wouldn't repeatedly force her to do things she doesn't want to do."

Carter's furrowed tighter and tighter at what Madeline said.

"Eveline, I'm not asking you to teach me how to go about my business."

"What are you going to do then? Stop me and hypnotize me? Is this your so-called revenge?"

"Eveline, aren't you scared at all?"

Carter averted his gaze, feeling that Madeline would soon overpower him.

"Of course I'm scared, especially when I'm met with a devious hypocrite who harbors unfathomable motives. Better the devil you know than the devil you don't know. That's the kind of person I'm scared of."

"…"

Carter understood exactly what Madeline was talking about. She was directly calling him a hypocrite.

Madeline also saw a flash of rage in Carter's eyes. She calmly averted her gaze, turned around, and calmly walked toward the door.

Carter looked at Madeline's carefree back figure and a self-mocking smile appeared unconsciously on the corners of his lips.

"Carter, stop wasting time. We have to go back to St. Piaf soon." Camille's voice came from behind Carter.

"Soon, the Louis family will announce who's going to get the right to rule the monarchy. If you continued remaining here, you might lose your chance to compete. If that were to happen, all of your previous hard work would be in vain."

Camille persuaded patiently.

Carter frowned. "I haven't taken down Glendale yet, so there's no use for me to go back anyway."

"Glendale isn't the only shortcut for you to obtain the right to rule. You have other shortcuts too."

Camille's graceful and beautiful eyebrows had an additional hint of worldliness that showed she was thinking ahead.

Carter was confused when he heard what Camille said. "Another shortcut?"

"Yes." Camille nodded, then walked up to Carter and whispered.

After hearing that, Carter's eyebrows furrowed further.

"Carter, I know that you're unconvinced and that it's hard to let this go, but perhaps that child is not destined to be with us, so stop clinging onto the child."

Camille advised and then lifted her hand to pat Carter's shoulder.

"Get ready and get Shirley. We'll go back in two days. We can't waste any more time."

"Perhaps it's time to go back," said Carter suddenly.

However, something changed in his eyes. He looked in the direction where Madeline left and narrowed his long eye.

Madeline had wanted to speak with Shirley about something, but she had not expected Carter to show up so quickly.

Furthermore, judging from Shirley's reaction, she was still scared of that man. Otherwise, her hand would not have plummeted in temperature at that moment. Madeline had also sensed that Shirley wanted to leave Carter, but she could not take Shirley away just like that. However...

Madeline thought about what Shirley could not finish saying. "Eveline, listen, you and your family will be in danger, especially..."

"Especially what?"

Madeline asked herself but she could not find the answer. She went back to her home and saw her youngest son playing with Cathy's children. That scene seemed very sweet. When she thought about Cathy, however, her eyes turned red against her volition.

"Mommy." Pudding saw Madeline and ran toward her shakily with his stubby legs.

Madeline immediately opened her arms and went up to him to pick him up into her arms.

However, when she lifted her eyes, she saw the siblings watching Pudding getting pampered by his mother, then Madeline let go of Pudding and walked up to the children.

Madeline squatted and touched the siblings' hands with a warm smile.

"Jan, Juan, do you like cake?"

"Yes! Mommy's cakes are the best!" Jan said, blinking his clear, big eyes.

Madeline smiled softly. "Should we bake a cake?"

"Will Mommy come home after we bake the cake?" the child asked innocently.

Madeline felt her heart aching upon hearing that. However, at this moment, she had no choice but to feed the children with white lies.

"Of course. When Jan and Juan have made a delicious cake, your mommy will come home."

When the siblings heard this, cheerful smiles appeared on their small faces.

"We'll definitely make a very delicious cake for Mommy to eat."

"Yes!"

The children had joyous smiles on their faces, and in the next second, they held hands and walked further into the house.

Madeline suppressed her sad emotions and held the hand of her youngest son to walk into the house as well.

After baking the cake, Madeline looked at the time. It was almost time to pick Jackson up from school.

Although Carter seemed to want to take action against Jeremy, Madeline felt that he wanted to start with the children. That was why she would take Jackson to and from school every day.

Madeline arrived at the school as the school hours ended. When the bell rang, Madeline waited at the entrance. However, after a long while, she did not see Jackson coming out.

Madeline felt something was not amiss, so she walked into the school.

After Madeline went in, she saw Jackson's teacher. When the teacher heard that Madeline had not seen Jackson, the teacher was curious. "Did he went to the toilet? Jackson is a very smart kid, so he wouldn't leave with a stranger. Don't worry, Mrs. Whitman."

Madeline, too, was certain that her son would not leave with a stranger, so she turned and walked to the toilet to look for her son.

She arrived at the entrance of the toilet, but because she could not go in, she called out a few times by the entrance.

"Jack, are you in there?"

"Jack, if you're in there, please answer me."

"Jack...?!"

As Madeline called out, a young male teacher walked out from the toilet.

When he saw Madeline was looking for her son, he politely said, "Madam, there's no one else in the toilet. You can't find your son?"

Madeline nodded and her heart started racing.

Could it be that Carter was one step ahead of her? Had he already asked someone to take action against her child?

As Madeline frantically thought about this, suddenly, she heard a familiar, childish voice behind her. "Mommy, I'm right here."

Madeline turned her head abruptly when she heard that.

She saw Jackson, who wore his school uniform and his hat, looking at her obediently as he blinked, and Madeline finally felt relieved.

"Jack!"

Madeline ran up to Jackson and squatted and held the child's shoulders.

"Jack, where did you go? Why didn't you wait for me at the entrance?"

Jackson lifted his small hand and gently shook the carnation he made with color papers in his hand.

"This is from the arts and crafts class. The teacher asked us to make carnations. I finished mine but I forgot to take it with me just now. I want to give this to you now, Mommy."

Jackson's neat and white teeth showed as he smiled brightly at Madeline.

Madeline looked at the paper flower her son handed to her. Even though it was not very delicately made, Madeline felt as if she had just received a treasure.

"Thanks, baby." Madeline took the paper flower, kissed her son's cheek, then held his small hand.

"I'll take you home."

"Okay," Jackson replied and nodded, then followed her to the entrance.

Once they had gotten into the car, Madeline placed the paper flower down. While she was putting on her seatbelt, she turned around and exhorted her son.

"Jack, during this period, aside from Mommy, Daddy, Grandpas, and Grandmas, don't go with anyone if they say they're here to take you home. Don't go with them even if they say they know Mommy and Daddy. Can you remember that?"

Even though Jackson was young, his IQ was not low. He immediately gave Madeline an answer that set her mind at rest. "Don't worry, Mommy. I'll remember what you say."

"Good boy."

Madeline smiled and praised him. She then pressed stepped on the accelerator.

She lifted her eyes to look at the little guy from the rearview mirror. His handsome little face and the look in his eyes were starting to seem more and more like Jeremy's.

She believed that this kid would be very outstanding in the future.

However, at the present, she was worried about Carter. That man might take action against her children just to exact his vengeance.

"Mommy, you keep looking at me, but remember to drive carefully," Jackson reminded as he blinked his big eyes.

Madeline collected her thoughts and smiled as she answered, "I got it. I'll drive carefully and send you home safely."

"Uh-huh." The little guy pressed his lips together and grunted an arrogant reply.

Madeline smiled and continued to drive. However, when she drove up to the crossroad further ahead, she saw that there was an accident and that the road in front was blocked. This was the only road back home, but now they could not go through it.

Madeline initially thought to wait, but the cars still could not budge even after a long while. She could only then turn her steering wheel and drive into another road as per the traffic police's instructions.

They could reach home via this road too, but it was a roundabout way home.

However, when she got onto another road, there was a car speeding right at them with its high beam turned on.

Madeline quickly turned the steering wheel and slammed on the brakes. After stopping the car in a hurry, she got out of the car and opened the door of the backseat.

"Jack, are you okay ?" Are you hurt ?" Madeline, worried, picked up her son and carried him out of the car. She was worried that Jackson was hurt from the emergency brake just now.

Jackson shook her head. "Mommy, I'm fine, don't worry."

"That's good." Madeline let out a sigh of relief and put her son back down.

She turned around to find the owner of the car from earlier and give them a piece of her mind, but she saw two men getting out of the car and walked up to Madeline purposefully.

"Mrs. Whitman, sorry for scaring you. Please come with us," one of the men invited Madeline, a false smile on his face.

Despite it being an invitation, it seemed that even if Madeline were to refuse, they would also take her away forcefully.

Madeline calmly studied the men in front of her. "Did Carter send you?"

The men seemed to freeze momentarily before shaking their heads.

"We don't know the person you mentioned."

"Who are you, then? Why should I go with you?"

"Don't you know, Mrs. Whitman?"

"What should I know?"

"We're from the Commercial Crime Investigation Unit." As the man spoke, he took out the identification card which he had already prepared from his pocket.

"We got a report saying that the existing liquid funds of Whitman Corporation may have been laundered. Please come with us immediately."

Of course, Madeline, knowing that Whitman Corporation could not have this problem, suspected that the report was false.

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It seemed to her that these two people must be hired by Carter.

Madeline did not expose them but calmly said, "If you think there's a problem with the funds in Whitman Corporation, you can go look for the person in charge of the company. Why are you wasting so much effort in hindering me in the middle of the road?"

"You're Jeremy Whitman's wife, so there's no way you don't know what he's doing."

"Yes, I am his wife. But I really don't know what he might be doing behind my back. If you want to investigate this, go look for him. Don't bother me."

As she spoke, Madeline turned around and picked up Jackson. She wanted to take her son home first. However, when she bent down, a strong man suddenly ran out from behind Jackson and picked Jackson, who was caught off guard, and ran away.

"What are you doing? Put my son down!" Madeline demanded sternly.

However, the man, his face expressionless, completely ignored Madeline.

Jackson struggled in the man's arms and, suddenly, he opened his small mouth and bit the man on the back of his hand.

"Hiss!"

The man groaned in pain, but he did not let go of his hand. It was evident that this pain was nothing to him. "Kid, do you think I'll let you go just like that? How naive." The man looked at Jackson and smirked in contempt.

However, when he was feeling pleased with himself, he suddenly let out a howl of pain.

The man's eyes widened. He had never expected that Madeline would outright kick him. He yelped in pain and reflexively let go of his hand that held Jackson.

Madeline ran over with lightning speed and caught Jackson as he felled.

"Jack!" Madeline held the little guy tightly into her arms.

"Mommy, I'm fine. Don't worry about me," Jackson said to calm Madeline down, knowing that his mother was worried about him.

Madeline, not bothering with those two men any further, held Jackson and was about to get into the car. However, when she opened the door to get in the car, suddenly a black gun muzzle was pointed at the back of her head.

"Eveline, you have to come with us even if you don't want to," the man behind her threatened.

Jackson's clear, big eyes widened, staring at the man who threatened Madeline with a gun.

Nonetheless, Madeline did not fluster.

She raised her proud and beautiful eyes and calmly opened her lips.

"If you have the guts, shoot me now. If you can't, don't block my way home."

The man holding the gun had not expected Madeline to be completely fearless. He had intended to threaten her, but now, he was the one flustered. If they could not bring Madeline back, they would not be able to complete their mission. If the mission were not completed, severe punishment would await them.

Upon seeing the lack of response and reaction in the two men, Madeline placed Jackson into the car. After closing the door, she turned around and faced the man who was still pointing the gun at her.

"So? Are you going to shoot me? If not, I'm leaving."

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When the man heard this, he moved his finger slightly, but he indeed dared not pull the trigger.

When Madeline saw the man's mannerism, she smiled faintly, and without speaking further, got into the car and drove away.

Jackson, who was sitting in the back of the car, looked at the two men standing there through the rear window. "Mommy, who are they ?" Jackson asked curiously.

Madeline glanced at the two figures that were getting farther and farther away in the rearview mirror. "Jack, don't be scared. Mommy will protect you no matter what."

Jackson happily turned around and praised, "Mommy looked so cool just now. You look even cooler than Daddy!"

Madeline laughed after hearing this. In any case, she would not let anyone hurt her baby again. This was her duty as a mother, and her instinct was to protect her children.

After Madeline returned home, Jeremy returned soon after.

She told Jeremy what had happened when she picked up Jackson. As with Madeline, Jeremy was also convinced that the two men had been sent by Carter.

"Linnie, from now on, I will personally bring Jack to and from school." Jeremy decided.

Madeline did not refute either.

If Carter still wanted to attack Jackson, Jeremy would be more capable of protecting their son better compared to her anyway.

After all, she was a woman. Regardless of how strong she was, she still did not have the strength and stamina of a man.

However, after the two men failed their mission and went back to report to Carter, they thought Carter would get mad, but he laughed instead.

"It seems that I'm one step closer to success."

He said meaningfully, but the two bodyguards could not understand at all.

Carter, not intending to explain, turned and walked out of the study and went to Shirley's bedroom.

At this moment, the maid was preparing to wipe Shirley's body. When she saw that Carter was here, the maid put down the towel in her hand and walked out knowingly.

Shirley glanced at Carter, then, like always, avoided the sight of him with disgust.

Carter did not mind. He started to walk to the bed, took the towel that the maid had just put down, soaked it in the basin with warm water, and wrung it dry.

Presently, she just wanted to be alone in silence. Every time she saw Carter, she would think about the tragic deaths of Adam and Cathy.

This was something that she could never get over. However, Carter seemed to turn a deaf ear, minding his business, as he continued to wipe Shirley's cheeks, then held her palm gently to wipe her arm.

Shirley frowned. "Carter, when would you stop tormenting me? Don't you think I am miserable enough?"

The moment she finished saying that, Carter's movements also stopped.

"Back then, we were always fine. I don't know since when you and I became strangers."

He suddenly spoke as if to himself as he continued to wipe Shirley's body.

"Say, if you hadn't left back then, do you think we would already have a son and a daughter, living a simple and comfortable life ?"

"Carter, stop deceiving yourself. Even if I hadn't left back then, we wouldn't have children, let alone live a normal life like ordinary people," Shirley bluntly repudiated Carter's imagined scenario.

Carter's movement paused again. He raised his deep eyes and looked fixedly into Shirley's calm gaze.

"You' re not willing to live an ordinary life at all. What you want is a higher position of power."

Shirley exposed Carter's inner desires.

"Carter, don't use my dead child as an excuse to make a move against Jeremy. You don't love this child at all, and you don't care much about me. You love yourself the most."

As he listened to Shirley denying what he had said, Carter's fingers tightened one by one, and the towel in his hand had long been misshapen.

"I will prove to you what I care about," Carter said his last words and left angrily.

Shirley turned to look at Carter's angry and vicious back figure, then she leaned back.

'Carter, don't keep on making mistakes. Because we caused this from the start. We can't blame anyone else.'

The next day, Jeremy got up early in the morning and made breakfast for Jackson before sending his son to school.

Madeline, who had a rare chance to sleep in, saw a note from Jeremy on the nightstand.

The sight of his smooth yet strong penmanship and his gentle words sweetened Madeline's heart. Madeline only got up lazily after reading it a few times.

When Eloise, who was downstairs at the present, saw that Madeline was up, she personally made breakfast and delivered it to Madeline.

Madeline looked at the breakfast in front of her, feeling slightly bemused.

"Eveline, I've never taken care of you properly since you're small. This is also the first time I've made breakfast for you. Try it and see if you like it."

This pained Madeline's heart.

Of course, she knew how much Eloise wanted to raise and take care of her, but because of some ill-intentioned individuals, Madeline, the daughter of a wealthy family who could have enjoyed glory and wealth, become a sacrificial piece for others. However, Madeline was not very regretful. Although she had been unfortunately switched at birth, she had met a kind-hearted grandpa.

Madeline picked up the bowl and utensils and tasted the breakfast Eloise made for her.

Eloise watched nervously, worried that she had not done it well.

Seeing a satisfied smile that reached Madeline's eyes, Eloise let out a sigh of relief. "How is it? Do you like it?"

Madeline smiled and nodded. "I like it. Of course, I like it. It tastes like a mother's love."

When she heard that, Eloise's heart, as well as the corners of her eyes, grew warm. She could not stop herself from crying.

Madeline caught the change in Eloise's mood and quickly reached out to hold Eloise's hand. "What's wrong, Mom?"

Eloise shook her head and looked at Madeline with distressed-looking, teary eyes.

"It's been so many years, and you've suffered so much since you were a kid, Eveline. I had never done much to help. On the contrary, I even made you angry and hurt you. I am not a good mother at all."

Upon seeing Eloise evoking the past and recalling those unhappy memories, Madeline got up and comforted her.

"You're a good mother. Even if you knew that Brittany was not your biological daughter, you still treated her as your own. I believe that if I had grown up by your side, I would definitely be spoiled like a little princess."

"Eveline..." Eloise felt even sadder when she heard this. She raised her hand and touched Madeline's hair. Her eyes were filled with reluctance. "The rebuilding of our old home is almost done, and when it's done, your dad and I be moving back. I'm so unwilling to part with you. I want to see my precious daughter every day in the future."

"It's not that difficult. Jeremy and I can go home for dinner every day."

"Really ?" Eloise's eyes were filled with longing.

Madeline nodded affirmatively. "I will keep my promise so that I can enjoy your cooking."

Hearing this, the sadness on Eloise's face finally faded and was replaced by a relieved smile.

Madeline finished her breakfast contentedly, and at the same time, she received a call from Jeremy. The man reported in a gentle tone that he had safely sent his son to school and that he was now going to a meeting.

Madeline glanced at the time and, without idling, she prepared to head over to 'Whitman Corporation, planning to slowly get her work back on track.

A few days later, Jeremy received news that Carter had taken Shirley back to St. Piaf. Jeremy asked someone to verify the source. Carter had indeed gone back.

Madeline was quite relieved, but her instinct told her that Carter would never stop there. Jeremy felt the same way, so he still insisted on taking Jackson to and from school every day. Furthermore, Madeline was with

Jeremy most of the time. Every day, they would send their son to school together, go to the company together, and deal with the company's affairs together. When school was over, they would pick up their son together.

In the following days, Madeline was free from anxiety. However, as a mother, she would miss Lilian a lot since Lillian was not with her. She could only see her little princess through a short video call every day.

Madeline had initially wanted to find some time to go to F Country so she could see her daughter in person, but it just so happened that the company had accepted two new projects which required her direct involvement.

There was no one better nor more professional than her in Glendale when it came to jewelry design and fragrance blending.

Madeline gradually immersed herself in work. She designed a pair of wedding rings and a crown with a veil attached as per the customer's request.

As for the customer's requested fragrance, Madeline quickly made some samples that smelled similar to the ones requested, then she asked her secretary Coco to go to the designated meeting spot with her.

Since the customers came from another city, they were meeting in a hotel.

When Madeline arrived as per the designated time, she met a young and unmarried couple.

However, Madeline did not think that this sweet couple could afford tens of millions and would have such a unique taste to find her to design those wedding rings. Even though Madeline's instincts told her something was not right, she still introduced her designs professionally and responsibly.

When the young man saw the draft of the wedding rings' design, he frowned and started nitpicking.

Madeline, however, still smiled and listened to the man's complaints because she believed that customers were always right.

Although Coco was not a jewelry designer, from the perspective of someone who appreciates design, she felt Madeline's design was nearly perfect. This man, however, was still nitpicking.

"Ms. Montgomery, I heard you're the most excellent jewelry designer in Glendale, btit why are your designs so basic? My nephew in primary school could also come up with something like this."

Madeline smiled calmly when she heard those words. "Mr. Woods, since your nephew could produce such a design, then you can ask your nephew to help you design the wedding rings. I won't intervene."

Madeline stood up gracefully after speaking.

Her secretary, Coco, put down the business card in her hand. "Please remit the design fee to our account within a week Thank you."

"What? We're not even interested in your stupid design and you're charging us the design fees? Is this how Whitman Corporation makes money? By using illegal means?" the man asked in dissatisfaction.

The woman on the side rolled her eyes arrogantly. "Yeah, you can get such a large amount of money without doing anything. It's no wonder that Whitman Corporation is so rich. It turns out that this is how they get their money."

When Coco heard this, she could not help but feel the injustice on Madeline's behalf. "Although you are unsatisfied with the design draft, the designer has already put in time and energy. Further, the contract has already stated that even if you are unsatisfied with the design draft, you'd still have to pay the related design fees."

"Coco, you don't need to explain so much to them."

Madeline glanced back at the young couple. "It's up to you whether you want to pay or not. You'll be the ones feeling ashamed when you receive the lawyer's letter."

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Facing Madeline's calm reaction, the young couple glanced at each other, and then their expressions suddenly changed.

"Ms. Montgomery, don't leave. We are indeed wrong. Why don't we sit down and talk about the design?"

The man said, then ordered the woman next to him, "Go and pour two glasses of drinks."

The woman obediently followed suit and poured two glasses of lemonade over.

The man followed with a smile on his face. "Please, let's have a sit first and slowly talk it over. In fact, this design is quite unique and beautiful. What I was trying to say was that I was hoping that the price to be cheaper..."

"You can discuss the price with us, but you didn't need to use this method," Coco grumbled and took the glass in front of her for a sip.

Madeline noticed that the man and woman seemed to be paying a lot of attention to Coco as she drank the water. This behavior further made Madeline feel that something was odd. She surreptitiously glanced at Coco. It seemed that nothing happened, but she vaguely felt that something was wrong.

"Coco, it seems that we left some documents in the car. Come, let's go get it," Madeline said as she stood up.

Seeing this, the man and woman also stood up and hurriedly stopped them. "It's just some documents. Just ask your secretary to get it, Ms. Montgomery. Let's discuss the details now."

"It's not too late to discuss the details after we have gotten the documents. I think you can wait for a few minutes." Madeline was very determined to leave.

She was now convinced that this couple was very problematic.

However, before signing the contract, Jeremy had checked the background of the couple and found nothing suspicious.

Regardless, she did feel something was not right with them.

Madeline did not stay. She gave Coco a light push in the arm so that she would leave first.

Coco, unaware of any peculiarities, took the lead upon seeing Madeline's intention to leave.

Seeing that Madeline was truly leaving, the two hurried to catch up and stop her.

"Eveline Montgomery!" The man called her by her full name.

Without turning around, Madeline continued to walk to the door hurriedly, but Coco, who was by her side, suddenly lost all strength and leaned against Madeline. "Ms. Montgomery, I feel dizzy."

Coco said, leaning against Madeline.

Madeline was now convinced that there was a wrong with the lemonade. She held Coco firmly and then reached out to open the door.

The most important thing now was to get out of here. Madeline calmly opened the door. She thought she was going to breathe in the fresh air, but she had not expected that when the door opened, a tall black figure towered in front of her.

When Madeline saw the person in front of her, she finally understood.

It turned out this was a trap.

The man and woman were merely a cover.

As Madeline calmly looked at the man in front of her, the man and woman hurried past her and left the room quickly.

"I'm your target, so let my secretary leave," Madeline calmly said.

Without even sparing a glance at Coco, Carter raised his hand expressionlessly and snapped his fingers lightly. A second later, the bodyguard standing behind the wall walked out

"Let your secretary take a nap here. She'll naturally wake up when it's time, and when she's awake, she can leave on her own. No one will stop her."

After Carter finished speaking, the bodyguard stepped forward and pulled Coco, who was leaning on Madeline, away and carried her into the room.

Glanced back, Madeline saw the bodyguard roughly dropped Coco onto the bed and then walked back.

"Now, it's time for you to come with me." Carter fixed his eyes on Madeline's face.

"Carter, you are really insidious," Madeline said in disdain.

Carter curled the corners of his lips indifferently. "You can say that I'm devious, but insidious is too much."

"You're insidious."

Madeline repeated in certainty.

"You deliberately returned to St. Piaf first so that Jeremy and I put down our guards, and then you quietly came back.

"You hired the man and woman just now to pretend to be an unmarried couple and approached me to design a wedding ring and custom perfume. But in reality, it was just to get me here."

Madeline said, listing out every part of Carter's plan.

Carter looked at Madeline with a faint smile. "You got it all right. In fact, you've already noticed something and suspected that something was wrong with the drink, isn't that right? That was still very smart of you, Eveline, but it's too late."

Madeline looked warily at Carter who had a sly smile on his face. She tried to use her cell phone to call Jeremy inconspicuously, but the bodyguard on the side suddenly came over and snatched Madeline's cell phone away.

"Give that back!" Madeline reached out to grab it.

However, Carter took a step toward her suddenly. Carter was tall. Although Madeline was not short, there was still a height difference between them when she was standingin front of the man.

Carter's figure oppressed her.

Madeline wanted to escape, but Carter suddenly grabbed her wrist and cornered Madeline between the wall and himself.

Madeline frowned. She raised her eyes and looked into Carter's deep eyes.

"Now, Eveline, look into my eyes. What do you see?" Carter asked.

Madeline was dazed for two seconds, then she quickly avoided Carter's sight.

"Carter, don't even think about hypnotizing me anymore. I won't be fooled again, and I won't be at your mercy again!"

As Madeline spoke, she raised her foot, attempting to kick the most vulnerable part of the man.

However, Carter seemed to have already seen through Madeline's intentions early on. He countered Madeline and inhibited her movements.

"I don't want you to suffer any physical pain, but if you want to continue resisting, I can only be rough with you."

"Carter, you are so despicable."

"I just want to let you have a taste of your own medicine," Carter said lightly. "My child became a pool of blood because of Jeremy. I have to make him pay the price."

He paused momentarily, then resumed speaking. "While Jeremy loves those three children as well, but in the end, they don't compare to you."

Upon hearing Carter's words, Madeline instantly understood what Shirley had not said at the time. Shirley said, "Eveline, listen to me, you and your family will be in danger, especially..."

"You."

Carter had arrived before Shirley could utter the last word.

It turned out that Carter's goal was her from the beginning, and the children were just a cover. He had deliberately made them think that way so that Madeline would neglect her own safety.

"I'll take you back to St. Piaf now. Jeremy may not be able to find you, or maybe he'll soon learn that I have taken you away, but it'll useless. Because by then, you will already have been brainwashed by me and you will be obeying all of my orders."

Carter spoke with absolute confidence as he said this. Judging from what he said, he was determined to mind control Madeline.

However, Madeline would not give Carter such an opportunity no matter what. She did not want to let Jeremy, unable to find her, experience the anxiety and uneasiness of not knowing whether she was safe or not Carter's strength, however, was so great that Madeline was nearly immobilized in his arms.

"Eveline, I'm bringing you downstairs now, but if you dare resist or shout, you will never see your secretary again."

Carter threatened and then he gave the bodyguard a look.

The bodyguard came over and took out a pair of sunglasses and a coat.

This meant they wanted Madeline to change to prevent her from being recognized by others.

"Change your coat and put on the sunglasses," Carter demanded.

Madeline glanced at Coco, who was innocently encumbered, and glared at Carter with blazing eyes. "Let go of your hand and I will wear it myself."

Carter, who had always admired Madeline's boldness the most, let go of Madeline's hand.

Madeline promptly took off her coat and put on the new coat and glasses as per Carter's instructions.

Carter, very satisfied when he looked at Madeline's current outfit, then gave the bodyguard another look. Madeline thought Carter was going to just let her follow him, but in the next second, she heard the fire alarm. After a while, the people in every hotel room ran out one after another. Since they did not know where the fire started, everyone was running toward the fire escape stairs. The scene was very chaotic.

Carter then smiled at Madeline unhurriedly. "It's time to go."

Madeline glanced at Carter. The man was beyond devious. In such a chaotic situation, even if Jeremy were to ask for the security footage, it might still be difficult to locate her.

The monitoring system on this floor might have already been destroyed by Carter.

After the morning meeting, Jeremy habitually went to the office to find Madeline.

Halfway through, however, he suddenly remembered that Madeline was meeting with clients today.

He looked at the time and thought that Madeline should still be in the meeting with the clients, so he did not call to bother her and he just sent her a message.

After a moment's wait, there was no response from Madeline. Although Jeremy was a little disappointed, he went to work first.

Time passed silently. After Jeremy finished with the things at hand, he glanced at his silent Whatsapp chat and felt inexplicably perturbed.

It was almost noon, and even if Madeline were still in a discussion, he felt that Madeline would still reply to him.

Jeremy, not giving it further thought, called her directly, but he found that Madeline's mobile phone was turned off.

Did it run out of battery?

Impossible.

He would charge Madeline's mobile phone every night. An uneasy feeling slowly emerged from the bottom of his heart. Knowing that Madeline also brought her secretary, Coco, along, Jeremy immediately asked for Coco's contact number and called her hurriedly.

The call went through, but no one answered.

Jeremy called again quickly, and someone finally picked up after the third call.

"Is this Coco?" Jeremy asked as calmly as he could.

On the other end of the line, Coco woke up in a daze. She looked at her surroundings with a fazed look and she felt that everythin g around her was unfamiliar.

The silence on the other end of the line further made Jeremy uneasy, so he asked immediately.

"Coco, do you hear me? I'm Jeremy Whitman, is Linnie with you? Where are you now?"

Coco was still very confused, but when she heard that the person on the other end of the line was claiming to be Jeremy, she immediately sobered up.

"M-Mr. Whitman, this is Coco. Ms. Montgomery and I are in the hotel discussing matters with the clients, but..."

As Coco spoke, she looked at the empty room before her, then remembered what happened before she fainted, and she was at a loss.

"Send me your address, right now!" Jeremy demanded, rushing out of the office quickly.

In about twenty minutes, Jeremy arrived at the hotel where Coco was in. As soon as he got into the hotel, Jeremy saw fire trucks parked there.

Jeremy became more uneasy. "Linnie."

Worried that something might have happened to Madeline, he quickly ran into the hotel. However, as soon as he arrived at the door, he was stopped by a staff.

"Sir, it's dangerous inside. The fire has not been extinguished. Please wait outside."

"My wife is in the hotel. Do you think I can wait?" Jeremy pushed the staff who stopped him and rushed in immediately.

Coco, who was still dazed, got up to wash her face. She did not know that there was a fire happening outside. When she was about to sit down and think about what happened, she heard a rapid knocking on the door.

Coco hasten over to open the door and saw Jeremy with a hurried look on his face.

"Mr. Whitman..."

"Where's Linnie ?" Jeremy rushed into the room, but after looking all over the room, he did not see Madeline. "Isn't Linnie with you? Where is she ?"

Jeremy's heartbeat started to beat frantically.

Coco looked at Jeremy with a confused and nervous look on her face, then explained.

"At the time, Ms. Montgomery said that there was a document left in the car and asked me to go down with her to get it, but as soon as I reached the entrance, I felt unwell, and then I didn't know what happened next. When I woke up, I was on the bed... I think Ms. Montgomery might be the one who helped me to the bed..."

Jeremy listened to what Coco said but his eyes were firmly fixed on the two glasses of lemonade on the coffee table in the living room.

"Did you drink this ?" he asked.

Coco nodded. "I only had a couple of sips."

"What about Linnie? Did she drink it?"

"No," Coco replied affirmatively. "After I drank the lemonade, Ms. Montgomery said that she wanted to head down and get the documents with me."

As Coco spoke, she touched her head and tried to recall. "Now that I think about it, Ms. Montgomery seemed to be very anxious at the time..."

Jeremy's heart pounded rapidly upon hearing this. Without any need for guesswork, he was certain that Madeline must be in some sort of trouble now. Jeremy turned and strode toward the door of the room. When he reached the hallway, he suddenly stopped and subconsciously looked toward the carpet.

Coco, who did not know what Jeremy had seen, only saw him suddenly kneeling as if to pick something up from the corner of the carpet.

She walked over for a look, then she could not help but exclaimed in surprise, "Isn't this Ms. Montgomery's ring?"

Jeremy furrowed his thin eyebrows tightly; his eyes were full of worry.

This was Madeline's ring.

She had never taken off the ring ever since they reconciled. Now that the ring was here, it was clearly a hint from Madeline to Jeremy.

She was indeed in trouble.

"Go back to the company right now and immediately send me the information on the man and woman you met today."

Jeremy commanded as he kept his cool.

Coco nodded immediately. When she walked out of the room, she realized that there was a fire outside. She had actually slept in this room for two or three hours without knowing about it.

The thought of it frightened Coco.

Upon returning to the company, Coco immediately sent the information on the couple to Jeremy.

After going through it again, Jeremy still could not find anything suspicious. Their identity and background information were all legitimate, but when Jeremy tried to call them, he could no longer get through to their phones.

It was evident that those two had something to do with Madeline's disappearance.

Jeremy also quickly obtained the security footage for the corridor outside the room where Madeline had been at the time, but the screen was all black. This was obviously premeditated, and the other party's goal was Madeline.

However, at the present, Jeremy could not think of an individual other than Carter who boar such malicious intent toward Madeline and himself.

Presently, Jeremy's assistant, Ken, rushed over to him in a hurry, and at the same time, he handed Jeremy a tablet.

"Mr. Whitman, you're right. It is exactly as you thought."

Jeremy took the tablet from Ken and saw a video on the screen.

Even though the person in the video was wearing sunglasses, Carter's features were still fairly recognizable.

"He has indeed returned to Glendale."

Jeremy said in confirmation. He believed that Carter had spread the news of him going back to St. Piaf and then returned in secret, and his purpose of doing that was to make a move against Madeline.

Frustrated, Jeremy tossed the tablet and frowned, then got up and walked to the French window.

He looked at the nooks and crannies of the bustling city under the sun. His heart, however, was dark. He had blundered. He had miscalculated. All along, Carter's target had been Madeline, not their children.

Carter stubbornly believed that Shirley gave up on his child and then tried to kill herself because Jeremy had injected Shirley with AXP69.

That was why Carter wanted to seek revenge on Jeremy. The person Jeremy cared about the most in this world was none other than Madeline.

Presently, Carter, who was on a chartered plane that was about to take off, received a call from an unknown caller.

After looking at the unfamiliar number, he figured this was Jeremy.

He looked at Madeline, who was currently deeply asleep, and nonchalantly picked up the phone, pretending to ask curiously.

"Who is this?"

"Carter, it's me, Jeremy." Jeremy quickly told Carter who he was.

On this side, Carter deliberately stayed silent for two seconds before speaking.

"Jeremy, I don't think there's anything you need to contact me about."

"Carter, stop pretending. I know you've abducted my wife. If anything, just come at me directly. Don't bully a weak woman."

"Weak ?"

Carter repeated that word with a fake smile, then looked at Madeline who was sleeping next to him.

He thought that the word "weak" was absolutely unbefitting of Madeline.

He even admired Madeline because he thought she was the most tenacious and unyielding woman he ever met. "I don't know what you're talking about, Jeremy. Don't disturb me. I neither want to hear your voice nor want to see you," Carter said as he was about to hang up the phone.

"Carter, you're contradicting yourself. You said you want to avenge your dead child, but now you're saying you don't want to see me. You want to exact your vengeance on me, but how will you savor it if you don't see me suffering ?"

Tch.

When Carter heard what Jeremy said, his sharp eyebrows were tightly furrowed.

"Carter, you're a man too. Come at me. Don't drag my wife into this."

"Heh." Carter let out a cold chuckle after a while.

His dark gaze landed softly on Madeline's sleeping face. "You're right. I want to exact vengeance on you, but the best way to do that is to let you experience the pain of losing someone you love."

"Carter!"

"For you, nothing hurts more than losing Eveline, right?"

"Carter, don't hurt Linnie!"

"No, I won't hurt my future wife."

"Carter, what did you say? What is the meaning of this?" When Jeremy heard Carter's words, heavy with implication, his heart started beating erratically. He was extremely anxious.

"Carter, say something. What are you going to do?"

"Isn't it obvious what I want to do? I want to let you experience what it's like to lose someone you love, forever."

•••••

"Carter! Carter!"

Beep...

When Jeremy was about to stop him, he heard the busy tone on the other side of the phone.

Carter hung up the phone, and the plane took off ten minutes later.

Jeremy immediately and decisively booked a plane ticket to St. Piaf online. When he was about to head home to pack his bags, he received a sudden call from the schoolteacher.

On the other end of the line, Jackson's teacher sobbed and said inaudibly, "Mr. Whitman, the school was on fire just now. We had been in such a hurry in putting out the fire, and Jackson and another kid in the class disappeared after we've put out the fire. We 've checked the security footage, and we saw two men forcefully taking them away during the fire."

After learning about this, Jeremy immediately went to the school to look at the footage.

When he saw the two men in black who came to the school with a purpose on the footage, Jeremy immediately understood.

Those must be Carter's men.

Carter knew that Jeremy would immediately chase after him once Jeremy knew that Carter had taken Madeline away.

He was delaying Jeremy so that Jeremy could not catch up to Madeline immediately.

Carter had meticulously planned everything.

When Jeremy saw his son who had his mouth covered, his fingers slowly clenched into a fist.

He was in a dilemma now. His heart thought of Madeline, but he could not neglect his son too. However, he could not tell his family about Madeline lest he made everyone even more worried and anxious. As of now, he could only endure all this alone.

Jeremy looked at the wedding ring on his ring finger and made a decision.

'Linnie, wait for me. I'll go look for you after I find our son and send him home safely. You have to wait for me!' Jeremy looked at the ring and promised silently.

Barely a moment later, Jeremy received a phone call from home.

It was from Karen. She was also sobbing, and her voice was laced with anxiety. "Jeremy, just now, a man called and said he kidnapped Jack. He told us to prepare 100 million to get him back. If not, he'll..."

Karen did not dare continue to speak, but Jeremy could figure out what would happen.

He comforted Karen and then hung up the phone before he went home.

They had 100 million dollars, but Jeremy knew very well that Carter was just doing this to buy time. However, Jeremy could not predict how sinister and cruel Carter could be, he might not even let Jackson go. That man might hurt all the people Jeremy cared about merely for revenge.

St. Piaf.

Carter brought the still unconscious Madeline into the study.

He used the remote to close the curtains and then he lit a scented candle. He then adjusted the light in the room to a dimmer shade.

He took out an old-looking pocket watch and walked to the reclining chair.

He looked at the sleeping Madeline and he said insipidly.

"I rarely see a woman as resolute as you. I'm guessing that the hypnosis on you last time wouldn't work anymore. So, I can only perform advanced hypnosis on you. Eveline, you love Jeremy, right? Then, you shall pay for his debts. Surely you'd be more than happy to do that, right?"

Carter said with a fake smile. He then lowered his head to look at the time, and then he picked up the pocket watch.

When he was about to perform advanced hypnosis on Madeline, the door of the study was abruptly pushed open.

Carter abruptly stopped what he was doing. He lifted his head to look at the door of the study and, to his surprise, he saw Shirley coming in while pushing herself in the wheelchair.

"You really did make a move against her."

Operating her wheelchair, Shirley came into the room and glanced at the currently unconscious Madeline. "Let her go."

"I won't let her go back now." Carter gave Shirley a firm answer without hesitation. "Shirley, you didn't care about the child, but I did. I won't let my child just die like that in Jeremy's hands. I want to avenge our child."

As Carter expressed his determination to Shirley, his eyes were filled with sparks of hatred.

"Carter, how many times do I have to repeat myself so that you'll understand? That child's death had nothing to do with Jeremy, and it also has nothing to do with Madeline."

"Shirley, you're the one who has yet to understand."

Carter walked up to Shirley. "If Jeremy hadn't injected you with AXP69, our child wouldn't have died!"

"Heh. Hehe ... "

As his voice fell away, Shirley laughed. Her smile was extremely sarcastic.

Carter's long eyebrows furrowed when he saw the sarcastic smile on Shirley's face.

"What are you laughing at?"

Shirley stopped laughing and looked at Carter in disdain.

"Have you forgotten why AXP69 was developed in the first place?"

Carter's expression changed when he heard this. Shirley laughed. "It was your order, Mr. Gray. You asked me to develop a poison that could affect someone's emotions and thoughts. Back then, your target was Eveline."

·· ... [·]

"Madeline had been poisoned after drinking the wine laced with AXP69, then experienced all four stages of pain. Since Jeremy loves Madeline so much, did you think that Jeremy, after seeing the woman he loves so much being relentlessly tortured, wouldn't seek revenge on us using the same method?"

Shirley spat out word after word and finally looked straight into Carter's fazed eyes.

"We are the ones at fault. We are the main culprits. We can't blame anyone else." Shirley bit her lip after speaking, suppressing the sadness surging up in her heart. "Jeremy didn't kill that child. We, the parents, killed our child!"

Carter's face darkened after Shirley said that.

Upon seeing Carter's dazed state, Shirley operated her wheelchair and moved next to Madeline.

She reached out her hand and patted Madeline on the cheek. "Eveline, wake up."

Shirley tried to wake Madeline, but Madeline gave no response at all.

"Eveline, wake up," Shirley called out again, but Madeline was still not responding.

"What did you do to her ?" Shirley turned around and asked. Presently, she saw Carter had walked up behind her. "Wake her up now."

Carter glanced at the worried and anxious look on Shirley's face, then lowered his eyes gently to look at Madeline.

"She'll wake up on her own an hour from now."

After speaking, Carter turned around and walked out.

Shirley was momentarily dazed. She stared at Carter's back figure. She did not know whether the man came to his senses after what she said.

Shirley dared not overthink. She stayed with Madeline the whole time, worried that Carter might come back to hypnotize Madeline again.

However, an hour had passed and Carter still had not returned. At the present, Madeline woke up as per the time Carter mentioned.

Madeline slowly opened her eyes. She seemed momentarily dazed until she heard someone calling her name.

"Eveline, it's me."

Shirley lifted her hand to pat Madeline's arm softly. Madeline turned her head to look, and surprise flashed in her eyes. "Shirley?"

"It's me." Shirley nodded. "Madeline, this is St. Piaf," Shirley then said.

"St. Piaf?" Madeline frowned, gradually recalling all that had happened before falling unconscious.

It was clear to her now. She had been Carter's initial main target in his revenge plan.

As Madeline collected her thoughts, she heard Shirley's kind reminder drifted into her ear.

"Eveline, it's hard for you to leave this place now, but I believe that Jeremy has ways to find you. Though I want to remind you that this is St. Piaf. Carter's status isn't ordinary here. In the past, Jeremy could sneak in with a crowd, but he might not be able to this time."

After hearing what Shirley said, Madeline started to feel worried.

She was worried not for herself but for Jeremy.

"Shirley, do you have a phone? I want to call Jeremy."

Shirley shook her head softly. "I haven't had a phone in a long time. Even if I had one, I don't know who to contact." Her eyes reddened as she spoke.

However, she quickly forced an apologetic smile on her face. "I'm sorry. Everything happened because of me. I developed AXP69. I'm also the reason why Jeremy had been tormented by the poison for so long. Now, you're enduring all of this because of the mistakes I made."

Madeline did not blame Shirley since Shirley was trying to make up for this as best as she could, so she did not want to dwell on the past anymore.

She lifted her hand to rub her temple. She looked at the layout around her and asked, "Is this Carter's study?"

"Yeah." Shirley nodded. "He was about to hypnotize you an hour ago."

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Madeline paused. She felt a chill running down her spine. "He still intends on hypnotizing me."

"You must've heard about his hypnotism, right? He can affect anyone's thoughts merely with his eyes. He doesn't need any tools. He has a natural born talent for this."

When Shirley said this, she seemed a little proud. She unintentionally displayed the admiration and fondness she had for Carter.

"Eveline, you must remember to avoid his eyes. Also, the hypnosis he's best at simultaneously uses psychology to affect one's mind. Don't give him a chance to perform advanced hypnosis on you."

Madeline smiled helplessly hearing what Shirley said.

"This is St. Piaf. If he has a plan, I think I won't be able to escape."

Shirley was dazed when she heard that. "You mean..."

"Carter will definitely want to exact his revenge on Jeremy, so he'll definitely find a chance to perform advanced hypnosis on me, that's why..."

Madeline said and lifted her pleading eyes.

"I hope you can help me."

Shirley replied without hesitation. "Tell me. I'll do my best if I can help you."

"Thanks," Madeline thanked her but when Shirley heard Madeline's gratitude, she could not believe her ears.

"No, you shouldn't thank me, Eveline. I owe you this." Shirley's eyes were filled with regret.

Madeline did not speak further and merely smiled.

"Carter might be back soon. Eveline, tell me quickly, how do you want me to help you?"

Shirley looked into Madeline's eyes as she started to become anxious. She was worried that Carter would suddenly return at this moment. If that were the case, she would be unable to help Madeline.

Madeline looked around the study vigilantly. She felt that Carter would have installed security cameras in the study. Carter might even be watching her and Shirley's every move right now.

As per Madeline's expectation, Carter, phone in hand, was indeed watching everything that was happening in the study right now.

At this moment, he saw Madeline got up, walked to the desk, took a piece of paper from the desk, then picked up a pen and wrote something on the paper.

Carter moved the camera to the paper and zoomed in. He could see what Madeline wrote on the paper. "If Carter really performed advanced hypnosis on me, please find a way to hand this paper to Jeremy for me."

Carter furrowed his sharp eyebrows when he saw what was written on the paper. He could not understand why Madeline wrote that.

However, Madeline was such a smart woman. She must have her reasons for writing that.

As Carter thought about that, he swiped away the footage on his phone and walked toward the study.

Meanwhile, Madeline put the pen down and handed the paper to Shirley. "If he really came to find me, and if there's an opportunity, please make sure you hand this piece of paper to Jeremy."

Shirley, instead of reading what the paper said, put it away carefully. "Don't worry, I'll do my absolute best to hand this to Jeremy. I'll also try to ask Carter for a phone so that you can contact Jeremy."

"Thanks."

Madeline thanked her. After saying that, Carter's figure appeared in her eyes. Carter looked like the same carefree and elegant nobleman as he had always been. However, his previous gentleness and elegance no longer existed in Madeline's eyes.

Carter had always been a devious man who would plan far ahead, a ruthless man who would do anything to reach his goals.

From the very start, Madeline had been fooled by the act he put up.

"What's wrong? Why are you staring at me like that? Do you want to say something?" Carter said and walked toward Madeline.

A rare and warm smile showed on his icy face, but this smile looked very sly to Madeline.

"I heard you want to perform advanced hypnosis on me," Madeline said calmly, a smile appearing on her elegant, refined, small face. "Carter, I am standing right here. Come hypnotize me. I won't fight back"

Shirley was shocked when she heard what Madeline said. "Eveline, what nonsense are you talking about?"

"She doesn't speak nonsense," Carter said suddenly as if he was answering on Madeline's behalf as he lowered his eyes to look at the concerned Shirley. He walked up to Madeline and lifted his cold eyes. "I think I've guessed correctly. You already have an escape plan in your heart. You might even have a plan to fight back. How would a smart woman like you allow anyone to control you ?"

As Carter said that, his eyes darkened slightly. "However, Eveline, I won't give you this chance."

"Carter." Shirley operated her wheelchair to move next to Carter. "Stop making more mistakes."

She tried to talk him out of this, but it was obvious Carter was turning a deaf ear.

"You don't have to waste your breath on him. He never stops for anyone if he wants to do it."

Madeline looked at Carter calmly and her beautiful eyes were filled with the sharpness and arrogance she had back then.

"Carter, do you think I don't know? The revenge is just a ruse. This whole time, you've always wanted to make a move against my husband, but it's just that you've now found a better reason."

As Carter heard what Madeline said, his eyebrows started to furrow gradually.

"Carter, if you had truly cared about your child with Shirley, you wouldn't be like this."

"Enough." Suddenly, Carter interrupted Madeline. His handsome face was filled with indignation. "Eveline, do you think you can shake this off just by saying that? Impossible."

"I've never thought of shaking this off. That was why I said that if you want to hypnotize me, you should do it now."

Undaunted, Madeline stared at Carter. She was already prepared for the worst.

As Carter eyed Madeline's indifferent expression, the fire in his heart surged gradually.

"Okay, since you insist, I will comply right now."

After speaking, he took out the old looking pocket watch from his suit pocket.

Madeline gave absolutely no attempt in avoiding and stared straight at the pocket watch.

When Carter saw how cooperative she was, he immediately started the hypnosis.

Upon seeing this, Shirley went up to stop them. "Eveline, are you insane?"

She tried to wake Madeline whom she thought had been successfully hypnotized. After that, she glared at Carter. "If you dare hurt her in any way, I'll kill myself in front of you!"

Carter furrowed his brows. Before he could say anything, Shirley suddenly reached out and yanked the pocket watch out of his hand.

"Give it back." Carter reached out toward Shirley.

However, Shirley's attitude was firm. "Can you let her go?"

Carter laughed upon hearing that. His expression then changed. "Give it back."

He repeated those words with a look of annoyance in his eyes.

However, Shirley ignored him. She operated her wheelchair and moved next to Madeline, then suddenly grabbed Madeline's hand. "Come with me."

Although Madeline did not have time to register what was happening, she was already following Shirley.

At this moment, Madeline could feel how much Shirley wanted to help her. Madeline glanced at the man, who looked as if he was about to explode, and quickly followed Shirley.

When Shirley saw that Carter was not following them, she was surprised and she felt lucky. She figured that perhaps Carter had come around.

"You'll be free once you've walked out of this door." Shirley's voice was laced with a hint of joy.

Madeline, however, thought otherwise.

Shirley seemed to have forgotten that this place, and even the entire St. Piaf, was Carter's territory.

Before she reached the door, two burly bodyguards had indeed come to stop them in their tracks.

The joy on Shirley's face vanished instantly.

"Miss Brown, please don't make this hard for us." The bodyguard was still polite to Shirley. Perhaps he knew that Shirley was someone Carter cared about.

"It seems that you're the ones making it hard for me." Shirley's attitude was firm. "Go away!"

"Miss Brown..."

The bodyguard still intended to stop them, but someone came in behind him mid-sentence.

"Eveline, why are you here?"

Madeline abruptly lifted her head when she heard the voice, and she saw a surprised Camille.

Madeline smiled faintly. "Madam Gray, why do you think I'm here? Your son invited me here, of course."

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Camille was momentarily silent. She understood what Madeline was saying. Carter had obviously brought her here against her will.

Camille did not know what to say to Madeline. At this moment, Shirley reached out and grabbed her hand. "Aunty Cammy, I know you hate me because I left without a word back then, but I hope you can promise in e something, for the sake of our past relationship."

Shirley grabbed Camille's hand tightly.

"Let Eveline go."

Camille was stunned when she heard that. She did not reject her directly. It was clear that there was a slight hesitation.

She looked at Madeline. Camille was already moved.

"Aunty Cammy, Eveline is innocent. Don't drag her into my relationship with Carter again."

The corners of Shirley's eyes grew warmed as she spoke.

"Our child had ended up like that because of my sins. It had nothing to do with Jeremy and Eveline at all. Aunty Cammy, you don't want to see Carter repeating the same mistakes again and again, do you?"

Shirley's words went straight to Camille's heart. Of course, she did not want Carter to keep repeating the same mistakes.

Carter was fighting for the right to rule so he could not make any mistakes right now. Additionally, she thought that what Shirley was saying made sense.

"Okay, I'll walk you out of this door myself," Camille promised and turned around to walk Madeline out.

However, at this moment, Carter's carefree figure appeared behind them.

"No one is allowed to set her free." Carter's tone was calm, but his words were laced with his firm attitude.

Camille turned around and glanced at Madeline, then walked up to Carter and lowered her voice to speak. "Carter, what are you doing? Why did you bring Eveline here again? Have you forgotten what happened the last time you brought her here?"

Carter lifted his cold eyes slightly. " Of course, I haven't forgotten. It's because I remember, so I want to change history."

"What do you mean ?" Camille did not understand. However, she did not forget to advise, "Carter, don't forget what you should be doing now. Eveline will only cause trouble for you if she's around. Plus, your child with Shirley..."

"I know what I'm doing. Eveline is the key to smoothly obtain the right to rule."

"What ?"

Carter's answer confused Camille. However, she knew that no matter what she said, Carter would not let Madeline go.

As for Madeline, she knew she would not be able to leave this place so easily, so was not beyond her expectations. She was mentally prepared for the worst.

Shirley glared at Carter. She knew she would not be able to help Madeline no matter what she did.

Madeline was brought back to the guest room she stayed in before.

She still remembered the day Jeremy came looking for her and wanted to take her away. She had regained consciousness back then, but she had to pretend to not know Jeremy.

Come to think of it, he must have been devastated and disappointed back then.

Madeline walked onto the balcony. She habitually lifted her hand to touch the wedding ring on her ring finger, but she felt nothing there.

How could she have forgotten? She had taken off the ring to leave it on the carpet of the hotel back then. It should be with Jeremy now. She believed Jeremy must have seen the clues she left. "Jeremy, I didn't think we'd do this again."

"But this time, he might completely erase my memory so that he can control my thoughts and memories."

"I hope you can understand why I had been so cruel back then. I know you'll understand."

Madeline murmured as she stared toward the clear sky. Click. The sound of the door opening could be heard from behind her. Madeline could tell who it was from the footsteps alone.

"I think you should be ready." Carter's nonchalant voice drifted over.

Madeline stood her ground, unmoving, ignoring Carter. Carter did not care that Madeline was ignoring him. He merely approached her slowly.

"Let me tell you something. Jeremy is already in St. Piaf."

Carter said as he looked at Madeline. He thought Madeline would react strongly but, surprisingly, she was abnormally calm.

Carter could not understand why Madeline was acting like this. "Why do you not care at all?"

Upon hearing that, Madeline curled the corners of her lips into a slight smile. "My husband will definitely come to find me. This is expected, so why should I be surprised?"

Madeline spoke calmly, then lifted her clear eyes to meet Carter's ominous gaze. "Are you here just to tell me this ?"

Carter looked at the calm Madeline and suddenly, he burst into laughter.

"Eveline, you really are special."

He said and spread his palms. An old-looking pocket watch fell from his palm and with the tug of the thin chain, it bounced a few times and finally became still again.

Madeline immediately understood what Carter meant. Two words appeared in her mind-advanced hypnosis. Carter would not let go of this opportunity to make a move against Jeremy. He had planned this a long time ago. He would neither allow himself to fail nor give Madeline the chance to escape.

"You should already be prepared, right?" Carter asked with a smile.

Madeline smiled. Her eyes, clear and calm as water, stared at Carter.

"Carter, do you believe that evil will never win?"

Carter had not expected Madeline to ask something so childish. He waved the pocket watch in his hand and slowly said, "Evil never wins only in fairytales. Eveline, starting from now, relax your body and mind. Focus your attention on this pocket watch."

"Do you see the crystal ball in the middle of the pocket watch? Look closely. Do you see Jeremy appear in the crystal ball? If you can't see him, close your eyes, and then you'll see the person you want to see the most..."

Carter's voice was very gentle. He then saw Madeline's eyes slowly losing focus. He knew he had successfully controlled her thoughts. He lifted the corners of his lips in satisfaction, ready to send her into a deep sleep.

"Eveline, close your eyes and tell me who you see."

Carter asked according to the standard procedure. He knew the person Madeline wanted to see most now must be Jeremy. However, he heard another unexpected name coming out of her mouth...

Married by Mistake – Chapter 1927

Carter was a little dazed as he looked at Madeline who had started to enter the state of hypnosis. He had not heard it wrongly. Madeline had just said someone's name, and that someone was not Jeremy.

This deviated from Carter's hypnosis plan.

He looked at Madeline and he tried to pull Madeline's thoughts together again.

"Eveline, I'm asking you again. Who did you see in this crystal ball?"

When Madeline heard Carter's questions, she closed her eyes and, cooperatively and naturally, answered, "Lily. I saw my precious daughter, Lily."

When Carter heard this answer again, he could be sure that the person Madeline missed the most right now was her daughter, Lillian. Lillian was in F Country, and Madeline did not know about her condition and where she was staying. No wonder she missed Lillian so much.

Even though Madeline's reaction altered Carter's plan at the last minute, he was able to adapt to the situation very quickly.

Of course, he had always been confident with his hypnosis skills, and he believed that nobody would resist it. With the help of psychology, it would be easy for him to control someone's heart.

He looked at Madeline before him who had entered the stage, and the corners of his lips curled up...

Approximate half an hour later, Carter finally got the result he wanted.

Shirley was about to head downstairs when she saw Carter walking out of Madeline's room. She quickly asked the maid to change the direction of the wheelchair and then Shirley yelled at Carter, "Carter, stop!"

Carter who was walking in the other direction did not notice Shirley at first, but when he heard Shirley calling out to him, he stopped abruptly and turned his head. When he saw Shirley approaching him, he turned around.

"Is there anything you want to lecture me about?" he asked in a sarcastic tone with a faint smile on his ice face.

Shirley lifted her hand to point at Madeline's room. "Why did you go in there?"

She asked directly, "Did you hypnotize Eveline ?"

The corners of his lips seemed to turn up when he heard that. "It was bound to happen sooner or later, and she was prepared for it."

Shirley frowned when she heard what Carter said. "Why?" she asked. Her eyes started to turn red and wet. "Carter, why? Why do you keep repeating the same mistakes?"

Shirley was distressed, the corners of her eyes turned wet from her tears.

When Carter saw the suddenly dispirited Shirley, his smile disappeared completely.

Carter slowly walked up to Shirley and lifted his hand to dismiss the maid behind Shirley with a small wave. The maid, who understood Carter's meaning, immediately turned around to leave.

Carter slowly squatted in front of Shirley. He then saw the tears falling from Shirley's eyes and wetting her cheeks as well as the side of her scarred face.

He did not think that her scarred face was ugly. He only knew that Shirley's tears were as precious as pearls as they fell and scattered in his heart.

"Carter, why? Tell me."

Upon seeing Shirley crying in such pain, Carter lifted his hand to gently wipe away the tears on Shirley's face. "I've told you. I won't let our child die in vain."

Shirley looked at Carter helplessly. "I've told you many times before. The child's death had nothing to do with others. It's our fault and it's our karma."

"No," Carter denied, "Jeremy killed our child. Even if you developed AXP69, he was the one who injected you with it. It was also because of him, that woman Ada had the chance to do all those things. All your pain and suffering are related to Jeremy. Plus, Jeremy had also indirectly caused the deaths of your brother and that girl.".

After listening to what Carter said, Shirley cried and shook her head furiously. "No, that's not it. That's not it..."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 1928

"That's what happened." Carter insisted this was what happened, but his eyes were extremely gentle at this moment. "Shirley, you don't need to bother yourself with any of this. You just need to recuperate properly. Don't worry, no matter how much effort and money it'll take, I'll cure you and make you stand up again."

After promising her, Carter rose to his feet and walked behind Shirley to push her wheelchair slowly.

Shirley had nothing to say. There were only silent tears falling from her eyes. She knew that Carter was determined in insisting on his so-called revenge as if he was presently hypnotized by something unseen.

Carter, too, did not speak further but merely pushed Shirley forward...

After Carter had sent Shirley back to her room, she kept feeling that something was not amiss.

She was certain that Carter had already performed the advanced hypnosis on Madeline, but she had no idea how would Madeline act after she was in the advanced hypnosis stage.

She wanted to go out to take a look but a maid stopped her. The maid told her that Carter had given orders for Shirley to stay in her room for these two days and to not go anywhere.

Something would definitely be happening if Carter gave this order. In the next two days, Shirley did hear some activities.

It sounded lively outside. It was as if a lot of people were moving about. Occasionally, she would also hear joyous laughter.

Confused, Shirley asked the maid by her side, and the maid told her, "Mr. Carter is about to get married soon."

Married?

When Shirley heard that word, her entire body seemed to freeze.

Click. The door of the room opened at this moment. Camille walked into the room and asked the maid to leave, then Camille walked over to Shirley's side.

When she saw Shirley staring blankly ahead, Camille could figure out what happened to Shirley.

"Carter is going to get married to Eveline soon. Of course, this marriage is fake, so you don't have to worry about this."

Camille sounded like she was comforting Shirley, but for some reason, it felt more like a knife slashing across Shirley's heart.

"I know you must be longing to see the day Carter gets the right to rule, right? The day soon approaches, and Eveline is the shortcut. Although this isn't right, I can't change Carter's mind. Besides, he's still brooding about the child you both lost."

"Heh." Shirley laughed after hearing what Camille said.

"That's an excuse. It's just an excuse for him to climb up the ranks."

Shirley said sarcastically, "If he really loved the child, he should reflect on himself now instead of repeatedly pushing the blame onto others."

As she spoke, she closed her eyes as tears escaped her eyes. She then chuckled bitterly. "This whole time, he only loves himself."

Camille did not know how to comfort Shirley after hearing that.

Perhaps, she already knew that no matter what she said, it would be useless. At the present, Shirley was not the Shirley that Camille had known in the past. Everything and everyone had undergone huge changes.

Knock knock knock.

Someone was knocking on the door at this moment.

Shirley opened her eyes and looked toward the door. She had thought it was a maid or Carter. She had not expected it to be Madeline.

No, to be more precise, it was the hypnotized Madeline.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 1929

"Eveline..."

Shirley looked at Madeline who entered with slow steps. Shirley had a feeling that there was something wrong with the person in front of her, but she could not put a finger on it.

Once entered, Madeline glanced at Camille with a slight smile and then shifted her gaze to Shirley.

"Are you... a friend of my fiancé?"

··...,

Shirley was stunned for a moment. When she heard Madeline's words, she was convinced that Madeline had indeed been deeply hypnotized. Madeline's thoughts were no longer her own. What she said and did was all per Carter's intentions.

Shirley merely looked at Madeline without speaking. Upon seeing that Shirley did not respond, Madeline repeated in a friendly manner.

"I remember you. You're Shirley. I seem to have had some unpleasant experiences with you back then, but Carter told me that those are all in the past. Plus, he and I will have a wedding soon. I hope the unhappiness between us can be blown away by this joyous wedding."

The way Madeline spoke chilled Shirley's heart solely because the personality of the current Madeline was completely different.

Carter had changed Madeline's entire personality.

The Madeline in front of her was not the original Madeline. The woman in front of Shirley was speaking very softly and sweetly. She sounded like an obedient and tame girl.

Although Madeline had not been that kind of little girl for a long while, she looked delicate and her face always looked young and beautiful. Sometimes, she would even have the air of a young girl to her.

Shirley had not considered that Carter would change Madeline into someone with this kind of personality. However, after thinking about it, she felt that it made sense.

Carter would have an easier time controlling Madeline with such a personality. It would be very hard for him to get close to the old Madeline.

After a while, Shirley reacted. "You're right, those unhappy things are all in the past."

Shirley paused as she said that. She looked intensely at Madeline who was smiling softly, hoping Madeline detect the unusualness in Shirley's eyes. "Eveline, do you still remember what happened in the past? Do you remember what those unhappy things were?"

Madeline stared blankly at Shirley when she heard that. After a moment of pondering, she was about to speak when Camille, who was standing at one side, stood up suddenly.

"Eveline, let's leave. Shirley is a patient and she needs to rest. We can't disturb her for too long."

Camille spoke as she held Madeline's hand to lead her out of the room.

Shirley was not an idiot. She could feel that Camille did not want her to speak too much with Madeline. This could only mean that Camille also knew that Madeline had been hypnotized by Carter.

Camille was worried that if Shirley spoke too much with Madeline, she would be able to wake Madeline's consciousness. However, not everyone could break Carter's advanced hypnosis so easily.

After taking Madeline away, Camille asked the maid to take good care of Shirley. She, however, felt conflicted when she faced Madeline right now.

She was grateful for the time Madeline prevented a disaster from happening when Madeline saved Camille from eating peanuts.

It was not at all an exaggeration to say that it would have been a disaster. Camille knew very well what would happen to her after she ate peanuts.

"After so many years, I'm finally marrying Carter. I'm so happy."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 1930

Suddenly, she heard Madeline's joyful exclaims. Camille was stunned when she heard that, but she understood why Madeline would say that. Carter had hypnotized Madeline, so in the current Madeline's thoughts, Carter was the Jeremy she loved for many years.

Her thoughts and eyes were blinded by an illusion.

She still loved Jeremy. This was something that hypnotism could not change. All Carter could do was cover up the truth.

"Yeah, you guys are finally getting married. Congratulations." Camille went along and gave Madeline her blessings.

Madeline smiled upon hearing that. When she lifted her gaze, her beautiful eyes lit up with surprise.

She looked into the distance and said sweetly, "Carter."

Madeline called out. When she looked at the approaching man, Jeremy's appearance reflected in her pupils, and the name she called out was still Jeremy in her subconscious mind.

Carter pursed his lips into a smile as he walked towards Madeline very cooperatively.

Camille saw this and walked away.

"Why didn't you sleep longer? It'll be even busier

tomorrow," Carter said to Madeline softly.

Madeline looked at Carter, affection flashing in her eyes. A faint blush that resembled a young girl's shyness appeared on her face. It looked as refreshing as the beginning of love.

"As long as I can see you, I will be happy no matter how busy or tired," Madeline replied with a smile.

Carter looked at this version of Madeline, and he could imagine how much she loved Jeremy. The affection, shyness, and joy he caught sight of at his moment were all feelings Madeline had for Jeremy, not him.

Suddenly, he was jealous. It turned out that this was what someone would look like and act when they loved someone deeply. Even her voice was laced with delight when she spoke.

Carter quickly found an excuse to get Madeline back to her room, and then he went to Shirley's room.

Shirley was sitting alone by the balcony quietly, nonchalantly looking at the desolate scenery outside the window.

She heard the familiar footsteps approaching her and she chuckled suddenly. "Congratulations, oh respectable Viscount. Soon, you'll be able to get the power you want."

Carter could tell that Shirley was ridiculing him. He walked behind her and lifted a corner of his thin lips. "When I get the right to rule, you will be the only right and proper woman around me."

Shirley said calmly, "I will not be emotionally involved with you any further."

"No one can change what I've decided." Carter's attitude was very clear. "I know you feel uncomfortable that I'll be marrying Eveline, but I have to do this. Because she is now your stepping stone to get what you want, isn't that right?"

Shirley bluntly exposed Carter's thinking. Carter neither denied nor admitted it.

"I don't know who you are anymore," Shirley exclaimed suddenly. "Or perhaps I've never known you in the past, Carter."

As she spoke, she slowly raised her head and met Carter's bottomless black eyes. "Even though I don't agree with what you've done, I still hope you can get everything you want smoothly."

After she finished speaking, she pressed the switch on the wheelchair, turned around, and left.

Carter looked at Shirley's stubborn and frail figure, then parted his thin lips. "Shirley."

Married by Mistake – Chapter 1931

Shirley's wheelchair stopped as Carter finished speaking.

A rare, cheerful smile appeared on Carter's face when he saw Shirley stopped moving away from him.

"Shirley, I know that, in your heart, I'm an obsessive bastard right now, but no matter what, you're still the only woman in my life."

Upon hearing Carter's answer, Shirley's fingers gradually tightened around the switch of the wheelchair. Tears surged in her eyes, but she resisted, refraining the tears from falling.

Additionally, she did not answer Carter. She silently pressed the switch on the wheelchair again, continuing her way to the door.

Carter quietly watched Shirley's fading figure. His heartbeat was frantic, and his eyes darkened.

"Jeremy, you'll soon get a taste of my pain."

As soon as Carter said this, his phone rang. He glanced at his phone, and an intrigued smile appeared on the corner of his lips.

"You're finally here, Jeremy."

Carter said and left.

As soon as he stepped out of the door, his entourage hurriedly walked towards him.

"What's the matter ?" Carter asked in a chilly tone as he walked.

"Jeremy is at the door," the entourage reported.

Carter curled his lips into a cold smile. "I've been waiting for him for a long time."

After speaking, he quickened his pace and walked out. The entourage glanced at Carter with uncertainty as if he was suspicious of something.

Jeremy had wanted to come to find Madeline the first chance he got, but his son had been suddenly kidnapped and returned, greatly delaying Jeremy. In fact, he also knew that all of this was Carter's trap, but Jeremy could not simply abandon and neglect his son.

"Jeremy, I didn't expect us to meet again so soon." Carter's carefree voice came from the front.

When he heard Carter's voice, Jeremy raised his eyes and calmly met the complacent looking Carter. "The reason we can meet again so soon is all because of you, isn't it, Mr. Gray?"

Carter laughed. "You can say that."

"Then stop talking nonsense. Where is Linnie?"

"Her ?" Carter uttered a single word with implication. "She's in the room, but don't expect to see her. You'd be greatly disappointed even if you do."

Jeremy furrowed his brows tighter. "Carter, stop beating around the bush. What are you trying to say ?"

"Hmm..." Carter seemed to be in thought. He raised his slender fingers and lightly tapped his temples, and then the corner of his mouth lifted into a deep smile.

"Jeremy, what I want to do should be very clear to you. The reason I brought Eveline here and delayed you coming to St. Piaf was, of course, to buy time so that I can turn Eveline completely obedient."

Jeremy's eyes were instantly filled with intense emotions upon hearing this. "What does that mean? Carter, what are you playing at ?"

"Don't get excited." Carter was still smiling softly. "The thing that will worry you more has yet to come. Don't let all the excitement get to your head in one go."

Jeremy's eyes were piercing cold. "Do you intend to use Linnie to make a move against me?"

"Uh-huh," Carter admitted quickly. The smile on his face disappeared quickly, then his eyes darkened. "I've performed advanced hypnosis on Eveline. Do you know what I mean by advanced hypnosis, Jeremy?"

There was absolute confidence in Carter's eyes. "You will know soon enough."

He studied the sudden changes of complex expressions on Jeremy's face as he spoke, but then, with an unusual attitude, he said invitingly, "Come, Mr. Whitman. I sincerely invite you to be a guest in my home."

Of course, Jeremy knew that Carter would never sincerely invite him to be his guest. This had to be one of Carter's plans.

However, Jeremy had to enter the house, for the woman he loved the most in his life was inside.

Married by Mistake – Chapter 1932

Even if he had to go into a tiger's den, Jeremy would barge in without hesitation.

Carter already knew what Jeremy would do. He walked in front of Jeremy and led the way into the living room. He then told a maid, "Go and ask the future young madam to come downstairs."

The maid obediently followed suit and went upstairs to a certain room.

'Future young madam?'

Jeremy was suspicious. He knew that, back then, Carter had been married to Ada.

Ada had been arrested for the crimes she committed and was still in prison, but Carter and Ada had probably canceled their marriage during this time. However, was Carter getting married again so soon?

Was Shirley the bride?

Jeremy was suspicious, but this was the only possibility.

Carter could guess Jeremy's thoughts from the look in Jeremy's eyes. He lifted the corner of his lips and glanced in a certain direction on the second floor.

"You must be wondering who is the woman I'll be marrying soon, aren't you, Mr. Whitman? You'll meet her soon."

After Carter had spoken, there were movements at the top of the stairs.

For some reason, Jeremy felt his heart racing. The moment he lifted his eyes, he saw the face that he had been thinking about day and night.

"Linnie!" Jeremy called Madeline's name and ran to the stairs.

Madeline, however, stopped in her tracks, her beautiful eyes, filled with curiosity, scanned Jeremy's face before looking at Carter.

"Carter, who is this? Is he calling me?"

•••••

Jeremy's body went cold when he heard that.

He now understood what Carter had meant earlier. He also understood what Carter had meant by advanced hypnosis.

With a smile on his face, Carter calmly looked up at Madeline explained patiently, "Fear not, Eveline. He's my friend, and he's here to attend our wedding."

Madeline's expression relaxed gradually when she heard Carter's explanation. "I see."

She walked toward Jeremy with a smile as she spoke. She then reached out her hand. "Hello, sir. Thank you for taking the time to attend our wedding. I am Carter's fiancée, Eveline Montgomery."

····"

Upon looking at Madeline's outstretched hand and hearing her introduction, Jeremy felt as if he was stabbed in the heart. However, he knew he could not explain anything to her so recklessly. How could he so simply Jeremy looked at Madeline's gentle and beautiful face then reached out to shake her hand.

"Hello, Miss Montgomery."

Madeline nodded and smiled, and then let go of Jeremy's hand and walked to Carter.

Jeremy could only watch this happen; he could only watch Carter smiling triumphantly.

As Carter was slowly reaching his goal, he was feeling very bold and pleased with himself.

Jeremy unclenched his fists. He could only remain calm and collected.

However, after he thought about it, Jeremy still felt that he could not stay silent. He also did not want to see Madeline siding with other men.

He walked over with a smile. "Miss Montgomery, do you have something you forgot to ask me?"

Married by Mistake – Chapter 1933

When Madeline heard this, she turned around and saw Jeremy smiling at her.

Carter's eyes were on him as well. He had a feeling in his heart that Jeremy was guiding Madeline so he could catch her off guard.

However, Carter was not worried.

Even a professional hypnotist would not be able to crack the advanced hypnosis he performed on Madeline, let alone Jeremy who knew nothing about hypnotism.

"Sir, do you mean..." Madeline looked at Jeremy with curiosity. "Do you mean I should ask you who you are ?"

Jeremy nodded, still smiling. "You still haven't asked me my name, Miss Montgomery."

Madeline was a little stunned. It seemed that she thought Jeremy had said something unnecessary. However, Madeline still smiled and asked, "Sir, what is your name?"

"My name is Jeremy Whitman," Jeremy answered Madeline's question quickly. He then continued, "My wife likes to call me Jeremy."

··..."

Madeline stared straight into Jeremy's deep and beautiful eyes. "Hello, Mr. Whitman. Nice to meet you. Is your wife not here with you to attend my wedding with Carter ?"

Jeremy looked at Madeline's bright and charming eyes. "She's here, and she's somewhere closest to me," he said with implication.

Madeline sighed sorrowfully. She looked behind Jeremy, but she did not see anyone, so she could not understand what Jeremy was saying.

However, Madeline did not continue asking. She merely smiled politely at Jeremy. "Thank you for coming to witness our wedding, Mr. Whitman and Mrs. Whitman."

Jeremy stood there and shook his head. "You don't have to thank me, Miss Montgomery. We don't have to use that word for the rest of our lives."

Madeline was confused by what he said again. "Why did you say that, Mr. Whitman?"

"Hmm? Have you forgotten? Or has Mr. Gray used his famous hypnosis to erase some of your unhappy memories?"

As Jeremy spoke in a curious tone, he deliberately looked at Carter.

"Carter, even though Linnie and I were lovers, you ought to believe in your charm. There's no need to hypnotize her."

··..."

Madeline and Carter were stunned by Jeremy's words. Crater had not expected Jeremy to use this method, gaining the upper hand by taking a step back.

"Are you joking, Mr. Whitman? How could we be lovers? I've always been in love with Carter the whole time," Madeline explained seriously.

However, when Jeremy heard that, he felt as if his heart was savagely stabbed with an invisible knife.

His Linnie was indeed completely hypnotized. Even his name could not bring about any sense of familiarity.

"Eveline, he's just joking with you. Don't take it seriously."

Carter chimed in as well. Of course, he could not allow Madeline to start suspecting him of hypnotizing her. Since he was worried that something might happen throughout Jeremy's conversation with Madeline, Carter said, "Mr. Whitman, there are still many things that Eveline and I still need to attend to, so I'm afraid we won't have the time to entertain you, so..."

"Oh, go ahead. I'll head to a room to rest."

•••••

Carter had wanted to get Jeremy to leave his manor, but now, Jeremy had taken the initiative by walking directly upstairs.

Married by Mistake -

Chapter 1934

Presently, Jeremy did not exist in Madeline's memories, but Jeremy's words and behavior gave Madeline a familiar feeling, a feeling similar to how she felt about Carter.

At this time, a maid came over. She said that Camille had asked them to go to the ancestral hall. Not wanting to waste any time, Carter took Madeline and went out. Before he left, he told his bodyguard to keep an eye on Jeremy.

In fact, in the beginning, he had deliberately allowed Jeremy to enter the manor to see Madeline so that Jeremy would feel uncomfortable.

However, instead of achieving his goal, Jeremy now had the upper hand.

Nonetheless, Carter did not take it very seriously either. He glanced at Madeline who was by his side, and a corner of his mouth lifted into a smile.

Jeremy went upstairs but his eyes continued to follow Madeline. Even after Madeline had gotten in the car and left, Jeremy still did not leave.

'Linnie, I'm the one you love. From the beginning to the future, our feelings for each other will never change.' Jeremy thought silently and steadied himself. He was also convinced that Madeline had the same feelings for him.

However, this time, he had to completely get rid of Carter. Never again would he make the same mistake. Never again would he let Madeline face danger.

After standing on the spot for some time, Jeremy began walking.

He noticed that someone was paying attention to his every move. Without much thought, he knew it was Carter's bodyguard.

Jeremy walked forward calmly, observing everything around him with deep and sharp eyes.

As for the bodyguard downstairs, he paid attention to Jeremy just like how Jeremy was observing his surroundings.

Jeremy continued to walk forward. When he passed the door to a certain room, he subconsciously glanced in, then raised his hand and gently pushed the door open.

"Sir." A maid rushed over from the other side of the corridor to stop him. "Sir, who are you? Why are you standing there? Someone is resting there. Please don't go in and disturb them."

Jeremy slowly lowered his hand and turned around when he heard that. His resolute and handsome face stunned the young maid in front of him, making her blushed. Her tone and attitude then greatly softened.

"Sir, who are you? Are you looking for someone?"

"I am Carter's guest. He has specially invited me here. He said that he had arranged a room for me, and I was just looking for my room, that's all."

The maid was stunned for two seconds after hearing the words. She then innnediately came back to her senses. "I see, you are a guest of Mr. Carter. Please wait a moment. I will arrange the guest room for you immediately," the maid said with a blush, then immediately went to prepare a guest room for Jeremy without any suspicion.

Jeremy had not expected his face to have such use. This was a vain world after all.

He thought to himself. He was about to walk forward, mainly to observe the layout and structure of this manor. However, when he put his foot forward, the door to the next room suddenly opened.

"Jeremy, you're finally here."

Jeremy stopped in his tracks and turned around to see Shirley slowly coming out of the room in her wheelchair.

It seemed that it was Shirley's room.

"Let's talk inside." Shirley looked at Jeremy and pushed the door of her room open.

Jeremy looked at both sides of the corridor, and through the corner of his eye, he saw the bodyguard watching him from downstairs. However, he walked into Shirley's room, unconcerned.

When the bodyguard saw this, he immediately sent Carter a message.

When Carter saw the bodyguard's message in the car, he immediately gave an order...

Married by Mistake -

Chapter 1935

In the bedroom on the second floor.

Shirley operated the wheelchair all the way to the balcony, and Jeremy followed behind her until she stopped.

If this were in the past, Jeremy would never be alone with Shirley at all, let alone listen to her. At the present, he had let go of his prejudice against her, and he had a little more trust in her.

"I knew you'd come, but I didn't expect you to come directly into Gray Manor like this." Shirley sighed. She raised her eyes, tinged with envy, and looked at Jeremy.

"Eveline is so lucky to have you to care for her, to concern her."

When Jeremy heard those words, he felt an ache in his heart. He regretted that he had not been able to give Madeline complete happiness and love since the beginning.

Jeremy could see that Shirley no longer had the sharp edge about her, but he did not want to waste time on idle chit-chat.

"I don't think this is what you want to talk about with me now that you've brought me in here." Jeremy went straight to the point. "You can tell me what you know."

Shirley understood that Jeremy was not in the mood to talk about anything else, she therefore immediately explained Madeline's current situation.

"Carter has hypnotized Eveline very deeply. I met Eveline after she's been hypnotized. She now regards Carter as the man she loved this whole time." Hiss.

Hearing this, Jeremy felt a small yet intense pain in his heart. He had indeed met Madeline, and he had no choice but to face her who now "loved" Carter, but he could not accept such a setup no matter what.

Was this how Carter intended to retaliate against him?

Jeremy sneered silently. The man's methods were truly shameless.

"In fact, from a certain perspective, the person Eveline loves in her heart is still you. Carter has just put a false veil on her heart. Although this veil is very thin, it is not so easily unveiled."

Shirley's charming eyebrows furrowed in distress as she spoke.

"One more thing ... " She paused. "I don't know if you've heard of it"

Jeremy noticed an abnormality in Shirley's tone.

"What's the matter? Just tell me."

Shirley looked at Jeremy's stern face and pressed her lips together lightly. She then said, "Carter will be bringing Madeline to register their marriage tomorrow."

Upon hearing this, Jeremy's face suddenly changed. His heart was fraught with apprehension, making his heartbeat turbulent, but he still stabilized his emotions. Last time, Carter had tried to marry Madeline and registered their marriage.

This time, he wanted to do it again.

"He really knows how to exact his vengeance on me." Jeremy laughed softly and a faint light overflowed from the depths of his charming eyes.

"No, it's not just for revenge."

Shirley's answer confused Jeremy.

He looked at Shirley, and Shirley quickly gave him the answer.

"While I don't know what value Eveline has, Carter wants to register his marriage with Eveline so that he can use Eveline, allowing him to successfully obtain the royal inheritance."

Use her.

These two words sounded especially harsh when they fell into Jeremy's ears.

Carter wanted to use his Linnie to kill two birds with one stone.

This man was truly calculative.

Married by Mistake -

Chapter 1936

However, Jeremy still could not understand how Carter could smoothly obtain the royal inheritance after his marriage registration with Madeline.

Did Madeline have anything to do with the royal family of St. Piaf?

"The previous wedding between him and Eveline was disrupted by your appearance. I believe that this time, he won't give you the opportunity to ruin it again."

Shirley's words contained a reminder, and she said it with a hint of helplessness in her eyes.

"I know him too well. He would really do anything to get the desired result. Those harmful poisons are the best evidence for that.

"Jeremy, I know that, in your heart, you still find me nauseating, but I hope you can remember what I said. Don't face Carter head on at any given time. You have to remember that Eveline needs you."

It was rare for Jeremy to see the sincerity in Shirley's eyes. At this moment, he was convinced that she was being sincere. When he was about to speak, however, the door was pushed open rudely.

Carter's bodyguard strode towards Jeremy with a dark expression.

Shirley quickly operated her wheelchair before Jeremy to shield him.

"Who let you into my room? Get out." Shirley sternly drove the bodyguard away.

The bodyguard stopped abruptly. Despite his displeasure, he did not dare to provoke Shirley.

"Miss Brown, I'm here for Mr. Whitman as per Mr. Carter's intention. I hope you won't make things hard for rue."

"I'm making things hard for you?" Shirley asked. "If I told him that you suddenly came in and disturbed my rest, do you think Carter wouldn't immediately ask someone to throw you out of the manor?"

·· ... [,],

The bodyguard's face froze, evidently afraid of what Shirley said.

"Forget it, I'll go out with him. You should rest well." Jeremy stepped forward carefreely.

Shirley still wanted to persuade him, but after thinking about it, it would be meaningless anyway. As she looked at Jeremy's back figure, she could not help but warn him again.

"Jeremy, remember the last two sentences I said."

Jeremy paused briefly, then looked back at Shirley.

He did not speak, but his gentle eyes already expressed his gratitude.

Shirley stayed in place. She felt touched. She had not expected that one day, Jeremy would forgive her and thank her.

She smiled, part self deprecating, part relieved. This might be life, her life as Shirley Brown.

Jeremy followed the bodyguard to the back garden of Gray Manor, but as soon as he reached the center of the back garden, Jeremy felt that something was not right behind him.

He looked back and saw tall and burly bodyguards in black had quickly surrounded him.

Jeremy understood instantly.

"Mr. Whitman, I heard that you are very good with your fists. My boys would like to witness it and learn from you, but of course, we'll stop when it gets too much."

The bodyguard in lead took off his jacket as he spoke.

Jeremy could see the triumphant expression on the bodyguard's face, as well as the gleeful faces of the bodyguards watching this scene unfold. He knew that they would not stop if it got too much. Furthermore, they were not learning from him these people might even take his life.

"Mr. Whitman, are you ready?" The bodyguard seemed to be itching to get on with it. "Apart from me, my boys are also waiting in line to learn from you."

Jeremy smiled slightly when he heard the words. He raised his deep cold eyes and glanced at them lightly. "Don't wait, then. All of you, come at me."

Married by Mistake -

Chapter 1937

Jeremy was not trying to boast when he said that. He knew his own ability. He did not deny that Carter's bodyguards must also be of some skill, but he was more convinced that none of these people were a match for him.

Upon hearing what Jeremy said, the bodyguards felt extremely insulted.

Did he want them to fight him all at once?

He was clearly looking down on them!

They wanted to see how strong the young master of Glendale's most powerful family was to be able to say speak so shamelessly.

"Go!"

The leading bodyguard ordered, and several other bodyguards immediately rushed forward.

Before making a move, they were very confident that Jeremy was definitely not their match. Even if Jeremy truly had this ability, there was strength in numbers, after all.

However, after making a move, they found that they had been wrong and that they had been overthinking it. Jeremy was not only agile and quick, but the speed of his attacks far exceeds theirs.

After a few rounds, they had already lost one half of their people.

Jeremy, however, was still unscathed. They could not even harm a corner of his shirt. This man was definitely not someone they could take down easily!

At this time, the leading bodyguard raised his hand and wiped away the blood from the corner of his mouth. As he looked at Jeremy, who still looked noble and elegant, various emotions of reluctance and discomfort were kept surging in the bodyguard's heart.

They had said they would stop when it got too much, but they did actually intend to kill Jeremy this whole time.

If Jeremy were dead, so many troubles could be solved. Jeremy did not understand what these people were thinking, but he glanced at the weak men in front of him indifferently and then set his gaze, as calm as water, on the face of the embarrassed bodyguard.

"Do you still want to continue? If you still want to continue, I can accompany you."

The bodyguard gritted his blood stained teeth, and his gaze darkened. "It's too soon for you to be feeling proud, Jeremy Whitman."

"Heh."

Jeremy chuckled disapprovingly.

"Proud? You people are the ones who seemed pleased with yourself. Ever since I entered this manor, I've always been passive. Carter has left the manor temporarily, yet he asked you lackeys to keep an eye on me, isn't that right?"

"W-What did you say? We are all elite bodyguards of Gray Manor. How dare you call us lackeys?!"

"Aren't you?" Jeremy lightly shifted his gaze and he gently parted his thin lips. "Fortunately, you're all dogs sincere to your master. Carter didn't raise you in vain."

"Jeremy Whitman, you..."

The bodyguard in lead was immediately enraged. He raised his fist and swung at Jeremy with all his strength, but before his fist could reach Jeremy, it was grabbed by Jeremy's strong palm.

Furious, the bodyguard wanted to break free using brute force and continue attacking Jeremy, but he was unsuccessful as Jeremy pushed him far away.

The bodyguard staggered several steps back, nearly losing his footing.

He then steadied his center of gravity and attacked Jeremy again.

Jeremy, who could no longer be bothered with him, pulled the bodyguard's outstretched and simply gave him a shoulder throw.

Married by Mistake -

Chapter 1938

The bodyguard's sturdy body fell heavily on the grass with a thud.

"Argh!" The bodyguard let out a pained scream.

Jeremy looked down upon the man with a condescending glace like a king, then he turned to look at the other bodyguards.

However, the other bodyguards were palpably afraid of Jeremy. Convinced that Jeremy could not be defeated with their skill alone, they decided that they had to play dirty this time.

The bodyguard who suffered the shoulder throw looked at Jeremy's carefree back figure and quietly took out a pistol from the inner pocket of his suit. He pointed the gun at Jeremy's calf and pulled the trigger when Jeremy was off his guard.

Nevertheless, Jeremy's observation skills were so keen that when the bodyguard pulled the trigger, he deftly avoided it, swift and flexible.

The bullet flew past Jeremy and in the next second, it penetrated the calf of another bodyguard standing in front of Jeremy.

"Ahhh!"

The bodyguard who was shot yelled out in pain, and the outcome surprised the man who pulled the trigger.

Jeremy turned sideways and turned his head back to look at the man, a faint cold light emanating from the depths of Jeremy's thin eyes.

"Carter's lackeys are really different. Not only do they have high self esteem, but they also know how to sneak up on people. Is this how your master taught you to treat guests ?"

"To be precise, you are not my guest, Jeremy, but my enemy." Carter's voice suddenly came from one side. Upon hearing that voice, Jeremy turned his head and saw the cold-looking, poker-faced Carter walking toward him.

Jeremy lifted his eyes and looked behind Carter, trying to find Madeline, but he saw that Madeline was not with Carter at the moment. Carter came alone.

Carter could see through Jeremy, and Carter's lips seemingly twitched.

"Are you looking for Linnie?" Carter asked with a slight smile, knowing how much Jeremy cares about Madeline. He looked at Jeremy's back figure like he knew what he was doing. "Your Linnie is behind you."

As Carter's voice fell, Jeremy did not look back immediately.

It was because he realized that Carter's eyes seemed off. It seemed more like a trap.

Just when Jeremy doubted him, however, Madeline's voice came from behind him. "Jeremy."

Jeremy, unable to ignore Madeline, turned around almost without hesitation and looked at the source of the sound. However, he did not see anything after turning around.

His pupils could not identify Madeline's figure anywhere. Moreover, the weird thing was that Madeline's voice was calling out his name from a certain position in front of him.

Jeremy realized that Madeline was not speaking at the present at all. It was a recording.

At this moment, Carter's triumphant chuckle could be heard. "Women are indeed useful."

Woosh...

A bullet whizzed out from the muzzle equipped with a silencer, and the moment Jeremy turned his head, it penetrated his calf.

Bright-red blood instantly flowed out from his wound, soaking the back part of Jeremy's dark-blue pants with a deep-ink color.

Jeremy's handsome and sharp eyebrows furrowed.

Carter looked at Jeremy's bleeding calf, and a happy smile blossomed on his handsome and gentle face. "Tomorrow, Eveline and I will sign the marriage certificate. I originally wanted you to watch your favorite woman walking by my side, but based on your performance just now, I have to change my mind."

Carter spoke each word in a very helpless tone.

"If I were to let you appear in my line of sight, you'd only become a hidden danger for me, so..."

Married by Mistake -

Chapter 1939

Carter paused, and the comer of his lips lifted into an intrigued smile.

"Jeremy, it seems that this time, you won t be returning to Glendale after coming to St. Piaf." Carter loaded the gun again and pointed it at Jeremy's heart. He glanced at Jeremy's bleeding calf again and laughed suddenly.

"It hurts, doesn't it? But this kind of pain will soon disappear because you will lose all of your senses very soon."

As he spoke, his eyes narrowed, and then his fingers pulled back.

"Jeremy, go to hell and atone for my son."

"Stop...!"

Just when Carter was about to shoot Jeremy in such a grandiose way and when Jeremy intended to dodge, an anxious voice came from above to stop him.

Carter's fingers stiffened suddenly. He raised his eyes to see Shirley in a wheelchair by the balcony on the second floor.

Shirley was looking at the scene unfolding in the courtyard downstairs nervously and worriedly.

"Carter, if you dare kill Jeremy, I'll jump down from here." Carter could hear Shirley's words clearly.

Carter frowned, visibly very displeased, but he did not pull the trigger again.

"You're like a stranger to me now," Shirley said with a touch of sarcasm. "I no longer commit those vile acts, so why do you have to step up and commit these acts that go against your conscience?"

"Is this against my conscience?" Carter sneered and raised his eyes to meet Shirley's gaze. "Shirley, do you really care about our dead child?"

Carter's question pained Shirley's heart. How could her heart not ache?

However, she truly had no choice. None at all. That child could not have been born.

Moreover, she had indirectly caused Adam and Cathy's deaths, and she had no intention to live, so she wanted to leave the world with her child.

She knew that she had been selfish in doing this, but she also knew clearly that, since the beginning, the child had been destined to not be born.

Shirley took a deep breath and held back her tears. "Carter, don't make excuses for your desire to fight for the right to rule. You're not making a move against Jeremy for our child. You are doing this for yourself. All this time, you don't love anyone. You only love yourself."

•••••

After hearing Shirley's words, Carter slowly lowered the gun he was holding.

She had said that he loved no one, only himself.

Only himself...

"Heh." A self deprecating smile appeared at the corner of Carter's mouth.

He slowly turned his face to look atJeremy. "Your woman still loves you subconsciously, and my woman is here to beg for mercy for you. Jeremy, sometimes you really make me envious."

Carter put the gun away.

"Send Mr. Whitman back to the guest room, then call Dr. Lane over to give Mr. Whitman a proper treatment. He is our honorable guest. If he were to be hurt again, I'd have you pay back twice."

Carter ordered his bodyguards and then raised his eyes to Shirley again.

"Are you satisfied now ?"

Shirley clenched her fists and pursed her lips.

"Carter, you don't have to put on an act for me. I know what you want to do."

"Yes, you do. You know everything about me. So don't you think about escaping from my sight!"

Married by Mistake -

Chapter 1940

Carter was a little frustrated the expression on his face seemed much more irritable. As soon as he finished speaking, he walked away angrily.

Although the bodyguard beside him was a little reluctant, he still had to take Jeremy back to the room for treatment as per Carter's orders.

Jeremy did not want to worsen his condition, so he followed the bodyguard to the guest room.

Soon after, Carter's family doctor arrived, and Shirley followed him into the room.

At this moment, Jeremy's face had become extremely pale. Weakened by the blood loss, he had passed out in bed.

Extremely worried, Shirley looked by the side. "Dr. Lane, how is it? Is his injury serious?"

Dr. Lane answered Shirley's question while treating Jeremy's wound.

"Miss Brown, there's no need to worry too much. His injury won't put his life in danger."

Of course, Shirley knew that this would not endanger Jeremy's life, but she was still worried.

"How long will it take for him to get better? Will it affect his ability to walk normally?"

"It certainly will," Dr. Lane replied frankly. "After all, this is a gunshot wound. If it's not handled properly, it may cause some complications. It may be difficult for him to walk normally for ten days to half a month, perhaps."

Shirley's expression grew more solemn upon hearing this answer.

If he could not walk for ten days to half a month, it would mean that Jeremy would be unable to successfully bring Eveline away.

Even if Eveline's hypnosis were broken, there was no way to leave St. Piaf smoothly.

"You seem worried about him." Carter's leisure voice drifted from above at this moment.

Shirley only then noticed that Carter was here.

Even with a change of clothes, he still looked elegant and handsome, but the coldness exuding from his presence was completely unfriendly and devoid of warmth.

Shirley did not answer him and merely stared ahead calmly.

Displeased, Carter glanced at Jeremy who was temporarily unconscious. He then raised his hands and pushed Shirley's wheelchair out of the room.

Shirley did not want to be pushed away by Carter, but she was unable to stop him.

"I won't do anything to you. You don't need to be so scared of me," Carter said mockingly. "Tomorrow, I will be registering my marriage with Eveline, but rest assured that she and I are only husband and wife in formality. She won't have any value once I've successfully obtained the right to rule."

Carter spoke in an extremely calm tone, completely indifferent about using Madeline.

Shirley was puzzled. Why on earth was Carter using Madeline, and how was Madeline related to his fight for the royal inheritance?

"So, when you had married Eveline publicly back then, was it also for the right to rule?" Shirley asked in confusion.

Carter did not nod, but he did not deny either. He merely smiled.

Knowing that she would not get the answer, Shirley stopped talking and allowed Carter to push her forward.

In the guest room.

After treating Jeremy's wound, the doctor left, and only then did Jeremy slowly opened his eyes.

He had not actually passed out, he merely did not want to further waste his remaining energy.

When Carter had come in and talked to Shirley, Jeremy could sense that Carter was jealous.

One could observe that Carter did have romantic feelings for Shirley.

Jeremy sorted out these relationships in his mind before sitting up slowly. However, halfway through, he saw that the door was suddenly pushed open slightly. Jeremy, uninterested in socializing with unnecessary people any further, wanted to lie back down and pretend to be unconscious. However, once the door was ajar, from the corner of his eyes, he caught a glimpse of the person wanted to see in his.

Married by Mistake -

Chapter 1941

"Linnie."

As Madeline entered, Jeremy softly called out to her, and his dim eyes turned bright again.

He immediately sat back up, but his movement was too large, and it affected his leg wound.

"Hiss."

He let out a muffled groan.

If it had been any other time, he would not even make a sound, but now that he saw Madeline, he instinctively yearned for her care and concern.

Madeline noticed Jeremy's action.

However, her expression was calm, and she did not react with any worry in response to Jeremy's discomfort.

It felt as if a bucket of ice water had been poured over Jeremy's eager and yearning heart. He felt very cold. Nevertheless, he had to comfort himself. If Madeline had not been hypnotized, and if she had not been instilled with some groundless ideas by Carter, she would have cared for him, and she would have cared very much.

When he saw Madeline walking toward him, Jeremy did not know how to break the silence that now enveloped them.

In his heart, he wanted to call her name again. He wanted to hold her hand, but he was afraid that she would be repelled by his reaction now that she was hypnotized.

He did not want her to reject him, to hate him.

Jeremy struggled in his heart and finally decided to let Madeline speak first.

However, Madeline's gaze did not seem to be on him. She looked around the room before turning her gaze on Jeremy.

"They told me Carter's here. Where is he?"

••••••

What Madeline said felt like a basin of cold water being poured into Jeremy's heart. His heart felt even colder than before.

It turned out that she had not come for him, let alone visit him out of concern for him.

She just came to find the man whom she now "loved" deeply.

Jeremy felt his heart aching. It was not a bone-etching pain, but it was even more distressing. He was distressed that she was being used by Carter like this.

"Mr. Gray just left," Jeremy said, parting his lips softly, as he endured the pain from the gunshot wound on his calf, propped up his hands, and sat down.

"So he's gone," Madeline said as if muttering to herself. After that, she turned her gaze on Jeremy again.

"You seem to be injured, Mr. Whitman. Then I won't interrupt your rest. You should recuperate properly." Madeline turned around after speaking.

When Jeremy saw Madeline leaving, he could not think of any way to make her stay at this moment. From the corner of his eyes, he glimpsed a glass of water on the nightstand, so he raised his hand and knocked the glass to the floor.

Thud.

The glass dropped on the floor; water splashed everywhere but the glass did not break.

Madeline also stopped in her tracks, as per Jeremy's expectations.

Madeline turned around and saw Jeremy using all his might to bend down and lean against the edge of the bed, trying to pick up the glass that fell on the floor. Without much hesitation, she walked over to the edge of the bed and squatted.

She reached over to pick up the glass. It was unclear if this was a coincidence, but Jeremy also reached out at the same time and he happened to touch her hand. Madeline's movements paused, not knowing whether Jeremy had done this on purpose.

"Sorry," Jeremy apologized. He never thought that he could be so crafty as well.

However, he truly had no other way to get Madeline's attention.

"It's fine," Madeline said as she naturally avoided Jeremy's hand to pick up the glass.

"Mr. Whitman, you look very weak. I'd better call a servant to take care of you." Madeline said and then left.

Jeremy suddenly lost control of himself and reached out to grab Madeline's wrist.

Madeline stopped abruptly and flung away Jeremy's hand in dissatisfaction.

"Mr. Whitman, what are you doing ?" she asked. Her beautiful and lively eyes were full of displeasure.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's angry eyes and lowered his eyes in sorrow.

"I'm sorry, Miss Montgomery. You just remind me of someone."

Jeremy's face betrayed his sadness, and his slender and deep almond eyes showed his boundless gloom.

Madeline had a feeling that Jeremy was not lying, so she was not that angry, but she merely asked curiously, "Who do I remind you of, Mr. Whitman?"

"You remind me of my wife." Jeremy met Madeline's eyes. "You might not believe it, but you look a lot like my beloved wife."

"Really ?" Madeline looked at Jeremy unsurely, but she thought his expression to be serious and sincere. "Do you have a picture of your wife ?"

"Of course." Jeremy, who had been waiting for Madeline to ask, took out his phone from his pocket, found the sweet picture of him and Madeline in the album, and then handed it to Madeline.

Madeline took the phone, and when she saw the photo displayed on the screen, a strange light flashed in her eyes. They were not similar, but rather, they were completely identical.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's current reaction, and he could guess what Madeline was thinking now.

But Linnie, this is you. There is no other person in this world who looks exactly like you. You have been, and always will be, unique.'

After looking at a few photos, Madeline paused as if in thought or her emotions had been stirred. She then handed the phone back and sighed sorrowfully.

"No wonder you said that I had a relationship with you earlier today. So, you mistook me for someone else? But shouldn't your wife live with you? How could you still mistake me for her?"

After listening to what Madeline said, Jeremy let out a dejected sigh. "My wife has been deceived by a devious man."

Upon hearing that, a hint of surprise flashed in Madeline's eyes, and the doubts in her eyes further deepened as if she was in thought.

"Mr. Whitman, are you trying to say that I'm your wife who has been deceived ?" Madeline asked tentatively.

Jeremy sighed in his heart. His Linnie was still a smart person. That was why she made such a connection. However, he could not say yes.

"I hope you are my wife, Miss Montgomery, so that I can take you home immediately."

"Then I hope that you're not making a mistake. I'm not your wife. If you continue to have this misunderstanding, I'm afraid it'll cause trouble for me and Carter. I hope you can have some self-respect"

As Madeline solemnly finished speaking, she inadvertently glanced at Jeremy's injured calf.

"You shouldn't get your wound wet for the moment. If you need anything, just ask for the maids in the house. Have a good rest"

"Thank you, Miss Montgomery," Jeremy thanked her, smiling slightly.

Without speaking further, Madeline started walking toward the door. However, when she reached the door, Madeline stopped and looked back at Jeremy.

When Jeremy saw her stopping, an expectant look appeared in Jeremy's eyes.

He felt that Madeline seemed to have something to say to him, so he took the initiative and asked, "Is there anything you want to say, Miss Montgomery?"

Jeremy stared intently into Madeline's charming eyes that looked as if they could speak.

Madeline also raised her eyes to meet his deep and charming almond eyes.

"Mr. Whitman," Madeline said, "You..."

"Eveline..."

Coincidentally, Carter appeared at this moment, interrupting Madeline halfway.

The expectant look in Jeremy's eyes instantly shattered. Carter stood at the entrance and turned to look at Jeremy who was sitting on the bed.

His eyes boar a cold and arrogant light, and the comers of his lips were slightly lifted. The are of his smile was dripping with brazen victory. Barely a few seconds later, Carter averted his gaze and then lowered his eyes to look at Madeline.

"Eveline, were you looking for me?" he asked softly. He sounded so gentle.

Jeremy, of course, could see that Carter was just putting on an act. However, even with the false tenderness, Carter was still such an eyesore to Jeremy.

Madeline nodded. "I've been looking for you. I want to discuss some details with you regarding tomorrow's wedding."

"I see. In that case, let's head back to the study to talk," Carter said as he raised his hand, pretending to hold Madeline's shoulder.

However, before he could touch her, he could see Jeremy's angry gaze from the comers of his eyes.

Carter let out a low chuckle. In the end, he did not put his hand on Madeline.

Madeline was unaware of this detail. Presently, she was thinking about what she had not said just now. When she turned around, she closed the door of the room. However, the moment she closed the door, her eyes still involuntarily met Jeremy's.

Madeline unexpectedly discovered that Jeremy's eyes looked exceptionally serious at that moment. There was also a subtle worry among his seriousness.

'He's worried. What is he worried about?'

Madeline could not wrap her head around this. As she pondered about it, Carter's voice came from one side.

"What do you want to discuss with me?" His tone still sounded very calm, but there was no longer the false tenderness of the previous moment.

Madeline glanced at Carter, then she parted her lips. "Mr. Whitman just showed me a few photos."

"Photos? What photos?" Carter asked curiously.

"Photos of him and his wife."

Upon hearing this, Carter slowed down his pace, but then, he quickly returned to his original pace.

"Hmm. He must have wanted to tell you that you look a lot like his wife, didn't he?"

Carter was testing her.

He observed Madeline's expression and saw her nodding gently.

"It turns out that there really could be people in this world who look so much like me. No wonder he made such jokes when he saw me," Madeline exclaimed.

Carter smiled. "What else did he tell you?"

When Madeline heard that, she recalled silently. The words Jeremy had said at the time sounded in her mind.

"My wife has been deceived by a devious man."

This sentence somehow lingered in Madeline's ear. Two seconds later, she smiled and softly said, "No, he didn't say anything else. He just said that his wife wasn't by his side for the time being, so he was a little surprised when he saw me."

"I see." Carter did not ask further and continued to walk to the study. Although he looked emotionless on the outside, he actually had some guesses in his heart.

After returning to the study, Carter and Madeline had some discussion about tomorrow's wedding and then Madeline left first.

After Madeline left, Carter picked up the phone and pressed a button. "Come here."

He used a commanding tone, and before long, his entourage came into his study.

"What do you need, Mr. Carter?"

Carter picked up the tablet in front of him and glanced at it coldly.

"Are you sure that everything on-site is ready for tomorrow?"

"Mr. Carter, please rest assured that everything has been properly arranged. I have checked twice. There will be no problems."

The entourage guaranteed him. Carter, quite satisfied, tapped the screen of the tablet with his fingers.

"What about Jeremy ?" he asked again.

The entourage frowned and then promised, "Even if he were to show up tomorrow, he wouldn't be able to change what would happen."

"Okay." Carter was completely satisfied. "Make certain that there are no mistakes."

"There won't be any."

"Very good."

As soon as Carter had finished speaking, Camille walked in from the study's entrance. Carter gave the entourage a look, and the entourage left tactfully.

Camille walked to the desk "Is everything ready?"

"Yes, we'll just wait for tomorrow's wedding. This time, there will be no mistakes."

Camille frowned when she heard what Carter said. "This time? Does that mean that the last engagement..."

"Yes, I have taken a fancy to Eveline's identity from the beginning. Not only can she be used to contain Jeremy, but she also has a high value."

Upon hearing this, Camille was silent for a while.

Carter noticed the change in Camille's expression, and he stood up. "Do you also think that I would do anything to achieve my goal?"

Camille gently shook her head when she heard that. "It's not an easy road, so if there's a shortcut, it might not be a bad idea."

"I'm glad that you agree with me," Carter said with a sigh. "You are the only one who agrees with me now."

"What about Shirley?" Camille asked about Shirley.

Carter's face turned a little unpleasant. "She's still the same."

Camille understood what Carter meant. "Let's do it for now. Her heart is also aching. The child..."

"The reason the child died was because of Jeremy," Carter interrupted Camille, anger shooting out from his eyes.

Camille could feel Carter's hatred for Jeremy, but she still persuaded him.

"I know that, right now, you hate Jeremy, but I still don't want you to do anything irrational." Camille was finally relieved.

At this moment, a figure stood by the door. After listening to these words in the study, they quietly turned and walked away...

Shirley came up to the second floor using the lift. She was about to go back to her room when she ran into Madeline who was standing on the balcony at the end of the corridor.

Shirley casually dismissed the maid who was following Shirley, then Shirley moved her wheelchair and slowly approached behind Madeline.

Madeline heard sounds, so she looked back and saw Shirley. She then gave Shirley a friendly smile.

"Hello, Miss Brown."

Shirley sighed ruefully when she heard Madeline addressing her that way. If Madeline were normal, she would never call Shirley that.

Shirley smiled. She then boldly met Madeline's clear and smart eyes.

"Eveline, do you really have no impression of me?"

Madeline looked at Shirley seriously, and then said, "Of course, you are Carter's friend."

"No, I'm not just his friend."

Not just his friend.

After hearing Shirley's words, Madeline stayed silent for two seconds. She then said doubtfully, "Do you mean..."

"I had a romantic relationship with him, and I was pregnant with his child," Shirley said bluntly, boldly looking into Madeline's eyes.

She observed a flash of surprise in Madeline's eyes. She knew that Madeline might not believe what she said, but Shirley continued.

"Since I had committed too many sins with him, that was why... There was no way for that child to come into this world." When she said this, Shirley's eyes turned red against her volition. Whenever Shirley thought about that child, she would still have a clear and bone etching pain.

Madeline frowned as she quietly listened and thought. Her groom to be had such a relationship with the woman in front of her.

Madeline thought silently, but she did not feel disappointed at all.

After a while, Madeline spoke. Her voice was feeble, and there was even a smile on her gentle and beautiful face.

"Miss Brown, did you come here just to tell me this?" Shirley recollected her thoughts after hearing that. She also chuckled slightly when she saw that Madeline was faintly smiling at her.

"Eveline, do you know? Right now, your consciousness is no longer your own. Your thoughts are currently under Carter's complete control because he has hypnotized you."

Shirley looked regretfully and helplessly at Madeline's calm face.

"I actually can give it a try. But I know that you won't believe what I say now."

"Well, you're wrong," Madeline said and smiled slightly.

Shirley was stunned when she heard this answer. She looked at Madeline in confusion, "What did you say?"

"What I want to say is that I believe you."

"Y-You believe what I said?" Shirley was very surprised. She had never expected that Madeline would believe her.

Was this real?

She was somewhat uncertain, and then she heard Madeline speak again, "You just said you can give it a try. What do you want to try?"

Upon hearing this, Shirley came back to her senses.

She glanced vigilantly behind her. Once she had confirmed that no one was coming, she approached Madeline, raised her eyes to meet Madeline's gaze, and then whispered...

Madeline seemed to hesitate after hearing Shirley's words.

Shirley felt a little nervous when she saw Madeline's hesitation.

"Eveline, are you really willing to believe me?"

Madeline looked at Shirley's expectant eyes and said nothing.

Shirley's heart sank. She felt that Madeline was just messing with her.

How could a hypnotized person have her own thoughts?

However, Shirley wanted to try again. She wanted to try to convince Madeline to believe her, but at this moment, Shirley heard the familiar footsteps approaching her from behind.

"Carter," Madeline called out softly behind Shirley.

Shirley frowned slightly. Carter was indeed here.

As soon as Carter got out of the study, he saw this scene on the balcony. He walked over quickly because he wanted to know what Shirley was saying to Madeline.

He knew that Shirley would keep going against him. Although he had hypnotized Madeline, he did not want anything unexpected to happen.

He could not let Shirley tell Madeline about the hypnosis.

"Eveline, are you chatting with my friend?" Carter approached with a gentle smile and called Shirley his friend.

Shirley raised her eyes and looked at him calmly. She then turned the direction of the wheelchair around and left without saying a word.

With a faint smile on his handsome face, Carter looked as if he did not care, but his eyes were staring at Shirley's back.

"Miss Brown seems to be in a bad mood," Madeline said, breaking the silence.

Carter silently retracted his gaze. "What did you guys talk about just now ?"

Madeline lifted her clear and alluring eyes to meet Carter's deep eyes. "It's nothing. Miss Brown was here to give us her blessings, but she also said something hypnosis, and I didn't understand what it meant."

"Hypnosis?" Carter repeated that word, looking a little confused, then smiled. "I think she might have wanted to tell you that I know hypnosis."

"Do you? Why don't I have any impression of that at all?" Madeline raised her hand and lightly tapped her temple.

"Eveline, are you feeling unwell ?" Carter asked with concern.

Madeline frowned. "I'm a little dizzy. [want to rest for a while."

Carter glanced at his watch. "We'll be having a light meal with my family at the hotel in the evening. There's still some time now, so you should go back to the room and rest for a while. I'll take care of tomorrow's wedding."

"Okay." Madeline nodded and headed back to her room without speaking further.

As Madeline left, Carter's attention seemed to be focused on Madeline's figure for a while, and his sharp eyebrows gradually knitted together as he thought. He went straight to Shirley's room and domineeringly pushed the door open.

Shirley, who seemed to know he was coming, gave him a calm look.

"If you want to say anything, just spit it out. I' m going to rest," Shirley said coldly.

Carter walked up to her. Even though he was somewhat unhappy, his expression and tone were still calm in front of Shirley.

"I'm doing this so that I could successfully get the royal inheritance. I'm not only doing this for me but also for you."

"Heh." Shirley laughed sarcastically and her contemptuous eyes glanced across Carter's face.

"Do you think I'd believe what you said? Do you think it's credible? Carter, you only love yourself."

"I know who I love," Carter emphasized

Shirley looked away. "You're done talking. You can go now."

"I'm not finished." Carter bent slightly and brought his handsome face before Shirley's. "You can continue to hate me, but at this time, I don't want you to say something to Eveline that you shouldn't say."

Shirley did not even bat an eyelid upon hearing that.

"Are you done now ?"

"Shirley..."

"If you are done, leave. I don't want to see you."

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There was some reluctance in Carter's eyes, but Shirley did not even look at him. Carter could only leave.

After hearing the door closed, Shirley raised her head and stared blankly at the direction Carter had left. She stayed there silently for a long time, and for a long time, she did not return to her senses.

Knock, knock, knock.

After some time, Shirley heard someone knocking on the door.

Normally, the servants and Carter would come inside directly, so Shirley did not know who would be knocking on the door so politely.

She came back to her senses, came to the door, and raised her hand to open the door.

Shirley opened the door and was a little surprised to see the person standing in the doorway.

"Eveline, you..."

"Surprised ?"

Madeline, smiling slightly, lifted her right hand and loosened her clenched fist, then a small object fell out of her palm, but the chain connected to it did not let the object fall to the ground.

"This should be the prop you had told me just now ?" Madeline asked.

Shirley looked at the nostalgic pocket watch swaying in front of her, her thoughts drifting slightly.

She was still surprised. "You really went to find it."

Madeline nodded then stepped into Shirley's room. "I did say I believe you."

Shirley was taken aback for a moment, and then an unspeakable feeling crept into her heart.

"Can we start giving it a try now ?" Madeline asked as she passed handed the pocket watch to Shirley.

Shirley, somewhat excited, lifted her hand to take the pocket watch.

"Thank you for trusting in me up until this point," Shirley said gratefully. Her eyes then suddenly became firm. "Now, we can start." As she spoke, she locked the door to the room, preventing anyone from suddenly coming in and interrupting.

Jeremy had been lying in bed to rest his eyes this whole time. Deep down, he was worried about Madeline, but his current condition did not allow him to act rashly. Regardless, he was still feeling restless. When he was about to get up, the room's doorknob turned slightly, and then the door opened and a maid came in.

Jeremy recognized this maid. This was the maid who had stopped him from entering Shirley's room earlier, the maid whose attitude toward him seemed to improve because of his appearance.

Seeing that Jeremy was awake, the maid approached him with a sweet smile on her face. "Mr. Whitman, you're awake."

The voice of the maid was sweet, and her tone was very friendly.

"Back then, I didn't know that you were a friend of Mr. Carter. If I offended you, I hope you won't take it to heart. I heard that you were injured, so I came here to see you. I've exchanged shifts with my friend, so I'll be taking care of you these few days."

When the maid said this, one could tell that she sounded very happy. It seems that taking care of jeremy was a very pleasurable thing for her.

Of course, with Jeremy's observational power, he had already seen that the maid was interested in him. He did not want to pay any attention to her, let alone care about it, but the maid very diligent served him tea.

She even brought him food and initiated a conversation.

"Mr. Whitman, I made these snacks by myself. You can try it. You can only go to Mr. Carter's wedding tomorrow once you've gotten your energy back."

Jeremy wanted to give the maid a silent treatment, but when she said that, Jeremy turned his head and glanced at the snack that the maid handed over. He then slowly lifted his hand and picked up a piece of pastry from the plate.

Seeing that Jeremy had accepted the snack she made, the maid was very happy, and she handed Jeremy some tea.

"Thank you," Jeremy thanked her. "Just leave it there. I'll drink it when I'm thirsty," he declined with a considerably calm tone.

The maid smiled, nodding, and then put the glass away.

"Mr. Whitman, please tell me if you need anything else," the maid said with an expectant face.

Jeremy, holding the snack, calmly parted his lips seemingly and asked, "Where will Mr. Carter's wedding be held tomorrow ?"

The maid replied without hesitation, "It's at the Royal Palace of St. Piaf. Wasn't it written on Mr. Whitman's wedding invitation?"

"Of course, it was. I just wanted to confirm it," Jeremy quickly responded with a reasonable answer.

The maid did not have any doubts, and instead, she praised, "Mr. Whitman, you are so careful. But your leg injury is very serious. If you go to the wedding tomorrow, you'll still have to be careful."

"Thank you for the reminder. I will pay attention to it." Jeremy politely thanked the maid again. When he noticed that the maid had been looking at him with joy, he looked away indifferently.

"I heard that Mr. Carter had just gotten married a few months ago, so why is he getting married again so soon?"

When the maid heard that, her expression changed slightly. Fearfully, she glanced at the door and then lowered her voice to speak

"The last woman was named Ada, and Mr. Carter didn't like her at all. I heard that Mr. Carter and her were merely married for show. As for this time..."

The maid furrowed her eyebrows. She looked confused as well.

"This Eveline is very beautiful. I heard that she's from Glendale, and her family is rich and pretty reputable. Mr. Carter seems to like her very much." The maid paused for a while before continuing.

"I also heard that Mr. Carter was going to marry Eveline a few months ago, but at the wedding, some man, a troublemaker, appeared out of nowhere and took Eveline away."

As Jeremy listened to the maid's words, the comers of his lips seemed to curve upwards.

The maid obviously did not know that the man, the troublemaker, was Jeremy. Furthermore, she seemed to have heard everything she knew from others, which showed that she was probably a new maid who was hired much later on.

"Something like this happened, huh?" Jeremy sighed casually. "Did you know that Mr. Carter is a hypnotist and that he's also very knowledgeable about psychology?"

"I knew this before I came here and became a maid," the maid said proudly. "Actually, I was fortunate enough to have witnessed Mr. Carter's lecture when I was in school. He is really the youngest, most handsome, and most knowledgeable professor I've ever seen!"

The maid had an admirable look on her face, but Jeremy was not here to listen to these compliments. He wanted to know more about the wedding tomorrow because he would definitely not let the wedding go smoothly.

"Are you interested in Mr. Carter's business, Mr. Whitman ?" the maid asked as she raised her slightly flushed and smiling face, starring earnestly at Jeremy.

"I'm just curious about what the wedding of the noble children of St. Piaf looks like," Jeremy replied casually.

"Oh." The maid nodded. "I don't know the specifics, but I know Mr. Carter will take Eveline to meet the Grays tonight."

"Tonight? When?" Jeremy captured the main point.

"They'll be leaving at about seven o'clock," the maid told Jeremy the details she knew without hesitation.

Jeremy's heart tightened, and then his eyebrows furrowed. He put down the snack in his hand, feeling a little tired. "I'm a little tired. I want to rest for a while."

The maid got up immediately. "If that's the case, Mr. Whitman, you should have a good rest. just call me if you need any help."

"Okay," Jeremy faintly replied, and with an unwavering gaze, he nonchalantly watched the maid leave the room.

The moment the door closed, Jeremy endured the pain from the gunshot wound on his calf and sat up. He had hurt one of his calves, but he still had another leg. He could not continue lying in bed and let the situation develop in the direction Carter wanted.

He opened the door out of the room to discuss something with Shirley, but when he walked out of the door, he ran into Madeline head on.

'Linnie.'

Jeremy called Madeline's name in his heart, for he feared that it would make the current Madeline feel uncomfortable if he said it out loud.

After recomposing himself, Jeremy smiled softly and said, "Miss Montgomery, we meet again."

Madeline met Jeremy's gaze and glanced at his injured calf again.

"Mr. Whitman, you're injured, so why aren't you resting in your room?"

Jeremy's heart felt warm. "Are you concerned for me, Miss Montgomery ?"

After he said that, Madeline's expression seemed to grow a little serious. "Mr. Whitman, you seem to like cracking jokes, but I don't think it's funny at all. You're an injured patient, yet you're walking around instead of following the doctor's instructions to recuperate. It's very hard to like you this way."

Madeline's attitude was very cold, and there was even a hint of fierceness. She then continued.

"Mr. Whitman, you behave as if you care very much about your who-knows-where wife, but have you ever wondered how your wife would feel if she knew that you were walking around injured?"

Hearing this, the smile on Jeremy's face gradually dissipated.

He stated at Madeline's sharp and solemn gaze, and then he also became serious. "My wife would be heartbroken if she knew I was injured."

"That's right, then you should go back to the room and continue to lie down. Don't let people who care about you worry about you."

Madeline turned to the side as she said that. She then helped Jeremy open the door.

"I can send you back to the room."

Madeline did not seem to give Jeremy a chance to refuse at all.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's stern and solemn expression and he dared not resist at that moment. He could only obediently turn around and return to the room.

"Are you going to dinner with Carter later?" Jeremy asked, pretending to be curious while looking at Madeline from the corner of his eyes.

Madeline quickly replied, "Yes, I'll be going with Carter to have a light meal with his family later."

Jeremy's sharp eyebrows furrowed slightly when he heard the words. He wanted to say, 'Linnie, don't go.'

However, he could not say that. Jeremy sat back on the bed. Madeline caught glimpse of the untouched snacks and tea on the bedside cabinet, and her eyebrows seemed to furrow.

"Mr. Whitman, eat something. You have lost too much blood. You need to replenish your energy."

Just after Madeline had finished speaking, there was the sound of footsteps at the door. The maid from earlier came back again. The maid saw Madeline standing in front of Jeremy's bed at this moment.

"Miss Montgomery, I'm so sorry. I'm responsible for taking care of Mr. Whitman. Please do not fault me for my negligence."

The maid apologized repeatedly and immediately fetched a drink for Jeremy.

The tea was still warm, and the maid actively brought it to Jeremy.

"Mr. Whitman, eat something. If you are hungry, it'll be my dereliction of duty."

The maid picked up the pastry again as she spoke.

"You're injured now, and you have lost so much blood. You just need to replenish a bit of your energy, so don't throw a tantrum, okay? Hurry up and eat some. Come on."

The maid raised her hand and brought the snack in her hand to Jeremy' s mouth.

What she said just now was almost the same as what Madeline had just said.

In the face of such an enthusiastic maid, Jeremy's first thought was to avoid her.

However, at this time, he heard Madeline speak. "Mr. Whitman, since this maid is so passionate and caring. Eat some. Don't disappoint her."

Jeremy did not know if he was imagining things. Why did he feel that Madeline sounded jealous at the moment?

When the maid had heard what Madeline said, a slight flush appeared on both sides of her cheeks as if from shyness.

"Mr. Whitman, just eat some for the sake of your own body," the maid persuaded again, blinking her big shiny eyes.

Jeremy glanced at Madeline and took the glass from the maid's hand.

"Thank you, I will do it myself."

"Mr. Whitman, you don't have to be polite with me. It's my job to take care of you," the maid said with a shy expression and then got up to face Madeline.

"Miss Montgomery, don' t worry. I'll take good care of Mr. Whitman. I heard that you'll be going to the hotel with Mr. Carter for a light meal soon, so I won't take your time."

The maid sounded like she was dismissing Madeline. Madeline nodded and smiled. "Then, I won't disturb Mr. Whitman from his meal," she said as she turned around.

"Miss Montgomery, be careful on your way out." The maid smiled and watched Madeline leave.

Jeremy's gaze lingered on Madeline's back figure. However, the maid quickly stepped forward and blocked his view.

"Mr. Whitman, eat." She was buttering him up with a smile on her face.

Initially, Jeremy had no appetite and did not want to accept the maid's kindness, but he suddenly thought of what Madeline had just said.

He must rest well and recuperate.

Madeline walked out of the door and, as she closed the door, looked up at Jeremy who was eating. The corners of her beautiful lips seemingly curled up before closing the door.

From the corners of his eyes, Jeremy spotted Madeline's smile. He did not quite understand why Madeline smiled, but he felt a sense of comfort in his heart.

'Linnie is smiling at me, right?'

Jeremy thought silently, and suddenly, he tasted the food in his mouth again.

At around seven o'clock in the evening, Carter returned, picked up Madeline, and went to the most luxurious hotel in St. Piaf.

Madeline was arranged to sit beside Carter. She did not know any of these people except Camille and Carter.

Carter gently and humbly introduced everyone to her one by one. These people were all his immediate family members, and they all had noble status.

However, Madeline did not feel harmony and warmth among his relatives.

Presently, Madeline heard one of the middle-aged women adorned in luxury wearables and heavy make up casting a doubtful eye at her.

"Carter, if I remember correctly, you seemed to be marrying this young lady a few months ago, but then, in the middle of the wedding..."

"Cough, cough."

The woman did not get to finish her words as the man sitting next to her coughed twice, deliberated interrupting her. The man then raised his wine glass and congratulated Carter with a smile on his face.

"Tomorrow, Carter will marry Miss Montgomery. Let's wish Carter and Miss Montgomery happiness in advance tonight."

When he finished speaking, other people around the table also raised their glasses to give their blessings. However, almost none of these people were sincere.

Carter knew how many people coveted the position of royal inheritance. He was bound to win this time, and he would not allow any more mistakes.

The uncle who was sitting on the side, his faced red from drunkenness, congratulated Carter.

"Then, while we're at it, I shall also congratulate Carter for becoming the new monarch of St. Piaf."

The man had just finished congratulating Carter when a disappointed voice came behind them.

"You're congratulating him a little too soon."

Madeline looked up and saw a tall man wearing limited edition sportswear with a tote bag strapped diagonally across his broad shoulders. He looked as if he had just returned from exercising.

This man seemed to be in his twenties. His features were defined and resolute, and he looked very handsome too. Nevertheless, this handsome man also looked like a frivolous yuppie. Overall, he looked like an unruly hedonist.

Madeline took another look at the man and realized that the expression in the man's eyes looked similar to Carter's.

It seemed that he should be Carter's cousin.

After a while, the man walked up beside Madeline, curled the corners of his thin lips into a frivolous smile, and introduced himself, as expected.

"Hi, future cousin-in-law. This is the first time we have met. I am Carter's cousin, Jim."

Jim Gray.

Madeline digested this name and found that it was foreign.

She stood up with a slight smile and politely extended her hand in a friendly greeting. "Hello, I am Eveline Montgomery."

"Eveline." Jim seemed to be thinking about the name carefully, and then, with a cynical grin, he reached out to hold Madeline's hand. "The name Eveline sounds beautiful, but it doesn't match Carter's name very well."

After saying that with a grin, he let go, started walking toward the woman resplendent with jewels from earlier, and sat down.

The woman looked at Jim with a beaming grin. "Jimmy, have you finished playing? Are you tired? Have a drink first."

"Thank you, mom." Jim thanked her politely.

"I'm your mother, why are you thanking me?" the woman said to Jim with a smile. The smile on her face was extremely bright."

It turned out that this woman was Jim's mother, so no wonder she had snapped at Carter just now.

It seemed that Carter would not get the position of the royal inheritance so easily.

"I think you must be tired from playing ball just now, Jimmy, for you to say such a mindless thing. Whether two of us are a match isn't based on our names. Eveline and I will be having our wedding tomorrow. It's inappropriate for you to say that."

Carter only spoke now. Despite the slight smile on his face, one could see that he was quite dissatisfied.

Madeline turned her head and smiled lightly at Carter. "Carter, I think Jim was just joking. I don't mind, so don't take it to heart."

"My future cousin-in-law is so generous," Jim praised Madeline. "I'm certainly a little tired from playing, but my mind is very clear."

Jim sounded like he was joking, but suddenly his tone became somewhat thought provoking.

"If someone thinks that getting a wife can help him win the right of inheritance, that'll be such a brainless behavior."

Jim said and cast his gaze to Carter.

"Carter, do you think I'm right?"

It was clear that he was talking about Carter, and the displeased look was evident on Carter's icy face.

Just as Carter was about to speak, Camille raised her hand and gently touched Carter's arm, which seemed to calm Carter down. Carter did not speak, but he merely smiled slightly instead.

At this moment, Camille said, "Jimmy, this matter is about the royal inheritance. It's pointless for us to discuss further since the decision is in the hands of the higher-ups."

"Aunty Cammy is right." Jim smiled and nodded in agreement. "So, those people better not use some improper means to fight for this position again. They can do it once, but this doesn't mean they can do it again."

Jim's words clearly meant Carter's previous marriage with Ada.

Madeline saw Carter's fingers bending one by one. It seemed that Carter was holding back the anger in his heart, and he was close to losing his cool.

Jim's mother noticed Carter's displeasure, and the smile on her face grew bigger. However, Jim ate and drank the glass of wine in his hand, his face not betraying much emotions.

It could be said that they ended this dinner in displeasure.

On the way back, the atmosphere in the car was tense.

Madeline glanced at the night view outside the car window, then she turned to look at Carter, who had a grim look on his face.

"Carter, the guy named Jim had kept targeting you at the dinner table. Is there a grudge between you two?"

Although Carter was in a bad mood at the moment, he restrained his anger and replied in a gentle voice, "He's my cousin, and he also intends to fight for the royal inheritance."

"I see. No wonder he always targets you, especially his mother."

"That woman." Carter sneered in disdain, and then his gaze lit up and he stated straight at Madeline's face.

Madeline blinked suspiciously. "Carter, what's the matter?"

"Eveline, you must listen to me. Tomorrow, you must do what I tell you to do."

Carter urged, his expression was serious. Madeline nodded obediently. "Of course. I'll do what you say."

Carter was quite satisfied with this answer, but he was not at ease yet.

He reached out to touch his jacket pocket but did not find what he was looking for.

When the car arrived at the manor, Carter asked Madeline to follow him back to the study. As soon as he entered the room, he rummaged through the desk, searching for something.

Madeline merely stood by and watched, smiling slightly and not speaking.

In the end, Carter found what he was looking for in the drawer. It was the pocket watch he had used to hypnotize Madeline.

Yes, he was not at ease.

That was why he decided to hypnotize Madeline again and instruct her to do things.

"Eveline, look at this pocket watch seriously."

Carter hypnotized Madeline directly because he knew that after being deeply hypnotized, Madeline was considered to have lost her own thoughts and opinions, so she would definitely follow his instructions.

Sure enough, Madeline was very obedient. Her gaze shifted onto the pocket watch, staring attentively. Carter's lips twitched slightly, followed by a series of routine hypnotic operations.

Finally, he began to give his order.

"Eveline, there can be no mistakes at tomorrow's wedding. So, you must remember the following three points."

"First, you and I are lovers who love each other. You voluntarily marry me and become my wife."

"Second, no matter what others say or do, you must stand on my side, and you must let everyone know how powerful your family is."

"Third and most importantly..."

Carter emphasized.

"You have to remember that you are pregnant with the child of the Gray family."

It seemed that this was the most important thing.

After instructing her, Carter looked at Madeline who was looking at him dully, waiting for her to answer.

In the next second, Carter heard Madeline answering him obediently.

"I remember."

Carter was finally relieved. He ended the hypnosis, asked Madeline to rest her eyes, and then went back to the state he was before he hypnotized her.

More than ten minutes later, Madeline opened her eyes. She looked at the empty study and got up slowly.

After Madeline got up, she glanced around. Carter was no longer in the study. He had left her to rest on the sofa alone.

Madeline stood there as if she was thinking about something for a while. She remembered the three things Carter had briefed her not long ago. It was more like an order than a briefing

A moment later, Madeline left the study. When she passed by the room where Jeremy was in, she involuntarily slowed down.

Coincidentally, the door to the guest room was open. Madeline saw that Carter's family doctor was changing Jeremy's wound dressing, and the maid who was in charge of taking care of Jeremy was being very intimate with him.

Madeline stopped and looked at the scene seemingly calmly.

"Dr. Lane, is Mr. Whitman's wound healing well? Will there be any sequelae?" the maid asked, very concerned about Jeremy's injury.

The doctor laughed when he heard that "Mr. Whitman only got his injury today. How could it be possible that there will be signs of healing so soon? As for whether there will be any sequelae, it is still unclear."

"I see..." The maid raised her eyebrows, her face full of sadness. "Dr. Lane, you're quite skilled in medicine, so you have to help Mr. Whitman. He is such a perfect and outstanding man, so you can't let anything happen to his leg."

Jeremy actually wanted to interrupt them a long time ago as he listened to the maid's concern and worry. However, to find out more about Madeline and Carter's wedding tomorrow, he could only endure it.

It was just that when he inadvertently lifted his eyes, he was met with Madeline's big and charming eyes.

"Linnie."

The word naturally came out of Jeremy's thin lips.

When the maid heard this, she repeated suspiciously, "Linnie?"

Curious, she then followed Jeremy's gaze and saw Madeline standing at the entrance to the room.

"Miss Montgomery."

Seeing that everyone in the room noticed her, Madeline smiled kindly and walked in.

"Miss Montgomery," the maid greeted respectfully. Madeline nodded slightly and walked to the bed.

When Dr. Lane saw Madeline coming, he also spoke kindly and courteously, "Miss Montgomery."

"Dr. Lane."

Madeline also greeted him politely and then she asked. "Dr. Lane, how is Mr. Whitman's injury? If you can, I hope you can try to heal Mr. Whitman's leg injury as soon as possible. After all, Mr. Whitman was injured in Carter's home, and I don't want Mr. Whitman to go home with his injuries after attending me and Carter's wedding. That would be too improper."

After Madeline said that, she turned her gaze to Jeremy, who had been paying attention to her this whole time.

"Mr. Whitman, you can rest assured that I'll ensure that no matter what, you can attend our wedding in one piece, and I'll let you go home in one piece."

Upon hearing Madeline's promise and looking at her clear eyes, deep down, Jeremy suddenly felt at ease. He curled his lips at Madeline and smiled softly.

"With your promise, I believe I'll be able to go home in one piece, Miss Montgomery."

As he said that, he added another sentence meaningfully.

"But I won't be going back alone. I'll be going back with the woman who is important to me."

As soon as Jeremy finished saying this, the maid beside him blushed quietly.

Obviously, she was thinking too much. She thought that the woman Jeremy was talking about was her.

'So this is love at first sight.'

The maid thought gleefully in her heart and immediately spoke.

"Miss Montgomery, don't worry. Until Mr. Whitman has fully recovered, I will do my best to take care of him in the meantime!"

The maid was confident. When she said this, she did not forget to glance at Jeremy a few times shyly.

Jeremy caught sight of the maid's gaze and knew that the maid was very fond of him, but he did not want Madeline to misunderstand, even if she was not herself now.

"Miss, you're too kind. Actually, my injury doesn't matter. I don't need you to take care of me this diligently. I'm already an adult, and I can take care of myself. You don't have to worry about me."

When the maid heard this, the blush and shyness on her face gradually faded away. She looked at Jeremy with disbelief.

"Mr. Whitman, you're saying..."

"There is no other meaning. I just want to rest here by myself. I think I will heal faster this way."

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The last glimmer of expectation in the maid's eyes was shattered. "Mr. Whitman, why do you say that? You just said you'll bring the most important woman to you back home after you're healed."

"I did," Jeremy replied calmly. "But this woman will never be you. I've known you for less than a day, so what important connection do you think you have with me? I hope you won't overthink."

As Jeremy said that, his gaze naturally shifted to Madeline's face. He did not say anything. A smile spread from the corners of his lips.

After listening to Jeremy's words, the maid, disappointed, pressed her lips into a thin line, and she also felt a burning embarrassment on her face. However, as a woman, she also has a keen sixth sense. She noticed that Jeremy was looking deeply at Madeline when he was speaking.

'Was Mr. Whitman talking about Miss Montgomery? If so, it'd be too ridiculous!'

The maid thought in her heart. When she saw that Madeline seemed to be watching Jeremy right now, she spoke a little sullenly.

"Miss Montgomery, you will be marrying Mr. Carter tomorrow, so you should go back and rest early so that you can attend tomorrow's wedding in your best condition. I will take care of Mr. Whitman over here. Don't worry."

"I'm relieved to have you take care of Mr. Whitman," Madeline answered. "Dr. Lane, I'll entrust Mr. Whitman's injuries to you."

Dr. Lane smiled and nodded, telling Madeline to rest assured.

Madeline did not stay long. She then turned around and left.

"Miss Montgomery," Jeremy suddenly called out to Madeline.

Madeline stopped and turned to look at Jeremy.

Jeremy stared at her. A look of love and affection quietly flowed out of his deep almond eyes.

"I sincerely wish you a happy life with your loved one, Miss Montgomery."

"Thank you," Madeline smiled and thanked him. "I also wish you can find your wife soon and bring her home."

"Of course, I will definitely bring her home," Jeremy looked at Madeline and promised.

The maid on the side saw everything. She kept feeling that Madeline and Jeremy were flirting with each other, but she did not have the guts to say it out loud. Vexed, her mouth twitched.

When she saw Madeline walking out, the maid followed closely.

"Miss Montgomery," The maid called out to Madeline.

Puzzled, Madeline stopped. "Is something wrong?"

The maid looked at Madeline's beautiful small face and asked somewhat unhappily, "Miss Montgomery, can I ask you a question?"

Madeline could see that the maid seemed a bit displeased with Madeline, but the maid still gave her a friendly smile peacefully.

"What do you want to know?"

"I want to ask if you and Mr. Whitman have known each other before ?" the maid asked very directly.

Madeline pursed her lips and smiled. "Why do you have such a question?"

"Oh, it's nothing. I just feel that the way you look at Mr. Whitman is very different." There seemed to be some hidden message in the maid's words. The maid then continued, "Miss Montgomery, you will be married to Mr. Carter tomorrow."

Madeline nodded. "I know."

The maid also smiled suddenly. "So, please give others a chance, Miss Montgomery. Don't flirt with men other than Mr. Carter. You look so beautiful. Men will fall for you very easily."

This was completely tactless and very strongly laced with jealousy. However, Madeline was not angry. She merely smiled carefreely.

"Did I flirt with other men? Can you clarify this? I don't quite understand."

"You don't?" The maid looked at Madeline with suspicion and then said straightforwardly, "I like Mr. Whitman, and I hope to develop a relationship with him."

Madeline knew that this maid had fallen in love with Jeremy at first sight, but she still put on a look as if Madeline had come to a realization.

"I see. So you like Mr. Whitman. But there is something Ihave to tell you. Mr. Whitman is married, and he has a wife."

"A wife ?" The maid looked surprised. "How could it be ? If Mr. Whitman has a wife, why didn't he bring his wife to the wedding ?"

"His wife may not have time to come." Madeline gave a reason.

The maid shook her head in denial. "No, usually men will bring their most beloved woman to attend such occasions."

"While that is usually the case, it is not absolute," Madeline explained again.

However, the maid frowned and looked at Madeline a little unhappily, completely unafraid of offending Madeline.

"Miss Montgomery, it seems that you don't want me and Mr. Whitman to start a relationship."

"I just don't want you to waste your feelings and time on a man who's his heart is set on someone else."

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Upon hearing this, the maid curled her lips as she became even more dissatisfied. "Thank you for caring, Miss Montgomery. I can judge for myself," the maid said and walked away angrily. She had such a huge temper.

Madeline just smiled indifferently. Just as she was about to leave, she saw Shirley coming over in a wheelchair from the other side of the corridor. She and Shirley looked at each other. When Madeline was about to speak, she noticed that Shirley's face changed slightly, and then she heard familiar footsteps coming from behind.

Carter was here.

"Eveline, why are you standing here? You should rest early because you have to get up early tomorrow."

Madeline lifted her eyes and looked at Carter for two seconds, and then she nodded gently. "I'll head back to the room and rest, then. You should go to bed earlier too."

"I will." Carter smiled lightly. He looked like such a gentle and elegant man.

Madeline smiled and turned away quickly.

Carter watched as Madeline went back to her room, then he turned sideways.

At this moment, Shirley had ignored him and turned away; Carter then chased after her.

Shirley returned to her room but did not close the door, knowing that Carter would follow her. Indeed, Carter came and closed the door.

Carter walked slowly to the edge of the balcony where Shirley was. She was looking at the scenery ahead indifferently.

"Are you here to tell me some nonsense again?" Shirley was the first to speak. Her tone was cold and laced with mockery.

Carter also lifted his eyes and looked at the deep blue night sky, where the moon was shining very brightly in the sky.

"I'm already making the arrangements for our future. I won't make you wait too long," Carter promised.

Unmoved by this, Shirley changed the direction of the wheelchair and moved towards the bed.

"Okay, Mr. Gray, I heard you. You can go back now. I am going to sleep."

Listening to Shirley's nonchalant words, Carter looked back at her with narrowed eyes.

"I know it's hard for you to believe what I just said and to forget the deaths of Adam and Cathy, but in any case, no one can change my relationship with you."

Every word that came out of Carter's mouth sounded unusually sonorous and powerful. However, Shirley turned a deaf ear to what he said. She was even more indifferent now.

Carter did not want to court yet another rebuff, so he left.

As soon as he got out of the room, he called a maid to help Shirley to go to bed.

He wanted to carry her to bed, but he knew very well that Shirley would resist him now. If he had approached her, he would only make her resist and resent him even more.

Carter turned around and entered the room which Jeremy was in.

The maid had just brought over some freshly cooked fish porridge and she wanted to bring it to Jeremy, but she just so happened to see Carter coming.

Her attitude toward Carter was not as arrogant as when she had been with Madeline. At this moment, she looked like a trembling little deer. She very carefully put down the bowl in her hand and then retreated to the room's entrance and stood guard.

Jeremy leaned against the bed and closed his eyes to rest. He did not even bother to look at Carter or talk to him.

Displeased, Carter stared at Jeremy who completely ignored him.

"Tomorrow, my wedding with Eveline will be held in St. Piaf's Royal Palace. Don't worry, I will arrange a seat for you. I will let you watch as I become husband and wife with your beloved woman in front of everyone."

"I really look forward to it."

Jeremy said suddenly but he still did not open his eyes.

Carter was here to irritate Jeremy and to try to make Jeremy unhappy, but somehow, he heard Jeremy say those words in a light and carefree tone.

'Was he really looking forward to it?'

"Jeremy, are you looking forward to my wedding with your wife?" Carter asked in uncertainty.

Jeremy opened his alluring eyes leisurely and said, "Carter, are you dreaming?"

"What I am looking forward to is seeing my wife wearing a wedding dress. When I married her back then, she didn't take a lot of photos of her in a wedding dress at the wedding. It seems that I can take this opportunity to take more pictures of her."

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Carter felt that he was here to let Jeremy insult him. He was pissed, but instead of showing it, he smiled. "Jeremy, I will see if you can still be as calm as you are now tomorrow."

Jeremy curled up the corners of his beautiful lips, and the expression in his eyes changed slightly. "Then, you just wait and see."

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For a moment, Carter was speechless. He then turned around angrily.

When he opened the door, he saw the maid, who was standing guard outside, pulled her head back and shuddered.

The maid's face turned pale immediately. She took a few steps back in terror.

She lowered her head and stammered, "M-Mr. Carter."

Carter looked inside the room, shut the door with a loud bang, and then, his eyes fell on the maid sharply. "Were you eavesdropping on us ?"

Upon hearing Carter's questioning, the maid instantly froze, and she fell into extreme panic.

"No, no, I wasn't eavesdropping. I dare not, I dare not eavesdrop..."

The maid explained as she trembled. Her face became paler and paler from fright.

Carter was not in a good mood, and the maid's dishonesty was making him even angrier.

"Are you sure you weren't eavesdropping? So, do you think there's a problem with my eyes and IQ, or do you think your explanation is impeccable?"

Hearing this, the maid was so scared that her palms were sweating.

"M-Mr. Carter..."

"The Grays don't need a bad mannered maid like you. You should immediately get out of this manor. Don't even think about getting a cent from this month's salary."

Carter littered the indifferent words and started walking onward.

The corners of the maid's eyes turned red. Anxious and fearful, she ran up to Carter to explain herself.

"Mr. Carter, I really didn't mean to eavesdrop on your conversation with Mr. Whitman. I... I just care more about Mr. Whitman, I really didn't mean anything else. Mr. Carter, please don't drive me away. Please give me a chance."

The maid pleaded piteously.

After listening to the maid's explanation, Carter slowed his steps.

He suddenly furrowed his brash and sharp eyebrows at the anxious and nervous maid.

"You said you care about Jeremy?"

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When she heard the words, the maid was taken aback, and then a shy blush appeared on both sides of her pale cheeks.

Upon seeing the change in the maid's face, Carter instantly understood how the maid was feeling.

It turned out that this maid was interested in Jeremy. He was not very surprised. It was normal for a man with good looks and a lofty disposition like Jeremy's to attract women.

Not to mention such a shallow maid.

Carter sneered disdainfully.

The maid cowered again. She twisted her hands and she looked upset, but suddenly, she heard Carter ask.

"Do you have a crush on Jeremy?"

The blush on the maid's face deepened again. She dared not nod, but she did not shake her head either.

"Answer my question," Carter asked impatiently.

The maid trembled and hurriedly replied, "I... I don't dare to like Mr. Whitman, I just... I just want to see Mr. Whitman and I hope he is all right. Also, I want to spend more time with Mr. Whitman..."

Carter smiled upon hearing this.

The maid felt even more distraught. She did not understand what Carter's smile meant, but she begged for mercy and apologized.

"Mr. Carter, I dare not do it again. I really don't dare. Please give me a chance. Don't drive me away."

Carter looked at the terrified maid, and his smile widened.

"Don't worry, not only will I not drive you away, I will be your matchmaker."

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The maid was stunned in disbelief. After a while, she finally dared to lift her head to look at Carter. "Mr. Carter, did you say you'll help me and be my matchmaker? W-What do you mean?"

The maid found it hard to believe it. She felt that she had heard it wrongly.

However, Carter quickly gave her a very affirmative answer. "You work for my family, so you can be considered a member of the family. Since you like Mr. Whitman, and he is my friend, as your employer, I will be happy to play matchmaker for you two."

Hearing this, the maid was so happy that she was walking on air. In an instant, the panic and anxiety on her face disappeared and were replaced by an indescribable joy.

"Thank you, Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Carter!" the maid thanked him repeatedly, but then a touch of melancholy emerged. "But Mr. Carter, Miss Montgomery told me not long ago that Mr. Whitman is married. Is this true ?"

Carter's eyes changed slightly when he heard this. "When did Miss Montgomery tell you this?"

"Not long ago," the maid replied, showing a look of grievance. "Miss Montgomery was also able to tell that I like Mr. Whitman, but she said Mr. Whitman has a wife."

After listening to the explanation, Carter's face was calm but the smile on his face was sly.

"Yes, Jeremy was indeed married, but he and his wife had separated a long time ago. So, you still have a chance."

"Really ?" The maid was very excited when she heard this, but she quickly realized that she had forgotten her manners and hurriedly lowered her head, not daring to say more.

Carter glanced at the maid in disdain, then parted his lips to order.

"I will decide this matter for you, but on the condition that you must listen to me and do what I want."

The maid did not even have time to be happy, so how could she disobey?

"Mr. Carter, don't worry, I will listen to you! If Mr. Whitman and I can really be together, you can ask me to do anything!"

Heh.

Deep down, Carter sneered. The maid seemed to be very obsessed with Jeremy.

In any case, who was Jeremy? He was the number one young master in Glendale. His charming looks could really make women lose their minds.

The maid in front of him was the best proof. Now, this maid would also become his weapon to avenge Jeremy.

Inside the bedroom.

Madeline lay silently on the bed. In the darkness, she stared at the soft, radiant moonlight refracted onto the chandelier.

She raised her left hand, looked at the empty five fingers, and smiled slightly. She then closed her eyes and fell asleep.

Early in the following morning, a maid knocked on Madeline's door. Madeline was already up. After opening the door, the stylist came in with an assistant.

Madeline sat quietly in front of the dressing table, letting the stylist put makeup on her and style her. Finally, they put on a very expensive wedding dress for Madeline.

Madeline looked at herself calmly in the full length mirror. All kinds of exclamations and praises could be heard beside her.

"Miss Montgomery, you are really the most beautiful bride I have ever seen."

"Mr. Carter has such a good eye."

"Miss Montgomery, I believe you will be the highlight of the day!"

Madeline smiled lightly. "Thank you."

After she said that, someone came in at the door of the room.

Shirley, who was sitting in a wheelchair, slowly entered. When Madeline saw Shirley in the mirror, she dismissed everyone else in the room.

Of course, the stylist and maids, all of whom would not dare to go against Madeline's wishes, then left the room.

Upon the sight of Madeline in her current state, Shirley smiled and she looked as if her breath had been taken away.

"You are also the most beautiful bride I have ever seen." Shirley complimented her sincerely.

"Thank you, Miss Brown." Madeline smiled back and glanced at Shirley's back with hopeful eyes.

"You don't have to thank me." Shirley also had a smile on her face. "I have come to bless you. I wish you a smooth wedding today."

"Thank you for your blessing. I believe that today's wedding will go smoothly."

As Madeline finished saying that, Carter's voice came from behind Shirley. "Of course, it will go smoothly."

Carter walked straight toward Madeline. He was in a well cut, dark blue suit that accentuated his perfect figure. He walked past Shirley indifferently and went up to Madeline's side.

He smiled at Madeline slightly, but his smile did not reach his eyes.

"Eveline, you are so beautiful today," he complimented her, and he seemingly glanced at Shirley from the corners of his eyes. "Get ready. We'll go to St. Piaf's Royal Palace first."

Madeline nodded. "Okay."

She looked very cooperative. She then took the lead and walked toward the door.

The stylist outside the door hurried in and handed Madeline the bouquet

The people in the room dispersed one after another, and Shirley turned around too.

Carter walked behind her. "I think you'll look more beautiful in a wedding dress."

"Heh, hehe." Shirley laughed sarcastically. "A disfigured lame won't look good in anything. Carter, do you really think that I am still a seventeen or eighteen year old girl?"

•••••

Carter froze in place, he had nothing to say.

Shirley casually left. From her words and deeds, it could be seen that she no longer had any remaining feelings for Carter now.

'I didn't expect this woman to be so decisive.'

Carter sighed in his heart and then strode forward.

At the Royal Palace of St. Piaf. The magnificent palace was already full of guests at this moment. Everyone was waiting for the ceremony to start and for the stars of the day to appear on stage. It was still early now. Everyone was just talking happily with each other and also enjoying a little wine and some snacks.

Since Jeremy's leg was injured, he could not move freely for the time being.

Carter asked someone to send Jeremy to the hall of the Royal Palace and asked the maid to follow Jeremy the whole time.

Jeremy knew that the maid was very fond of him, and he wanted to avoid her as much as possible, but the maid, like a bee that had seen honey, insisted on sticking by him.

"Mr. Whitman, you can tell me what you want to drink and eat. I'll get them for you." The maid smiled sweetly and approached very hospitably.

"I want you to stay away from me a little bit," Jeremy responded with an unfavorable answer.

The smile on the maid 's face instantly froze, and then she looked at Jeremy in a dazed and disappointed manner.

"Why are you talking to me in that way? I know that you don't really hate me. You talked a lot to me yesterday."

"I did, but I was only trying to get more information from you," Jeremy simply stated his purpose.

The maid's jaw dropped, and her eyes widened in astonishment. It seemed that she could not accept Jeremy's statement.

After listening to these words, the maid bit her lip unwillingly and said a little angrily, "Mr. Whitman, you're only saying that because you don't want me to pester you, aren't you? I'm also a woman, and I also have a sixth sense. If you truly have only your wife in her heart, you wouldn't have flirted with Mr. Carter's fiancée Eveline yesterday!"

'Flirt..?'

Why did Jeremy feel that this word was very pleasant to the ear?

The corners of his thin lips curved up into a somewhat cheerful smile.

"Do you think that Eveline was flirting with me from the way she talked to me yesterday?"

"Yes, that's exactly what it was!" The maid's tone was firm. It sounded as if she was throwing a tantrum too.

Jeremy was really satisfied with this answer.

'Sure enough, it wasn't just me. Linnie seemed to care a little about me too. Although her thoughts are under Carter's, in Linnie's subconscious, I'm still the most important person to her.'

Madeline walked into the hallway of the Royal Palace and then onto the platform of the second floor and looked down.

Among the guests, she found Jeremy at a glance.

He was sitting at a place near the corner all alone. No, he was not alone. The maid, who was standing in front of Jeremy, was accompanying him.

Madeline looked at Jeremy silently and found that his magnificent and handsome face to be filled with a light and gentle smile. He seemed to be chatting happily with the maid.

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows, and when she was about to turn around, a joking voice suddenly came from behind her.

"Hello, beautiful cousin-in-law."

Madeline stopped in her tracks. She recognized who the owner of this voice was.

She turned his head and saw Jim walking towards her with his hands in his pants pockets and a cynical smile on his face.

Compared to the casual clothes the other day, Jim was dressed more fomially today. The ironed, black shirt was matched with a black suit, making him look mature and awe inspiring.

Madeline curled her lips slightly and responded with a polite greeting, "Hello, Mr. Jim."

"Don't be a stranger. We'll be family soon, so you can call me Jimmy."

Jim's tone was frivolous, and he looked at Madeline in front of him with unruly eyes.

After looking at Madeline for a while, he sincerely complimented her, "I've seen many women in wedding dresses before, but none of them are as amazing as you."

Madeline had heard a lot of this kind of compliment before, so she was pretty used to it by now. Regardless, she still replied, "Thank you."

Madeline did not want to talk to Jim any further, so she turned around to leave, but Jim stopped her.

"Future cousin-in-law, can you give me a few minutes to talk to you?"

Madeline blinked curiously. "Carter should be coming soon, but I still have some time now."

Jim smiled and nodded, then he glanced at the maid behind Madeline. The maid spotted Jim's cold eyes and immediately walked away knowingly.

Madeline glanced at the maid who was walking away and asked straightaway, "Mr. Gray, what do you want to talk to me about ?"

An uninhibited smile returned to Jim's handsome face. He looked into Madeline's eyes seriously, and his expression gradually became solemn.

"I heard from Carter that you're pregnant?"

This question passed through Madeline's ear and she quickly had an exact answer in her mind.

"Yes. What's the matter?"

"Tch, it's nothing. I just think that the child is a bit innocent." Jim sighed regretfully.

"It's impossible for Carter to become the heir to the royal monarch of St. Piaf. You and the children in your womb are mere tools for him to gain power."

Madeline was surprised. She had not expected Jim to say something like this.

She raised her eyebrows as if she was displeased. "Jim, why are you slandering Carter so much? Even if there is beef between you two, you shouldn't say such a thing."

"Such a thing ?" Jim smiled, but his eyes looked grim. "I'm telling you the truth, Eveline. Actually, you're quite pitiful too. Do you know why ?"

•••••

'Pitiful ?'

Madeline could not help but feel stunned.

With puzzled eyes, Madeline looked at the man who spoke.

Was this man pitying her?

Why was he pitying her and sympathizing with her?

Seeing the confusion in Madeline's clear and beautiful pupils, Jim answered leisurely.

"You are just a tool that Carter is using to achieve his goals. He doesn't have any real feelings for you, yet you want to marry this man wholeheartedly. Isn't that pitiful?"

After listening to Jim's words, Madeline smiled slightly.

"I think that you're worrying too much and that you're feeling pity for the wrong person. No one knows who the pitiful person is until the last moment."

Upon hearing this, Jim was dumbfounded because he did not understand.

On Madeline's exquisite and picturesque face, Jim saw a bright and moving smile, a smile that subtly hinted at a deep meaning.

He thought it interesting, yet he could not understand what Madeline meant.

Seeing that Madeline was about to leave, Jim wanted to go up and ask for further clarification. However, Carter appeared at this moment.

"Why, Jim, are you so free to be chatting with my bride here?"

Carter's tone was calm, and he sounded friendly, but Jim felt an unpleasant aura from him.

Jim put his hands back in his pockets, shrugged indifferently, and showed a yuppy smile.

"Yes, it's the first time I have seen such a beautiful bride. Of course, ordinary people like me couldn't help but want to get a closer look at her."

Jim spoke frivolously and playfully.

After hearing that, an indignant look appeared on Carter's seemingly gentle and handsome face.

"Eveline will be your cousin-in-law soon. So, you better be more respectful, Jim."

"Respectful ?" Jim asked and then smiled. "Do you even know what respect is, Carter ?"

Carter's eyes narrowed coldly. "Jim, what nonsense are you trying to say?"

"Whether I'm speaking nonsense or not is arbitrary," Jim said fearlessly. His cynical face was now a little more serious as he met Carter's deep gaze.

"Carter, don't think I don't know what you did behind your back to obtain the royal succession."

Jim wanted to expose Carter, but Carter just laughed.

"I don' t know where you heard the rumors. Everyone in the Louis family is qualified to fight for the royal succession."

Carter said calmly and then pointed his finger at Jim.

"Jim, I know that you and your parents want to get the right to rule. You can fight with me openly and honestly. You don't need to deliberately discredit me in front of my bride."

When he was done with his righteous speech, Carter turned to the side and gently smiled at Madeline.

"Eveline, I'll bring you to the lounge first."

"Okay." Madeline nodded cooperatively and followed Carter toward the lounge.

When she turned around, Madeline's gaze involuntarily took another look at where Jeremy was. She saw Jeremy sitting on the same spot. Meanwhile, the maid smiled as she brought a small cake and a glass of champagne to Jeremy.

The maid's intentions for Jeremy were obvious.

The hall of the Royal Palace.

Jeremy sat in the chair, not letting other things distract him. He was looking forward to seeing Madeline. However, before Madeline appeared, the maid kept appearing before him.

"Mr. Whitman, I know you were just deliberately trying to get rid of me by saying that just now. In any case, I will not leave. Even if you really hate me, I will continue to take care of you until your injury is healed."

The maid winked, showing her determination. She looked very sincere too.

After the maid had said that, Jeremy stared insipidly at the maid.

For the past two days, the maid had been taking care of him very kindly and enthusiastically.

He had indeed been using the maid's goodwill toward him to get some clues.

After thinking about it, Jeremy's expression was not as cold as before. He then parted his lips lazily and spoke. "I don't need your care. You should help other people. No matter how much time and effort you spend on me, it's useless. I already have someone I love."

Although his tone was much kinder now, Jeremy still decisively and plainly refused the maid. The maid's face once again looked sad and lost. She then sighed deeply.

"Since you have said this over and over again, I shouldn't continue to think that you have feelings for me. But my current job is to take care of you, so I hope that you'll stop rejecting me. If I don't do my job well, M r. Carter will punish me."

It was not beyond the realm of possibility for Carter to cause trouble for this maid just because she was taking care of Jeremy.

Jeremy thought for a moment but did not say anything.

"Mr. Whitman, if you don't want to drink, then have some snacks. You haven't eaten much since the morning."

The maid offered the cake with a friendly smile. Seeing that Jeremy did not accept it, she smiled again. "If you don't like cakes, I can get you some other snacks."

As the maid spoke, she turned around to get Jeremy some food.

"You don't have to trouble yourself," Jeremy stopped her, and then he reached out to take the cake in the maid's hand and took small bites of it.

A happy smile appeared on the maid's face when Jeremy no longer rejected her kindness.

Time passed quietly as Carter accompanied Madeline in the lounge. Carter subconsciously glanced at the time on his watch and then got up.

"Carter, where are you going ?" Madeline asked curiously.

Carter turned to the side and smiled at Madeline. "I'm going to the bathroom. When I come back, it'll be almost time for you to shine."

Upon hearing that, Madeline nodded and then showed a well behaved and obedient smile.

Carter did not stay any longer and quickly left the lounge.

As soon as he walked out of the lounge, the entourage who had been waiting at the door leaned close to his ear and whispered. After that, a triumphant smile appeared on Carter's lips.

Carter started walking forward and then stopped when he reached the door of a certain room.

The entourage who was following behind him understood what he meant and immediately opened the door.

Once the door was opened, the people inside heard the sound and ran out hurriedly.

Displeased, Carter glanced at the woman in front of him and raised an eyebrow.

"Why are you still standing here? I've played the matchmaker for you. What's wrong? Are you changing your mind?"

"No, I'm not..."

The maid shook her head repeatedly and then turned her head and glanced in the direction of the bed, her cheeks gradually became flushed with shyness.

Carter gradually understood what the maid meant, and he glanced at the entourage on the side.

"Stay and help him."

The entourage's jaw dropped, but she did not have the courage to refuse, so she nodded.

"Don't let me down," Carter finally said before turning around with his lips curled and closing the door.

After the door closed, the smile on Carter's lips widened.

'Jeremy, you've disrupted my life and killed my child. I will eventually make your life a living hell.'

Madeline waited in the lounge, and the stylist carefully helped her arrange her hairstyle and wedding dress. She glanced at the digital clock on the wall and knew that the ceremony was starting soon, but Carter had not returned yet.

Creak.

The door to the lounge opened at this moment, and Carter walked in with a warm smile on his face.

The stylist smiled respectfully at Carter and then conscientiously left the lounge.

"Carter, you're back." Madeline smiled, stood up, and walked toward him.

With a gentle expression, Carter looked at Madeline. "It's almost time, Eveline. I'll bring you downstairs."

"I just had a glimpse earlier. There are a lot of guests downstairs. Are they all relatives and friends of your family ?" Madeline asked curiously.

Carter nodded. "They are all relatives who are related to the royal family. Don't be nervous. I'll stay with you."

Carter calmed Madeline with a soft voice, fearing that Madeline would be too uneasy and nervous, and then he urged solemnly.

"Before the wedding ceremony, I will take you to meet someone. He is the oldest and most authoritative elder with the highest status in the Louis family. Later, he may have a few questions to ask you. So, Eveline, answer carefully."

Madeline raised her clear and beautiful eyes. "Carter, what questions are you referring to? If I can't answer them properly, will it affect you?"

Carter licked his lips and smiled. "No, you'll be fine."

He answered confidently, but of course, he was confident because he had hypnotized Madeline, not to mention that he had completely engraved the things that he needed to exhort Madeline in her head.

When someone would ask her about the relevant matters later, she would tell them everything perfectly. There would not be any mistakes.

Carter was very confident about this.

After hearing this, Madeline nodded very obediently.

Carter lowered his eyes and glanced at Madeline. In terms of appearance, Madeline would have definitely brought enough pride to him.

No one would dispute Madeline's appearance.

All this while, the first requirement for their family to select sons-in-law and daughters-in-law was good looks and appearance for the sake of the genes of the next generation.

Evidently, once Madeline appeared in the eyes of everyone, no one would have any opinions on her appearance.

However, Carter's heart was still somewhat conflicted. As he looked at Madeline, his heart would think of Shirley.

Before Shirley's accident, her appearance and looks were impeccably beautiful. Shirley and Madeline were beautiful in their own way, but they were both equally breathtaking.

Although Shirley's family had fallen from grace, her parents were once medical scientists of great distinction.

Even if she had no such honor and family background, he could still let her walk by his side, but now, she was unwilling.

As Carter thought about these things, they had arrived at the hall on the first floor without him realizing it.

The guests in the room, whose eyes were filled with blessings, watched Carter and Madeline appear. Jim and his parents were also among the crowd.

From the comer of Madeline's eyes, she could see that Jim's mother was looking at her and Carter with disdain and dissatisfaction while Jim's face had an intrigued smile.

Madeline held the bouquet and silently followed Carter as they walked onward.

She looked for Jeremy in the crowd, but she did not see him. She saw Shirley instead.

Shirley was silently seated in the wheelchair in a corner with a smile on her face.

Madeline met her gaze and smiled in a tacit mutual understanding.

"So that's the socialite of the rich family in Glendale?"

"The Grays had already looked her up. Eveline is indeed the socialite of the rich family in Glendale. Her family background is extraordinary."

"No wonder. No wonder Carter chose her. It's indeed helpful for his fight over the right to rule."

Madeline could hear all the whispers around her. Even though they were soft, Madeline had good hearing. Nevertheless, she pretended she did not hear anything and merely smiled.

Soon after, she saw an old man sitting at the front of the Royal Palace.

The man was sitting upright and still. Despite his old age, he emitted a very strong aura.

Madeline could tell that the old man was the person Carter mentioned earlier, but his clothes looked very simple and plain. Even though the old man's expression was slightly serious, he had a very kind look in his eyes.

Carter quickly introduced them with a gentle smile, "Eveline, this is the most respected elder of our Louis family, the current ruler of St Piaf, and the beloved monarch of St. Piaf."

After listening to Carter's introduction, Madeline greeted with a polite smile, "Hello, the noblest monarch of St. Piaf, 1 am Eveline."

The old man nodded with a smile. "You can call me grandpa just like Carter does."

'Grandpa?'

'So, this is Carter's grandpa?'

Madeline guessed inwardly but speculated that it was indeed possible.

This way, Carter and Jim would have the right to fight for the throne.

Madeline thought silently but did not greet him as grandpa. She just stood there and did not speak further.

Old Master Gray's identity was extraordinary, but his gestures showed that he was a very amiable person.

"Girls from wealthy families are indeed extraordinary," the Old Master praised and then slowly stood up. He looked at Carter again and added, "Carter has such good taste."

Carter smiled modestly when he heard that. "It was because of your blessing that could meet a beautiful and perfect girl like Eveline, grandpa."

"Haha!' The Old Master laughed out loud. "How could I have given you such a blessing? This is your own good fortune."

"Yeah, this is indeed your own feat, Carter." Jim's voice came from one side. His tone was laced with a hidden meaning.

Carter, who seemed to have expected that Jim would come to cause trouble, was not flustered, and he put a smile on his face instead.

"Jimmy, you're even more skilled than I am. I believe you'll find an even more exceptional partner in the future."

"Heh. No matter how skilled our Jimmy is, he'll never be able to compare with you, Carter. You can get married to the same woman twice, and this woman is even married," Jim's mother said suddenly, her tone sharp.

Furthermore, she had deliberately increased her voice, shocking the guests in the room.

Carter frowned and looked over in dissatisfaction, and then he saw Jim's mother walking up to the Old Master fearlessly.

At this moment, the expression on the Old Master's face changed subtly.

"What do you mean? Did you say that Carter had married Miss Montgomery before?"

"No, I didn't mean that." Jim's mother curled her red lips and smiled, feeling pleased with herself. "I mean, this woman has a husband."

Jim's mother exposed Carter with no regard for his image. She had no intention of giving Carter any chance.

As she said that, the surrounding atmosphere suddenly became serious.

Before deciding to have a wedding with Madeline, Carter had already made preparations a long time ago. He had asked those who knew that he and Madeline almost had a wedding to remain silent.

However, what he had not expected was that Jim's mother would expose such information at such a time. Nonetheless, this was also predictable.

Jim wanted to fight for the royal succession, and of course, his mother wanted to help him. Just like how Camille helped Carter.

Old Master Gray's expression gradually looked displeased, and then he looked at Carter and spoke with a much calmer tone.

"Carter, this is a big deal. Is your aunt telling the truth?"

"Dad, how would I dare to speak nonsense during such an occasion ?" Jim's mother was confident; she had her card up her sleeve.

However, Carter did not panic at all. He smiled softly and parted his lips slowly.

"Aunty, if you want to say this, then yes, Eveline is indeed a married woman because a few months ago, Eveline and I had already signed the marriage certificate. After that, for some reason, Eveline and I never held the wedding."

Carter spoke with a faint smile, looking slyly at Jim's mother.

"Aunty, I know you really want Jimmy to win the right to rule. That's why you want to cause trouble at my wedding with Eveline so that grandpa will change his impression of me. But do you think grandpa will believe your one-sided statement so easily?"

Carter said and turned to face the guests again.

"I believe everyone remembers receiving my wedding invitation a few months ago. I was about to marry Eveline but because of the appearance of a man who claimed to be Eveline's husband, the wedding was temporarily terminated. In fact, that man was just a delirious, mentally ill patient, and these are well documented."

After he was finished speaking, he did not forget to look at Jim's mother with a serious face.

"Aunty, I know you really want to fight for Jimmy's right to rule, but if you use this method to slander me, it will only ruin grandpa's image of jimmy."

Upon hearing Carter's words, Jim's mother's face fell, and she snapped back in anger.

"Carter, how dare you say that I'm slandering you! What I said is all true! What mentally ill patient? That man is Eveline's real husband!"

Jim's mother spoke with her arms fold ed and sneered coldly. "Hmph. Carter, do you think we don't know? You married Eveline just to use her background to increase your chances in the fight for the right to rule. You are using her!"

"Dad, Carter is a very devious man. If you were to give St. Piaf to him, you wouldn't be able to imagine what St. Piaf will become!"

Old Master Gray hated it when people involved politics in his family matters. At this moment, his expression looked displeased.

Carter knew what the Old Master was thinking, and he smiled magnanimously.

"Grandpa, this is all a misunderstanding. How can I marry a married woman? Besides, Eveline isn't an ordinary person. How would she marry me if she knows she has a husband? This is bigamy. Do you think that this is possible ?"

Carter lifted his eyes to look at Madeline who was silent the entire time. He then slowly parted his lips.

"Eveline, why don't you tell everyone in case everyone misunderstands you."

Madeline blinked her beautiful eyes. When she was about to speak, she heard Jim chuclding next to her.

"Ask her? Heh." Jim's eyes were filled with disdain. "Everyone knows that the noble Viscount has an extraordinary skill of hypnosis. Eveline has been hypnotized by you long before this."

Carter, instead of being angry when he was exposed, smiled. "This is a joke. How can Eveline be hypnotized?"

He looked at Madelina after he had said that with a serious face.

"Eveline, tell everyone. Did I hypnotize you?"

Madeline looked at Carter and then looked at the people around her who were waiting for her answer. Suddenly, she smiled.

"Of course, I'm not hypnotized." Madeline's answer was simple, clear, and very certain.

Carter was very satisfied with this answer. However, in his heart, he suddenly felt that something was wrong. Madeline's answer was too certain. She did not look like a hypnotized person at all.

At one side, Jim's mother laughed again. "This is such a joke. You're asking a hypnotized person to answer this kind of question. Would she know whether she's hypnotized?"

"You're right. A hypnotized person certainly wouldn't know whether they've been hypnotized because they wouldn't have their own thoughts. But madam, I, Eveline Montgomery, am not hypnotized."

Madeline's tone was confident. As she said that, she turned her eyes to Carter. The look in his eyes started to change.

"Because my hypnosis has been broken."

•••••

This was the answer Carter did not want to hear. It was also the answer that shocked him.

How was that possible?

Madeline's hypnosis was broken again?

Were all his plans going to be interrupted at the most critical time again just like last time?

No.

Carter would not allow that to happen. Upon noticing that the Old Master's expression had sunk, Carter quickly spoke.

"Eveline, what are you talking about?"

Madeline curled her charming pink lips. "I'm speaking the human language. What's wrong, Mr. Gray? Don't you understand what I'm saying?"

•••••

Carter was alarmed by Madeline's answer.

Jim, Jim's mother, and the guests around them were all looking at each other. They did not know what was going on, but based on Madeline's gestures and expression, they could guess what was going on.

Among the crowd, Camille started to get fretful. However, Carter was still doing his best to remain calm.

"Eveline, is something upsetting you? Are you unhappy that I had neglected you because I was busy with the wedding preparations? You dummy, don't throw a tantrum at this moment. You have to remember that you're pregnant. This isn't good for the baby."

"Pregnant?" Madeline lifted her proud and beautiful eyebrows. "I was only pregnant with the children of one man in my whole life. He is my one and only husband and lover, Jeremy Whitman."

"Jeremy Whitman?"

"I've heard this name before."

"She's the wife of the number one young master of Glendale!"

Madeline heard the exclamations around her. She looked at Carter's expression that was going to collapse at any second, and the smile on her face was even wider now.

"Carter, does it feel good to fool the hearts of others? Now, not only am I going to tell everyone, but I'm also going to tell you that anyone who fools people's hearts is despicable. In the end, they will, in tum, get fooled and end up like this."

····"

"Carter Gray, you lose!"

'Carter Gray, you lose.'

Those four words gently drifted into Carter's ears. Madeline's voice, so pleasant to the ear, sounded extremely piercing to Carter right now.

An icy glint flashed across his cold eyes, but Madeline looked into his eyes fearlessly.

"Carter, you didn't expect this, did you? My hypnosis was broken again. Everyone says that you're the master of hypnosis and that you have amazing hypnosis skills, but this shows that you're not that great after all."

Madeline parted her lips and continued with a slightly sarcastic tone.

"But perhaps it was because you had kept fighting for the royal succession, so your skills have deteriorated."

··..."

Madeline's words made Carter furrow his brows slowly. At that moment, he did not know how to retort Madeline, yet he did not allow himself to stay silent for long.

A few seconds later, Carter chuckled lowly.

"Eveline, are you still mad at me? There are so many guests, and grandpa is also here. Stop making a fuss."

Carter was speaking in a pleasant tone, furiously hinting at Madeline to take back what she said.

However, Madeline would not care about Carter's hints of course.

"Carter, don't always think about deceiving others. No matter how smart and skillful you are, it would be tragic for the people of St. Piaf to have someone like you as their next monarch."

Madeline hit right where it hurt and did not hold back at all.

Carter stayed silent. He did not speak any further.

He could hear whispers all around him, and the fire in his heart intensified whenever the words crawled into his ear.

At this moment, the happiest person right now was Jim's mother. This situation was unfavorable to Carter, but this meant that it was great for Jim. Of course, as Jim's mother, she was ecstatic.

Old Master Gray had not spoken for a long time. Presently, he looked at Carter who had been staying silent, and the Old Master finally spoke.

"Carter, you should answer me honestly in front of so many friends and family." The old master's face looked solemn, wisdom glinting in his aged eyes.

"Did you marry Miss Eveline Montgomery to use her identity and background to get the right to rule?"

Old Master Gray's question was straight to the point. The atmosphere and air around them seemed to freeze in that instant. Everyone was waiting for Carter's answer. Camille was standing at one side. She looked worried and anxious.

Carter lowered his eyes and denied directly. "No, I would never use this kind of despicable means to reach my goals."

"No, you did."

This statement came from the crowd the next second after Carter denied that. Carter's pupils enlarged, seemingly in shock.

In disbelief, he lifted his stunned but handsome face and followed everyone's gaze toward the source of the voice. He had not heard it wrongly because the person in front of him was none other than Shirley.

Shirley, seated in her wheelchair, moved the wheelchair skillfully and calmly toward Carter.

Old Master Gray and the Grays were not unfamiliar with Shirley. However, her current disfigured face and disability shocked everyone.

"Shirley ?" Jim's mother was the first one to exclaim in astonishment.

"It really is her. It's been so many years, but how did she become like this?" exclaimed another shocked rich woman when she saw Shirley. .

Aside from the exclamations from the people who knew Shirley, the people who did not know Shirley also looked shocked.

"Who is that woman?"

"It seems that she's here to expose Carter."

"Shh. Don't talk nonsense. That's the viscount of St. Piaf. Before we find out what's going on, don't label people randomly lest we get into trouble."

When everyone heard this, the atmosphere in the hall of the Royal Palace became abnormally silent.

Old Master Gray had a very deep impression of Shirley as well. He knew that Carter and Shirley had almost gotten married a few years ago, but after that, Shirley left the family and left St. Piaf for some reason. The Old Master had not expected Shirley to look like this when he saw her again.

"Old Master Gray, I believe you're not unfamiliar with me, right?" Shirley looked into the Old Master's eyes fearlessly. "If you still remember me, I think you'll believe what I have to say, isn't right?"

Old Master Gray pressed his lips together and said, "Go on..."

Shirley looked at everyone around her when she heard that. In the end, her eyes landed on Carter, whose face was turning as gray as ash.

"Miss Eveline Montgomery was telling the truth. This whole time, Carter only wants to use her identity and background to reach his goals. He doesn't have any romantic feelings toward Eveline."

Shirley said and lifted her eyebrows.

"Carter, have you forgotten? You told me that I'm the person you love. You told me that you're only marrying Eveline to get the right to rule. You also said that once you have gotten the right to rule, you'll have clear boundaries with Eveline, and you'll make me your woman and make up for the regretful times when we could not be together. Isn't that right?"

Carter was speechless as he looked at Shirley who had a smile that reached her eyes.

She was doing this on purpose. She had deliberately come here to say that and deliberately ruined his plan.

The fire in Carter's heart further intensified. His fingers also clenched tighter. However, he could not express his anger. He was silent because he admitted that he had said those things before.

Looking at Shirley's firm gaze, Carter knew that she was serious and that she came prepared.

When Old Master Gray saw that Carter had no retort, a look of disappointment flashed across his eyes.

Carter's silence already explained it all.

The smile on Shirley's face widened. " Carter, I'll take your silence as admission."

She smiled and said, "Don't you think that this is strange? Who is Carter Gray? You were the top student of St. Piaf Academy.

You're a master in the field of hypnosis and an experienced professor. You've hypnotized Eveline with your unique hypnosis and controlled her thoughts, but why is she exposing your real self right now ?"

Carter was indeed curious when he heard that. He was suspicious as well.

A moment earlier, Madeline had been listening to him, but in the next second, not only did Madeline go against his wishes, she even exposed his entire plan in front of everyone.

Carter could not keep his cool anymore. He wanted to know why. However, before he could ask, he got Shirley's answer in the next second.

"Because before today, the hypnosis you put on Eveline was already been broken."

"Impossible," Carter said in denial, and at the same time, this also confirmed that he had hypnotized Madeline.

However, Shirley laughed sarcastically. "It's not impossible. I was the one who broke it."

"What did you say...?"

Astonished, Carter looked at Shirley who had just said that.

How was that possible?

That could never have happened. Carter kept on denying this in his heart, but Shirley's firm gaze told him that this was true.

After Shirley and Carter looked at each other for a while, Shirley averted her gaze coldly and spoke earnestly and unflinchingly to the Old Master.

"Old Master Gray, I am telling the truth. If you don't believe me, you can find someone to verify this. With your ability, I believe that nothing will escape from your eyes as long as you want to know something."

After saying that, Shirley glanced at Carter and mocked him mercilessly.

"I can confidently tell everyone here that Carter Gray has no right to fight for the monarch's throne in St. Piaf because he's not worthy."

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Carter could no longer describe how he was feeling right now. The tempest that was his anger was on the verge of exploding.

However, the person in front of him was Shirley. It was Shirley!

In the past, he had been this woman's priority, and she would speak carefully in his presence. At the present, she desperately wanted to see him fall from grace and even wanted him to die.

Carter was speechless as he merely stared at Shirley.

At this moment, Jim's mother started to mock Carter. "Dad, did you hear that? Even Shirley is testifying against Carter's character. Do you want someone like this to rule over St. Piaf in the future?"

"Grandpa, even if I wanted to fight for the right to rule as well, I would never agree with Carter's means. If I wanted to fight for it, I would use the right and proper means, not despicable means like this."

Jim lifted his cold and arrogant eyes and then asked Madeline politely.

"Miss Eveline Montgomery, since this is all fake, then I guess you're not really pregnant too, is that right?"

Madeline curled her lips into a soft smile. "Of course, aside from my husband, Jeremy Whitman, I've never been intimate with another man in my life."

Madeline stated the truth and shifted her gaze to look at the dejected Carter.

"Carter has been using me from the start to achieve two of his goals. The first goal is to help him fight for the right to rule, and the other is to seek revenge against my husband."

"Revenge?"

Everyone felt suspicious and curious when that word landed in their ears.

Many of those present in the room had heard about Jeremy. The Old Master, too, knew about him. However, why did Carter want to seek revenge against Jeremy? None of them knew the reason behind this.

Carter knew, however, and so did Shirley. It was for that child who was not fated to be born.

At this moment, the word "dark" was not enough to describe the Old Master's expression.

When he was about to reproach and question Carter, he heard Carter chuckling coldly and lowly.

Everyone began to shift their attention on Carter when they heard him chuckling.

Carter lifted his eyes and his bottomless eyes which were bursting with anger.

"Carter..." Camille quickly walked to Carter's side at this moment and grabbed his arm. It looked as if she wanted to stop something from happening.

"Carter, don't be impulsive," Camille advised him. Her expression looked serious and apprehensive.

Perhaps she was worried and scared of the terrifying thing that Carter might do at this moment.

Carter clenched his fists and got out of Camille's tight grasp.

"Carter, don't..." Camille tried to stop him again, but it did not seem to work.

Shirley could see Carter's extreme dissatisfaction, and she could also guess what he would do next. Others might fear Carter because of his status and identity, but she was not.

"Carter, I know that you're very dissatisfied now and that you're pissed, but why are you? You're the one who decided to get to where you are today. Everyone needs to be responsible for their decisions. Just like how 1 killed my child after developing AXP69."

Shirley's last sentence undoubtedly triggered Carter. It was like something had gotten into his eyes and turned them red immediately.

He looked straight at the woman who was determined to pull him down from his grace. A self mocking smirk appeared on his dejected and icy face, and then he turned around and left without saying a word.

Carter left just like that.

The people in front of him made way for him accommodatingly.

Without explaining himself or fighting back, he walked into the crowd alone and disappeared into the extravagant Royal Palace.

Shirley turned her wheelchair and looked toward the direction where Carter left. Her heart which was covered in flesh and blood hurt immensely.

She knew Carter could never reach the height he longed for in this life anymore. His final wish, and the life that he yearned for, ended right there.

However, Shirley did not regret doing this.

When Jim's mother saw this from one side, she nearly did not hide her smile with her hand.

Carter had failed, and the only person who could get the right to rule was her son!

Madeline, who did not care to stay in the Royal Palace any longer, decided to go look for Jeremy. She changed into the clothes she had prepared in the lounge. After she opened the door, to her surprise, she saw Shirley waiting for her.

"Did you come here for me?" Madeline asked.

Shirley shook her head, but then she nodded her head and said, "I think we won't be seeing each other in the future."

Upon hearing that, a feeling of emptiness suddenly tugged at Madeline's heart.

"I didn't expect that there would be a day when we'd talk to each other peacefully. I also didn't expect that you'd listen to me even when you're hypnotized."

When Madeline heard that, she told Shirley the truth. "Actually, I was at a loss after I was hypnotized, that's why I listened to everything Carter said. But when I went to look for him that day, I just so happen to hear his conversation with his mother in the study. That's when I realized that they were merely using me."

Madeline explained but displayed a surprised smile.

"But I'm pretty surprised that you also know hypnosis."

"Even though I didn't learn it formally, after following him for all those years, I've learned it from watching him numerous times."

"I see," Madeline lamented.

Shirley pursed her lips into a smile. "Luckily, you found the pocket watch Carter used to hypnotize you back then. Otherwise, it wouldn't have been so easy to succeed."

As she spoke, the smile on her face looked more and more relieved.

"Eveline, I'm so sorry, for you and Jeremy. But I sincerely hope that our grudges end here. I believe the poison in Jeremy's body will be cleared soon. I hope you two can spend the rest of your life together without worry."

After Shirley had blessed Madeline, she turned her wheelchair around decisively and left before Madeline could speak.

Madeline wanted to catch up to Shirley to say something to her, but coincidentally, a familiar looking figure appeared before her eyes.

It was none other than the maid who was with Jeremy before the wedding.

Madeline was about to look for Jeremy, and she had a feeling in her heart that this maid might know where Jeremy was, so Madeline walked hurriedly over to her. Since Madeline did not know the maid's name, she could not call out to her, so she could only walk faster to chase up to the maid.

However, when Madeline was halfway there, the maid suddenly turned around.

The maid, who did seem to have seen Madeline, walked straight up to the entrance to a room, pushed the door open, and walked in.

Madeline intuitively knew something was wrong, so she quickly ran after her.

The moment the door was about to close, Madeline lifted her hand to hold the door, then she pushed the door open and walked in. Just as she arrived at the entrance, she heard the maid's soft voice coming from the room.

"I had wanted to leave just like that, but after I thought about it, I was still reluctant to leave you. I didn't think that you'll be awake the moment I come back, Mr. Whitman."

Madeline could clearly hear those words floating into her ears. She was stunned for two seconds and then she strode over. The moment Madeline saw a half naked Jeremy sitting in bed, she heard an explosion in her brain, and she lost all her senses.

Jeremy sat up groggily, and his long finger was pressed against his temple. His thick eyebrows were furrowed tightly, and he looked off-colored.

Madeline took a deep breath to control her emotions.

"Jeremy..."

Jeremy froze when he heard her voice. The maid who was standing on the side of the bed turned her head to look over.

When she saw Madeline, she displayed a surprised expression. "Miss Montgomery, why are you here?"

The maid looked at Madeline up and down. "Shouldn't you be at the wedding with Mr. Carter? Why are you here?"

Madeline looked at the maid insipidly after hearing her surprised and curious words. Madeline then walked toward Jeremy.

While she was at it, she picked up the clothes that were thrown on the floor. After shaking the dust off the clothes, she helped Jeremy put them on.

"Miss Montgomery, what are you doing ?" exclaimed the stunned maid as she hurried over to try and stop Madeline. Madeline lifted her cold and beautiful eyes and looked at her with an icy look. "Don't come any closer. Stand there. Don't move."

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The maid wanted to stop Madeline, but she was so frightened by Madeline's aura that she stood motionlessly on the spot.

Madeline quickly helped Jeremy put on his shirt then bent down and buttoned his shirt for him.

Jeremy sat on the bed, looking out of sorts, as he merely allowed Madeline to put on his clothes for him. Madeline sensed that something was wrong with Jeremy's current state, but she did not know what was wrong. However, there was a horrible idea in her head that she did not want to consider.

"Miss Montgomery, isn't this a little inappropriate? You're Mr. Carter's wife. How can you be so intimate with Mr. Whitman? How can you put on his clothes for him?"

Madeline stopped what she was doing and asked coldly, "I can't put on his clothes for him and you can?"

The maid was not frightened by Madeline's identity at all. When she thought about how Carter wanted to bring her and Jeremy together, the maid was more confident. "I should be the one dressing him, and no matter what, it shouldn't be you, Eveline."

Eveline.

She was calling her by Madeline's first name now. Madeline now knew how arrogant and proud this maid was.

"Also, I just had an intimate relationship with Mr. Whitman, so I'm the one who's the most qualified to take care of him."

When Madeline heard what the maid said, she could hear a buzz in her brain again. She felt as if something was stuck in her throat, preventing her from speaking.

However, Madeline did not allow herself to space out for long. When she was about to turn around, Jeremy suddenly reached out his hand and grabbed her wrist. Madeline suddenly lifted her clear and alluring eyes. In the next second, her eyes met Jeremy's soft and tender gaze.

However, his tender gaze only lasted for a few seconds before it turned abnormally sharp to look at the maid who was a short distance away from the bed.

"No one is more qualified than Linnie to come near me. Since you've been taking care of me for the past two days, I've been showing you enough respect. But if you come at my Linnie, I will fight you to death."

"L-Linnie ?" The maid widened her eyes in shock. "Mr. Whitman, did you just call her Linnie ?"

Jeremy did not even want to look at the maid. He grabbed the bedsheet, wrapped it around his lower body, grabbed his pants, and walked slowly to the bathroom.

Inside the room, Madeline calmly got out of the bed and, with a dark expression on her face, elegantly turned around to face the maid.

"I told you Mr. Whitman has a woman that he loves. I told you," Madeline said as she looked at the disheveled maid. "Now that you've suffered a loss, you can't blame anyone else."

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The maid blushed and craned her neck awkwardly to argue.

"Eveline, what is the meaning of this? Who are you to Mr. Whitman? What right do you have to say that? Also, you're Mr. Carter's wife, so why are you so close with Mr. Whitman? And why is he calling you Linnie?"

"I think it's already very obvious why Jeremy is calling me Linnie," Madeline answered calmly.

The maid's expression looked very unpleasant. She pointed at Madeline angrily and was about to scold her when she noticed Jeremy walking out.

He was dressed tidily, and he walked over elegantly. Even though his calf was hurt, and he walked with some difficulty, his temperament and the aura around him were not reduced in the slightest. Aggrieved, the maid's face fell, and she walked over to Jeremy.

"Mr. Whitman..."

She called out to him softly, but Jeremy did not look at her and walked straight to Madeline instead.

"Linnie, you remember me now, don't you?" Jeremy's eyes were filled with fervent longing.

Madeline looked into his eyes and nodded without hesitation. "How would I forget the man I love the most in my life?"

The corners of her lips lifted, and a sweet smile blossomed on her lips.

Jeremy's eyes immediately sparkled with delight.

However, when the maid heard this, she was stunned. "W-What? Mr. Whitman is the man you love the most in your life? How can you say something so shameless, Eveline? Have you forgotten that you're Mr. Carter's..."

"Shut up," Jeremy interrupted her coldly.

The maid's body shook violently. Aggrieved and astonished, she looked at the man whose eyes were filled with anger.

"Mr. Whitman..."

"My Linnie has always belonged to me, and only me. She has nothing to do with other men."

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The maid was stunned. She could not believe it and did not want to accept what she heard. As the turn of events kept replaying in her mind, a pained and conflicted expression danced on her face.

"What do you mean? What does this all mean?"

The maid looked at Madeline and Jeremy in confusion. They were a couple?

If that was the case, why did Madeline marry Mr. Carter?

She could not wrap her head around this. What confused her the most was why did Carter want to bring her and Jeremy together.

"Linnie, there's something I need to tell you." Jeremy's eyes were filled with apology.

Madeline nodded. "I know what you want to tell me. This isn't the place to talk. We should go now. I've booked tomorrow morning's flight for us, so we'll go home tomorrow."

Jeremy furrowed his brows in suspicion. "Won't Carter cause trouble to you?"

Madeline smiled. "He's helpless now."

After Jeremy heard that, a flabbergasted look appeared on his face, and then he smiled softly and held Madeline's hand.

The maid looked at the backs of those two who had just turned around, and the maid, unconvinced, ran to them.

"Mr. Whitman, are you going to leave like that? That was my first time. Are you going to be so irresponsible?"

Madeline and Jeremy stopped in their tracks. When Jeremy heard what the maid said, a look of annoyance crept onto his face. He was not in a hurry to explain anything. He looked at Madeline apologetically instead.

The maid, who was feeling even more helpless now, looked at Jeremy with tears in her unconvinced and devastated eyes.

"Mr. Whitman, I really like you. I consented to what happened just now, and I was also happy. So please let me go with you. I will take care of you properly in the future."

"That's impossible," Jeremy said suddenly. The way he denied her was abnormally decisive and cold.

The maid's face froze, and suddenly, her initial grievance and despair disappeared, and her expression was replaced by an aggressive look

"Jeremy Whitman, are you really going to be that heartless?"

The maid's tone was provoking. She was starting to threaten him.

"Alright, if you're going to be so heartless, don't blame me for being immoral! Don't even think about leaving St. Piaf tomorrow. I'll call the police now and I'll tell them that you forced me to engage in sexual activities with you. When that happens, none of you can leave!"

After the maid said that, she was about to call the police.

"You're calling the police, right? Here, I'll let you use my phone."

••••••

The maid was at a loss when she heard what Madeline said. She looked blankly at Madeline who just handed her the phone.

Madeline smiled instead. "Aren't you calling the police? Call them now. But when they do get here, it might be detrimental to you."

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The maid was confused. She asked angrily, "What do you mean by that, Eveline ?"

"Nothing. I just hope that you remember what you said just now. You said that you consented to this and that you're happy, didn't you?"

The maid stopped to recall what she just said. She did say something like that, but so what?

Madeline saw through what the maid was thinking at the present, and Madeline continued, "Since people around me are always framing me, I have a habit of making voice and video recordings whenever I go to a foreign place. Coincidentally, I've recorded everything you said just now."

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The maid's face went pale. When she saw the confidence on Madeline's charming face, the maid suddenly lost all confidence.

Madeline had recorded her!

This meant that even if the maid were to call the police, it would be useless because she had said that she gave her consent.

The maid, feeling extremely unconvinced, clenched her fists, gritted her teeth, and turned her attention to Madeline.

"Eveline, you're a sick woman!"

She cursed, completely consumed by rage.

"The man you love just had sex with another woman, and you're still able to smile so calmly. You're insane!"

Madeline chuckled nonchalantly after she heard that. "This is nothing. It's normal for a man to play along. Besides, aren't you happy? Since there was mutual consent, you can't blame others."

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The maid's jaw dropped; she was speechless. Not knowing what to say to retort Madeline, she could only glare at Madeline.

However, Madeline was unbothered by how the maid thought of her. She put away her phone, reached out her hand to grab Jeremy's arm, and then smiled.

"Jeremy, let's go. I've called a ride. We'll go back to the hotel first."

Jeremy remained silent the whole time. Presently, he merely nodded obediently, and then with Madeline's help, they left the Royal Palace of St. Piaf step by step.

On the taxi, Madeline held Jeremy's arm and leaned her head against Jeremy's shoulder in a cute and helpless looking manner.

She closed her eyes lightly and felt a sense of boundless security rushing into her heart.

Jeremy held Madeline and pulled her into his broad embrace. He lowered his eyes and saw her smiling face that looked at ease, and he felt apologetic from the bottom of his heart.

"When did you recover, Linnie?" Jeremy asked softly.

"Yesterday. Shirley was the one who broke the hypnosis. She's a very smart person, but unfortunately, she used her smartness in the wrong place most of the time," Madeline explained.

She sighed in regret, and then she smiled and lifted her beautiful big eyes to look into Jeremy's eyes that were as gentle as water.

"That maid really likes you. But I was just scaring her. I didn't record anything. Who asked her to scare me first? She even said she was intimate with you. I know that aside from me, you'll never touch other women."

Madeline's eyes were filled with confidence, and her smile became brighter.

After hearing that, Jeremy lifted the corners of his lips into a smile, then he lowered his head and kissed her on the forehead. "Linnie, I'm sorry for making you worry."

"I was the one making you worry. I've even gotten you hurt."

As Madeline looked at Jeremy's injured calf, her heart broke into pieces.

"Carter would really do anything, but now, he should have gotten the karma and punishment he deserves."

"What happened ?" Jeremy asked for the details of what happened at the wedding, and Madeline told him everything.

After listening to that, Jeremy understood why Madeline continued to play dumb after her hypnosis was broken.

He was glad, but at the same time, he was heartbroken. He then tightened his arms. However, when he recalled what happened with the maid just now, Jeremy's eyes were filled with intense conflict and helplessness.

Carter lost, but at the same time, he also won. Carter created a taint that could never be erased between Jeremy and Madeline. That man was so devious.

Two days later.

The Royal Palace of St. Piaf put out a notice that they were revoking Carter's status as the viscount. Additionally, they were going to punish and question him accordingly.

However, when someone was sent to bring Carter, Carter was nowhere to be found. The Gray family was in chaos, and Camille did not know what to do.

In the drizzle of December, Shirley, with her simple luggage, steered her wheelchair to the road junction to hail a ride. She decided to leave, but reluctantly, she turned her head to look at the familiar manor.

As her thoughts wandered, the ride she had called stopped in front of her...

Shirley quickly collected her wandering thoughts.

The sky was gray, and it was drizzling.

Shirley was having an unquiet state of mind. She looked at the driver who came over to help her and thanked him. The driver wore a cap and a face mask. He did not speak. He merely kindly helped her into the car and put away the wheelchair.

Shirley sat in the car and looked at the scenery outside the window. Her expression looked abnormally dispirited.

During the drive, the driver would occasionally lift his eyes to look at Shirley from the rearview mirror.

Shirley, who was looking out of the window the whole time, did not know that the driver was observing her. Although it was only drizzling, Shirley felt that it was raining cats and dogs in her heart.

Her only family member had died, and the friend who took care of her this whole time was dead as well. She had even personally gone to destroy the future of the man she loved the most.

Heh.

Shirley chuckled at herself. She felt that her life was a failure.

It was true. She was such a failure.

She thought self deprecatingly. Unbeknownst to her, the car had driven very far.

Shirley had not been paying attention to their whereabouts, but after a long time, she realized the car was not driving toward the airport.

She was going to go back to Glendale and back to her old home, but this was obviously not the way back home.

Even though Shirley's hometown was in Glendale, she had been living in St. Piaf for so many years that she was very familiar with this entire place.

"Excuse me, this isn't the way to the airport. You're going in the wrong direction, " Shirley reminded him.

The driver, however, did not heed her and only continued to drive.

Shirley thought the driver was driving the wrong way, but when she realized that the driver was ignoring her, she felt that something was not right.

"Excuse me," Shirley called out again, but the driver was still ignoring her.

Shirley was agitated. She could not move the lower half of her body, but she could still move her upper body.

She moved forward and saw the side of the driver's face. Despite the face mask and cap, she would never forget that familiar jawline.

Shirley's eyes widened in shock, and she suddenly reached out her hand and removed the driver's cap and face mask.

"Carter, it's you!"

Carter turned a deaf ear and remained silent. His expression was cold, devoid of emotion.

"Carter, stop the car," Shirley insisted in a firm tone. "You're basically a wanted criminal now, do you know that?"

'Wanted criminal?'

Carter laughed when he heard those two words.

One day ago, Carter Gray was the noble Viscount of St. Piaf, yet one day later, he had become a down and out wanted criminal.

'Every dog had its day!'

Initially, he thought he could use Madeline to obtain the right to rule, but in the end, he shot himself in the foot.

"Carter, you're not deaf. I know you can hear me. I'm telling you one more time to stop the car!"

Shirley was agitated, and her tone became deeply worried too.

However, Carter not only continued to mind his own business, he suddenly increased the speed.

Shirley could not stop him, so she could only allow Carter to take her from one road to another.

After some time, Carter finally stopped the car.

That test reagent?

Shirley's expression changed. Her eyes moved about as she thought, but she could not figure out which test reagent Carter was talking about.

That was because she had developed too many kinds of test reagents back when Carter ordered her to do so.

The sight of Carter's sly smile sent a chill down Shirley's spine. A terrifying feeling crept into her heart "What did you do to Eveline and Jeremy?"

"Are you worried about Jeremy or the partner with whom you fooled me?"

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Shirley looked blankly at the man. She could tell from Carter's expression that something was not right. He looked as if possessed, and there was only hatred burning in his eyes.

Did he hate Eveline and Jeremy?

Shirley's heart trembled. She still could not figure out what test reagent Carter was talking about.

However, he already saw the uneasiness and apprehension on Shirley's face. He smiled and spoke no further.

Elsewhere, it had been a few days since Madeline and Jeremy went back to Glendale. However, in these few days, Madeline kept feeling as if something was troubling Jeremy.

She thought he was worried that the injury on his leg would affect his walking in the future, but she felt that Jeremy was not someone who would be worried about trivial matters like this. Moreover, they had had a doctor look at his injury again and there won't be anything wrong with it.

Today, after Madeline had ended her call with her precious little princess in F Country, she went to look for Jeremy in the study. When she got to the door, however, she saw an annoyed Jeremy crumpling a piece of paper into a ball and throwing it on the floor.

He was in a bad mood.

Madeline felt that it was strange. Ever since they came back from St Piaf, Jeremy was not his usual self. She wanted to ask him, but she felt that Jeremy should have his reasons for not wanting to tell her.

The biggest reason might be because he did not want her to worry about him.

After thinking about it, Madeline turned around to make a cup of black tea for Jeremy. She then walked into the study with a smile.

"Jeremy..." Madeline smiled softly and gently as she walked slowly toward Jeremy.

When Jeremy saw Madeline, he quickly hid his emotions and gave the woman in front of him his usual gentle smile.

"Linnie..."

"Are you looking through your documents? Drink some black tea to warm your stomach. I just made this." Madeline smiled and handed him the teacup.

Jeremy got up to take it, but for some reason, he seemed distracted. He had the teacup in his hand, but when Madeline let go of her hand, the teacup fell from his hand.

With a thud, the teacup fell on the floor.

While the teacup did not break into pieces, most of the black tea splashed on the back of Madeline's leg. The freshly brewed black tea was very hot.

Madeline retracted her leg reflexively and let out a low groan.

Jeremy, who seemed to finally come back to his senses, grabbed Madeline's hand and said, "Linnie, is it hot? Sit down first."

He quickly helped Madeline to sit on the sofa. He held Madeline's leg and placed it on his lap, and then he took off her cotton shoe and sock.

However, even though she wore thick winter socks, the back of her leg still burned red.

Jeremy's heart broke at the sight of that. He quickly found the ointment for burns and carefully applied it for Madeline.

The cold sensation and Jeremy's gentle application gradually quelled the pain from the burn.

Madeline looked at the frowning man in front of her and lifted her hand to place it on his forehead.

Madeline's sudden gesture caused Jeremy to stop abruptly.

He felt his heart beating faster, but it was not a joyous rhythm.

"Jeremy, do you have something on your mind ?" Madeline finally asked. She did feel that Jeremy looked perturbed.

Upon hearing that, Jeremy lifted his eyes and shook his head.

"The biggest thing on my mind is you."

"Really ?" Madeline giggled.

"I'm sorry, Linnie. I was thinking about something just now so I didn't catch the teacup. I've caused you pain."

Jeremy caressed the back of Madeline's leg which had been burned as his heart ached, even though the burn was not too serious.

Madeline smiled softly. "I know you didn't do it on purpose. I can endure such pain, but I can't endure you having something on your mind which you aren't telling me."

After Madeline said this, Jeremy's expression looked solemn.

Madeline recomposed herself and asked, "Is it about the maid?"

When Jeremy heard this, a look of loss evidently flashed across his face.

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows as well. "That day... Did something really happen between you and her?"

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After she said that, Madeline could see that Jeremy's expression froze. That was not a good sign. Madeline's heart skipped a beat, and she started to look as if she was at a loss.

She did not want to think too much at this moment, but the air around her started to become heavy.

After a while, Jeremy lifted his eyes and looked into Madeline's eyes who looked as if they were at a complete loss.

"Linnie, I was framed by Carter."

Carter's helpless statement passed through Madeline's ears.

He was framed.

Madeline's heart sank. She understood the meaning behind this sentence.

She looked at Jeremy. After a while, she came back to her senses and blinked before speaking.

"I know you didn't mean it."

Madeline turned her face to recompose herself, but the moment she stood up and her burned leg touched the ground, she felt a pang of pain.

"Hiss." Madeline could not help but let out a groan of pain.

Jeremy reflexively grabbed Madeline's shoulder. "Linnie..."

He felt a pain in his heart. When he saw Madeline's dazed expression, he felt even worse.

"Linnie, I ate a small piece of cake, and after I ate it, I felt dizzy. I don't remember how I got to the room, and I don't know how I ended up with the maid..."

"Wait," Madeline interrupted Jeremy.

There was longing in her eyes. "You don't know how you got to the room? Did you only wake up after? Do you think that nothing happened between you two and that was just a ruse?" Madeline analyzed it this way because something like this had indeed happened before. Moreover, she felt that while the man was muddleheaded, it would be hard for him to do anything to a woman.

However, Madeline did not get the answer she wanted to hear.

She saw Jeremy furrowing his brows in annoyance. This meant that her analysis and imagination were wrong. The light in Madeline's eyes dimmed, but she did not want to blame Jeremy.

"Carter really knows how to exact his vengeance on us," Madeline lamented and chuckled softly. She lifted her eyes to look at the apologetic man. "Jeremy, I want to be alone for a while."

When Madeline said that, Jeremy suddenly felt like he was at a loss. However, it was understandable that she wanted to be by herself.

"Linnie, I'll be outside the study. Call me if you need me," Jeremy said and was about to turn around and go out.

However, Madeline grabbed his hand. "Jeremy, your injury isn't healed yet, so move as little as possible. I'll wait in the room for a bit."

After she said that, Madeline let go of Jeremy's hand and walked toward the door to the study.

Jeremy's heart suddenly became empty. If his leg hurt, so, too, did her scalded foot. However, at this moment, nothing hurt more than her heart. Jeremy was truly irritated. He really had been careless back then. He had not kept his guard up against the maid, so he did not think that there was a problem with the cake.

He recalled the situation in detail, and there was still a particular scene in his mind that he did not want to remember. How could he touch a woman other than his Linnie?

He could not accept this matter no matter what, let alone Madeline.

Once Madeline returned to the room, she sat quietly on the bed and flipped through the wedding photos of her and Jeremy.

After a while, Karen brought her toddler son into the room and said that the little guy wanted his mother to hold him.

Madeline picked up her son. Upon seeing the little guy's innocent and cute face, the sadness on her face gradually dissipated.

Knock, knock, knock...

There came soft and gentle knocks on the door. Madeline, who already knew who was knocking, lifted her eyes and looked toward the entrance.

"Come in."

She said, and the door was pushed open the next second. Jeremy then walked in through the entrance with light footsteps.

When he saw Madeline playing with Pudding, a look of love and tenderness naturally appeared in his eyes. Jeremy walked up to the side of the bed and sat down. When the little guy saw him, he childishly parted his lips and called out, "Daddy."

The clearly enunciated word warmed Jeremy's heart when he heard that.

He lifted his hand and caressed the adorable little head.

"Pudding is becoming such a good boy."

He praised the naive little boy, and the little boy, who certainly had no idea that Jeremy was praising him, had a silly grin on him, giving him a naive and pure look. Jeremy's gaze quickly shifted from the little boy to Madeline's face.

When he saw a slight smile on Madeline's petite face as she looked at their precious son tenderly, he felt a pain in his heart instead.

"Linnie..."

Jeremy called out to Madeline.

"I know apologies are useless..."

"Then don't," Madeline interrupted him, and her tone sounded so carefree.

Jeremy's heart sank He felt that this matter was so serious that he might not get Madeline's forgiveness. During Jeremy's moment of worry, however, Madeline gave him a gentle and soft smile.

"You're not the one to blame for that, so you don't have to apologize to me."

Jeremy was surprised by what Madeline was saying right now.

"Linnie?"

'Is Linnie not mad at me?"

'How can she not be mad?'

'This is so serious, yet Linnie isn't blaming me?'

'Are you so disappointed in me that you don't want to care about this?'

Countless questions appeared in Jeremy's heart He was so conflicted that it hurt.

Madeline, who seemed to see through what Jeremy was thinking, smiled and held Jeremy's slightly stiff hand.

"I'll be lying if I say I don't mind, but this isn't your fault. Carter was the one who had deliberately done this. His goal was to cause a misunderstanding between us, but I won't let him get what he wants."

Madeline's heart was clear.

"Jeremy, we've been through far too much throughout this journey, and it's been very challenging. It's impossible for me to not feel the feelings you have for me up to this day. And that's why I don't want to let other people influence us. Just let time wash away those unhappy memories, okay?"

After listening to what Madeline had said, Jeremy was slightly moved.

His Linnie understood him, and instead of blaming him in any way, she still comforted him. Jeremy, however, blamed himself even more after that. At the same time, his heart ached on Madeline's behalf too.

Regardless, he also knew that they had to let this thing pass. Although he could not be that optimistic, he did not want to let this affect his relationship with Madeline.

It was extremely difficult and challenging for them to get to where they were today after all this time.

After a long while, Jeremy looked into Madeline's eyes and nodded.

"Okay."

"Okay." Madeline patted Jeremy's hand. "Alright, you should go play with your son. I need to go to the office."

"Why ?"

"I've wasted a lot of time in St Piaf. I still haven't finished the client's customized perfume from the other day. I'll be breaching the contract if I still don't get it done."

Madeline smiled. Before she turned around, she bent down and planted a soft kiss on Jeremy's cheek. "Take good care of our son, and wait for me to come home."

Jeremy's heart started racing when he saw Madeline's charming smile.

When he saw her back after she turned around and left, he felt as if his heart was leaving with Madeline too.

Madeline had not been to Whitman Corporation for a while, but the employees were still respectful and polite when they saw her. Madeline changed into another set of clothes and put on the white robe she would wear when she did the fragrance blending. She then started working seriously.

However, after a while, her train of thought was disturbed. The scene she saw in the Royal Palace of St. Piaf kept appearing in her mind without warning.

Her mind was occupied with the maid's pitiful and domineering look. The words the maid had said about wanting Jeremy to take responsibility also repeated in her mind. However, it had already happened, so they could not go back anymore.

She knew Jeremy must feel even worse than her right now, but there was no choice.

The more Madeline thought about it, the more conflicted she felt. She put down the work she had in her hands and was about to go to the pantry to take a break when her secretary, Coco, knocked on the door and entered.

"Ms. Montgomery, there's a woman here looking for Mr. Whitman. Since Mr. Whitman is not here, I came to you instead."

Madeline walked over slowly. "A woman? Is she a client?"

Coco shook her head. "She's not. It sounded like she has some important things to tell Mr. Whitman."

"I got it. I'll go take a look now." Madeline did not have time to take off her coat as she walked to the reception room.

On the way to the reception room, Madeline felt very anxious. It sounded as if there was a voice in her subconscious telling her that something was about to happen.

The moment Madeline entered the room and saw the woman waiting on the soda, she finally knew what her anxious and frightened intuition was trying to tell her. When the woman on the sofa saw Madeline, she stood up abruptly. "Eveline? It's you!"

Madeline looked at the dissatisfied look on the woman's face and curled the corners of her lips into a calm smile. "It's me. I heard that you're here looking for my husband. I'm sorry, my husband is taking care of the kids at home. You can tell me if you have anything to say."

Madeline said and looked at Coco.

"Coco, please make a cup of coffee for her. I have something to discuss with her."

'Wait!"

The woman suddenly stopped Coco who was about to leave. The woman then lifted her pejorative gaze to peer at Madeline.

"Why are you asking this woman to leave? Eveline, are you afraid to talk to me justly and honorably?" The woman chuckled softly, but her eyes looked abnormally arrogant.

When Coco saw this, she knew this woman came here to cause trouble.

However, Madeline remained smiling calmly.

"Are you here to talk to me or are you here to chat with my secretary? We're all adults, and I know what you're thinking, so don't waste time. Coco, you should go on with your business. No need to make the coffee."

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The woman's face froze when she heard that.

Coco, who immediately understood what Madeline meant, nodded, turned around, and left. Even though she was curious why this woman was here, she did not have the habit of snooping. She thus closed the door and left.

Inside the reception room.

Elegantly, Madeline turned around, pulled out a chair, and sat down. She had a domineering yet elegant aura, completely overpowering the woman in front of her.

Unrelenting, the woman looked at Madeline. On the other hand, Madeline was looking at this woman calmly.

Compared to the way she dressed in Gray Manor, the woman was now dressed very lady like. She looked very sweet and obedient on the surface.

Madeline had not looked at her closely before, and now, she paid more attention. At the end of the day, she was a maid that the Grays had chosen based on her outstanding looks and body shape. However, Madeline had seen her temper before.

Even when the maid had thought Madeline was Carter's fiancée, the maid had still behaved quite arrogantly toward Madeline because she thought Madeline had been flirting with Jeremy.

The maid, aware that Madeline was observing her, shifted her body uncomfortably. "Eveline, I'm here to look for Mr. Whitman. Ask him to come out to see me."

Madeline smiled softly. "I'm sorry, my husband is at home with the children, so he doesn't have time to meet any irrelevant people. You can tell me anything you want to say to him."

The woman clenched her fists when she heard this. Before she came to Glendale, she asked around and she knew that Madeline was truly Jeremy's wife and that they already had three children.

Madeline was also the daughter of a rich family in Glendale, and she had a very impressive background. Furthermore, Madeline was a very exceptional perfumer and jewelry designer.

As a maid, this was something that she could not strive for. However, how would she reconcile this?

"If you don't have anything to say to me, then let me ask you." Madeline spoke and broke the silence.

The maid looked at Madeline in astonishment. She did not know what Madeline wanted to ask her.

"What's your name?"

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The maid was stunned when she heard that. She then answered proudly, "My name is Hannah Bolton."

"You have a nice name," Madeline praised.

The maid scoffed in contempt. "Eveline, you don't have to flatter me. Because I'm here to ask Mr. Whitman to take responsibility for me. So, I don't care who you are and how much you sweet talk me. I won't give up just like that."

Hannah's stance was firm, and she was still as arrogant as ever.

While Madeline pressed her lips together, she still had a smile on her face. She was not mad, she did not want to fight. She just parted her lips to remind Hannah instead.

"Miss Hannah Bolton, I know that you have a lot of dissatisfaction in your heart, and I hope that you can understand that what happened between you and my husband was an accident that was orchestrated deliberately. You and my husband are both victims. You two were framed by Carter."

The moment Madeline finished speaking, Hannah stood up abruptly.

"What do you mean by that ? Mr. Carter was trying to get me together with Mr. Whitman out of good intentions!"

Upon looking at the maid at this moment, Madeline was already trying her best to keep her emotions under control. However, when she heard what the maid said, she subconsciously furrowed her brows.

"Carter tried to set you up with my husband?"

Madeline asked curiously. "So, you're saying that you knew something would happen between you and my husband?"

When Hannah saw Madeline looking shocked, she felt much relieved for some reason.

She crossed her arms and laughed proudly. "I didn't know how Mr. Carter would try to get us together. When I found out, I didn't mind. I'm willing to sacrifice everything for someone I like, including my body!"

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The maid's words shocked Madeline. She could not understand what Hannah was saying. Was this something a self-respecting woman would say?

Obviously not. Hannah was not an ordinary person.

Madeline slowly stood up; the polite smile could no longer be seen on her beautiful, petite face.

"So, Miss Bolton, what do you want?"

"I want Jeremy Whitman to be responsible for me!" Hannah insisted. She clearly came prepared.

"Responsible ? How do you intend my husband to do that ?" Madeline asked calmly.

Hannah rolled her big eyes, eyes filled with jealousy for Madeline.

"I know your family is rich, but I don't want money. I want him!" Hannah emphasized. She was certainly prepared for this.

When Madeline heard that, she chuckled involuntarily.

Hannah's face fell. "What are you laughing at, Eveline?"

"I'm laughing at how naive you are, Miss Bolton."

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Hannah's face fell. Displeased, she asked, "What are you trying to say, Eveline ?"

"I want to say that not only won't my husband take responsibility for you, he can even ask you to take responsibility for your crime."

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Hannah was immediately stunned when she heard that She felt that Madeline was scaring her, but she figured she would not be scared easily.

"Eveline, are you trying to scare me? Mr. Whitman slept with me and he abandoned me. The person who should be pressing charges should be me! What responsibility should I bear?"

"If you feel that way, you can go to the police station to sue my husband." Madeline's attitude became firmer too.

Hannah's heart sank, she was not as domineering as before. The sight of Madeline's calm face made her heart start pounding.

"Eveline, I know that you're actually upset because something like that happened to me and your husband. You're just being stubborn. You don't have to scare me too. Do you think I won't dare to report this to the police?"

After Hannah said that, Madeline slammed her phone down on the coffee table with a loud smack.

"Call them right now." Her expression was arrogant and cheerless.

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Hannah was stunned once again.

Madeline clicked her heels and walked in front of Hannah elegantly and then pointed behind Hannah.

"Do you see that camera? It clearly recorded everything we said just now."

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Hannah turned her head abruptly to look behind her when she heard that. Sure enough, she did find a camera.

'But what will this prove ?' Hannah thought, unconvinced. She then heard Madeline's cold voice again...

"Miss Bolton, you just said that you knew Carter was setting you up with my husband. You also knew Carter was using such an unethical method to 'match' you and my husband, didn't you ?"

Madeline reminded Hannah of what she had just said.

Hannah froze for a moment. She still did not quite understand what Madeline wanted to express.

However, what Madeline said next quickly woke her up.

"So, Miss Bolton, you had done it knowingly. Not only did you not reject Carter's so-called 'kind arrangement', but you also thought that you were giving yourself up nobly. Is that true ?"

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Hannah had an embarrassed look on her face, her eyes seemed to dart around hurriedly.

"You voluntarily and knowingly acted when my husband was only faintly conscious, so my husband is the only victim in this matter. What right do you have to talk about taking responsibility? My husband should be the one holding you accountable."

After hearing these words from Madeline, Hannah's face fell. "Eveline, you..."

"Shut up," Madeline interrupted her domineeringly, her cold and sharp yet beautiful eyes penetrating Hannah. "You have shamelessly used such despicable means, committing such an atrocious act, and you still have the cheek to make noise?"

"…"

"Miss Bolton, I'll remind you one last time. Carter isn't helping you to matchmake. He is merely using you as a pawn. If he had truly been a good person, he wouldn't be reduced to a fugitive now."

Madeline snapped back at Hannah, causing Hannah's jaw to drop and unable to utter a word. She had come here to look for Jeremy, but unexpectedly, she did not get to meet Jeremy, and instead, she met Madeline and humiliated herself.

Hannah gritted her teeth and stared at Madeline angrily. She then suddenly released her fist and let out a contemptuous laugh.

"Eveline, just keep on pretending to be calm and strong. I know you are really hurting inside! This matter won't end like this. Just you wait!"

Hannah warned Madeline, turned around, and opened the glass door before walking away.

Madeline stood on her ground silently and looked in the direction Hannah had left. After that, she walked forward and picked up her phone indifferently. Looking at the gentle looking man in the photo that she used as her screensaver, Madeline lifted the corners of her lips and smiled. She then left the reception room in the next second.

Madeline knew Hannah would not let this go, but if Hannah really wanted to call the police, she would not gain anything.

As such, Madeline did not ponder further this matter. She went back to her lab to continue her work, but after a while, Coco came over; she looked like she was in a hurry.

"Ms. Montgomery, the woman just now is spewing nonsense downstairs to fool people. You should go and take a look now."

Madeline frowned slightly. This was unexpected. Hannah was more arrogant than Madeline had thought. This girl seemed to only be in her twenties, but her temper was truly ferocious.

However, her willfulness might also be due to her youth. It was still working hours, and there were not many people in the lobby downstairs of the company, but Hannah was crying and shrieking very loudly.

Madeline walked over, clicking her heels, exuding a very domineering aura.

Some confused employees were recording videos with their mobile phones. When they saw Madeline coming, they immediately put down their phones and pretended to be busy with their work.

Hannah, too, saw Madeline coming, but she did not stop making a fuss.

With a sad look on her face, she lifted her eyes, pretending to only have seen Madeline now, and then she suddenly turned and ran towards Madeline.

As soon as she ran up to Madeline, she grabbed Madeline's sleeves, and with a sob, she said, "Miss Montgomery, I know I was wrong. I shouldn't have comforted Mr. Whitman when you quarreled with him. Also, I shouldn't have done anything delirious with Mr. Whitman. I was wrong. I hope you won't get someone to make a move against me again. I really know that I was wrong!"

"I know that my behavior with Mr. Whitman upsets you, but I didn't mean it. I didn't know that Mr. Whitman was married. I met him in St. Piaf and I genuinely like him, but now I know I was wrong, and I will never see Mr. Whitman again. I hope you'll let me and the child in my womb go."

Hannah's accusations, her words resembling a beg for mercy, stunned the employees who were watching this drama unfold. This scene also stunned Coco, the secretary, who stood beside Madeline.

Madeline, too, was astonished.

Madeline looked at Hannah. The latter looked upset, yet her eyes were filled with joy and bad intentions. Suddenly, Madeline then smiled and spoke.

"Miss Bolton, you..."

"Miss Montgomery, you don't have to lecture me anymore. I really know that I was wrong! Don't worry, from now on, I'll never appear in front of you and Mr. Whitman again. I just hope that you'll let me go."

Without giving Madeline a chance to speak, Hannah suddenly knelt and kowtowed to Madeline!

"Wow, what's going on with that woman?"

"It sounded as if something happened to her and Mr. Whitman in that Piaf place."

"Shhh. Don't speak nonsense!"

"She is too much! She described our lady boss as if she's a cruel and devious woman. Is that woman a lunatic?"

"Looks like it."

All kinds of whispering voices were heard. Although Hannah performed with everything she got, no one seemed to believe her.

Madeline, of course, heard those words too. In the early years, she had been given so many bad names. Presently, though she would still be shocked by how those villains would slander her, she was not as lost as she would have been in the past.

Additionally, the people who were watching this unfold right now seemed to be less gullible than before.

She was still smiling at Hannah who was performing with everything she had. Madeline lowered her beautiful eyes and stared at Hannah condescendingly.

"Miss Bolton, you seem to be overdoing it. Did you really think that you can convince everyone of what you just said by acting this way?"

Hannah was taken aback, and she also realized this, but she could not turn back now. As such, she decided to pull the biggest trick she had.

Madeline had very keen observation skills. She could tell what tricks this woman had up her sleeves. However, just when Madeline was about to take precautions, Hannah suddenly took out a fruit knife from her pocket!

Hannah stood up abruptly, holding the fruit knife in one hand, and aimed it at her wrist. A timid female employee around them screamed in terror.

Madeline looked at Hannah's reaction, and of course, she knew that this was one of the woman's methods. However, Madeline asked Coco to call the police and an ambulance, just in case.

The number of people who came to watch this gradually began to increase, and Hannah also felt that it was almost time to continue the second act of the performance.

She held the fruit knife and looked at her wrist as if she was struggling.

Madeline, who had guessed Hannah's motives, did not panic in any way. "Hannah, please stop your irrational behavior. If you want to use this to achieve your goals, you are still too naive."

Upon seeing Madeline maintaining her calm at such a moment, Hannah bit her lip, refusing to back down, and then Hannah finally made up her mind. She was still playing the role of a pitiful and aggrieved character. She cried and, in front of everyone, said to Madeline. "Ms. Montgomery, I know that my behavior today disgusts you. Even if I were to go back now, you'd definitely find someone to make a move against me again. The result would be the same anyway, so I might as well end myself right now!" Hannah's remarks, which undoubtedly portrayed Madeline as a cruel and devious woman, made the audience around them start doubting Madeline. Madeline, however, was not afraid of these doubts at all. She blinked her beautiful eyes and looked at Hannah with a smile on her face without saying a word.

Hannah was confused. How could Madeline be so calm?

She must be putting up an act.

Even though Hannah felt that Madeline was just pretending, however, Hannah was still panicking. "Alright, I understand what you mean now. I'll end all gratitude and grudges right here right now!"

"Okay."

Madeline merely gave a one-word response, and it was as though she answered with alacrity.

"End everything right here then."

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Hannah was stunned upon hearing that.

However, Madeline smiled calmly and looked at everyone around them.

"There are so many people watching. You said you want to end yourself, so go ahead. It's none of my business what happens to you anyway. If this is your desired result, then you can slash your wrist right now."

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Hannah had nothing to say to that. She held the fruit knife and dared not do anything for a long while.

Madeline looked at her, and she lifted her beautiful eyebrows as if she was waiting for Hannah's performance.

Hannah looked at Madeline blankly, and she felt the crowd around her criticizing her, yet none of them were doubting Madeline.

She was pissed, but she did not know how to vent it right now.

Madeline caught sight of the fire in Hannah's eyes, and Madeline was even calmer now.

"Alright, you should put a stop to your tantrum now. Everyone still needs to go back to work. Miss Bolton, if you're not done, you can continue in my office. Please don't disturb my employees' work." After Madeline said that, she turned around carefreely.

Hannah was even more enraged with Madeline ignoring her.

"Eveline, do you really think I wouldn't dare to do it? Do you think I'm just scaring you? Alright, just wait to be in the headlines. I want everyone in Glendale to know that Eveline Montgomery's the one who forced me to end my life!"

Madeline could hear Hannah's threatening voice from behind her. Suddenly, when she was about to ignore her, she heard the screams of female employees from a side.

The clanging sound of something falling onto the ground then followed.

Madeline, who suddenly had a thought, immediately turned around and looked back, and then she saw bright red blood dripping down from Hannah's left wrist and the blood-stained fruit knife which had already fallen to the ground.

In barely a moment, Hannah's face turned pale. She gritted her teeth and glared hatefully at Madeline. "Eveline, if I die, you're the murderer."

After gritting her teeth and saying these words, her body gradually fell limp to the ground.

With Hannah's life at stake, Madeline did not care about Hannah' s unreasonable and savage behavior, and she strode forward and held Hannah instead.

However, Hannah broke away from Madeline.

"I don't need your help, Eveline. Stop being so hypocritical. You just want me to die!"

Hannah pulled Madeline's sleeve with all her strength.

"Everyone, look. This woman, Eveline Montgomery, is the one who forced me to my death! It's all because I had a one night stand with her husband." "Gosh…"

Many passersby who did not know the truth were speechless when they heard Hannah's words.

"Is she telling the truth?"

"How is it possible ? Mr. Whitman loves Ms. Montgomery so much. How could he be a womanizer ?"

"If it weren't true, why would the woman slit her wrist to kill herself in front of everyone? The cost of this slander is too huge. She might even die because of this."

Upon hearing the doubts being voiced out around her, Hannah lifted the corners of her lips secretly. She knew she was halfway there with her act.

She still wanted to say something to add fuel to the fire, but the blood loss caused her to slowly slip out of consciousness.

In the next second, Hannah passed out on Madeline.

Madeline immediately took off her white coat and tied it on Hannah's bleeding wrist.

Since they happened to call for an ambulance not long ago, the medical staff rushed over to ask questions and carried Hannah, who was in a coma, onto a stretcher.

Madeline stood in place and stared in the direction in which the medical staff hurriedly left. Her expression was slightly solemn.

However, what she was worried about was not how the onlookers would think of her or doubt her. She was instead worried about whether Hannah truly wanted to struggle to the death.

It was just love at first sight, why did she have such a deep obsession with Jeremy?

However, after thinking about it, Madeline felt that it was understandable. Although Hannah had a terrible temper, she had said that it was her first time, and her heart probably had grievances and lacked reconciliation.

What about it then?

After all, Hannah was just being used by Carter. Moreover, she was aware of this when this happened. Jeremy should be the one who was the most wronged.

As Madeline thought about that, Coco hurried over with a wet wipe. "Ms. Montgomery, there's a lot of blood on your clothes."

Madeline looked at the bloodstain on her sleeves. This was not something wet wipes could get rid of.

She smiled calmly and turned around. "Let's get back to work."

"Okay," Coco answered and followed Madeline to the elevator.

However, before they could take another step, reporters suddenly appeared to block Madeline. "Ms. Montgomery, is the woman telling the truth ?"

"Mrs. Whitman, did Mr. Whitman have an affair?"

With questions tailing her, Madeline had to stop. Nevertheless, she merely smiled calmly and magnanimously and then spoke to the camera.

"In recent years, you've seen a lot of melodrama and even unbelievable news about me and my husband, but what happened in the end?"

Madeline asked with a small smile.

"It should be very clear to all of you, isn't it?"

The reporters looked at each other tactfully, and one of them asked, "Mrs. Whitman, are you saying that the woman deliberately came here to cause trouble and discredit Mr. Whitman and that in fact, nothing happened between Mr. Whitman and her ?"

Upon hearing this reporter's words, Madeline was slightly startled for two seconds.

She was not good at lying, and the memory of what happened between Jeremy and the maid was indeed playing in her head.

"Mrs. Whitman, why are you not answering ?"

"Could it be true that the woman actually slit her wrist to commit suicide? It didn't seem like acting. Who would risk their life to put up an act?"

The reporter tentatively asked Madeline again.

Madeline immediately came back to her senses. "You'll need to take legal responsibility for defamation. I'm already making myself very clear now, aren't I?"

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Upon hearing Madeline's words, the reporters did not dare to continue asking. No one dared to go up to stop her when they saw her turning around coolly.

After returning to the office, Madeline changed into the spare set of clothes she had in the room.

As soon as she came out after changing her clothes, she heard the ringing of a specific ringtone.

Jeremy was calling her. Although it was a nice melody, Madeline felt inexplicably agitated when she heard it. Madeline picked up the phone and swiped the answer button. Soon after, Jeremy's low and gentle voice, laced with worry and anxiety, could be heard.

"Linnie, is something wrong with the company ?" he asked. "Someone called me just now, and I also saw some news on the Internet. The maid..."

"Yeah." Madeline nodded in response. "She found us and said that she wanted you to be responsible for her. She had also made a fuss downstairs in the company. She slit her wrist and committed suicide in front of many onlookers."

"Suicide by slitting her wrist?" Jeremy was surprised. "Linnie, wait for me. I'll come over to you now."

"Don't," Madeline refused. "You're still recuperating from your leg injury. Don't run around any further. I'll go back soon. Don't worry about me." Madeline said gently.

"Jeremy, leave this to me. Just get better and don't worry. Be a good boy."

After Madeline said that, she hung up the phone. She knew Jeremy must be very worried, but she was also worried about him. He had a gunshot wound on his leg, he could not run around during this period.

Madeline grabbed her bag to head out. Expecting there to be a lot of reporters and onlookers downstairs, she went straight to the basement and drove out in her car. She found out which hospital Hannah was in, and then she immediately went over.

When she arrived at the hospital, Madeline found the doctor who treated Hannah. The doctor told Madeline that Hannah was stable and that her life was not in danger. Presently, Hannah was lying in bed.

Madeline thanked the doctor and then walked to the hospital room. However, before she got there, Madeline saw, from a distance, that there were a lot of reporters by the room's entrance. Madeline understood that these people were here for more information.

They wanted to know something more exciting from Hannah's end. They were also hoping to prove what Hannah said was true so that their write ups would be very valuable.

Without thinking about it too much, Madeline grabbed her phone and turned around to dial a number.

"Hello, I am a family member of patient 1201. I don't know why it is so noisy outside of the adjacent room. It's so noisy that my relative can't even rest. Please ask someone to deal with it as soon as possible."

Soon after receiving Madeline's complaint, the hospital called the security guard to drive the reporters away. A few minutes later, the entrance to the room was instantly quieter.

Presently, Madeline walked over to the door to the room. Through the small window on the door, she saw Hannah lying on the bed, resting comfortably.

She was not in a coma, but she was rather energetic. At the moment, she even had a smile on her face when she looked at her wrist that was wrapped in gauze. Madeline raised her hand and knocked on the door lightly before pushing it open to enter. Hannah looked up and saw Madeline. The smile on her face froze for a few seconds before returning to normal.

"Eveline, you found me so quickly. Were you also the one who drove away the reporters at the door? Are you afraid that I would tell them the truth?"

Looking at the triumphant expression on Hannah's face, Madeline knew that this woman was not someone easy to deal with. At the very least, Hannah would make a lot of fuss, and it would be enough to disrupt their lives.

"Eveline, I'm going to fight you now until one of us perishes. In short, I won't allow myself to be the one losing out!"

Hannah suddenly glared at Madeline, expressing her determination. "Fight me?" Madeline repeated those words with a calm smile.

She walked gracefully to the hospital bed. She had the aura like a queen as she lowered her eyes to look at Hannah.

"Miss Bolton, I don't know if you have ever inquired about the power and status of Jeremy and me in Glendale. A fight like that won't work on us. If you continue to make trouble, you'll only be embarrassing yourself."

"Heh." Hannah let out a disdainful chuckle. "Eveline, are you threatening or scaring me by saying that? I've never been scared now that I've come this far!"

Madeline nodded. "I know you're not scared, otherwise you wouldn't throw your life away. But do you really think that this will achieve the effect that satisfies you?"

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Hannah was stunned. She did not understand what Madeline wanted to express.

Madeline parted her lips unhurriedly.

"Hannah, no matter how violent you are, no matter the intensity of the discussion on the Internet, the news will disappear at the end of the day. And you should be very clear that I have a recording of what you said before. If those recordings were released, you'd be the one who wouldn't be able to get out of this embarrassing situation."

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The smug smile on Hannah's face gradually crumbled.

Upon noticing that Hannah seemed to be shaken, Madeline followed up and persuaded, "In this matter, my husband is the bigger victim. Although you were sober at the time, you were indeed used by Carter. I hope you can understand that and stop doing things that'll hurt others and yourself."

"Hurt others and myself?" Hannah scoffed. She suddenly jumped off the bed as if she was blinded by rage.

"Okay, let's hurt others and ourselves then!"

After Hannah said that, Madeline saw her taking out another fruit knife from her waist and stabbed Madeline involuntarily.

Madeline was caught off guard. In her attempt to avoid the fruit knife, it slit the back of her right hand.

The sight of blood on Madeline seemed to further excite Hannah, whose red eyes were staring at Madeline. "Eveline, are you afraid now? You'd dare threaten me? Let me tell you, I'm not afraid of anything!"

Suddenly, the malevolent looking Hannah lost control of her emotions and pounced toward Madeline. It seemed as if she had decided to die with Madeline.

Madeline did not have time to care about the wound on the back of her hand at the present. She moved to one side quickly and avoided Hannah's attack.

"Hannah, think about your family before you do anything stupid." Madeline exhorted her. The cut flesh on the back of her hand was bleeding more and more.

She needed to do something to her wound right now. Madeline knew her blood type was rare, it would be troublesome if she lost too much blood.

However, when Hannah heard what Madeline said, she started cackling loudly. "Family? If I had a family, would I go and become a lowly maid?" Hannah roared out at Madeline. It was clear that she despised her background.

The hand she used to hold the knife was shaking as she aimed it at Madeline, and Hannah's eyes were filled with hatred.

"Eveline, why is your life so good? You're the daughter of a rich family. You don't have to worry about your livelihood for your whole life. You even have such an excellent husband. Your life is so perfect that it couldn't get better than how it already is, but what about me?" As Hannah expressed the dissatisfaction in her heart, her eyes reddened.

"My parents only cared about their son. They gave me away the moment I was born. My adoptive parents were good to me, but they're poor! They couldn't even afford to send me to school, so I was forced to work when I was still a minor. If I didn't have the looks, I wouldn't have been able to enter the gates of the Grays!"

The more Hannah spoke, the shakier her hand that held the knife.

However, as time passed, Madeline's face became paler and paler.

She tried to talk to Hannah to calm her down, but judging from Hannah's current state, it would be useless.

"Eveline, I've finally found a man I can depend on, so why are you trying to ruin me? I've had physical contact with Mr. Whitman. And that's an undeniable fact. If you don't let me see Mr. Whitman and if you won't let him take responsibility for me, I'll make sure neither of us will win."

After saying that, Hannah decided to make a move against Madeline.

Madeline lifted her hand to grab Hannah's hand, but Hannah was cunning. Hannah knew that Madeline would try to stop her, so Hannah suddenly lifted her leg to kick Madeline's stomach.

Madeline was caught off guard, but at this moment, the door of the room was pushed open abruptly. A tall and lean figure sped toward Madeline's side.

Madeline caught a whiff of the familiar and calming scent, then at the same time, she was pulled into a warm hug.

She knew Jeremy was here, and when she was about to lift her eyes to look at him, Hannah used this chance to point the knife at her again.

However, the knife did not get in contact with Madeline, Jeremy was holding it tightly in his hand instead.

Hannah did not see how Jeremy intended to protect Madeline, but she had not expected him to stop her sharp knife with his bare hand for Madeline.

"That's enough!"

Jeremy pushed the knife away.

Hannah, still holding onto the fruit knife tightly, stumbled backward from the force. Unable to stabilize herself, she fell to the floor with a thud.

"Jeremy, your hand..."

Madeline's heart ached as she held Jeremy's bleeding palm. At this moment, she was completely oblivious to her own wound.

The same goes for Jeremy. There was only Madeline in his eyes. Looking at Madeline's pale face, he held her anxiously.

"Linnie, let's go."

Madeline nodded. From the corner of her eyes, she looked at the baffled Hannah before following Jeremy to the door.

"Mr. Whitman!" Hannah yelled at Jeremy's back.

"Mr. Whitman! I came all the way from St. Piaf for you. Please don't ignore me so heartlessly! Mr. Whitman!"

Hannah's ear-piercing voice came over repeatedly.

Jeremy turned a deaf ear. He only wanted to take Madeline to tend to her wounds as soon as possible. However, at this moment, the reporters who had been chased away came back out of nowhere.

They swarmed forward to interview Jeremy. They wanted to know more about his relationship with Hannah, but before they could get close, they were frightened back by Jeremy's austere eyes.

In Glendale, Jeremy was someone they dared not offend.

Jeremy quickly brought Madeline to the outpatient services where a doctor quickly tended to the wounds on their hands.

The sight of the gauze on their hands broke Madeline's heart, but at the same time, she did not know if she should laugh or cry.

"I wanted to take care of this myself, yet I still implicated you in this." Madeline sighed softly, gently caressing Jeremy's hand.

"Does it hurt?"

"Don't say nonsense like that. We're husband and wife. Even if we're talking about implications, I'm the one who has implicated you."

Jeremy held Madeline's hand to his lips and kissed it. "Linnie, I was the cause of this, so let me take care of it."

Madeline knew that Jeremy was scared that she would get hurt again because of this, but if she allowed Jeremy to get in contact with Hannah, Madeline felt that this would become even more serious. However, she saw determination in Jeremy's eyes.

"Linnie, you should go home. I'll go find her now and explain this to her."

"Jeremy." Madeline grabbed him and her expression was solemn. "She's very emotional now, and there are so many reporters that this matter might escalate into something worse. If you really want to talk to her, you should do it at a later time."

Jeremy understood what Madeline meant, but he wanted to tell Hannah his stance right now.

"Linnie, listen to me. Go back now and leave the rest to me, okay?"

After the man's gentle words had fallen away, he turned around and left.

Madeline could guess what Jeremy was going to do. As such, she quickly followed him and grabbed his hand.

"I want to be with you no matter what we're facing, Jeremy."

As Madeline said with emphasis, she lifted her beautiful and alluring eyes, looking straight into Jeremy's eyes.

Jeremy understood and smiled as he held Madeline's hand tightly.

The reporters waiting by the hospital room entrance were just saying that they wanted to convince Hannah to give them some information when, incidentally, they saw Jeremy turning back. This time, they did not dare to go and talk to Hannah without thinking about the consequences.

However, when Hannah saw Jeremy, her expression changed immediately. She pushed the reporters blocking her away and rushed up to Jeremy.

"Mr. Whitman! You're finally willing to come to see me!" As expected, Hannah was still emotional. However, when she saw Madeline who was holding hands with Jeremy, her expression changed again.

"Mr. Whitman, since you're here, and there are many reporters here, we should make everything clear right here!" Hannah said resolutely.

The reporters around them saw this and started filming.

Jeremy narrowed his cold eyes. His icy eyes, as deep as the ocean, shot out a ray of frigid light. "Before we solve this matter, I need you to solve another matter!"

Upon hearing Jeremy suddenly speaking as such, Hannah, who was very emotional to begin with, was taken aback. However, Jeremy's gaze, a blazed, was not something that someone could approach and fool at will.

"This was initially a private matter between you and me. You can even ask me for compensation, but you've used the wrong approach."

Jeremy's voice and eyes grew colder and colder.

"You made a fuss in my company downstairs and threatened my wife with death. You even played the victim by making a ridiculous accusation that my wife would hire someone to bully you and the child in your womb. Heh."

Jeremy grinned coldly. "Child ?"

Hannah heard Jeremy's sarcastic words and felt the doubts of the people around her. Although she was feeling slightly guilty, Hannah, with red eyes, quickly recomposed her pitiful state and explained, "I'm just telling the facts..."

"Facts ?" Jeremy interrupted Hannah indifferently. "Let me tell you what the facts are."

Jeremy's deep and alluring eyes darkened, then his sexy thin lips moved lightly to speak. "The fact is that I have already been sterilized. The fact is that apart from the three children my wife had given birth to, I can never have children." ••••••

After Hannah heard this, the expression on her face stiffened a lot.

Jeremy had a vasectomy!

This was something she could never have expected no matter what. She had thought that this he she told could simultaneously damage the relationship between Madeline and Jeremy and also besmirch Madeline's reputation, but she had not expected Jeremy to have undergone such an operation.

Had he done this for Madeline?

She wondered in her heart. Hatred and jealousy started to grow in the depths of her heart.

Meanwhile, the reporters who were waiting for the news recovered from the shock induced by Jeremy's revelation. Jeremy had already announced this news a long time ago!

How would they have forgotten this?

If that was the case, this woman named Hannah Bolton was lying. Once everyone had gotten the situation straight, pairs of doubtful eyes fell on Hannah.

"Miss Bolton, why did you make up such lies?"

"Did someone send you here?"

"Haven't you done any research before accusing Mr. Whitman of having an affair with you? Don't you know that Mr. Whitman had a vasectomy for Mrs. Whitman a long time ago?"

In the face of all kinds of incessant questions, Hannah felt the heavy pressure overwhelming her. Her expression looked unpleasant, and she looked at everyone around her with glistening eyes.

"Yes, I'm not pregnant, but I do have an abnormal relationship with Mr. Whitman! I didn't lie about that! Don't you want to get the news? I can tell you all of the details!"

Hannah emphasized, but no one believed her anymore. Those reporters also did not dare to ask about the details in front of Jeremy. Moreover, they were certain that Hannah was lying.

"Linnie, let's go home." Jeremy did not want to speak any further. He held Madeline's hand and turned around.

Madeline had not uttered a single word since the beginning. After she turned around and left with Jeremy, she suddenly felt uneasy in her heart.

Hannah bit her lip and stared in the direction in which Jeremy and Madeline had left, her eyes were red and unwilling. She knew that she had made a mistake; she had not investigated some things clearly before making things up. She also knew that no one believed what she said, but she did have a relationship with Jeremy!

She would never forget what happened in the Royal Palace of St. Piaf that day for the rest of her life!

Jeremy brought Madeline back to the car. Once the car had gotten onto the road, the air about them fell into a moment of silence.

Jeremy's leg was injured, so Madeline was driving the car. After a long moment of heavy silence, Jeremy opened his mouth and spoke.

"Did you know that it was dangerous? If she could make a fuss at the entrance of the company with no regard for her own reputation, you should know that she's not a good person. How can you take the risk to see her alone?"

Jeremy's words sounded like a reproach, but in fact, he was more concerned and worried about Madeline.

Madeline was very clear about this in her heart. She stayed silent for a few seconds and then quickly admitted her mistake. "I made you worry."

Jeremy had not wanted to make Madeline admit her mistakes when he said that. He reached out and touched Madeline's hand lightly.

Madeline felt Jeremy's concern, so she waited for the traffic light to turn red and looked at Jeremy and smiled. However, her beautiful eyebrows were slightly furrowed.

"Jeremy, what are you going to do next?"

"Are you pitying her, sympathizing with her, Linnie?"

Madeline shook her head. "She lied. She's not pregnant, and I didn't ask someone to take action against her. But you and her..."

"Linnie, let's not talk about this anymore."

Jeremy changed the subject and frowned slightly. "That was a trap set up by Carter. The only pity she deserves is being used by Carter."

"She wasn't used by Carter," Madeline explained. "She consented to it because she really likes you."

When Jeremy heard that, his eyes flashed with emotion, and he looked at Madeline in slight surprise. He then heard Madeline saying those words Hannah had admitted not long ago.

This woman had cooperated with Carter knowingly. She had been used, but this was exactly what she had been looking for. After learning about this situation, Jeremy suddenly felt a burst of disgust and mental nausea. It turned out that there were actually many women who were shameless like Meredith in this world.

In St. Piaf. Carter had been hiding in this room with Shirley for a few days.

The rain had been raining ceaselessly for the past few days. Shirley's body had become a little weak probably due to the rain, so she could only rest in bed every day. Although Carter had a cold poker face every day, he still took care of Shirley patiently.

For the past few days, Shirley had been thinking about what test reagents Carter used until she saw the news of a woman named Hannah Bolton making a fuss in Whitman Corporation in Glendale when Shirley was online.

After reading all the relevant news, she finally had an accurate guess.

She put down her phone, and coincidentally, when she was about to call Carter, Carter came in with the freshly prepared meal.

"Was it the hallucinogen?" Shirley asked quite directly.

Carter stopped in his tracks, and then he walked calmly to the bed and put down the tableware.

"Eat," Carter said, parting his lips slightly. He had not been grooming himself in the past few days. His original soft and fair face was covered with stubbles which made him look a little more tired and as though he had been through the mill.

Shirley did not touch the tableware but merely looked at Carter coldly instead.

"Answer my question. It was the hallucinogen, wasn't it? You used the hallucinogen on Jeremy, so that's why this happened!" Shirley said and threw the phone at Carter's body. "Pick it up and see what you've done!"

Shirley roared out at Carter, condemnation in her tone and gaze.

Carter looked at Shirley in this state, and then he picked up the phone unhurriedly. In fact, he had seen the news a long time ago, so how could he not know this?

Looking at the message on the screen, a slight smirk gradually appeared on Carter's gloomy face.

Upon noticing the smirk on Carter's face, a sudden burst of intense pain surged in Shirley's heart. She really did not want Carter to be like this at all. Shirley's eyes turned red against her volition.

"Answer me, Carter."

Carter looked away and tossed the phone onto the bed. "Yes, I did it," he admitted without taking it seriously.

Nonetheless, the expression on his face suggested intense emotions.

"I initially had everything under control, but you and Eveline taught me a lesson." Carter said in a leisurely tone, walked over to the bed, and sat down slowly. He picked up the tableware and prepared to feed Shirley.

"I thought I had lost horribly, but I didn't expect another unexpected thing to happen."

His cold eyes stared at the close-up photo displayed on the phone screen. It was the maid named Hannah Bolton.

Carter laughed in a deep voice. "Jeremy is certainly very attractive. He made the maid fall in love with him the moment he came to our place. I had been thinking of a way to deal with Jeremy. I wanted to make Jeremy face more distressing and uncomfortable things, and she happened to show up."

As he spoke, Carter picked up the spoon and took a spoonful of oatmeal, and slowly brought it to Shirley's mouth. However, Shirley did not appreciate the kindness. She lifted her hand to push Carter's hand away and glared a t him sternly.

"Go on. What the hell did you do to Jeremy?"

Unbothered, Carter continued to play around with the bowl, then he parted his lips and said, "You still care so much about him."

Carter seemed jealous, but at the same time, he was also mocking himself. He then spoke again. "I didn't do anything. I merely took advantage of the situation for my benefit."

"Be more specific," Shirley insisted coldly.

Carter raised his eyebrows and smiled. He then brought the spoon with the food to Shirley's face again.

"If you want to know the details, eat."

Shirley did not want to accept Carter's kindness, but she still chose to compromise at this moment.

When Carter saw that Shirley was eating again, the smile on his face looked more pleasant now. While feeding Shirley, he said, "That day at the Royal Palace of St. Piaf, I had let the maid stay with Jeremy. I was already prepared. As long as Jeremy ate something, no matter if it's a drink or a snack, he will consume the hallucinogen you developed back then."

"Despite his vigilance, he still fell into my trap. But even if he hadn't eaten anything, I'd still have other ways to make him get in contact with the hallucinogen."

Carter's face looked extremely confident as he spoke. He had been obviously confident with his plan, but he had not expected Shirley to know how to break his hypnotism, and that had completely halted his original seamless plan.

His dreams and ambitions had been stopped abruptly. He was angry, but he did not blame Shirley.

He fed Shirley another bite and leisurely continued speaking.

"When the hallucinogen started to affect Jeremy's consciousness, I had someone take him to the room in which the maid was already waiting. Just like Jeremy, she was also exposed to the hallucinogen without her realizing."

After hearing this, everything became clear to Shirley.

"You confused them both, making them think that they had intimate contact with each other."

Shirley concluded with certainty, and her eyes were looking at Carter with more disappointment. "Carter, you're irredeemable."

Carter paused as he was scooping the food. "I'm irredeemable?"

He chuckled lightly. "You're the one who's crazy."

"I'm crazy?"

"If you weren't crazy, why would you help Jeremy? If you weren't crazy, why would you help Eveline? Have you really forgotten how our child died?"

Carter's expression suddenly darkened.

"Don't tell me that since you're the one who developed the test reagent, you only have yourself to blame. It was Jeremy's fault! He injected the APX69 anti-toxoid test reagent into your body. That's why our child couldn't be born. You directly caused this tragedy!"

Carter immediately became emotional at the mention of the child.

His gaze was suddenly covered in darkness as if the violent winds of a raging storm were upon them.

Shirley calmly looked at the angry Carter, and then her eyes gradually turned cool and distant.

"Heh, hehe." Shirley laughed. "You still couldn't understand how the child died."

When Shirley said this, emotions flashed abruptly in Carter's eyes. "What are you trying to say ?"

Shirley stared at Carter coldly from the corner of her eyes. "Listen, Carter. I chose to fall from the stairs because I hate you and I don't want to have anything to do with you anymore."

Shirley's eyes gradually turned wet and red as she spoke, and then warm tears fell from her eyes.

"Carter, do you think that I couldn't have saved this child with my ability? Of course, I could have, but I didn't want to. Because the child was yours, I don't want it. Do you understand?"

Upon hearing Shirley's answer, Carter's eyes flickered sharply. He stared dazedly at Shirley who had said this, and upon seeing the tears in her eyes, his vision gradually became blurred.

"I won't believe it." After a long while, Carter said this in a trembling voice. He denied but his eyes were firm.

"Shirley, I trust that you genuinely despise me and don't want to see me again, but I will not believe that you could give up on your flesh and blood unless you already know that the child won't come into this world. Don't think I'll forgive Jeremy because of this. He ruined my family, so I'll ruin his family in turn."

Bang!

After he said that, Carter slammed the cutlery on the nightstand and turned to leave in rancor.

Shirley wanted to stop him, but after moving her lips, she did not know what to say.

In truth, Carter understood her very well, but what use did it have?

Judging from this current situation, they were destined to walk toward tragedy, and there would be no way to turn back anymore.

After going downstairs, Carter, filled with rage, grabbed the phone to call Fabian. He knew Fabian had blocked his number, so Carter changed his number.

Soon after, Fabian answered the call.

Fabian felt that something was wrong when he saw this unfamiliar number. He could already guess who it was, and as expected, he heard Carter's voice a second later.

"I've blocked your number. You should know that I don't want to have anything to do with you anymore."

"Are you really going to let Jeremy off the hook like this? Can you really let go of your brother and sister's death?"

Carter began to provoke and instigate Fabian again. He waited for Fabian's answer. After a long moment, Fabian's voice came from the other end of the phone.

"Carter, I'll say it one last time. I don't want to have any contact with you anymore. I don't need you meddling in my family affairs."

Fabian said with emphasis and then hung up the phone.

As Carter listened to the busy tone from the other end of the line, his fingers around the phone tightened one by one. An unmistakably chilly hatred filled his eyes.

After a while, he called again.

When the call connected, he simply requested the person on the other end of the line in a commanding voice. "Prepare me two tickets to F Country for tomorrow. Be quick."

After he said that, Carter looked at the dimming mobile phone screen, and the corners of his lips were slowly lifted into a sly smile.

"Jeremy, it seems that you can only feel the fatal blow if I give an eye for an eye." He said with a cold smirk on his face and then turned back to Shirley's room.

Shirley had been sitting silently on the bed, thinking about what was going on dispiritedly. Suddenly, she saw Carter coming back into her room. She had thought that Carter came looking for her, but then she saw Carter walking to the closet and began to pack.

Sensing something was up, Shirley asked directly, "Where are you going? Aren't you going to go back to apologize to your grandpa? Are you planning to hide like this for the rest of your life?"

Upon hearing what Shirley said, Carter slowly stopped packing and turned his head and looked at Shirley, his eyes conveying a reluctance to be defeated. "Why should I apologize? How am I wrong? My biggest mistake was that I trusted you too much."

Shirley suddenly had nothing to say to that. She wanted to continue asking, but she also knew that Carter would not tell her the truth.

She lifted her eyes to look at the French window. It was still raining, and the wind never stopped howling. This cold weather, just like her heart, was going to freeze over.

In F Country.

After hanging up the phone, Fabian stood in the same spot in a daze. What Carter said not long ago lingered in his mind. Yorick and Lana's deaths still haunted his mind after a very long time.

He also learned about Jeremy's undercover identity toward the end. Jeremy had only deliberately stayed with Lana to collect evidence. Just as Jeremy and the Interpol had hoped, Yorick was executed, and before that, Lana was killed by Ryan.

The reason for all this could indeed be attributed to Jeremy.

"Jeremy..."

Fabian faintly spat out Jeremy's name from his mouth, and something called animosity gradually appeared in his eyes. Suddenly, he felt someone pulling the corners of his clothes slightly.

Fabian lowered his gaze and saw the adorable and tender doll like face.

Lillian blinked her clear and innocent big eyes. Her head was lifted as she stated at Fabian with a smile on her face.

Fabian looked into her eyes which looked like stars, and the hatred in his eyes was immediately swept away. Fabian quickly smiled warmly and brightly at her before he squatted and held Lillian's small shoulders.

"Lily, do you need something from me? Why aren't you resting in your room?"

Lillian blinked and pointed outside.

Fabian quickly understood what Lillian meant. "You want to go outside to play, Lily ?"

Lillian nodded seriously.

As Fabian held Lillian's cute little hand, his heart broke. In truth, he understood. It must be very boring to stay in the same room every day, but considering Lily's condition, Fabian was still worried. However, looking at Lillian's expectant eyes, Fabian immediately called his friend Evan to ask.

Soon after, Evan gave Fabian a satisfactory answer. "Lily has been stable recently. She can go out, but it must be on a sunny day and you can't leave her in the wind. Plus, she can spend no more than half an hour outside. As long as you can make sure to take good care of her, you can take her out for a walk."

After getting this answer, Fabian suddenly felt more uplifted. Happily, he squatted in front of Lillian again and adjusted the beret on her little head.

"Lily, I'll take you out now."

Upon hearing that, Lillian smiled and nodded, her eyes turning into little crescents. She still could not speak, but Fabian was already satisfied with such a response.

The weather in F Country was very sunny these days. Despite being a little cold, it was very comfortable.

Fabian carefully guarded Lillian and took her for a stroll outside. When they returned, he carried Lillian back to the bedroom, then gently and affectionately, he tucked Lillian into bed.

The senior female butler saw this from one side, and she smiled and lamented, "Young Master Fabian, you are so considerate toward Miss Lily. Miss Lily will definitely recover soon with a brother like you."

The female butler left after she said that, but Fabian fell deep in thought regarding what she just said.

'Brother..?'

Was he her brother?

۰No...،

They were not related in any way, but he had an abnormally deep feeling toward her. He wanted to properly care for this innocent and naive child not just for the present, but for a long lime, as long as forever.

Ring, ring, ring!

The phone suddenly rang in a familiar melody.

Fabian knew that it was Madeline requesting a video call. He handed the phone to Lillian and walked aside.

Despite knowing in his heart that Yorick died because Yorick had broken the law and that Lana only had herself to blame, Fabian did not truly want to face Madeline and Jeremy.

There was yet still a grudge in his heart. He did not know where this grievance came from.

He stood on the balcony and saw Lillian smiling cheerfully at Madeline amid their video call. He also heard Lillian calling out to her mother and father in a clear and sweet voice. These were the only words she could say at the moment.

Fabian's heart hurt against his volition. He could not imagine how cruel Lana was back then to have frightened Lillian into a mute. Moreover, how cruel Jeremy was back then to ignore his own flesh and blood to complete his undercover mission.

Fabian was silently in thought when he felt the familiar feeling of someone pulling the corner of his shirt again. He looked down and saw Lillian handing the phone to him with a sweet smile.

Fabian thought Lillian and Madeline had finished talking, but after picking up the phone, he was met with Madeline's eyes. Fabian, who was probably not mentally prepared for this, was taken aback for a moment.

Noticing Fabian's surprise, Madeline smiled casually and greeted, "Fabian, long time no see. Can we talk?"

Upon hearing what Madeline said, Fabian's finger, which hovered over the hang up button, suddenly stopped.

Madeline's gaze on the screen was earnest.

Fabian had vaguely guessed what Madeline was going to say to him, and he had the urge to hang up again. However, Madeline also seemed to have predicted this, so she immediately said, "Fabian, I will be going to F Country in these two days, and I want to take Lily home while I'm there."

Fabian seemed completely unsurprised upon hearing what Madeline said. He had already expected it, and this is probably the only topic that Madeline had in common with him at the moment

Seeing that Fabian merely looked at the phone without speaking, Madeline almost predicted the result.

"You can at least let me meet my daughter, can't you?" Madeline made a concession.

Fabian stayed silent for another two seconds, and then he said, "We'll talk about it when we can meet."

After saying this, Fabian hung up the video call.

At the other end of the line, Madeline stared at the phone screen and then looked at Jeremy who was sitting next to her helplessly.

"Linnie, don't worry so much. At least Fabian is willing to talk to us now," Jeremy comforted softly.

Madeline sighed quietly and then gently leaned her head on Jeremy's shoulder. "I really miss Lily."

Jeremy raised his hand and put his arm around Madeline's shoulder. "There have been a lot of troubling things happening all this while. We could go to F Country to relax and take Lily home if we have the chance. Then, our family of five will be reunited."

"I also really want to relax with you, Jeremy, but your leg injury is still recovering. I can't allow you to run around with me."

As Madeline spoke, she raised her worried yet beautiful eyes and gave Jeremy a serious look. "Remember, the most important thing for you now is to recuperate."

Jeremy reached out to hold Madeline's hand, then he put it to his lips dotingly and kissed it repeatedly. "Linnie, no need to be so concerned for me. There's nothing more important than you in my heart."

Knock, knock, knock.

As soon as Jeremy finished speaking, someone knocked loudly at the door, and then Karen immediately pushed the door open and entered.

"Mom, what's the matter ?" Madeline got up and asked. Seeing how flustered Karen looked, she felt a little worried.

Karen pointed to the door. "That woman, the one who made a fuss and threatened to kill herself downstairs in the company, is at the door now. I also saw a few reporters behind her."

After hearing this, Madeline and Jeremy knew what was going on.

If Hannah could get here, someone must have revealed the address of the old house to her, and this person was likely to be one of the reporters. Their purpose was to dig out more news to increase traffic.

Madeline changed her clothes decisively. When she looked back and saw that Jeremy was also going downstairs, she stopped him. "Do you remember what I said just now? Wait for me here."

Madeline's eyes were extremely firm. "Trust your wife, and trust that no one can spread rumors at the gate of Whitman Manor."

Madeline turned around after speaking, but Jeremy grabbed her hand.

"Linnie..."

Jeremy's eyes were gentle yet firm. "Call me if you need me."

"I will." Madeline nodded and smiled before leaving.

Karen also hurriedly followed her. "I'm going to keep an eye on Eveline. If those people dare do anything out of line, I will have the bodyguards kick them all out!"

Jeremy looked at Karen's back figure as she hurriedly caught up to Madeline. Deep down, he was deeply moved.

It had not been like this at the beginning. Karen would have gotten annoyed at the sight of Madeline. Presently, however, Karen was always defending her daughter-in-law, Madeline.

Everything was certainly unpredictable.

Jeremy slowly got up. He walked to the balcony and could clearly see Hannah standing at the gate playing the victim. Not far behind her, many reporters were waiting for the matter to blow up.

After a while, Jeremy saw Madeline wandering into his line of sight.

She had a graceful figure, and the coat draped over her body gently swung with each of her elegant and steady steps. Madeline's aura was powerful, and her majestic walk beheld an invulnerable edge.

Since Jeremy's eyesight was very good, he could clearly see that Hannah's eyes went cold when she saw Madeline.

Jeremy's cold eyes narrowed slightly; he was prepared to go downstairs at any time.

In front of the gate of the old house, Hannah's pale looking face looked calm as she stared straight at the approaching Madeline.

Madeline walked up to Hannah very calmly and she said directly, "If you have any ideas and motives, just spit it out. Don't waste everyone's time."

As she spoke, she did not forget to glance at the reporter in the distance.

"The weather today is cold. Just get on with it lest everyone needs to watch your performance while standing in the cold wind."

Hannah clenched her fists. The thing she could not bear the most was Madeline's constantly indifferent attitude. She glared at Madeline and suddenly sneered. "I know in your heart that you're very bothered by this, but you have to pretend to be indifferent.".

Hannah started to approach Madeline as she spoke in a mocking tone.

"Don't get any closer to my daughter-in-law!" Karen stopped Hannah from approaching. "What the hell are you doing with these reporters in my house, you crazy woman? Just spit it out immediately!"

Hannah paused and stared at Karen in dissatisfaction. "Daughter-in-law? If she's your daughter-in-law, what am I? I'm a traditional woman. Since Mr. Whitman and I already have an intimate relationship, he needs to give me an explanation and a name no matter what. Otherwise, this matter will never be resolved."

Upon hearing this, Karen's face fell.

"What nonsense are you talking about? Why would Jeremy have such a relationship with you? How dare you fantasize about joining our family. You're simply delusional."

"I'm delusional ? Hmph. You're the number one rich family in Glendale, huh ? Do you think just because you're rich and powerful you can use your power to stop me from talking ? I'm telling you. I won't back down out of fear!"

"You..." Karen was so mad that she was speechless for a moment.

"Mom, don't be mad," Madeline comforted, then she turned her head and smiled at Hannah confidently.

"Since you came prepared, Miss Bolton, then we'll not beat around the bush with you. It's very windy here, so if you don't mind, come inside for some hot tea and we'll sit down to talk."

Upon hearing that, Hannah hesitated for a while, but soon after, she smiled confidently.

"There are so many reporters here, so I don't believe that you'll do anything to me once I'm inside."

After Hannah said that, she took the lead and strode through the door as if she was the matriarch of the house.

Madeline looked at the frowning and confused reporters before turning around to go inside.

Baffled, Karen stopped Madeline. "Eveline, why are you letting her inside?"

Madeline raised her eyebrows and glanced in the direction where the reporters were. "Mom, don't worry, I know what I'm doing."

"Of course, I know you know what you're doing, and you have your own ideas, but I feel that we're letting her take advantage of us."

Madeline smiled lightly when she heard that. "It's not about taking advantage or not. Just treat her as a normal guest."

"Guest ?" Karen's eyes were full of contempt. "If I hadn't seen a video of her making a fuss at the company, I would've treated her as a guest."

Karen muttered in annoyance. Still worried, she then warned, "Eveline, women like her never come with good intentions, so you have to be careful."

Madeline lowered her eyes and glanced at the gauze wrapped around the back of her hand. "I was at a disadvantage once, so there won't be a next time."

"That's good." Karen breathed a sigh of relief.

The reporters who stayed not far in front of the door could not help but feel a little perplexed by the situation. They were here to find more news and they wanted to watch Hannah make a big fuss about this, but now Madeline was letting Hannah into the house.

They could not wrap their heads around this. Why was Madeline being so polite with Hannah?

However, they could not do anything even if they did not understand. They could only stay here and wait. They dared not simply enter the gates of Whitman Manor.

As soon as Karen entered the house, she asked the servant to carry Madeline's youngest son upstairs.

Madeline was very generous. She even asked the servants to prepare tea and snacks.

"Miss Bolton, you should be tired after making a fuss for so long? Have some black tea and some snacks. We can start talking again after we're recharged."

After hearing what Madeline said, Hannah glanced at the snacks and tea on the coffee table dismissively.

"I didn't come here to have tea and chat with you. I'm here to seek justice for myself."

Madeline nodded and smiled. "Well, Miss Bolton, please tell me, what kind of justice do you want?"

"I want Mr. Whitman to be responsible for me!"

Hannah stated her intentions and then her eyes turned sharp. "I don't need money! I only want Mr. Whitman to be responsible for me."

"Hmph." Karen snorted coldly and glanced at Hannah lightly. "You mean you want to be part of the Whitman family by becoming our daughter-in-law?"

With a serious face, Hannah looked at Karen and asked, "Isn't Mr. Whitman supposed to be responsible for me?"

"Yes," Madeline said, giving a very surprising answer to everyone present in the room.

Hannah and Karen looked at Madeline in shock. They were both wondering if they had heard wrongly.

However, Madeline smiled, her expression very serious. "Miss Bolton, you can state your requirements, but I hope you'll be realistic."

"Realistic ?" Hannah frowned. "Are you saying you want to compensate me financially ?"

As she said that, she rolled her eyes disapprovingly. "Eveline, what I want to tell you is that I will not accept anything else aside from Mr. Whitman taking responsibility for what he had done to me."

Madeline smiled and shook her head. "You're wrong. What I mean is, the Whitmans will not compensate you a single cent."

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Hannah was stunned and confused.

"Eveline, what do you mean?"

"I mean I won't give you any financial compensation. You want my husband to be responsible for you, don't you? I'll grant that."

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Bewildered, Hannah looked at Madeline who spoke, and Hannah could not believe what she just heard.

Madeline actually wanted Jeremy to be responsible for her?

Did this mean that Madeline was agreeing to let her be part of the family?

There were many doubts in Hannah's mind. While she was in a state of confusion and shock, she saw Karen pulling Madeline to the side.

She then saw Karen whispering in Madeline's ear, but she could not hear what Karen was saying to Madeline.

"Eveline, what are you talking about? Are you agreeing to take this woman on Jeremy's behalf?" Karen looked at Madeline in confusion.

Madeline nodded with a casual expression. "Yeah, since she so firmly wants Jeremy to be responsible for her, we'll let her be part of the family."

"W-what ?" Karen's eyes widened in shock, completely unable to understand what Madeline meant.

"Eveline, you are crazy! Even if you agree to it, Jeremy won't!"

"I agree too." Jeremy's voice suddenly slipped into her ears. Madeline and Karen looked over at him when they heard his voice. They did not know when Jeremy came downstairs. Hannah, who was sitting on the sofa when she saw Jeremy coming over, immediately stood up. Her eyes were also filled with a lot of admiration and expectation.

"Mr. Whitman." She called out to Jeremy and walked toward him slowly.

Jeremy ignored Hannah. He lowered his eyes to look into Madeline's clear eyes. As they looked at each other and smiled, it seemed that they had an instant and tacit understanding. Without any exchange of words between Jeremy and Madeline, Jeremy immediately raised his deep and alluring eyes to look at Hannah.

"Since you want to be part of this family so much, we'll fulfill your wish." Jeremy agreed, parting his lips lightly.

Hannah widened her eyes. "Mr. Whitman, are you serious? Are you really willing to take responsibility for me?"

Jeremy looked at Hannah without emotion. "I don't like repeating what I've said."

Upon hearing this, Hannah looked at Jeremy dazedly. After returning to her senses, a cheerful, albeit shy and embarrassed, smile gradually appeared on her face.

"Mr. Whitman, I-I didn't mean to make things difficult for you deliberately. I just want to stay with you and take care of you."

Hannah expressed her feelings for Jeremy.

"I never believed in love at first sight, but since meeting you, Mr. Whitman, I believe it. As long as I can stay by your side, I am satisfied."

"Really ?" Jeremy asked casually, and Hannah nodded repeatedly.

"Then you'll just stay here. We need some time to deal with the procedural matters."

"I understand! I'm not in a hurry! " Hannah smiled, and her attitude had obviously changed. She did not even look at Madeline and the others in the room. It was as if she could only see Jeremy.

"Mr. Whitman, where am I sleeping tonight?" she asked. Her eyes were filled with distress and worry. "You're still injured, and now your hand is also wounded. I hope I can stay by your side to take care of you. Can I?"

"Of course not!" Karen rejected firmly. As she spoke, she glared at Madeline and Jeremy unhappily, and then she started scolding them sternly.

"Are you two insane? You finally got together after so many obstacles. You got married and even have children, so what the hell are you doing now? Are you going to throw your whole family away for this lascivious woman?"

Madeline and Jeremy wanted to explain their decisions to Karen later, but Hannah immediately snapped back. "Lascivious? Are you calling me lascivious? Mr. Whitman and I consented to that, and it takes two to tango. So, how can you say that I am lascivious?"