

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1601-1610

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1601

A son and a daughter.

Jeremy naturally thought of the pair of twins.

It turned out they were the children Cathy had with Felipe.

When Adam heard this, he smiled in disappointment.

Cathy had indeed remembered everything.

She remembered that the man she loved the most was Felipe. She remembered that despite the man wanting to kill her, she still gave birth to his children willingly.

Felip was quickly transferred to the custodial ward from the hospital.

He did not care what kind of punishment he would get now.

Being able to see her in his final days was the biggest satisfaction for him.

After Jeremy went home from the hospital, he felt more and more troubled.

Judging from Felipe's actions, he had already decided to plead guilty to everything he did. He did not even want the chance to appeal. He genuinely wanted to take responsibility for the things that he had done.

Even though this was right, Jeremy felt that Felipe simply wanted to give up on himself.

Jeremy knew if he told Felipe about the children he had with Cathy, then Felipe's mindset might change.

However, Cathy had told him not to say anything.

Jeremy felt more frustrated now, especially since Madeline was still with Carter and he had no idea what was wrong with her. He did not know why she was so cold toward him and repulsed by him.

When Jeremy got back to the manor, Karen asked him about Madeline.

After knowing what had happened to Madeline, Karen was confused, but at the same time, she was surprised. "Jeremy, you said Eveline thinks that you're her ex-husband and is sure that Gray person is her current husband? What's going on?"

Jeremy did not have the answer too. "I keep feeling that something's wrong with Linnie, but she looks pretty normal to me."

"Is she intentionally staying with that Gray person because she wants to find out why he's investigating you?" Karen wondered if this was the reason.

Jeremy furrowed his brows.

Madeline indeed had this thought initially, but after she exposed Naomi, it would be almost impossible for her to stay with Carter using this method.

Bigamy.

Heh, this was a trap Carter set from a very long time ago.

However, what did he do to make Madeline so obedient to him and even believe that they had already gotten a divorce?

Jeremy could not wrap his head around this no matter how he tried.

At this moment, he received a call.

It was stated that two days from now on a weekend, there would be a mysterious person hosting a party in the most luxurious hotel in Glendale. This person had invited almost everyone from the upper-class but did not include Jeremy.

They had invited everyone from the upper-class but not Jeremy, so it was obvious that there was something fishy going on. It made Jeremy think that this mysterious person must be Carter.

That night, Jeremy showed up uninvited.

When he walked in through the door, the man at the door stopped him.

Immediately, Jeremy could tell that this man was part of Carter's entourage who was always by his side.

"I'm sorry, Mr. Whitman. Please show us your invitation card for the party." The man deliberately made things hard for him.

Jeremy parted his lips indifferently, saying, "You should know very well that I don't have an invitation."

The man seemed to be smiling politely. "I'm sorry, Mr. Whitman. Perhaps you didn't know that all guests need to have an invitation card before they can go in..."

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"You're the one who has no idea." Jeremy lifted his cruel and domineering eyes. "I'm the boss of this hotel, and every corner of this hotel is my territory."

"..."

The man was stumped for words after he heard that. It was clear that he did not know that Jeremy was the boss, but he quickly refuted.

"Mr. Whitman, even if you're the boss, Mr. Carter has already booked the entire dining hall, so he has the right to decide who's allowed to enter and who's not. If you insist on barging in, then you'll be going against the agreement. Mr. Whitman, according to the agreement, you have to pay for this."

After hearing what the man said, Jeremy laughed instead of getting mad. "So, you think I look like someone who lacks this amount of money?"

“...” The man had no words.

When he was stumped for words faced against Jeremy’s calm and powerful aura, he saw Jeremy striding calmly into the dining hall.

The man was going to stop Jeremy at the door and embarrass him according to Carter’s wishes, but Jeremy owned this hotel!

They had not looked into this beforehand.

When he saw Jeremy walking into the dining room and a lot of upper-class gentlemen greeting him, the man quickly took out his phone to message Carter.

After Carter read the message he just received, he lifted his eyes to look at Madeline who was sitting on the sofa quietly.

He put down his phone and walked toward Madeline.

“Eveline Montgomery.”

He called her by her full name.

Madeline lifted her head after she heard that and looked into Carter’s eyes that were filled with a dangerous aura.

Carter looked straight into Madeline’s eyes and parted his lips to guide her. “Eveline, remember my face. I’m your husband now and Jeremy is your ex-husband. That person hurt you very bad back then so you despise him, do you remember?”

Madeline listened to the lies Carter made up and nodded obediently.

“I remember.”

Carter smiled in satisfaction with his lips pressed together. Then, he lifted his hand to wave it in front of Madeline.

“Eveline.”

He immediately changed his attitude and called out Madeline’s name with a soft and gentle tone.

Madeline seemed to have come back to her senses. Her initial clear and beautiful eyes were filled with a faint hint of foolishness. There was even a hint of dazzle in them.

She looked at the man who was wearing a custom-made suit in front of her and she seemed to be in a daze. “Cart.”

“Yeah,” Carter replied gently. “Eveline, go get ready and go to the party with me. Do you know that you’re the star of the party today?”

“Okay.” Madeline nodded obediently and got up slowly. “Carter, I want to go to the toilet.”

“Okay, go ahead. I’ll wait.” Carter went over and opened the door of the lounge for Madeline considerately.

Madeline was wearing her high heels and strutted forward elegantly.

When she was in the corridor that was leading to the toilet, she realized she had been here before.

She remembered the person she had been with was Jeremy. When they were walking together in her memories, they were smiling radiantly.

Madeline muttered to herself irresolutely while feeling absent-minded. While she was thinking about that, she felt a headache coming.

She walked to the sink in the toilet and used some water to pat her face. However, her thoughts did not calm down because of that.

Fragments of her memories appeared in her brain all at once, but in the end, they stopped at the scene where Jeremy forced her to sign the divorce papers.

Hiss! Madeline lifted her hands to press down on her temples. When she was about to rest for a while before leaving, a figure appeared behind her.

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"Linnie."

The man's low and soft voice rang out behind her ears.

Madeline slowly lifted her sharp yet beautiful eyes. She then saw Jeremy's narrow eyes that were brimming with emotions in the mirror.

"Linnie." Jeremy got closer to Madeline, his warm palm holding her thin wrist tightly.

"Linnie, do you have any secrets? Why are you staying with Carter?"

Madeline lowered her eyes to look at Jeremy's hand that was holding hers tightly. Then, her icy glare looked into Jeremy's enthusiastic and expectant eyes.

"If I don't stay with Carter, should I go back to you instead?" Madeline asked with a cold chuckle. She pushed Jeremy's hand away. "Why did I marry a guy like you back then? Jeremy, I've already divorced you. Let me warn you now, stop pestering me."

After listening to Madeline, Jeremy felt as if his heart had been struck by lightning. In that instant, his heart broke into two pieces.

Warn.

She said she was warning him to stop pestering her.

She said how could she have married a guy like him?

Jeremy knew he had wronged Madeline before, but he also knew that it was impossible for Madeline to say these kinds of things to him now.

This person in front of him was like a completely different person. The way she talked and acted was different from what he knew of her.

'Is this not Linnie?'

This thought appeared in Jeremy's head.

No, impossible.

Judging from the skin contact when he held her wrist earlier and the feeling she gave him, he was 100 percent sure that the person in front of him was his Linnie.

However, how did Linnie become like this?

Jeremy was stuck in an astonished and heartbroken state while he watched Madeline leave decisively.

Judging from what she was wearing, Jeremy was sure that she was attending this party with Carter tonight.

However, he would not allow her to appear on such an occasion with Carter as husband and wife.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's figure that was getting farther and farther away. He quickly ran behind her and when she was least expecting it, he lifted her up.

Madeline was caught off guard, so when Jeremy carried her away by the waist, she struggled with all her might. "What are you doing? Jeremy, put me down! You scum!"

“Yes, I’m scum, Linnie. You’re right. I did a lot of things that hurt you in the past, but you said you’ll give me another chance to start over.”

“I never said that. Jeremy, you’d better put me down or else...”

“Linnie, there’s no ‘or else’. I don’t know why you’ve become like this but I can tell you with certainty that I’m the man you love the most.”

“Carter is the man I love the most. Put me down now! I want to go back to Carter!”

Madeline’s emphasis felt like tiny needles stabbing into Jeremy’s heart, and the intense pain quickly overwhelmed him. Even so, his grip on Madeline only tightened.

He did not say any more. He brought Madeline to the garage in the underground parking as quickly as he could.

However, Madeline did not give in just like that. She was still fighting back and struggling.

Inside the dim garage, the sharpness in Madeline’s eyes was still clear. She was glaring at Jeremy and looked even more overbearing than him.

“Jeremy, this is my final warning. Let me go. If not, you’ll get into trouble.”

Jeremy gripped Madeline’s hands that were trying to escape and gently curled the corners of his alluring lips. His eyes looked gentle, yet there was intense confidence in them. “Linnie, I’d rather get into trouble than let you run to another man again.”

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While he said that, he suddenly pulled down his tie to bind Madeline's hands together.

"What are you doing? Jeremy, what are you trying to do?"

"Linnie, don't be scared. I won't do anything to hurt you anymore. I just want to take you home."

"I don't have a home with you anymore. Jeremy, you..."

Madeline was rejecting him strongly, but in the end, she still could not win against Jeremy's strength.

He used his tie to bind both of Madeline's hands in order to stop her from struggling and resisting.

Even though he did that, Jeremy was reluctant to tie her up too tightly in case he hurt her.

"Linnie, I'll take you home right now. Trust me, the thing you want the most in the deepest part of your heart is to come back to me." Jeremy looked fixedly at Madeline.

However, Madeline was glaring at him with eyes that were filled with anger.

"Cart will never forgive you."

"Let him come to me, then. I want to see what he'll do to steal my wife away from me again."

"..."

Madeline pressed her pink lips together and did not say anything more.

Inside the lounge, Carter had been waiting for Madeline to come back. However, after a very long time, Madeline still had not come back.

Suddenly, he remembered the text his people sent him a few moments ago that told him Jeremy was here.

Carter finally thought of one possibility.

Madeline might have been kidnapped by Jeremy.

He looked at the phone Madeline placed on the sofa. He did not have any way of contacting her now.

However, he was confident with his hypnotism. Even if Jeremy really brought her away, nobody would be able to break the hypnosis aside from him.

He started reading up on hypnotism and psychology when he was about ten years old. For now, nobody could beat him in this category.

As for Jeremy, Carter was sure that this man would not have the ability to break the hypnosis he had cast on Madeline.

...

Initially, Jeremy wanted to bring Madeline back to Whitman Manor. However, when he saw Madeline resisting so violently from the rear-view mirror, he drove the car to the new home that they had bought after.

It had been some time since they came here. Even though it was not as extravagant as Whitman Manor or their previous villa, Jeremy still felt warm. This was a home that belonged to the two of them, after all.

After the car stopped, Jeremy carried Madeline out of the car.

“Linnie, do you still remember this place?” Jeremy looked at the house in front of him.

Madeline glanced at it coldly. She had an impression of the house. Her memory was telling her that she had lived here with Jeremy before.

However, another voice in her brain told her that she had already divorced Jeremy. Now, her husband was Carter.

“So what if I do?” Madeline asked coldly. “I also remember how you humiliated me and how you held my hand to force me to sign the divorce papers back then.”

“...” Jeremy felt a sharp and intense pain in his heart. When he did it, he had felt horrible as well. However, it was as if he had lost his mind and was blinded by something. He could not see the truth at all.

“Linnie, I’m sorry.”

“What can I do with your apologies?” Madeline mocked. She lifted her hands that had been tied. “Jeremy, release me now. I want to go back.” Jeremy furrowed his long eyebrows and looked at Madeline’s outstretched hands. He sighed helplessly, and suddenly, he raised his domineering and handsome eyes.

He lifted his hand and grabbed the tie around Madeline’s hands before taking her inside.

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Madeline could not escape from him, so she could only allow Jeremy to bring her inside. However, she was obviously very reluctant.

"Jeremy, what on earth do you want? It's over between us."

Jeremy turned around to look into Madeline's eyes that were filled with rage. "Linnie, there will never be the day when things are over between us."

"You lunatic!"

Jeremy found it sweet when Madeline was criticizing him.

"No matter what you say about me, I'll just think of it as flirtatious banter."

"..."

Madeline furrowed her beautiful brows tightly while feeling extremely vexed. When she was about to berate the man more, she was suddenly brought into the bedroom.

Perhaps he was preventing Madeline from running away, so Jeremy deliberately locked the door.

After locking the door, he undid the tie around Madeline's wrists. However, when the tie was removed, Madeline pushed Jeremy away and ran quickly to the door.

However, Jeremy had locked the door from inside, and just now, she saw Jeremy putting the key into

the pocket of his shirt.

Madeline directly reached out to Jeremy. "Give me the key."

While facing Madeline's eyes that were filled with animosity, Jeremy was still gentle. "Linnie, even though I don't know why you're like this now, I believe that when you recover one day, you'll feel glad that I'm forcing you to stay now."

"You're saying that you won't let me go back?" Madeline chuckled lightly and asked. "You're falsely imprisoning me and you're so pompous about it. Jeremy, even if you force me to stay with you, you won't change my attitude toward you."

Madeline's decisiveness baffled Jeremy.

'What did Carter do to make Madeline like this?'

"Jeremy, what's the reason for you keeping me by your side?" Madeline suddenly changed her attitude. Her eyes did not look as defying as just now. She walked nearer to Jeremy and blinked her beautiful eyes lightly. "Do you want to tell me that you love me and want to make up for all the hurt you caused me before, is that what you want to do?"

Jeremy's eyes were filled with sincerity. "Linnie, we've been through so much together. My feelings for you are genuine."

"Alright, since you say you love me, then shouldn't you know what you should do to someone you love?"

Madeline's question caused Jeremy to be so dazed that he was stumped for words.

What should he do when he loved someone...

“Should you accommodate, cherish, protect, and pamper her if you love her? However, are you loving me by doing this?”

Madeline said and reached out her palm to Jeremy once again. “Give me the key.”

Looking into Madeline’s eyes, Jeremy’s thoughts seemed to be controlled by her.

Linnie was right. One should not force someone if they loved them.

Jeremy thought about it quietly and then took out the key from his pocket to hand it to Madeline.

After Madeline took the key, she smiled in satisfaction. She quickly opened the door and walked downstairs.

When Jeremy heard the thuds of her steps as she went downstairs, he suddenly came back to his senses.

He could not let her go back.

He chased up to her quickly. He knew it would be useless to call her name, so he ran straight over to block her with a spurt of energy.

Madeline was wearing high heels and a gown, so it was a little difficult for her to move around.

The moment she ran downstairs to open the door, she felt a pair of familiar arms holding her waist

tightly all of a sudden.

Before she could react, she was once again being lifted by Jeremy.

“Jeremy!”

“Linnie, my decision isn’t wrong. You’ll know why in the future.”

Jeremy was still explaining to her patiently. He carried Madeline, who was resisting with all her might, back to the room again.

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Even though Madeline was unconvinced, she did not have any ways to run away.

Since Jeremy knew the current Madeline was resisting him, he watched the door of the room for the entire night.

The next day when he went into the room, he saw that Madeline had changed into a more casual outfit. She was sitting on the bed, flipping through the photo album leisurely.

When she saw Jeremy coming in, she tossed the album to one side.

“How long are you going to keep me locked up for?” she asked straightforwardly.

Jeremy smiled warmly. “Linnie, you should be hungry, right? I made breakfast.”

“Oh yeah? I remember I was always the one making breakfast and waiting for you downstairs.

However, you never cared," Madeline said and walked downstairs after walking past Jeremy.

Jeremy did not mind what Madeline was saying to him now at all. He knew this was not her real intention.

'However, how did she become like this?

'Why would she think that we're divorced and why does she keep mentioning those unhappy memories?'

Jeremy could not wrap his head around this. As such, he could only follow behind Madeline and try to keep a close distance with her.

Madeline went to the dining room downstairs. When she saw the breakfast Jeremy made for her, she reached out to take the plate and took a look. Then, she threw the plate at Jeremy's foot disdainfully.

The food and plate were smashed on the floor, and Jeremy was stumped for a second.

"I won't eat the food you made. Jeremy, you won't be able to move me no matter what you do."

Madeline's cold gaze scanned Jeremy coldly.

Her extremely tough attitude baffled Jeremy.

Impossible.

If a normal person was not acting, how could her attitude be such polar opposites?

If she was truly acting, then they were the only ones here, so Madeline would not need to do that.

She did not look like she had lost her memories. It seemed more likely that someone had changed a part of her memories so that was why she was so hostile to him but so close to Carter.

'Hypnosis.'

This word flashed across Jeremy's mind suddenly.

It was because he thought about what had happened to him back then.

Ding dong.

The doorbell rang suddenly at this moment.

Jeremy could not think of anyone who would ring their doorbell now that they were living here. When he came back to his senses and turned around, he saw that Madeline had already walked over to open the door.

After the door was opened, the person who appeared was Carter.

When Madeline saw Carter, she was evidently thrilled. "Cart, it's so good to see you!"

When Jeremy saw this, he was slightly dissatisfied. However, this dissatisfaction had nothing to do with Madeline.

It seemed that Carter knew that Madeline was here long before, so at this moment, he was not surprised at all.

“Eveline, are you okay? I’m here to take you home.” Carter smiled softly and reached out to Madeline.

Madeline lifted her hand to grab Carter’s, however, it was grabbed by Jeremy who strode over.

“Linnie, this is your home.” Jeremy’s face looked stern, but there was still gentleness on his face.

Madeline struggled to get away from him in discontent. “Jeremy, this is the last time I’m saying this. Stop pestering me.”

“Linnie.”

“You heard her, Mr. Whitman. Eveline doesn’t want anything to do with you anymore.” Carter’s lazy tone was laced with faint provocation. “Let go.”

While he said that, he curled the corners of his lips suddenly. He walked to Jeremy’s side, lowered his head slightly, and got close to Jeremy’s cheek. He parted his thin lips and said something in a deep voice.

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Madeline could not hear what Carter was saying to Jeremy, but she noticed the visible changes in Jeremy’s eyes. Even his expression became colder and darker instantly.

She was suspicious and curious, but she did not have any intention to probe.

When Carter saw the changes in Jeremy’s expression, he curled the corners of his lips and walked back

to Madeline's side in satisfaction.

"Eveline, let's go."

Madeline looked at Jeremy who was standing motionless while looking at her without speaking. She smiled at Carter and nodded. "Okay, let's go."

Initially, Madeline was not curious, but when she remembered how Jeremy was so insistent on keeping her here and how he was watching her leave without any reaction now, she was feeling very conflicted.

She thought about it before finally asking, "Cart, what did you say to Jeremy just now? Why does he look like he's stunned? Why isn't he speaking or reacting?"

A hint of joy flashed across the corners of Carter's eyes without a trace, but he did not say anything.

Madeline looked at him. Even though she was curious, she did not continue asking.

Jeremy watched blankly as Madeline walked away with Carter willingly. He did not have a way to stop her.

What Carter said in his ear was still lingering in the air. "Don't forget that she has committed bigamy. Unless you want her to go back to where she went back then, you don't have another choice."

Jeremy slowly clenched his fingers, and his eyes were filled with rage that was surging up violently. Even so, he had nowhere to vent his anger.

'Linnie, I'll wake you up from your hypnosis soon.

'I won't let you stay away from me for too long.'

Jeremy's eyes twinkled as he quickly drove his car to somewhere.

Madeline followed Carter back to the manor. After she ate, she went back to her room to sleep.

While she was still groggy, she felt as if someone was approaching her.

She wanted to open her eyes to wake up, but she felt a stinging pain in her eyes.

It was as if there was a gigantic and shiny crystal ball enveloping her, making her close surroundings air-tight.

Then, Madeline heard a man's voice talking ethereally.

"Eveline Montgomery."

The man called out her name.

"Remember, the man you love the most now is your future husband, Carter Gray.

"Jeremy Whitman is the man you loved back then but he has hurt you too much. Despite you forgiving him back then because of your children, you still can't get over it. You've been having a knot in your heart this entire time. You will never forgive him. Never."

The man emphasized in the end.

Carter was standing next to the bed when he saw Madeline knitting her brows together. He stood there emotionlessly for a while before leaving.

Jeremy sped as fast as he could to Adam's place. The door was opened, so he barged in directly.
"Cathy!"

Adam was sitting in the living room absent-mindedly. When he saw Jeremy barging in frantically while yelling Cathy's name, he stood up quickly.

"What happened?"

"Where's Cathy?" Jeremy asked hurriedly.

"You're looking for Cathy?" Adam furrowed his brows curiously. "Did anything happen?"

Jeremy furrowed his brows lightly. "I suspect that Linnie has been hypnotized."

Adam's expression changed. "Hypnotized?"

"Only Cathy can help me now," Jeremy said affirmatively.

"Cathy?" Adam was confused. "What do you mean by that?"

"Hypnosis," Jeremy uttered this word. His eyes looked solemn. "Cathy knows hypnotism."

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Adam's expression changed again. "Cathy knows hypnotism?" He never knew Cathy had this skill.

"Adam, where's Cathy now?" Jeremy asked anxiously.

After he said that, Jeremy saw a hint of desolation in Adam's eyes. After a few seconds, Adam spoke, "I think she went to see him."

Him.

Jeremy understood immediately.

The 'him' he mentioned was Felipe.

Custodial ward.

Cathy was standing at the door of the room that Felipe was locked in. She did not go in even after a very long time.

Through the small window, she could see Felipe sitting on the bed. He had a notebook under his left arm and was holding a pen with his right hand. He was writing something on the pages of the book.

He had been writing the entire time she stood outside the door.

As she recalled what had happened back then, Cathy only felt that it was extremely ironic that she was standing here.

However, why did she still have the impulse to be a mere joke in her heart?

He was so cruel but she was still reluctant to let go.

It was because she loved someone that she had truly lost herself.

After pondering for a very long time, Cathy still took a step forward.

However, when she was about to push the door open and go in, she heard hurried footsteps walking over.

She turned around subconsciously and saw Jeremy running toward her with a nervous expression on his face.

“Cathy, I hope you can help me no matter what.”

Cathy widened her eyes curiously to look at him.

Jeremy quickly told Cathy his guesses.

“Evie has been hypnotized?” Cathy asked. “When did that happen?” She remembered clearly when Madeline came over for treatment for her face a few days ago. There was nothing wrong with her then.

“Just these few days.” Jeremy furrowed his brows. “I believe that Linnie must be hypnotized. If not, based on my understanding of her, she’d never say such things to me. The most important thing is that when Linnie speaks to me, it seems that she only remembers the unhappy past.”

Jeremy suppressed his emotions, and his answer started to make Cathy feel suspicious.

“Do you have a way to bring her to me?” Cathy blinked. “I need to verify it myself.”

“I’ll get Linnie here to meet you,” Jeremy said and left. He could not wait to get rid of those voices with malicious intentions in Madeline’s head.

He was worried that if he was late, the hypnotism would turn Madeline into a completely different person. He was worried that she would become a woman whom he missed out on forever.

How could he allow such a thing to happen?

Jeremy came to the front door of Carter’s manor. He tried to go in to look for Madeline, but he was stopped at the door. The butler found a few high-sounding reasons to get Jeremy to leave.

Jeremy knew it would be impossible to take Madeline away so brazenly. As such, this time, he would be a vile character for his Linnie.

Time passed quickly, and in a blink of an eye, it was almost nighttime.

The night in winter came incredibly fast.

Jeremy thought that he would no longer have a chance today. When he was about to call Cathy to tell her the plan was off, he coincidentally saw Madeline walking out from the gates of the manor. She was all alone.

Jeremy knew this was a chance that was hard to come by. He got out of his car that was hiding in a secret location and quickly ran to Madeline.

When Madeline saw Jeremy, she was shocked. However, before she could make a sound, Jeremy covered her mouth with his hand and carried her into the car.

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"Jeremy, it's you again! What else do you want?" Madeline was still fighting back with all she had.

Jeremy pressed down on Madeline's shoulder. His deep and narrow eyes were looking straight into her beautiful eyes that were filled with repulsion.

"Linnie, please believe me no matter what. I'll never hurt you."

"You won't?" Madeline chuckled coldly and asked. "It seems that you've forgotten how you treated me back then, but I never will!" After Madeline said that, Jeremy felt as if his heart had been split apart by a sharp knife.

What terrified Jeremy was when Madeline was saying this, her eyes were filled with intense hatred.

The level of hatred was as if it was just yesterday when he hurt her and caused her to bleed and cry.

This was not normal at all.

Jeremy was even more certain that Madeline was hypnotized.

If not, if Madeline was normal, she would never say something like that. She would never treat him with this attitude.

"Linnie, I know you won't listen to me no matter what I say to you. I'll use my actions to prove it to you," Jeremy said and quickly took out his tie to bind Madeline's hands again.

He had no choice. This was the only way to stop Madeline from running away.

The sky had already turned dark.

Madeline looked at the scenery that was quickly changing outside the window and felt extremely frustrated.

At this moment, the car stopped in front of a red light.

When Madeline was about to say something, she heard Jeremy talking.

“Linnie, do you still remember this place? That day, someone was lighting fireworks at this junction, and at that moment, you were holding my hand asking me if I’ll love you forever. I promised you back then that no matter how you become, I’ll always love you like the first time I met you.”

Jeremy lifted his deep eyes and looked at the beautiful face from the rear-view mirror.

“Linnie, you’ll remember everything very soon. Carter is just using you, and the man you love the most in your heart has always been me. You’ve never left me even when I hurt you the most.”

Madeline was about to laugh at what Jeremy said when splendid fireworks blossomed not far away from them.

What she wanted to say was gone in an instant.

Madeline looked absent-mindedly at the continuous fireworks in front of her, and the scene Jeremy mentioned just now was appearing vaguely in her head.

However, before she could think too much into it, it was as if Madeline heard someone talking to her next to her ears.

“Don’t believe what Jeremy is saying.

“He’s lying.

“The man you love right now is your current husband, Carter Gray.”

The voice lingering in her ears was abnormally clear.

Madeline’s eyes had just softened when instantly, they became sharp again.

She looked at Jeremy who was driving the car, and her eyes were filled with precautions.

Time passed slowly, and Carter knew about Jeremy taking Madeline away.

He had clearly seen what happened through the security cameras at the front gate.

He was not worried. After he knew where she had been taken to, he got up slowly and calmly.

Madeline did not know where Jeremy was taking her. When the car stopped and she was standing in front of Adam’s house, she still had no idea. On the contrary, she only felt even more frustrated.

“Jeremy, why are you taking me here? Where is this place?”

“Linnie, follow me.”

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“I’ll never obey you.” Madeline resisted.

However, after she finished saying those resisting words, Adam walked out of the house.

When he saw Madeline and Jeremy, he was surprised. However, what shocked him even more was that Jeremy had bound Madeline’s hands together with a tie.

He did not expect that Jeremy would do this.

He looked at Madeline. He could not find the previous gentle and friendly smile on her fair and stunning face. Now, there was only coldness.

“Are they here?” Cathy walked out as well.

When Madeline heard Cathy’s voice, she lifted her eyes to look at her.

“Evie.” Cathy smiled and greeted Madeline.

Madeline furrowed her gorgeous eyebrows. Then, a hint of surprise flashed across her eyes. “Are you... Cathy?”

“Linnie, do you know Cathy?” Jeremy was surprised.

Madeline ignored Jeremy and took a step closer to Cathy. “Are you Cathy?”

“Yes, I am.” Cathy nodded. When she saw Madeline’s tied-up hands, she walked over to undo the tie.

Cathy looked into Madeline’s eyes seriously and amicably. Then, she reached out to Madeline. “Evie, come with me.”

Madeline had been resistant, but this time, it was as if Cathy’s sincere eyes and smile were affecting her. As such, she followed Cathy into the house.

Jeremy did not dare to ask Madeline anything. When he saw this, he felt delighted in his heart.

This was good. As long as Madeline did not resist Cathy, then Cathy would have a chance to get close to her.

Madeline followed Cathy to her room. The warm decorations in the room made Madeline feel comfortable.

“Evie, please sit down over there.” Cathy pointed at the beanbag near the French windows.

Madeline did not resist her. Instead, she walked over to sit.

“Cathy, when did you come here? I remember something bad happened to you when we were in F Country.”

Madeline reminisced. There were some broken fragments of memories left in her brain.

Cathy smiled softly. “It’s been a while since I came back. Evie, don’t you remember? Back then, you’d come here once in a while. We would even talk for a bit.”

“Is that so?” Madeline asked while feeling unsure. She started to look for the related memories in her brain but could not find anything. She could only hear a man’s voice talking to her. It was repeating to her how much she hated Jeremy and loved Carter.

Hiss!

Madeline felt her head hurting.

When Cathy saw this, she used this opportunity to walk to Madeline and asked in concern, “Evie, are you okay?”

Madeline shook her head lightly, and her eyebrows were tightly knitted together.

“Evie, look into this crystal ball. You’ll feel better soon.” Cathy held up a crystal ball that was the size of an apple in front of Madeline.

Madeline lowered her head to look at it. While looking into this transparent crystal ball, her eyes started to lose focus gradually.

“Evie, do you feel relaxed after looking into this crystal ball? You won’t feel any burdens from your body to your heart. Now, you can let go of all of the troubles and worries. Close your eyes and have a peaceful sleep.”

After Cathy’s guidance, Madeline slowly closed her eyes.

Cathy let out a sigh of relief instantly.

She turned around and saw Jeremy and Adam standing at the door. She immediately shook her hand to tell them to leave.

Even though Jeremy wanted to be by Madeline's side, he knew he could not be stubborn now. Also, he could not disturb her at this moment, so he went downstairs with Adam.

However, when he went downstairs, Jeremy saw a car parked at the front door. Then, Carter's figure appeared at the door.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1611

Adam did not know who Carter was, and he had never seen him before.

However, judging from the animosity coming from Jeremy, he could probably guess what was going on.

"Sir, who are you? Why did you come into my house uninvited?" Adam asked politely.

Carter slowly tidied his delicate sleeves before curling the corners of his lips. He said in an elegant and gentlemanly way, "I'm sorry, I'm here to take my wife home. Not long ago, she just went into your house. Now, she's with a woman named Cathy."

After hearing what Carter said, Adam's expression changed subtly. On the other hand, there were already cold tides in Jeremy's eyes.

"Carter, do you have a tracking device on Linnie? If not, how do you know exactly where Linnie is and what she's doing now?"

Carter calmly lifted his eyes and looked into Jeremy's eyes. There was still an ominous smile on his

face.

“Because there are people like you who’d kidnap my wife for no good reason. I had no choice, so that’s why I did that. I’m only doing it for Eveline’s safety.”

Carter was admitting it from his answer.

Jeremy lifted his cold eyes and uttered two icy words from his thin lips, “Carter Gray.”

“Hmm?” Carter was unhurried. He looked at Adam. “If you can’t ask Miss Cathy to let my wife come down, then I’ll have to go up there myself to take my wife home.”

“...” Adam had nothing to say to that.

When Carter saw that Adam was not talking, he headed toward the stairs to go upstairs.

Jeremy knew that Cathy was trying to break the hypnosis for Madeline, so he could not let Carter go up there to interrupt her.

Even if she was not breaking the hypnosis, he could not allow Carter to take Madeline away from him so pompously.

“Are you going to stop me?” Carter looked at Jeremy and asked with a smile.

“I hope you don’t make any pointless obstructions.” Carter looked confident, but there was a

dangerous aura emitting from his eyes. "There's no one in this world who can break my hypnotism."

Jeremy's eyes darkened in an instant. He saw absolute confidence in Carter's eyes, and at this moment, his suspicion was proven to be true.

Madeline was hypnotized, and the person who did that to her was Carter.

"Carter, so you did hypnotise Linnie. What do you want to do?" Jeremy asked coldly.

Carter smiled softly as he looked into Jeremy's eyes that were as sharp as knives. He said something unfathomable. "The number one young master of Glendale has nothing special to offer."

He then scoffed disapprovingly before walking upstairs without any apprehensions.

Jeremy quickly chased up to him, but the man with Carter ran up from behind him to stop him.

"Get lost!" Jeremy pushed the man who was stopping him and ran upstairs as fast as he could.

However, when he caught up to Carter, the man had already reached Cathy's room and easily opened the door.

Carter was standing at the door emotionlessly as he watched Cathy trying to break Madeline's hypnosis.

He was not worried at all because he was confident with his skills.

Nobody in the world was able to break the trap he set.

He was born with this confidence.

Cathy had been interrupted. She looked at Carter who was about to walk in with qualms in her eyes.

However, before Carter could go far, Jeremy grabbed his arm.

His eyes were like knives as they shot toward Carter sharply.

“Don’t even think about entering this door,” Jeremy warned, “Carter, I won’t allow you to take my wife away in front of me again.”

Carter curled the corners of his lips calmly. “Even if I stand here and give her the time and the chance, so what? Do you think she can break my hypnosis?”

“Carter!”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1612

Jeremy was holding Carter's arm tightly.

He looked at Madeline who was sleeping quietly on the reclining chair before shifting his gaze to Cathy.

Cathy stood up slowly and looked into Jeremy's eyes helplessly.

She shook her head lightly. The helplessness in her eyes caused Jeremy to feel disappointed and vexed.

Could she not break it?

Would Madeline be forever brainwashed and controlled by Carter?

Carter was pleased with Cathy's change in expression.

He smiled. "Jeremy, there's no use stopping me unless you want the woman you love the most to be asleep forever like this."

After Carter said that, he looked at Jeremy's hand that was holding onto his arm.

"I'm the only one who can break the hypnosis, and I'm the only one who can restore her, do you understand?"

After he said that, Jeremy's long eyebrows furrowed together.

He had to let go of his hand that was holding onto Carter's arms tightly.

Carter smiled victoriously and walked to Madeline's side.

Cathy walked to the side and looked at the man who was walking over. There was a hint of apprehension in her eyes.

She saw Carter taking out a small crystal ball from the pocket of his suit jacket. He took the ball in front of Madeline and started speaking irreverently and languidly.

"Eveline, you'll see a big crystal ball in front of you right now..."

Cathy and Jeremy stood at one side. They watched as Carter talked to Madeline who was in deep slumber.

After a while, Madeline opened her eyes.

When she was awake, her eyes looked as clear and innocent as a newborn baby. However, after her eyes met with Carter's for a few seconds, the look in her eyes changed gradually in a blink of an eye.

She looked around her. After she saw Jeremy, she glared at him with resistance. She got up and walked to Carter's side.

"Cart, he keeps pestering me."

After Jeremy heard this, he felt pangs of pain from his heart.

On the contrary, Carter's smile was radiant. He softly and gently comforted Madeline's emotions. "Don't worry. He promised me that he won't come and pester you anymore."

"..."

"Really?" Madeline looked at Jeremy, who was silent this entire time, suspiciously.

Carter nodded his head before looking at Jeremy who had a solemn expression on his face. "Mr. Whitman, you still remember what I said just now, right? I hope you can be a man of your word and stop pestering Eveline."

After he said that, he was about to hold Madeline's hand. However, just as his hand was in mid-air, he retracted it before turning around.

"Let's go."

Madeline nodded and followed behind Carter.

Jeremy wanted to stop them, but now, he had some misgivings.

If nobody could break Carter's hypnosis, would Linnie become like this forever?

He was muttering to himself irresolutely. At the same time, he had also noticed Carter retracting his hand.

This was indeed strange, but it also made Jeremy feel at ease because Carter did not seem like he wanted to touch Madeline.

If that was the case, it seemed that he did not have any romantic desires. Then, what did he want?

While he was feeling curious about it, he heard Cathy exclaiming in a low voice.

“It’s him!”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1613

“It’s him!”

Cathy walked to the window. The sky was dark outside the window. She could not see Carter’s face clearly, but she could vaguely see his features.

“Cathy, do you know Carter Gray?” Jeremy walked over and asked curiously.

“Carter Gray?” Cathy repeated this name. There was a hint of anxiety and uneasiness on her face. “It’s him indeed.”

“Do you really know him?”

“I do, but I don’t know if he knows me or not,” Cathy explained. She remembered the time she learned hypnotism when she was overseas. “The year I was learning hypnotism in St. Piaf, Carter would show up every week to teach our class.”

When Jeremy heard this, he was surprised.

Cathy looked at the car that was driving away outside the window and turned around to go back to the room.

“Back then, we would address Carter as Professor Gray out of respect. He was very popular in St. Piaf Academy. Not only he was handsome, brimming with talent, great in hypnotism and psychology, but he also had an amazing family background.”

When she said that, Jeremy did not feel as suspicious anymore.

He had already found out some details about Carter’s background before this.

St. Piaf was a small country in West Europia. A lot of countries in Europia including St. Piaf still had the tradition of a constitutional monarchy.

Carter was one of the members of the royal family, and he was a viscount.

However, even if Jeremy knew this, he still did not know the reason why Carter would want to hypnotize Madeline.

“Carter’s great in hypnotism. When we were in the academy, nobody was able to break his hypnotism. Plus, he’s well-researched in psychology. His hypnotism is not just hypnotism. He knows how to grasp people’s hearts.”

Cathy could not help but frown her brows. “How did you provoke him?”

Yeah, how had they provoked someone like this?

Jeremy sighed helplessly and told Cathy what had happened back then.

Cathy gradually understood what was going on. “So Carter was the one who saved Evie.”

“Cathy, do you really have no way to break Linnie’s hypnotism?” Jeremy was unconvinced and felt worried.

“Carter’s hypnotism is too powerful.” Cathy was less capable than desirable. “Sometimes, he doesn’t even need any props. He just needs to look into someone’s eyes and he can hypnotize them and control their thoughts.”

After she said that, Cathy felt a chill running down her spine. She started shivering with fear.

“I think Evie must have very strong willpower, so that’s why he needs props.”

Jeremy knitted his long brows together. After staying silent for a while, he looked at Cathy.

“You went to see my uncle but you didn’t go in to see him. Why?”

Cathy was stumped for words after she heard that. After a while, she lowered her gaze and smiled. “He’s getting the death penalty, right?”

Jeremy was also stumped for words after he heard that. “I’ll hire the best lawyer for him.”

“Even the best lawyer won’t be able to clear him of his crimes.” Cathy sighed with a light chuckle. “Even if they don’t look into the attempted murder, those underground transactions will be enough to consign him to eternal damnation.”

Jeremy felt heartbroken for Cathy while looking at the listless and bitter smile on her face.

“Are you truly willing to part with him?”

After he said that, a long silence followed.

Adam was standing at the wall near the door. His heart was beating anxiously while he waited for Cathy's answer.

"Willing to part with him? How would I be?" Cathy asked. "The moment he asked someone to kill me and then held me because he regretted it, I stopped having any regrets. However, I won't turn back anymore"

Adam did not know whether to feel happy or sad when he heard what Cathy said.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1614

Actually, he had known the entire time. The man who was living in the deepest part of Cathy's heart was Felipe.

Even though he had hurt her badly and heartlessly aimed the gun at her heart.

True love was always an absurd thing.

It would not mind the losses or gains, and it would not mind whether one got any response.

"Since you've decided not to turn back and the end of his life might already be here, then you should let him leave while knowing the truth." Jeremy walked over to Cathy. "You should bid farewell to him officially. The least you can do is let him know the existence of the children."

After Jeremy said that, he turned around and left.

Cathy stood absent-mindedly where she was. She lifted her head to look at the cold night sky outside the window. The sky was as dark as ink, and in that instant, it drowned her heartbeat.

...

After Carter brought Madeline back to the manor, he quickly hypnotized her again.

After sleeping for an entire night, what Carter said to her during the hypnosis sounded even more profound now.

The next day, she went into the kitchen after she woke up to make Carter breakfast.

Carter enjoyed the food in satisfaction. After watching Madeline for a while, his smile widened.

Nobody was able to break his hypnotism. No one.

At this moment, Carter's mother, Camille, walked over hurriedly.

"Carter."

"What happened? Why are you in such a hurry?" Carter asked indifferently.

Camille looked at Madeline who was enjoying her meal on the dining table and her face looked serious. "Your father wants you to go back. If possible, he wants you to bring your future viscountess."

Carter still looked nonchalant. "Why is he asking me to go back in such a hurry?"

“If you want to know why, you should ask your father.” Camille gave him a look. “Are the two of you really not going to call each other for the rest of your lives?”

After she said that, it seemed that Carter had fallen into a short silence.

After a while, he smiled and looked at Madeline. “Eveline, do you want to go to my hometown with me?”

Madeline did not even hesitate. “Of course.”

Carter pressed his lips into a smile before answering Camille, “I’ll pack my bags. We can go anytime.”

“Okay.” Camille nodded in satisfaction. She immediately called Carter’s father to give him a reply.

Carter looked at Madeline who was being very docile right now. A mysterious glint flashed across his eyes quietly.

After Jeremy went back, he kept thinking about how to break Madeline’s hypnosis.

He found a few reliable and skillful hypnotists, but when they heard Carter’s name, they all had their qualms.

This made Jeremy realize that Carter was indeed very skilled in the hypnotism world.

However, even so, he would not allow Carter to use this method to brazenly control Madeline.

While he was thinking and trying to come up with a way, he suddenly received the news about Carter leaving Glendale with Madeline. They were heading to St. Piaf.

Jeremy sped to the airport as fast as he could. After finding out that Carter was taking a chartered plane, he used all of his connections in Glendale to arrive at the plane that was about to take off.

Coincidentally, he saw Madeline who was about to go into the cabin with Carter. While looking at the familiar and beautiful figure, Jeremy charged forward and yelled hurriedly, "Linnie!"

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1615

Madeline had just stepped foot onto the plane when she froze immediately after.

"Linnie!"

Jeremy screamed continuously.

"Linnie, don't go with him!"

Carter lowered his gaze to look at Madeline who was beside him. He turned and used the corners of his eyes to look at Jeremy who was running up to them.

"Don't bother about those irrelevant people. Let's go," he said to Madeline, and at the same time, he sped up.

Madeline wanted to turn around to look at Jeremy, but after hearing what Carter said, she decided to follow Carter onto the plane.

When Jeremy saw that Madeline was not turning around, it felt as if his heart had plunged into a bottomless abyss. However, he did not give up just like that.

He took large strides and chased after them. However, when he was about to get close to Madeline, the door of the plane was shut tightly with a loud thud.

The heavy plane door separated them into two different worlds.

“Linnie!”

Jeremy tried to call out to Madeline again.

He knew Madeline could not hear him, but he was clear that even if she did, she would not turn back.

At this moment, Jeremy did not have a choice. He could only watch the plane as it took off in front of him.

The only thing that made him feel at ease was knowing that Carter would not do anything to Madeline.

Carter had a goal, but his goal was not Madeline, so he would not touch her.

However, even if that was the case, Jeremy could not be fully at ease.

He went back to pack a light suitcase before getting onto a chartered plane to St. Piaf.

He had to take his Linnie home himself.

...

Since Felipe's case was pretty special, the time for him to appeal his sentence was brought forward.

The court commenced after a while. Since Felipe's crimes were too severe, he got the death penalty just like he predicted.

While looking at the empty gallery, he admitted to all of his crimes and gave up on his appeal.

At this moment, he felt at ease.

Early morning.

After Cathy made breakfast, she brought the children out of the house quietly.

Adam came out from the study after he saw the door closing.

He saw the note Cathy placed on the table, so he slowly reached out and picked it up.

There was only one line on the note. The woman's beautiful handwriting was reflected in his eyes profoundly.

[Eat your breakfast on time. I'm taking the children to daycare.]

The handwriting looked so simple and so normal, but Adam felt something different.

He felt her getting farther and farther away from him despite him hearing her tell Jeremy that she would not turn back anymore.

Yet, the person in front of her was still Felipe. This was the man she could not forget after so many years. Her not turning back might be another meaning for her only having eyes for him.

The conjugal room in the detention center.

Cathy brought the two one-year-olds with her. She was staring blankly at the empty wall, but a lot of memories from the past were playing in her eyes.

Those happy and unhappy memories were all in front of her eyes.

“Mommy, where is this place? Why are we here?” the young and naive child asked.

Cathy lifted her hand to touch her son’s head, smiling gently and benevolently, “Juan, remember the uncle who helped you pick up the ball?”

The little boy blinked his sincere wide eyes. “That handsome uncle.”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1616

“Yeah, it’s that handsome uncle. I’m taking you to see that handsome uncle now.”

“Why are we seeing him?” The little guy still had a dumb look on his face.

Cathy smiled and was stumped for words.

Right, why were they here to see him?

Was it to not let him die with regrets?

When she thought about this, Cathy felt as if her heart had been stabbed by needles. Once again, her heart was in tremendous pain.

When Felipe heard that someone was here to visit him, he thought it was Jeremy. He wanted to ask Jeremy to send a message to the old master for him, but when he went to the conjugal room, he could not believe what he was seeing.

“Cathy?”

His eyes were filled with astonishment. He could not hide the surprise from overflowing from his eyes.

Cathy looked indifferently at the man whose face was filled with joy. He looked very haggardly to her, and his beautiful black eyes looked bloodshot. However, since he was happy, he looked pretty energetic now.

After looking at him for a while, Cathy recomposed himself. She averted her gaze and spoke as if it was no big matter.

“I heard you’re getting the death penalty soon. Even though I don’t remember what happened back then, I heard from them that we had a special relationship. So, for the sake of that, I’m here to bid farewell to you.”

Felipe looked straight at Cathy who was sitting opposite him. Although her words were making him feel a sense of loss, he had nothing to ask for now that he could see her again.

“Oh, I see,” Felipe smiled and said, “Thank you for coming to see me, a heartless rat who has done so many evil crimes, even after knowing that I had hired someone to kill you.”

After Cathy heard that, she smiled softly. "You didn't betray me, you just didn't love me."

Felipe's dull eyes started lighting up after he heard that.

"Felipe, you don't have to feel bad. You can't force a relationship. It was my wishful thinking back then for wanting to get you to reciprocate my feelings. I asked for it. Now that we're here, I don't want to stubbornly pursue this matter anymore and I don't blame you. The reason I came here is to say goodbye to you."

After Cathy said that insipidly, she lifted her gaze to look into Jeremy's eyes.

"I hope you can do proper things in your next life. Don't touch those limits that you shouldn't touch."

"Next life..."

Felipe started to fantasize about this word.

He looked at her and asked with a light smile, "I don't care whether I will have a next life. I just want to know if I'll get the honor of seeing you again in my next life."

After he said that, a long silence followed.

After a while, the children next to Cathy could not keep silent anymore.

"Mommy, what's happening?"

“Mommy, what are you and this handsome man talking about?”

When Cathy heard the children’s naive and untainted questions, she came back to her senses.

She saw Felipe having his eyes on the children’s faces. She was worried that he would detect something, so she said decisively, “I almost died because of you in this life, so if there’s a next life, I hope to not see you again.”

Her straightforwardness was like a sharp knife that penetrated Felipe’s heart.

He looked at her, and the brim of his eyes started to get wet and red. In the end, tears started falling from his eyes.

He did not expect to cry in this kind of situation. However, he did not want to hide his emotions anymore.

He was tired.

He did not have much time either.

He did not want to pretend anymore. Back then, he had wanted to have a moment like this so he could show his weaker side to her.

Cathy did not expect Felipe to cry. In her impression, he had always been cold and heartless. It was as if the word ‘tears’ had nothing to do with him at all. However, at this moment, he was crying.

Cathy did not want her emotions to be affected as well, so she said coldly, “It’s getting late and I only passed by this place coincidentally when I was on my way to send the children to daycare. I’ve said everything I needed to say.”

She said and got up to turn around decisively. Her back was turned against him when she took the hands of the children.

However, when she was about to take a step forward, she suddenly stopped.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1617

Felipe was not saying anything. He only watched Cathy's back quietly.

The outline of her figure had already become blurry due to the tears in his eyes.

'Cath.

'You remember.

'When you said that.

'This is fine.

'You can pretend not to know so we can bid farewell here.

'Adam will be good to you, right?

'At least, he'll treat you better than I did.'

He lowered his eyes and chuckled in self-mockery. He realized that happiness was just within arm's

reach but he pushed this happiness away.

While he was immersed in his silence, Felipe heard Cathy saying softly.

“Felipe, I’ll see you never.”

‘I’ll see you never.’

He had never felt how heartbreaking these four words were, but now, he felt it.

He stared fixedly at Cathy and said with a smile on his face, “Alright, I’ll see you never.”

Yes, never.

He would not choose to appeal. The only thing waiting for him would be the death penalty. There would not be another possibility anymore.

After Cathy got Felipe’s answer, she stood quietly and absent-mindedly in the same spot for a while until her daughter shook her hand.

“Mommy, that handsome uncle is crying. He looks like Juan when he’s crying.”

After Felipe heard this, he was stumped for words. His gaze naturally landed on the face of the little boy named Juan.

Through this vision that had been blurred by tears, he saw a delicate and refined little face.

When he was looking at the child just now, Felipe did not have any intense feelings toward him. However, at this moment, he felt that this child's face was giving him an abnormally familiar feeling for some unknown reason.

Cathy could feel the eyes on her back. In order to prevent Felipe from sensing anything, she grabbed her daughter's hand.

"Jan, hold Juan's hand. We're leaving."

"Oh." The little cutie obediently held her brother's hand according to Cathy's wishes. Then, she started walking forward.

However, before they could go far, Felipe's excited and emotional yells came from behind them.

"Cathy!"

Cathy stopped reflexively in her tracks all of a sudden.

"How old are the children? When did you give birth to them?"

Felipe asked urgently. Cathy could feel Felipe's suspicions in his anxious heart.

However, her answer was still calm and indifferent. "I don't remember."

"Yes, you do."

Felipe denied it. His heartbeat started accelerating wildly. His vision was also glued to Cathy's back.

“The days you don’t remember are the days when I made you bleed and cry. If they’re your and Adam’s children, then you should know their birthdays clearly. There’s another meaning when you said you don’t remember, so does it mean that the children are related to me?”

Cathy did not think that Felipe would make assumptions from this angle.

She was stumped for words. When she wanted to deny it, Felipe got up suddenly. However, his action was quickly stopped by the officer at one side.

He was pushed back down in his seat forcefully. However, the excitement in his eyes that was on the brink of overflowing could not be stopped now.

“Cathy, Cathy...”

He called out her name, and his eyes were filled with unlimited longing.

“They’re our children, right?”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1618

In the end, Felipe still managed to guess the truth accurately.

Cathy had her back toward him, and her tone was still indifferent. “You’re overthinking. They’re my and Adam’s children. How could I have given birth to the children of a man who wanted to kill me?”

“...”

“I would never.”

After Cathy said that decisively, she took the children out of the conjugal room without stopping.

Felipe felt as if he had all of his energy sucked out from him. His entire body went limp, and he seemed depressed.

Cathy held the children's hands and quickly walked to the entrance. She knew that Felipe would not chase after them, but it felt like if she was a second slower, he could catch up to them and see the entire truth.

However, maybe he had already seen through them.

"Ouch!"

Her son's pained grunts came from her side. Cathy stopped suddenly and realized that her son had fallen because she was walking too fast.

Cathy quickly squatted and apologized. She comforted him, saying, "I'm sorry, Juan. It's my fault. I shouldn't have walked so fast. Sorry, sorry..."

She quickly apologized and started to sound incoherent. For some unknown reason, she even had an impulse to cry that came from the bottom of her heart when she saw her son's innocent and untainted face.

When the children saw the tears coming out from Cathy's eyes, they looked at each other innocently before lifting their hands together to wipe the tears away from Cathy's face.

Cathy started crying even harder when she felt the concern and care from her children.

She glanced at the conjugal room and felt her heart aching even more.

'Felipe.

'I guess it'll never be over between us.

'If there's a next life, I still hope we won't meet anymore.'

She thought about this silently and lowered her eyes that were filled with tears.

When she was about to recompose her emotions and leave, her phone rang.

When she saw the caller ID, she did not think too much before answering. Jeremy's voice came from the other end of the phone.

"Cathy, I'm in St. Piaf. I need your help."

"You're in St. Piaf?" Cathy was astonished. Then, she heard what Jeremy needed from her.

"Alright, I'll go back now and send the related information to you." Cathy wiped her tears away and gave him an affirmative answer.

Before she hung up the phone, she suddenly heard Jeremy asking, "My uncle has been sentenced. He has the right to appeal but decided against it. Do you know about this?"

Cathy held her phone and looked at the blue sky. However, her vision was gray.

“I went to see him just now.”

“You saw him? Did you tell him about the children—”

“I won’t tell him,” Cathy said decisively even though she figured that Felipe already had an inkling about it.

“He hurt me so deeply back then and I want him to leave with regrets.” She seemed to be avenging herself heartlessly, but her heart was bleeding without control.

“If he knows that he has children with you, he’ll choose to appeal,” Jeremy said the last sentence softly in the end, “However, I’ll respect your decision no matter what.”

After he hung up the phone, Cathy stood in front of the door of the detention center silently for a very long time...

St. Piaf.

Jeremy stayed for about a week in a famous local hotel.

During this period, he learned about the situation with the Louis family.

Carter had a special identity over here. Yesterday, he even announced that he would be marrying a mysterious woman. The wedding ceremony would be held in his hotel in two days.

Of course, Jeremy knew who this mysterious woman was, but he would never allow this to happen.

He sat in front of the computer. After waiting for about half an hour, he finally received the information Cathy sent him.

Jeremy read through it quickly and then went out after some preparations.

However, when he opened the door of the hotel, a figure appeared in front of him and blocked his way.

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Jeremy did not know this woman who appeared in front of him, but Ada immediately acted as if she was very familiar with him.

"You're Jeremy Whitman. I know you." Ada raised a sweet smile. "Hello, my name is Ada. I know you want to find Eveline. I can help you."

After Ada fully stated the purpose of her visit, Jeremy inevitably became suspicious.

"Who are you? How do you know what I'm going to do here? Why should I believe that you'll help me?"

Ada smiled even brighter when she heard those words. "Can I go in and talk to you? It seems a little inconvenient to stand and talk out here."

After she said that, there happened to be a guest staying in the hotel passing by the corridor.

Jeremy weighed the pros and cons as fast as he could before opening the door.

"Come in."

Ada smiled in satisfaction and followed Jeremy into the room.

After entering the room, she did not beat around the bush and said bluntly, "I'm Carter's childhood sweetheart. I always thought that when he grew up, it was only to be expected that he and I would get married. However, I didn't expect that he never had any romantic feelings for me. Moreover, he even hates me a little bit.

"I waited for him for so many years, but he suddenly said that he wants to marry another woman. Of course, I won't be willing to accept this."

As Ada said that, her gaze was fixed on Jeremy's deep and narrow eyes.

"I know you're unconvinced as well."

Jeremy's eyes narrowed slightly. "You seem to know everything about me."

"Yeah, I'm quite clear. I also know that a woman had plastic surgery to look like your wife because she wanted to impersonate her." Ada appeared calm and composed.

Of course, she would not let Jeremy and Carter know that she actually colluded with Naomi.

She had also helped Naomi stun Madeline and then watched Naomi push Madeline into the river.

However, what she did not understand was how Madeline could be safe and sound.

"You said you want to help me, so how are you going to do that?" Jeremy said, interrupting Ada's wandering thoughts.

Ada regained her senses and smiled. "Do you want to see your wife? I can take you into the Louis family and let you see her."

"Can you take me into Carter's house?"

"Of course." Ada had her card up her sleeve, and her face was filled with confidence. "Carter's mother likes me very much. She has always wanted me to be her daughter-in-law. I can enter the door of the Louis family's residence whenever I want."

Jeremy glanced at Ada with suspicion. "What are your requirements and goals for helping me?"

"I said I'm unconvinced," Ada said before gritting her teeth, "I'm not helping you, I want to help myself. As long as Eveline is gone, Carty will give up."

After she said that, Ada walked up to Jeremy.

While looking at his handsome face, there was a delightful look in Ada's eyes.

"How about that? Do you want to take your wife home? If you want, I'll help you."

"Of course I do."

"Okay, then I'll help you." Ada agreed. "Carty will announce his marriage to Eveline in two days. The Louis family will hold a celebration ceremony the night before. There will be a lot of people there, so it'll be easier for me to sneak you in."

Ada said and stretched out her hand. "Give me your phone and I will enter my contact information."

Jeremy seemed to hesitate for two seconds before handing his phone over.

After receiving the phone, Ada quickly entered her phone number into Jeremy's contacts.

"I'll contact you tomorrow night." As she said that, she returned the phone to Jeremy and turned away decisively.

Jeremy had originally planned to go out and investigate the situation related to Carter, but it seemed that he did not need to do that at the moment.

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After Ada left the hotel, she went straight to Gray Manor.

Inside the study.

Carter was leisurely drinking black tea, and he was not surprised to see Ada coming in.

Ada walked over tremblingly while looking at the man sitting in front of her.

"Carty, it's already done. Jeremy will show up at the celebration ceremony on time tomorrow."

Carter raised his long fingers and flipped through the book in front of him casually. "Are you sure he really believes what you told him?"

Ada nodded affirmatively. "His purpose is just to take Eveline away, so as long as there's a slim chance, he'll try."

Upon hearing this, Carter closed the book while feeling very satisfied. He slowly raised his mysterious black eyes.

“The reason why you can still come through this door is that you still have a little value. It’s best if you know your place and don’t lose your only value.”

Ada’s expression changed slightly. She glanced at Carter a little nervously and kept her promise.

“Carty, I’ll never do stupid things again. I know you won’t like me. I just want everything to be the same as before. I’ll be satisfied even if I’m just a friend to you.”

After Ada finished saying that while trembling, someone knocked on the door coincidentally.

Knock, knock, knock.

“Cart, it’s me.”

Madeline’s soft and sweet voice came from the other side of the door.

Carter glanced at Ada coldly before getting up and walking over to open the door of the study himself.

Madeline walked in and raised her eyes to see Ada standing next to the desk. A faint glint flashed across her beautiful eyes.

Subconsciously, Ada was a little flustered when she met Madeline’s eyes. She was scared that Madeline would know about her collusion with Naomi. However, it was fortunate for her that Madeline seemed to know nothing about this.

“Cart, I’m almost ready. Are we going to meet your father later?”

Carter looked at Madeline who had been carefully dressed by the maid with a rare smile on his lips.

“Are you nervous?”

“Not at all.” Madeline shook her head and smiled, her eyes turning into crescents. “However, there will be a lot of guests tomorrow night and I think I’ll be very nervous at that time.”

“Don’t be nervous, I’ll always be by your side.” Carter soothed softly, raising his palm and patting Madeline’s shoulder.

Ada was standing at one side where she could only watch the man she had been in love with since childhood being gentle and considerate to another woman.

Dusk.

Carter’s parents appeared in front of Madeline together. Madeline had met Carter’s mother before. Although the hypnosis had affected certain aspects of her thoughts and memories, her impression of Camille had not changed.

Madeline thought that Carter’s father was not an easy person to deal with no matter how she looked at him.

However, to Madeline’s surprise, Carter’s father was also very satisfied with her.

Early the next morning.

Everyone in Gray Manor began to busy themselves preparing for the celebration ceremony tonight.

Jeremy also received the news from Ada, and he smoothly entered Gray Manor one hour before the start of the celebration.

The manor was full of guests, and it was very lively.

Ada pointed to one of the rooms upstairs and said affirmatively to Jeremy, "Your wife is in that room. You can take her away while there are many people here."

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Jeremy glanced around and realized that no one had noticed him.

He had not deliberately disguised himself to be low-key, and his clothes were the same as usual. He just did not want to be deliberately low-key and attract the attention of others.

However, was it really that easy?

Jeremy pondered upon this, then turned around to thank Ada before going upstairs.

Ada watched Jeremy go upstairs and called Carter after a while.

"Jeremy is on his way."

When Carter heard this from the other end of the phone, the corners of his lips upturned. He got up and left the study to go to the designated room.

However, after he pushed the door to go in, he found that it was empty and there was no one inside.

Madeline was not in this room, and he knew that. However, it was strange that Jeremy was not here either.

He calmly took out his phone and called Ada. "Where's Jeremy?"

Ada was confused when she was asked this question. "He went to the room you specified. I saw him go upstairs."

"You saw him go upstairs but did you see him enter this room?"

"..."

Ada was speechless for a moment. She lifted her head and looked at a guest room on the second floor, only to meet Carter's cold gaze mid-air.

Carter was standing at the door of that room, and his expression looked very horrible.

He knew that Jeremy had come to St. Piaf with him. He had planned for it because he wanted to give Jeremy a taste of his own medicine to embarrass him.

However, Jeremy had not appeared in this room as he planned.

Carter immediately rushed over when he started to suspect that Jeremy might have found the room where Madeline was really located. However, he only found that several maids were helping Madeline with her makeup and dress. There was nothing unusual.

Jeremy had obviously come upstairs, but it was as if he suddenly evaporated and disappeared.

Carter could not wrap his head around this and went to look in a few other rooms, but he could not find Jeremy.

At this moment, Jeremy was rummaging through Carter's study for what he was looking for.

He remembered Carter taking out the crystal ball from his pocket that day, so his eyes fell on the suit jacket hanging on the hanger.

He quickly walked over, and as soon as he reached out his hand, he touched the crystal ball in the jacket pocket.

At this moment, footsteps sounded from outside the door.

Jeremy quickly put away the crystal ball and swiftly retreated behind the door to hide.

After a while, he saw Carter hurriedly walking in.

Immediately afterward, Ada also appeared in the study.

“Carty, I really saw Jeremy coming upstairs. I think he must be on the second floor.”

Jeremy’s eyes glinted when he heard Ada’s words.

Sure enough, he had not guessed wrong. This woman did not genuinely want to help him. Carter and she were in on this.

They wanted to catch him.

He was now in St. Piaf, and if he fell into Carter’s trap, he would be in trouble.

“Don’t you have his contact information? Call him right now,” Carter demanded.

Ada heard the words and immediately took action. The call was quickly connected, but no one answered.

Ada looked at Carter who had an icy look on his face helplessly and uneasily. “He’s not answering my call.”

Carter raised his black eyes and glanced at the door. “I don’t think he’ll answer your call either.”

“Carty, you mean...” Ada looked at Carter whose eyes were getting more and more treacherous in confusion.

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The corners of Carter's lips twitched as he slowly walked toward the door of the room.

Jeremy heard Carter's approaching footsteps and guessed that Carter might have noticed him.

"Cart."

Madeline's sudden appearance halted Carter's footsteps that were about to reach the door.

"Cart, I'm done. Can I go down to see your relatives and friends now?" Madeline asked with a slight smile. When she saw Ada standing in the study again, she could not help but wonder, 'She's here too?'

Carter glanced at Ada indifferently and smiled softly at Madeline. "We still have time, so you can go back to your room and rest for a while."

Madeline furrowed her beautiful eyebrows with slight embarrassment. "Can you accompany me? I think I'm a little nervous."

Carter quietly glanced at the door of the study from the corners of his eyes. Then, he smiled and nodded. "Okay, I'll accompany you."

"Okay." Madeline smiled and displayed her sweet dimples before reaching out to grab at Carter's sleeve.

Carter did not say much and started to keep up with Madeline's footsteps.

Ada looked gloomily at the scene of Carter entertaining Madeline. She mumbled a few words of dissatisfaction before leaving the study.

Jeremy never thought that Madeline would appear by chance at such a crucial time, but her appearance did save him from huge trouble.

Jeremy also quickly left the study. He was trying to find where Madeline and Carter had gone to, but suddenly, he saw Carter hurriedly turning back from not far away.

Anticipating that Carter might want to go back to the study to check if he was behind the door, Jeremy decisively dodged to the corner where there was no one around.

After waiting for Carter to enter the study, he quickly ran in the direction Carter had just walked in.

As he passed the door of a guest room, Jeremy caught a glimpse of Madeline sitting inside from the corners of his eyes. He dashed in without hesitation and quickly locked the door.

Upon hearing the sound, Madeline quickly turned her head and saw Jeremy as he strode toward her solemnly.

“Jeremy, it’s you again.” Madeline’s voice was cold, and she even sounded impatient. “How many times do I have to keep telling you before you understand? Stop pestering me already.”

Jeremy did not back away when he was faced with Madeline’s repulsion.

“Linnie, I want to take you home.”

“Home? This is my home.”

“No, Linnie, this is not your home.” Jeremy looked serious and focused. “I’ll let you know where our home is soon, Linnie.”

Madeline twisted her beautiful eyebrows together. When she was about to speak, she suddenly saw Jeremy take out a crystal ball. “Eveline, look at this crystal ball now.”

“...”

As Jeremy’s voice fell, Madeline seemed to be stunned. Her eyes were looking fixedly at the crystal ball in Jeremy’s hand.

Jeremy’s heart beat faster when he saw Madeline’s reaction.

Sure enough, props were very important.

This was the prop that Carter used to hypnotize Madeline. As such, he would use this to try to break Madeline’s hypnosis.

He was indeed not a professional hypnotist, but these days, he has been studying day and night. He had learned the relevant knowledge from Cathy as well. In any case, he had to give it a try.

“Eveline...”

Click.

Jeremy was about to get to the point when the locked door was suddenly opened.

He froze before turning to see Carter walking toward him with a subtle smile.

“Jeremy, you’re very smart, but I’m not stupid either.”

Carter glanced at the crystal ball Jeremy was holding.

“Now, let me tell you the correct usage of this crystal ball.”

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Carter finished the sentence with a deep smile and strode to Madeline with the crystal ball in his hands.

He immediately captured Madeline’s gaze and issued the instructions.

“Eveline, look into this crystal ball. From this second on, your entire body will feel relaxed. You will not be affected by anyone. Just keep in mind that the man you love most now is Carter Gray.”

Upon hearing this, Jeremy was instantly angry.

He clenched his fist and charged forward to grab Carter’s collar. He snatched the crystal ball away.

“Carter, is this how you hypnotized my wife? Eveline loves me. Do you think you can really deceive her like this and fool her forever?” Jeremy roared in a low voice. The veins on his forehead and the

back of his hands were popping out. He was unable to control his emotions at the moment. If he could, he really wanted to strangle the man in front of him to death.

Carter smiled disapprovingly. "Jeremy, I advise you to let me go right away. Do you know what's the worst thing that can happen if she gets interrupted in the middle of hypnosis?"

Seeing Carter's triumphant eyes, Jeremy's fingers loosened subconsciously.

He could not risk his Linnie. He could not.

Carter felt Jeremy releasing him and smiled with satisfaction. He easily broke away from Jeremy's hand and straightened his clothes slowly. Finally, he parted his lips leisurely.

"The worst thing that can happen after getting interrupted during hypnosis is that the hypnotized person may live in hypnosis all their life, or they'll become a semi-crazy fool after losing all their ability to think."

Upon hearing this, Jeremy felt as if his heart had frozen. His whole body seemed to be encased in ice.

He raised his eyes to look at Madeline, and her eyes were staring at the crystal ball without focus like a puppet without a soul—waiting to be manipulated.

Jeremy felt as though his whole body was in pain at the moment. He was so powerless as he watched the love of his life being teased by others.

While he was thinking about it, Carter took away the crystal ball in his hand and continued to hypnotize Madeline even deeply.

Jeremy could only watch as Madeline listened to Carter's instructions. She then closed her eyes, lay

down on the bed, and entered a temporary state of sleep.

Jeremy could not bear this anymore. "Carter, what do you want?"

"Nothing much," Carter said leisurely, "Glendale is a very good place. I want to start my business there."

As he spoke, he met Jeremy's questioning eyes with his challenging gaze.

"The young master of the number one family in Glendale seems to only have a hollow reputation. How can a man who only has women in his eyes and mind reach the pinnacle of his career?"

Jeremy stared coldly at Carter. "The woman you're talking about is my wife. In my heart, nothing is more important than her."

"As such, you can only lose."

Carter smiled, and there was something sinister in that smile.

"Jeremy, since you're here today, I'm afraid that it'll be difficult for you to walk away again and sneak into the doors of the Louis family's manor to steal my wife. I think you have to bear the punishment for your crime. I want you to understand how harsh the legal system in St. Piaf is."

After Carter said that, several men who were wearing formal outfits and seemingly looked like bodyguards suddenly appeared at the door of the room.

"Get him."

Carter issued the order.

The men rushed into the room immediately to catch Jeremy.

Jeremy glanced worriedly at Madeline who was lying on the bed. However, he had no other choice but to run to the balcony and jump off it without hesitation.

Carter had not expected Jeremy to do that.

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He strode to the balcony and saw that Jeremy's figure had passed through the guests. He was walking toward the door unharmed.

Carter did not expect Jeremy to have such jumping ability. However, he could not do anything right now.

He turned back to the room and saw Madeline who was still sleeping. He glanced at the crystal ball in his hand and walked slowly to the bed to wake Madeline.

After Madeline opened her eyes, she looked dumb for a brief moment. She was confused and ignorant about everything around her like she was a child.

After a while, she regained her senses.

"I saw Jeremy coming here," Madeline voiced out the doubt in her heart.

Carter nodded. "He was here. He tried to take you away, but I've already driven him away."

Madeline frowned upon hearing this. "He's so annoying."

"I won't let him bother you again," Carter promised. "After our wedding ceremony is completed, I'll take you back to Glendale to settle down."

"Back to Glendale?" Madeline looked puzzled. "Why are we going back to Glendale? Isn't it good to live here?"

"Of course, it's good to live here," Carter said, turning slowly to face the French window. "However, going back to Glendale is something I must do."

Madeline looked at Carter's tall and strong back, her eyes flickering. "Why do you say that?"

Carter was silent for a while. Then, he looked back and met Madeline's curious and beautiful eyes with a superficial smile.

"Let's not talk about this. Get ready and I'll take you to see the guests in a while."

Carter deliberately changed the subject, and Madeline did not ask anything anymore. Rather, she obediently nodded and smiled at Carter. She raised her eyes and glanced outside the balcony.

After Carter left, he looked into Jeremy's whereabouts immediately.

However, he could only see Jeremy leaving Gray Manor from the surveillance footage. After Jeremy exited the gate, Carter did not know where Jeremy had gone for the time being.

An extremely unpleasant look appeared on his face that rarely beamed with joy. Just as he was thinking of calling someone to follow after Jeremy, Camille pushed the door open and walked into the study.

“Carter, it’s almost time. You and Eveline should get ready to meet the guests,” Camille urged, her graceful and refined face full of joy. It could be seen that she was quite satisfied with Madeline now.

The most important thing was that what had happened last time had changed her view of Madeline.

Carter could only suppress the dissatisfaction in his heart now and give a slight smile.

“I’ll call Eveline now.”

“Okay, I’ll go down first and wait for you two to come down.”

“Okay.” Carter kept the small smile on his face. After walking Camille out, he went back to the original room to find Madeline.

When he saw Madeline standing by the balcony, watching the guests walking in the garden, Carter pondered before putting a smile on his face.

“Eveline, we should go down now.”

Madeline turned around when she heard his voice and looked at the man walking toward her. She headed to the bed, and her lips parted slightly in apprehension.

“There are so many guests, Cart. What if they don’t like me?”

“Their opinions are not important, you are,” Carter said, and he seemed to hesitate for a moment. However, in the end, he still reached out his hand toward Madeline.

Madeline glanced at the palm of Carter's hand, smiled, and placed her hand on it. However, when she was about to touch Carter's fingertips, Madeline suddenly closed her eyes and lost her balance. She fell on the bed.

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It happened so suddenly that Carter could not have expected it at all.

He hurried to the bed and reached out to pat Madeline's cheek. "Eveline, Eveline!"

Carter yelled several times, but Madeline was unresponsive.

Unsure of what had caused Madeline to pass out, Carter called the family doctor immediately.

Camille was waiting for Carter to bring Madeline downstairs when suddenly, she heard the news of Madeline fainting.

She hurriedly walked back to the bedroom and saw that the doctor had just finished examining Madeline.

"What's the matter? How could she have fainted suddenly?" Camille asked impatiently.

After the doctor's examination, he frowned with a troubled look on his face. "After checking, Miss Montgomery has no other problems. Her blood pressure is normal too. It may be due to hypoxia that's due to her hypoglycemia."

"Hypoglycemia?" Camille frowned. "Then, when will she wake up?"

“She should wake up soon.”

Camille silently breathed a sigh of relief. “Carter, you should stay here with her first. I’ll go explain to the guests.” As she said that, she dismissed the doctor and servants. “You guys should go out.”

The doctor and the servants immediately followed Camille out of the room.

The atmosphere around Carter soon quietened down. Carter stood by the bed, and after thoughtfully watching Madeline who was unconscious, he took out his crystal ball again.

‘Is it because of hypnosis?’

He asked himself as his gaze fell on Madeline’s face.

Carter reached out and touched Madeline’s eyebrows lightly.

“You really are a little special. At least, you’re causing some obstructions in my hypnotism.”

As he said that, the corners of his thin lips were slowly raised into a deep smile.

“This is good. It’ll make this more challenging.”

Downstairs.

Camille figured that Madeline should wake up soon, but as time passed and upon seeing those guests beginning to make veiled criticisms, Camille had to bite the bullet and explain that Madeline was feeling unwell. As such, she could not attend the celebration ceremony tonight.

Although the guests were dissatisfied, they could not complain. They left one after another to prepare themselves for Carter and Madeline's wedding the next day.

Camille escorted all the guests away with a smile and then sat down on the sofa while feeling quite tired.

Not long after sitting down, someone appeared behind her and gently massaged her.

Camille thought it was a servant, but when she looked back, she saw that it was Ada.

"Why are you here?" Camille pushed aside Ada's hand away while feeling slightly dissatisfied. She still remembered what had happened the last time.

Ada hurriedly apologized and explained, "Aunty Cammy, I know that I was wrong the last time, so please forgive me. Carty asked me to come today. If you don't believe me, you can ask Carty later."

Ada said before approaching Camille and simpered, "Aunty Cammy, I don't dare to act rashly anymore. You watched me grow up, so what bad thoughts can I have? It's just that I like Carty so much and I don't want Carty to be snatched away by another woman."

Ada showed a hurt look of helplessness. She raised her hand to try to worm her way into a relationship with Camille.

"Aunty Cammy, can you truly accept Madeline as your daughter-in-law? She was married and has three children. Carty is the only descendant of the Louis family. Plus, he has royal blood. It's really not right for him to marry such a woman."

Camille's face seemed to change when she heard this. "She has three children?"

“Aunty Cammy, don’t you know?” Ada showed an exaggerated expression of surprise. “Aunty Cammy, you know too little about Eveline. Do you know, this woman used to—”

“Everyone is gone, right?” Carter’s cold voice suddenly sounded from the front.

Ada closed her mouth quickly and saw the man coming from in front of her. She squeezed her fingers nervously and stood up slowly.

“Carty.”

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Carter’s cold gaze swept across Ada’s face. “You can go back too.”

“...”

Ada pressed her lips together. Although she was very reluctant, she did not have another choice. As such, she could only pretend to be sensible and said to Camille in concern.

“Aunty Cammy, I’ll be heading back first. You’ve been busy the whole day today. Please rest early.”

Camille waved her hand. “Go back first, then.”

Ada did not dare to say much and left soon after.

“Is she still unconscious?” Camille’s tone was slightly dissatisfied.

Carter nodded. “Maybe she has been too tense these days, so that’s why she’s like this.”

“Does she already have three children with that Jeremy guy?”

Camille suddenly changed the subject, but Carter looked calm.

“I don’t care how many children she had before this.”

“...Y-You don’t you care?” Camille was surprised and stood up. “Carter, do you like Eveline to such an extent?”

“I do.” Carter listened to the words he said and smiled vaguely. “Rest early. We still have a lot to do tomorrow.”

“...” Camille still wanted to say something, but seeing Carter bluntly turning his back toward her, she felt that it was useless to say anything more.

Late at night.

Everyone in Gray Manor had fallen asleep.

A tall and slender figure quietly entered one of the bedrooms.

Madeline, who was lying on the bed, heard the sound and suddenly opened her eyes.

In the darkness, she saw a familiar silhouette quickly approaching her.

“Linnie.”

Jeremy's deep and alluring voice blossomed in Madeline's ears.

Madeline sat up quickly. "Why are you here again?"

"Linnie, I'm here to take you home." Jeremy grabbed Madeline's wrist. Although he was anxious, he still knew the strength of his grip.

Seeing that Madeline was looking at him without speaking, Jeremy decisively pulled Madeline to the door of the room.

However, after only two steps, Madeline suddenly stopped in her tracks and escaped from Jeremy's grip.

"Jeremy, leave now." Madeline's voice sounded very decisive.

In the darkness, Jeremy caught Madeline's steadfast gaze under the moonlight.

"Leave." Madeline insisted, saying, "Jeremy, if you continue to stay here, you'll only place yourself in a more dangerous situation. I'm not scaring you. You saw the situation yourself earlier today."

"As long as I can take Linnie home, I don't care what danger I encounter."

"But I do," Madeline talked back indifferently, "I don't want to see you, do you know that? Leave now. If you don't leave, I'll call for someone."

Jeremy's clenched hand loosened slightly, but he still could not bear to let go.

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows and shook off Jeremy's palm suddenly. "Get lost!"

It was unknown whether Madeline's movement was too abrupt and shocking, but Jeremy was thrown to the side and ended up slamming into the wall.

He let out a muffled sound of pain, and his body doubled over reflexively.

Madeline saw Jeremy touching his ankle subconsciously. Even though the moonlight was not so bright, she still saw that Jeremy's face was gradually turning pale. She felt her heartstrings tightening. "Jeremy, what happened to you?"

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Madeline immediately turned on the lights, and at a glance, she saw blood seeping from Jeremy's left ankle glaringly.

He was hurt.

It seemed that the injury was serious.

Jeremy looked down at the bleeding wound on his ankle. Despite the discomfort, he endured the pain to return to Madeline.

"Linnie, I can't just watch you wed another man. I must take you out of here now."

Madeline's gaze stayed for a moment at Jeremy's injured ankle, then she raised her tough and unyielding eyes.

“I won’t leave.” She was still so determined. “Jeremy, for the sake of our previous relationship as husband and wife, I’ll give you a chance to leave now. You’d better not throw yourself into this trap, do you understand?”

She stared at Jeremy’s increasingly lonely and hurt deep eyes. “Get out of here now.”

Jeremy stared into Madeline’s firm eyes. Suddenly, he tugged the corners of his lips into a smile. “Okay, I’ll leave right away.”

“There seem to be some strange movements in the room.” Suddenly, a maid’s voice came from outside the door.

“I wasn’t mistaken just now, someone really did sneak in!”

“How dare this bold thief come and steal things from Gray Manor?!”

Two or three sets of footsteps outside the door got closer and closer, accompanied by the voices.

After a while, the door of the room suddenly opened.

Madeline, who was standing by the bed, raised her eyes in shock.

When the two maids saw Madeline awake, they were startled and hurriedly apologized.

“Sorry Miss Montgomery, we heard sounds in the room and you were unconscious earlier, so we thought someone had sneaked into your room.”

The maid said and looked around in the room.

“Sorry, Miss Montgomery, I’m sorry to have bothered you. It’s great that you’re awake. Mr. Carter was worried about you all night.”

Madeline nodded slightly. “Thank you for your concern, I just woke up.”

“ I’ll tell Mr. Carter that you’re awake now.”

“No.” Madeline hurriedly stopped her. “It’s late, we’ll talk about this tomorrow.”

The maid also felt that it made sense. As such, she apologized again, closed the door, and left.

Madeline walked to the door before locking it. Then, she turned off the lights in the room and turned to the balcony.

However, after two steps, she remembered something. After she fumbled for a while in the dark room, she came to the balcony.

Although the moonlight tonight was not as bright, it was enough for Jeremy to see clearly what Madeline had brought over.

It was a small first aid kit.

Madeline squatted down and put the first aid kit down. She quickly took out the cotton pad soaked with alcohol and the gauze used for bandaging.

Jeremy did not speak. He just watched Madeline treat his wound in silence.

However, he vaguely saw that when Madeline was looking at his injury, her eyebrows were deeply furrowed.

He had jumped off from the balcony smoothly this afternoon, but something sharp had accidentally cut into his left ankle.

It only hurt a while at the time. After he got home though, he found that the wound was a bit deep.

In addition to that, he twisted his ankle just now when he was aggressively thrown to the side by Madeline. That was why blood oozed out from his carelessly bandaged wound.

When the cotton pad with alcohol touched his wound, a sharp pain spread instantly.

Jeremy frowned. He also spotted Madeline frowning with him.

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This response from Madeline was like a cure for the wound. Suddenly, Jeremy felt that it was worth it even if he was hurting.

He raised his hand naturally, and his cool fingertips landed on Madeline's cheek.

Madeline paused. She did not resist. Instead, she just moved quicker to wrap the gauze around his ankle before putting away the first aid kit.

"Come with me."

She stood up as she spoke. Under the dim light, she accurately found the door.

Jeremy understood what Madeline meant. She was going to take him out of here.

Even if Madeline's expression was very cold and indifferent at this moment, Jeremy did not think so anymore.

Madeline bypassed the places where the maids who were still awake might pass by and led Jeremy to the back door.

"Go now." Her attitude was still so cold and resolute.

Jeremy nodded very obediently this time. "Okay, I'll leave right away, but Linnie, I won't let you continue to stay in this place alone."

Madeline looked at Jeremy after hearing the words.

The smile on Jeremy's lips became deeper. "Linnie, wait for me."

After speaking these last four words, Jeremy finally left Gray Manor decisively.

Madeline raised her eyes and looked in the direction Jeremy left. A faint light flashed in her eyes.

After standing in place for a while, Madeline was about to return to the room.

However, as soon as she turned around, she felt as if a pair of eyes were looking at her from somewhere.

She stopped and pondered for a few seconds before slowly raising her beautiful eyes.

Under the bright moonlight, her clear eyes met Carter's deep and bottomless black pupils.

He was standing on the balcony of the living room on the second floor. He was wearing a dark blue night robe and holding a glass of red wine in his right hand. He was gently swaying the dark red liquid in the wine glass.

He looked at Madeline, curled his lips slightly, and showed an unpredictable smile.

Madeline looked into his eyes, and they looked at each other for a few seconds before she moved forward.

She went to the living room on the second floor and saw Carter standing at the same spot. His tall and handsome back was shrouded in the moonlight, exuding a mysterious and dark light.

Madeline approached him. Just when she was about to speak, Carter turned around.

"When did you wake up?" he asked, seemingly concerned.

Madeline smiled slightly. "I woke up just a while ago. I'm sorry for worrying you."

Carter took a sip of the red wine. The curve on the corners of his lips somehow became more sinister.

"It's only natural that I'm worried about you," he said as he walked up to Madeline. He raised his palm and gently placed it on Madeline's shoulder before patting it gently. "Do you still feel unwell?"

Madeline raised her hand to touch her forehead and furrowed her eyebrows slightly. "I still feel a little dizzy."

"Really?" Carter frowned suspiciously. "Why did you faint suddenly? Did you feel unwell?"

"I don't know what happened. I was very dizzy and then I lost consciousness."

"I see." Carter smiled insipidly, but it looked as if he was not fully convinced. "Why did you run downstairs in the wind after you woke up? It's winter now, don't you feel cold?"

"After sleeping for so long, I felt a little bored, so I wanted to get some fresh air," Madeline explained with a smile. Then, she asked, "Cart, why are you standing out here drinking at such a late hour?"

Carter smiled, took another sip of red wine, and said slowly, "I'm admiring a woman. I wonder what kind of woman she is to not only have extraordinary endurance, perseverance, but also extraordinary acting skills."

"..."

"Eveline, you're not under hypnosis anymore, right?"

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Upon hearing this, Madeline's eyes froze for a second.

She stared at the deep smiling eyes in front of her, and suddenly, a shuddering sensation came up from the soles of her feet.

This man had seen through her, but he was so calm.

When he saw that Madeline was silent and did not look like she was going to conceal or defend herself, Carter's eyes had a touch of appreciation.

"Can you tell me when this happened?" Carter asked mildly, "When did the hypnosis break?"

Madeline changed her docile attitude that she had from before. At this moment, her eyes were full of sharpness and even her tone suddenly became increasingly rigid.

"Then can you also tell me what's your purpose for doing this? Why are you collecting information about my husband and why do you want to hypnotize me to instill that kind of information? Also, what's your purpose of bringing me here?"

Madeline voiced out all of the doubts in her mind. After the series of questions left her lips, Carter laughed lowly.

He put down the wine glass in his hand. "There's no purpose. I just think it's very interesting."

As soon as Madeline heard this, she knew Carter was hiding something. Of course, Madeline would not believe him.

"Carter, you saved me back then and I'm very grateful to you, but you can't use this as a condition to deceive me into signing a marriage agreement with you."

"I thought I was helping you solve your problem with Ada, and I believed you when you said that the engagement agreement was just for display, but in fact, it turned out to be a marriage certificate."

Carter nodded and smiled without denying it. "Yes, according to St. Piaf's marriage system, you're

now my legal wife. However, at the same time, you and Jeremy have a marriage contract, so strictly speaking, you've committed bigamy."

"So this was how you threatened Jeremy last time and that's why he agreed to let you take me away."

"As you said, that's what I told him," Carter admitted magnanimously. "Eveline, if you don't want Jeremy to get into trouble, I hope you can continue to cooperate with me."

"Cooperate with you to continue this fake act to torture my husband?"

Carter smiled and asked, "Didn't you want to continue this as well? Otherwise, why would you pretend to still be hypnotized by me?"

"..." Madeline was speechless for a while.

She had indeed been pretending to be hypnotized, but her purpose in doing so was to thoroughly understand Carter's purpose.

However, it seemed that this man was not so easily deceived now.

"Was it that time?"

Suddenly, Carter asked again and then said out the guess in his heart.

"I went to find you at that man named Adam's house that day. In the beginning, the woman named Cathy was helping you to break the hypnosis. In fact, she was really good, and she was almost done. However, she did not get to the final step because she needed the crystal ball that was used to hypnotize you. Although she also had a crystal ball, it wasn't the same one."

He narrowed his eyes and said the conclusion.

“Because of my appearance at the time and me shaking the crystal ball in front of you, it happened to make you completely wake up under Cathy’s order.”

After saying this, Carter paused. He looked directly into Madeline’s eyes.

“Am I right?”

“So what if it is? No matter what, I can’t let you hypnotize me a second time.”

Madeline’s eyes were firm, and her tone sounded as if she would not take any other opinions.

“Since you’ve seen through me, I can’t inquire anything from you. As such, our cooperation will end here.”

When she finished speaking, she turned around quickly. Carter looked at Madeline’s turned back and gently swirled the red wine in his glass. Suddenly he raised his eyebrows and waved his arm, throwing the wine glass heavily on the ground.

The glass quickly shattered, making a crisp and harsh sound.

Madeline stopped in her tracks abruptly. When she was about to turn her head, she saw maids and bodyguards rushing over to her.

Carter still had a calm smile on his face as he said casually, “Send Miss Montgomery back to her room.”

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"Yes, Mr. Carter," one of the maids quickly responded and walked to Madeline's side.

Madeline glanced at Carter who was as calm as ever and then at the doughty bodyguards beside him. She did not have another choice except to go back to the room.

After returning, Madeline looked at the remaining bloodstains on the floor. When she thought of Jeremy bleeding out in pain just now, her heart ached.

"Jeremy..."

Madeline fiddled with the wedding ring on her ring finger. When she thought about her cold attitude toward Jeremy before, she felt even more embarrassed.

Click.

The door was suddenly opened again.

Madeline looked up and saw Carter holding the doorknob as he stood leisurely in front of the room.

"Tomorrow's wedding ceremony will be held as usual. I hope Miss Montgomery can continue to cooperate with me. I think you should also want to see Jeremy leave St. Piaf safely."

After he said that, Carter closed the door decisively.

Madeline clenched her fingers and looked at the moon outside the French windows.

'Jeremy, I've taken the wrong step.

'I shouldn't have acted on my own initiative.'

Madeline suffered all night in self-blame. When the sky started to turn bright the next day, a maid came in and announced to Madeline that she was here to help her get dressed.

Thinking of Carter's threatening words of reminder last night, Madeline chose to cooperate.

After more than half an hour of torment, Camille came in. Her dress today looked more luxurious, looking as if she was dripping in jewels.

Camille also did not know that Madeline had only pretended to pass out yesterday. When she saw Madeline looking better today, she was very satisfied and relieved.

"Don't faint suddenly again. Today is your wedding day with Carter."

Madeline looked at herself in the mirror and quickly stood up.

The maid who was doing her makeup looked at Madeline in surprise.

"Miss Montgomery..."

"Mrs. Gray, I need to ask you for a favor." Madeline landed her gaze on Camille's face, seeking help.

Camille was surprised as she stared blankly at Madeline. "How can I help you?"

Madeline looked at the maids beside her. "Please go out. I have something to say to Mrs. Gray alone."

The maids took a look at Camille before leaving.

"What's the matter? You can tell me now," Camille asked.

Madeline was straightforward and honest. "Mrs. Gray, to be frank, Carter and I don't have any feelings for each other at all. He doesn't like me and I'm not interested in him. He had saved me once before, so I helped him make Ada leave. Our relationship is fake, and Jeremy and I are still married."

"..." Camille's expression changed suddenly. "What? It's fake? Then now..."

"It's impossible for me and Carter to appear in front of so many people as a couple."

"..."

Camille's face looked more horrible. Then, at this moment, Carter pushed open the door and walked in.

He was wearing a decently tailored limited edition suit, looking radiant and graceful.

Carter frowned in confusion when he saw Camille's gloomy face. "Did something happen?"

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Carter slowly walked in. He could vaguely guess that something had happened from Camille's unhappy expression.

"Carter, you still have a chance to act since those relatives and friends are not here yet." Camille

sternly persuaded and looked back at Madeline. "How can you marry a woman who's already married? You have to break off this marriage now!"

"I will not break off this marriage." Carter's answer was straightforward.

Camille was stunned for a moment, and her face was full of disbelief. "Carter, are you crazy? Jeremy and her are still husband and wife!"

"So what?" Carter asked nonchalantly, meeting Madeline's resisting gaze. Suddenly, he smiled. "I only know that my marriage certificate with Eveline has already taken effect, and my marriage with her is protected by the marriage law in St. Piaf."

"..."

Camille was speechless for a while.

Carter smiled lightly and looked at Madeline with a cold expression. "Get ready, the wedding ceremony will begin soon."

"Carter!" Camille wanted to persuade him again, but Madeline could see that this man was determined.

Madeline did not want to waste her breath anymore and did not bother to deal with him.

She fearlessly raised her sharp and penetrating eyes. There was a proud and cold light shooting out from her gaze.

“Carter, since you’re so persistent about this, then I will stay with you to the end. However, I can promise you that you will regret it.”

Upon hearing this, Carter could not help but burst out laughing.

“Will I? Hmm... Suddenly, I want to know how you’ll make me regret this.”

Madeline responded with a calm and confident smile, “You’ll know soon.”

“Then I’ll wait and see.” Carter chuckled in an unconcerned manner before turning away.

Camille looked at the situation and felt that something was wrong. Suddenly, she turned back to remind Madeline.

“Eveline, don’t be impulsive and don’t mess around. This is St. Piaf, not Glendale!”

Madeline pursed her lips and smiled. “Of course, I won’t mess around, but if someone touches my bottom line, I won’t be able to sit still.”

“...”

For the first time, Camille felt like she had met someone who would be difficult to handle.

When she remembered Madeline's calmness and unhurriedness when she was framed by Ada and her mother, she suddenly wanted to side with Madeline somehow.

Jeremy learned that Madeline and Carter's wedding ceremony would be officially held in an hour. He was watching the broadcast of the good news on his phone in full screen. The host was praising Carter, and Jeremy turned off his phone unhappily.

He got up quickly, but another piercing pain came from his ankle.

However, he must stop this scene from happening no matter what.

How could his Linnie be someone else's bride?

Never!

For today's wedding ceremony, Carter had already planned everything down to the smallest detail.

He was the viscount of St. Piaf's royal family, so the wedding ceremony was naturally attracting a lot of attention.

At the same time, Madeline had become a hot topic among the citizens.

Everyone wanted to see Madeline's graceful bearing, and they also wanted to know what the future viscountess looked like.

In the bedroom, Madeline could hear all kinds of laughter and words of congratulations coming from outside.

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She stood by the balcony and remained unmoved, her eyes lingering on the bloodstain on the floor. It was the blood from Jeremy's wound last night.

Looking at the dried-up blood, Madeline's eyes were imposing and firm.

'Jeremy, I took the wrong step.

'But I think I won't be wrong again in my next step.'

Click.

The sound of the door opening came from behind.

Madeline heard footsteps approaching her, but it did not sound like it was Carter.

Madeline calmly looked back and saw Ada wearing a gorgeous Lolita costume as she walked toward her with a look of disdain and arrogance.

"Hmph." Ada sneered, "I really don't know what kind of charm a married woman who has three

children like you has. Eveline, what means did you use to get Carty to take you as his wife? Can you teach me?"

Seeing Ada's disdainful face, Madeline behaved more contemptuously than her.

"Miss Ada, are you really stupid, or are you just pretending to be innocent? With a character like yours, it'll be difficult for any man to develop feelings for you after seeing your true colors, let alone Carter, no?"

Ada's expression suddenly became awkward. "You..."

"Ada, as long as you have a sliver of IQ, you wouldn't be reduced to where you are now."

"Eveline, do you really think you can teach me a lesson because you're about to become the viscountess?" Ada stared at Madeline angrily, already looking a little frustrated.

Madeline slowly curled her lips into a smile. "No matter what my identity is, it won't affect me in teaching you a lesson."

"What..." Ada flew into a rage out of humiliation. She raised her hand suddenly to slap Madeline in the face.

Madeline's reaction was quick. She held Ada's wrist tightly while giving a slight smile.

"What a pity. You let your most favorite Carty see you make threatening gestures as well as the side of you that's so sinister and hideous."

“...” For a while, Ada did not understand Madeline’s words until the sound of approaching footsteps came from behind her.

Ada looked back abruptly. When she saw Carter’s frigid face that was as cold as an iceberg, she immediately retracted her hand in fright.

“Get lost,” Carter said coldly, making Ada leave.

Ada bit her lip unwillingly, and she finally could not hold it in anymore. “Carty, since you’ve seen it all, you should also have seen this woman’s true colors. She’s not gentle and virtuous at all. How can a woman like this be your viscountess?”

“You still don’t understand?” Carter asked with a sneer. “Her biggest qualification is the fact that I chose her.”

“...” Ada was dumbfounded for a few seconds. Then, she ran away aggrievedly with tears in her eyes.

Carter raised his eyes to look at Madeline, who was indifferent, and said with a light smile, “You truly stand out from the masses. It proves that my judgments are not wrong.”

“Carter, you don’t like me at all, so why bother making such a big fuss?”

“Indeed, I don’t, but you did make me have a good feeling about you. Feelings can be cultivated. I don’t mind. I know your past, and I need a woman like you to help me do something,” Carter said softly, but the look in his eyes was not soft at all.

“I’ll give you the utmost patience, but I hope you don’t challenge my bottom line.”

“What do you mean? Be clear.”

Carter did not beat around the bush and said bluntly, “This is St. Piaf. If Jeremy dares to mess around, I promise he won’t be able to return to Glendale safely. On the other hand, if you dare to mess around, you’ll know how harsh the punishment for people guilty of bigamy will be in St. Piaf.”

After listening to Carter’s words, Madeline fully understood what the man wanted to warn her about.

However, Madeline smiled and met the gaze of the man threatening her. “So, you’re telling me that I have no choice but to cooperate with you? Carter, I will still tell you the same thing, unless you break off this wedding immediately. Otherwise, you’ll only regret it.”

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Listening to Madeline’s words and seeing the self-confidence on her face, the smile on Carter’s handsome face became deeper.

“What you just said makes me look forward to your next performance even more.” He smiled. There seemed to be a flash of excitement in his eyes.

Madeline was about to speak when she raised her eyes to see Camille walk in with a dull expression on her face.

“Carter, there’s still time. Think about this more clearly.” Camille persuaded again.

However, Carter was firm. “I’ve been thinking about this very clearly from the beginning. Otherwise, I wouldn’t be where I am now.”

“...Carter.”

Carter glanced at the time on his watch nonchalantly and then summoned the maids.

The maids waiting outside the door trotted in immediately. "Mr. Carter."

"Help the future young madam put her veil on. The wedding ceremony will begin soon."

"Yes, Mr. Carter," the maids responded immediately.

Madeline stood calmly, letting the white veil fall on her face. The sharpness and tenacity in her eyes were not concealed by the veil at all.

Carter stared into Madeline's eyes until the veil covered her face.

He pulled the corners of his lips into a satisfied smile, and when he turned around, he received a report from his subordinates. He learned that Jeremy was among the guests, and Carter's smile grew wider.

Madeline caught the smile on Carter's lips, and she could roughly guess that something was going on.

'Jeremy, this time, I won't let you down again.'

Madeline squeezed the wedding ring in her hand and followed behind Carter.

Ten minutes later, Madeline arrived at the venue of the wedding ceremony according to Carter's intention.

As soon as she stepped out, she saw a crowd of media and guests on both sides. It was a large-scale event.

Madeline was generally clear about Carter's identity, but his purpose for doing this was still quite vague.

He did not have any emotional needs for her. It was as if he was just targeting Jeremy.

However, why was he targeting Jeremy?

Madeline did not care about the people around her at all. She was just thinking about these doubts in her heart.

However, as she walked forward, she felt a familiar heated gaze from within the crowd.

She did not need to guess to know that it was Jeremy.

Madeline squeezed the bouquet in her hand subconsciously, and her fingers gently twirled the ring on her ring finger.

"You know he's here, don't you?" Carter said in a deep voice and then assured Madeline. "If you cooperate, he'll be fine."

Madeline raised her eyebrows and replied profoundly, "What if I don't cooperate?"

Carter frowned subconsciously when he heard the words. Then, he looked down at the beautiful smile vaguely showing from under the white veil.

However, he only thought that Madeline was trying to be brave. He did not think that Madeline would risk Jeremy's safety.

Carter led Madeline to the podium where they would say their vows while feeling relieved.

The wedding was held according to Western culture. The priest in front of Madeline was speaking in the language of St. Piaf. Although Madeline could not understand him, she could roughly guess what the words meant.

At the end, the priest asked Carter in a language that Madeline could understand whether he would like to marry Madeline regardless of pain or illness, sadness or happiness.

Carter simply answered with two words, "I do."

There was thunderous applause and a series of cheers followed after his answer.

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The priest nodded in satisfaction and then turned to ask Madeline.

"Miss Eveline Montgomery, are you willing to marry Mr. Carter Gray and be his wife?

Are you willing to marry him and support each other for life regardless of pain or illness, sadness or happiness?"

Madeline knew that everyone was waiting for her two-word answer, but she knew that there was one person who did not want to hear that.

"Miss Eveline Montgomery, please answer my question. Are you willing to—"

"I do not," Madeline decisively interrupted the priest who was repeating the question.

Her distinct and resonant voice sounded very clearly in the empty field.

Those who heard Madeline's answer were all stunned. Then, it was followed by all kinds of exclamations fueled by shock and surprise.

The priest stared at Madeline dumbfoundedly. "Miss Eveline, please answer again. Are you willing to—"

"I said, I do not."

"..."

Again, Madeline's straightforward answer sounded very outrageous.

The crowd was promised a sweet wedding, but why did this happen all of a sudden?

Great waves of emotions gradually appeared on Carter's handsome face. He took a step toward Madeline. "Are you sure you want to risk Jeremy's safety?"

Madeline raised her eyebrows and suddenly lifted the white veil in front of everyone.

When her exquisite and gorgeous small face was revealed, she attracted all kinds of gazes that were filled with admiration from around her.

However, Madeline's sharp gaze met Carter's dangerous eyes ostentatiously. "Carter, this farce is over. How could I marry you?"

“...”

“...”

Carter and the people around him who heard this were all stunned. The priest broke into a sweat with fright, quickly walking to Madeline.

“Miss Eveline, this is a sacred place. I hope you can take marriage seriously.”

“I am taking marriage seriously, so it’s even more impossible for me to marry this person.” Madeline glanced at Carter whose face was getting increasingly colder. “It’s because I’m already married. My husband and I are in a very loving and affectionate relationship. We have three children together, so pray tell, why would I marry him when I’m in this situation?”

“Wow...” Everyone was shocked again.

“Married?”

“How could there be such a thing?”

“No way! This woman is actually married and has three children? How did Carter choose such a woman among so many other women?!”

“Right? She only looks beautiful. How could he choose a married woman like her?”

Madeline looked back unsurprisingly, meeting those skeptical and critical gazes. She said frankly, “He picked me just to have me cooperate with him in his act. I never had a real relationship with him.”

“An act? How outrageous!”

The elders of the Gray family were a little angry. Meanwhile, Carter’s father had already fallen.

At this moment, Carter could not maintain his demeanor anymore. He bowed his head slightly, approached Madeline’s ear, and parted his lips to warn her.

“Eveline, I shall remind you one last time. Don’t risk Jeremy’s safety, and the fact that you just announced your marriage in public means you’re telling everyone that you’ve committed bigamy.”

After listening to Carter’s warning unconcernedly, a magnanimous smile appeared on her gentle and beautiful face. She spoke fearlessly in front of everyone.

“Carter, you don’t need to threaten me anymore. I am committing bigamy. I, Eveline Montgomery, am now admitting it to the public!”

“...”

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After Madeline said this, Carter showed a never-before-seen look of surprise in his eyes.

He had thought it was the best threat to use on her because she was previously in prison where she suffered inhumane treatment and suffering, so she was deeply traumatized. It was impossible that she would still want to go back to such a place.

However, he never expected that Madeline would say that she was guilty of bigamy so confidently and magnanimously.

Although, he had been the one who designed this crime for her.

Ada, who was among the crowd, was also stunned when she saw this scene.

After being stuck in a daze, she quietly turned around and sneaked to the side.

Ada's mother saw this and followed behind her.

When she was about to ask Ada what she wanted to do, she saw her daughter taking out her phone and quickly dialing a number.

"Hello, is this the police station? I want to make a report. There's a woman here who committed bigamy."

After reporting to the police, a happy grin appeared on Ada's face.

When she turned her head, she saw her mother looking at her with a smile. Ada touched her chest in fright. "Why are you standing here without making a noise? You scared me."

Ada's mother gave her a thumbs up with admiration. "Honey, you're truly quick on your feet. It seems that Eveline will go to jail soon and you'll have another chance to nab the position of viscountess!"

Ada spread her hands, unconvinced. "I should've thought of this long ago. Although it is a bit late, Eveline did commit bigamy. It'll be difficult for her to leave the prison in St. Piaf within a year or two."

"One or two years is enough for you to win the position of viscountess!" Gradually, a greedy light was revealed in the eyes of Ada's mother. "Ada, this time, we have to do this steadily. You have to please and flatter Camille. As long as you can handle her, you'll be half-seated on the throne of the viscountess."

Ada raised her eyes that were covered with delicate eye makeup and smiled triumphantly. "This time, I'll definitely win!"

Back at the wedding.

After Madeline pleaded guilty to bigamy, the scene fell into chaos for a while.

The faces of the elders in the Gray family had fallen, and they called a stop to the wedding.

"Carter, you can't marry this woman!"

"You're so ridiculous! You're married and you have a husband, yet you dare to provoke Carter?!"

"Do you know who Carter is? How dare you commit bigamy in St. Piaf?! St. Piaf's marriage law will teach you a lesson!"

When Madeline was faced with these verbal abuses and warnings, she remained magnanimous. She did not flinch even when she met Carter's increasingly cold gaze.

"Carter, I dare to commit bigamy, so why don't you dare to admit that you deliberately set up a trap to frame me for bigamy?"

"..." For the first time ever, Carter felt that he seemed to be restrained by a woman.

So far, he had not met a woman who dared to challenge him like this.

However, Madeline, who was standing in front of him right now, dared to.

After Madeline said this, everyone around her was shocked again.

“What? Did she say that Carter framed her?”

“Would Carter actually do such a thing?”

“This woman is lying!” Ada pushed the crowd aside. “Don’t believe what this woman says! The elders present should know what kind of person Carty is better than me! This woman is the one who’s slandering Carty!”

With a righteous and just appearance, Ada strode up to Madeline.

“Eveline, why is your heart so dark? Carty saved your life when you almost died during that accident at sea so that you can get your life back, but you’re biting the hand that feeds you!

“You fancy Carty’s status as a viscount, so you deliberately appeared weak and fragile in front of Carty. You used the most despicable means to confuse Carty. Carty is too naive, so that’s why he was successfully fooled by you and believes everything you say. However, unexpectedly, you’re already married and have three children! Eveline, you’re so contemptible!”

Ada firmly vilified Madeline and defended Carter. She wanted to take this opportunity to win Carter over because she was undoubtedly helping Carter by doing this now.

However, just when Ada was feeling pleased that she could finally ridicule Madeline in public, an alluring and icy deep voice sounded from the crowd.

“It’s you who’s the contemptible rat who inverts right and wrong.”

"..." The smug smile on Ada's face suddenly froze.

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She immediately realized who had arrived. This special voice remained freshly engraved in her memory.

Ada turned her head abruptly, and her eyes, filled with guilt, fell on Jeremy's figure, silhouetted against the light outside.

She panicked and looked at Carter, but Carter's expression remained unchanged, as if he had already expected Jeremy's appearance.

Meanwhile, Madeline was much more certain that her man would appear.

She met Jeremy's gaze, full of affection and longing, which filled her heart suddenly with a boundless sense of security.

She no longer cared what would happen next.

He was her most stalwart source of strength and support.

At this moment, murmurs rippled across the surrounding area, all were equally stunned by his appearance and curious at his stroll towards Madeline.

"Who's that?"

“I think I’ve seen him somewhere before. He looks very familiar.”

“I know who he is! I saw him on the Internet. He is the young master of Glendale’s number one family, Jeremy Whitman!”

“What? So that’s Jeremy Whitman!”

“Why is he here in St. Piaf, and at Carter’s wedding, no less?”

As everyone voiced their disbelief, Jeremy walked over to Madeline and gently took her hand.

“I’m here to bring my wife home.”

“What?”

“W-What!? Jeremy’s wife is this Eveline lady?”

“Carter’s fiancée is actually Jeremy’s wife?”

“My gosh!”

The exclamations came pouring one after another.

However, both Jeremy and Madeline remained extraordinarily calm and unperturbed. He held her hand, and this time, she did not break free.

“Linnie, I knew you remembered me.” Jeremy’s eyes were full of warmth, brimming with light once more.

“If you had truly known, you wouldn’t have been so persistent yesterday,” Madeline rebuked, but she saw that Jeremy’s eyes were twinkling with affection. Concerned, Madeline shifted her gaze to Jeremy’s injured ankle. “How’s your foot? Is it still hurting?”

“Not after you treated it.”

“How is it not hurting? You were bleeding so much.”

“...” Carter watched as this scene unfolded next to him, an inexplicable feeling of unhappiness welling inside him.

Just as he was about to speak, Jeremy glared at him sharply.

“Carter, did you truly think that Linnie and I would yield to you and your manipulations?”

“...”

“I dare you to use your status and power in St. Piaf to illegally imprison me and my wife. Otherwise, no one can stop me from bringing my wife home.”

As Jeremy finished raging at Carter, he clasped Madeline’s fingers and turned away with her.

Madeline briskly took off her wedding veil and got out of her dress, revealing the plain clothing she had prepared earlier in the morning.

Only then did Carter realize that Madeline had been preparing for this. He neglected to consider this.

However, at this moment, a few uniformed police officers rushed in, blocking Madeline's and Jeremy's path.

"Which one of you is Eveline Montgomery?"

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The police's sudden appearance stopped Madeline and Jeremy in their tracks.

Ada saw this and immediately ran to the police. "She's Eveline Montgomery!" Ada yelled while pointing at Madeline.

Several police officers focused on Madeline. "Are you Eveline Montgomery?" one of them asked.

Jeremy, eyebrows furrowed, subconsciously stepped in front of Madeline to shield her.

However, Madeline pulled Jeremy's hand away lightly and walked nobly toward the officers. "Yes, I am Eveline Montgomery."

The officers studied Madeline. "Is it true that you have a marriage contract with two men at the same time?"

"Yes! She is!" Ada emphasized loudly. Then, she pointed at Jeremy. "This man is her husband, but she signed a marriage contract with Mr. Gray while she is still married to her husband."

After hearing that, the officers looked at Carter who was standing a short distance away. Almost everyone in St. Piaf knew Carter Gray.

Talented and handsome, he not only possessed outstanding skills but also has an extraordinary background and social status.

Despite this, the officers still proceeded with their standard questions. "Mr. Gray, are you aware that Miss Eveline Montgomery signed the marriage certificate with you when she's still wedded to another man?"

Carter looked coldly at Madeline and shook his head calmly. "This is news to me too. I didn't realize that she was already married."

Madeline was not surprised to hear this kind of answer. She saw through him and knew his true personality.

She also knew that even if she pointed out that this was a trap set by Carter, no one else would believe her aside from Jeremy.

"Eveline, this is St. Piaf. You are hereby under arrest for committing bigamy. You will then be prosecuted in court. Once you are convicted of the crime, you will receive a severe punishment."

The officers moved to handcuff Madeline as they spoke. The sight of handcuffs brought Jeremy back to the scene many years ago.

He could not stand by and watch Madeline getting taken away by someone this way. Not again.

He could not let it happen no matter what!

Jeremy grabbed Madeline's hand, his eyes as cold as ice, and firmly led her through the crowd.

"They're running away! Get them!" The officers quickly chased after them.

Ada was completely baffled. “Are they throwing away their lives, running off like that? Heh, does he think he’s still in Glendale?”

Carter looked in the direction where Jeremy took Madeline. He glanced sideways at his bodyguard, signaling them to give chase.

The bodyguards promptly understood what Carter meant. They immediately followed the police, chasing after Madeline and Jeremy.

Madeline followed Jeremy out of the gates of Gray Manor. She looked behind her and saw the police and bodyguards on their tails.

“Jeremy, we can’t do this. I have to go with them. I was framed by Carter and I can appeal,” said Madeline as she tried to convince Jeremy to let her go.

However, Jeremy gripped her hand even tighter. “No, Linnie, I can’t! I can’t do what I did before. I knew you’re being framed and yet I still watched as you were sent to a place like that! I can’t do it!”

“Jeremy...”

Madeline felt tears prickling the corners of her eyes. She could understand and comprehend how Jeremy was feeling right now.

“Stop!” The police were catching up to them.

Jeremy gave them a cold and stern gaze. Then, he pulled Madeline into the car he rented, and then slammed down on the accelerator.

Through the car window, Madeline saw that the police and bodyguards were planning to chase after them in their cars as well.

However, before the car got any further, Madeline heard Jeremy letting out a grunt of pain.

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"Hiss."

Madeline turned her head hurriedly and saw Jeremy's face gradually turning pale.

She quickly noticed that Jeremy's right leg trembled slightly when he stepped on the accelerator. The thought of Jeremy's injury pained her heart.

"Jeremy, stop the car by the roadside. I'll drive."

Jeremy glanced at the rearview mirror. After confirming that the coast was clear, he followed Madeline's instructions and stopped the car by the roadside.

After the car had stopped, Madeline and Jeremy decisively exchanged seats. Madeline then started the car.

She was not familiar with the roads of St. Piaf, so she continued onwards, following the road the entire way until they reached a deserted path. After ensuring that there were no cars following them from behind, Madeline stopped the car.

"Jeremy, how are you doing?"

Madeline's heart ached as she approached Jeremy's side. When she saw the wound on his ankle

bleeding again, she immediately got off the car and helped Jeremy out of the passenger seat.

She looked around but could not find a place at which to stop off. Madeline could only help Jeremy sit on a rock by the roadside.

She rolled up the legs of his trousers. The sight of the bleeding wound made her feel as though her heart was cut by a knife.

Although she had provided a cursory treatment on Jeremy's injury last night, the wound seemed to have gotten bloodier overnight.

"Jeremy, let's go to the hospital." Madeline was really worried. She was not scared of getting arrested and sent to jail. The only thing that scared her now was Jeremy's wound getting infected and advancing to a more severe state if he did not get treated in time.

However, just as she tried to pull him into the car, Jeremy pulled her into an embrace and held her tightly.

Madeline froze. "Jeremy."

"Don't speak." Jeremy's soft voice bloomed into Madeline's ear. "Let me hold you."

His low voice sounded a bit hoarse. Madeline felt as if her heart was being torn, the pain indescribable.

She raised her hand and held Jeremy tightly, pressing her face against the side of his face.

There was so much she wanted to say, but she felt that silence was better than any words right now.

“Linnie, I’m so scared that you will always be trapped in that deep sleep, always under Carter’s control, always thinking that he is the one you love, unable to ever wake again.” Jeremy voiced out the concerns and fears in his heart, hugging her even tighter.

Madeline stroked Jeremy’s head as if she was coaxing a child, comforting him patiently and tenderly.

“How is that possible? I will never forget the man I love the most,” she said soothingly. “Jeremy, listen to me. Let’s go to the hospital.”

“No, I won’t let you go into such a place again. Absolutely not!” Jeremy denied stubbornly. His eyebrows knitted together tightly.

As he continued speaking, he let go of his embrace and grasped Madeline’s shoulders.

“Linnie, you didn’t do anything wrong. You don’t need to bear such a crime.”

Madeline’s eyebrows furrowed slightly. “Jeremy, listen to me. I know this is a trap planned by Carter, but in a sense, I did violate the marriage law of St. Piaf and Glendale. I should go and explain this to them clearly.”

“You won’t be able to.” Jeremy’s gaze became deeper. “Do you know Carter’s background in St. Piaf? Do you know St. Piaf’s marriage law? You don’t know how serious bigamy is here.”

Madeline was slightly stumped for words. “I stayed at the Gray Manor for a while. I don’t know his exact identity, but I know that he has a viscount title.”

“His identity is not that simple, Linnie. I must take you back to Glendale first,” Jeremy said, pulling Madeline to her feet.

As soon as he got up to leave, however, there came the sounds of the chasing cars nearby.

The arriving cars surrounded them quickly.

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Jeremy grabbed Madeline's hand tightly and firmly pushed her back into the car.

"Jeremy!"

"Linnie, go on ahead!" Jeremy said in a stern tone, "I won't let them come near you."

The determination on Jeremy's face made Madeline breathless.

The police officers and bodyguards stopped their cars. They strode up close toward Jeremy. The police in the lead showed Jeremy their work permits.

"Jeremy Whitman, your actions just now have violated the law of St. Piaf. You and Eveline Montgomery are under arrest in the name of the law. Let me make this clear, no matter what status you might hold in Glendale, this is St. Piaf!"

As the officer finished speaking, he approached to handcuff Jeremy.

Madeline slammed the car door and rushed to Jeremy's side at once. She gazed sternly at the police officers who wanted to arrest her and Jeremy.

"Running from the wedding was my idea. I instigated Jeremy. He didn't violate any of your laws in St.

Piaf. I was the one who forced him to take me away.”

Jeremy knew that Madeline was doing this for his sake, but he did not want to be the reason for her being charged with a heavier crime.

As he was about to step forward and take the blame, Madeline, however, lifted her beautiful eyes, using that subtle look to force Jeremy to give up on that idea.

“Arrest me. I’ll come with you.” Madeline voluntarily stretched out her hands, facing the handcuffs.

Watching this scene unfold made Jeremy feel as though his eyes were being pricked by needles, which was extraordinarily painful.

Years ago, he had already made her suffer such a serious and unwarranted disaster.

Now, he still could only standby and watch her getting impeached by others, feeling powerless.

Click.

The handcuffs were still secured around Madeline’s hands in the end.

Jeremy felt like his heart constricted similarly. The pain was so unbearable that it was difficult to breathe.

“Jeremy, don’t worry too much,” Madeline said while looking at the police officers with a sober expression. She further emphasized, “I believe that the law in St. Piaf will prove my innocence.”

Jeremy wanted to try stopping her again, but seeing the calmness and determination on Madeline's face strangely made him feel more at ease.

He was worrying too much. She was no longer the Madeline she was back then.

"Jeremy Whitman, you must come with us to the police station as well. Contrary to what she'd said, the incident just now isn't something that could be easily dismissed," demanded the police.

In fact, Jeremy had intended to go with her. He did not want Madeline facing this alone.

After arriving at the police station, Jeremy considered listening to Madeline in pushing all the responsibility of escaping onto her, but he still could not bring himself to do it.

"My wife didn't instruct me to do anything. I wasn't going to let her be detained for dubious reasons." Jeremy told the truth. He then emphasized with a serious expression, "My wife did not take the initiative to commit bigamy. She was framed by someone."

"Who are you talking about?"

"Carter Gray."

The police officer who was taking notes paused suddenly, the pen still in his hand. Then, he inquired hastily.

"What? Are you saying that Carter Gray framed your wife for bigamy? Which Carter Gray?"

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Jeremy opened his lips calmly and said, "It's the Carter Gray of St. Piaf, the one of royal lineage."

“...” The police officer was stunned by the words. Then, he immediately denied, “What nonsense are you going on about? Mr. Gray wouldn’t do such a thing. You are simply being outrageous!”

As soon as the police officer had finished scolding, the interrogation room door opened, admitting a seemingly more experienced, middle-aged police officer who politely invited in another individual.

Jeremy’s face was a mask of calm as he watched the man approach him, his hands hardening into fists.

Carter noticed Jeremy’s displeasure and pressed his lips into a complacent smile.

“I’ve reminded you a long time ago that challenging me will only ensnare her into this situation.”

Upon hearing this, Jeremy’s clenched fist slowly loosened. The corners of his beautiful lips burst into a smile that looked even more contented than Carter’s.

“Carter, do you think you’ve won in this situation? You’re wrong. If your eyes worked properly, you would have seen that this is exactly the situation that Linnie and I wanted to happen.”

“...” Carter’s smile faltered slightly. He understood what Jeremy meant.

Jeremy stood up and his cold gaze swept past Carter’s face, unconcerned. “Carter, I appreciate you saving Linnie’s life, but this doesn’t justify fooling her as you wish. If Linnie is hurt in any way, I will fight you to death.”

After hearing those words, a few moments passed before a forced smile appeared on Carter’s face.

“Mr. Whitman, my life and yours are very valuable. Surely, we don’t need to risk that for a woman...”

“This woman’s life is even more important than mine,” Jeremy interrupted Carter without hesitation.

Carter’s smile froze, and his expression darkened considerably.

“Since you’d debase yourself for her sake, then I’ll grant you your wish,” Carter said with a cold expression on his face. He turned around and smiled inexplicably. “Let me be frank, Jeremy. You have something in your possession that could be exchanged for your wife’s freedom. I just wonder if you’re willing to make that trade.”

Leaving his words to hang in the air, Carter turned around and walked out of the interrogation room.

He simply returned to the interrogation room next door quickly, where Madeline was currently in.

Just as the note-taking police officer was questioning Madeline about bigamy with Carter, the door of the interrogation room opened.

As Carter walked in with an aloof air about him, the police officer meekly left as per his superior’s wishes.

In no time, Carter and Madeline were the only two left in the solemn and quiet interrogation room.

“You certainly surprised me.” Carter was the first to speak, holding Madeline’s calm gaze. “I’d thought that, even if you were indifferent about being charged with bigamy, you’d at least consider Jeremy’s safety. I underestimated your relationship. I thought you’d rather go into prison together than let the other party face this trouble alone.”

Madeline looked calmly at that face, delicate as an iceberg. Her pink lips parted gently. “I’ve already

told you earlier. You'll regret this."

"No, you'll be the one who will regret this." Carter walked in front of the table, his long and thin fingers pressed against the surface of the table before leaning toward Madeline. "Jeremy will get into trouble and you'll be charged with bigamy."

Madeline saw the look of glee in Carter's eyes. She looked at him, unbothered by honor or disgrace. "Carter, I don't know what you're scheming in your heart, but the debt I owed you for saving my life was erased the moment you entrapped me."

After she finished speaking, Carter only replied a few seconds later. "That's right. I didn't mean to save you then, but I did mean to lure you into this trap."

Finally. Carter confessed.

"You're finally admitting to this. Back then, you deliberately tricked me into signing that marriage agreement so that you can threaten and manipulate me with it one day. However, you didn't expect that I'd rather admit to bigamy than allow myself to fall under your manipulations."

Carter looked at Madeline's tenacious gaze and nodded lightly. "I certainly didn't expect that."

"Well, can you finally tell me? What's your motive behind all of this?"

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Carter frowned when he heard the words. "Speaking of motive..."

His eyes raised, looking ahead. He seemed about to start speaking, but he stopped himself, his gaze then returned to Madeline's face.

"By now, I assume my status should be clear to you?"

Madeline calmly met Carter's eyes, looking straight into his black pupils. "Well, noble viscount, do you intend to use your identity to suppress us husband and wife?"

Carter could hear the irony in Madeline's words, but he did not care for it. Instead, he showed a rare gentle smile.

"Frankly, I've become very fond of you after these few days. You're a very smart woman, and I need a knowledgeable woman like you by my side, but it's a pity that your heart has never been mine. I couldn't control you even with hypnotism, that's why I could only give up."

Carter seemed resigned as his long eyebrows raised slightly.

"Since this is the case, the both of you would have no choice but to bear this consequence together. Compared to being saved by me at sea, bigamy probably is not a big deal to you, isn't that right?"

Madeline curled her beautiful lips and smirked. "Yeah, compared to Mr. Carter's gracious act in saving

my life, putting me behind bars isn't a big deal, right? Nothing is more important than being alive, isn't it?"

Looking at the calm composure on Madeline's face, Carter knew he had not truly won.

He did not stay long. After giving instructions to the person guarding the door, he left.

Madeline remained seated and looked at the closed door of the interrogation room. The person she was worried and concerned about was still Jeremy.

'Jeremy, you must get out of here safely.'

'I will wait for you to take me home.'

Madeline muttered silently. She was not even sure if Jeremy could sense her thoughts, but she was sure that he would take her home.

The incident at Carter's marriage had already been circulating all over the place since a few days ago. It was supposed to be the wedding day of the noble Viscount, but now, the news about his bride brazenly leaving the wedding, hand in hand with another man, went viral on the internet.

After knowing that Madeline was a married woman, the netizens, practically unanimously, denounced Madeline as being a shameless woman.

Subsequently, an unknown source leaked information that exposed Madeline's background.

After learning that Madeline's husband was, in fact, Jeremy Whitman, a well-known figure in Glendale, the netizens further boiled with rage.

On the way back, Carter too saw such content on the Internet. He also saw many male netizens mocked him, saying that it was ridiculous that a dignified viscount would be so riveted by a married woman.

However, these negative opinions of Carter quickly vanished from his mind without a trace.

The Gray Manor.

As soon Carter stepped into the house, he could feel the depressing and stifling atmosphere.

When he got into the living room, he saw Camille sitting on the sofa with a dark and gloomy expression on her face. Meanwhile, Ada sat beside her and seemed cautious about speaking.

Some of the Gray family's relatives were sitting on one side, but none of them dared to be the first to break the silence.

When Ada saw Carter arrived, her eyes lit up. Then, in a soft voice, she prompted Camille.

"Aunty Cammy, Carty is back."

Camille lifted her head when she heard that. Then, she got up and walked toward Carter.

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“Where’s Eveline? Did you get her husband Jeremy?”

Carter nodded with an indifferent expression.

“They are in the police station now. Jeremy might be fine, but Eveline...”

He paused, looking at an expectant Ada.

Indeed, she was waiting for something bad to happen to Madeline.

“What about Eveline? Will she be convicted of bigamy?” Camille enquired. She was quite fond of Madeline, actually. Moreover, before the wedding, she had already known about the real situation. She did not want to proceed with the wedding, but there was no way for her to stop Carter.

Even though this might embarrass Carter, she still hoped, from the bottom of her heart, that Madeline would not get into trouble for bigamy.

“How did the police come just in time?” Camille asked in confusion.

Deep down, Ada wanted to take the credit for her achievement. At least she had helped Carter restore some of his reputation.

As she was considering whether to tell them, she heard Carter asking her, “You’re the one who called the police, right?”

Ada could not wait to be praised and gain a favorable impression from Camille. When she heard this, she nodded repeatedly, but still pretended to be endearing. She frowned, with a concerned look on her face, and said, "This woman committed bigamy. I can't stand by and watch her fool Carty like this. She reaped what she had sown and deserved to be punished!"

"I see, so it was you who called the police." Camille peered at Ada who was waiting to be praised. "How can you act on your own? Don't you know that this will harm Eveline?"

"..." Ada thought Camille would commend her. Hearing Camille blaming her at this moment confused her. "Aunty Cammy, did you forget? Eveline has a husband. How can Carty get married to a woman like this? She committed bigamy, so she only has herself to blame."

"Even if she did commit bigamy, that's our business, Ada. Don't interfere with the Gray family's matters any further. Also, I'm going to make this explicitly clear to you. You'll never end up with Carter. You no longer need to plot, and you don't need to ingratiate yourself with me. I can't stand the sight of scums who scheme behind people's back!"

"..."

Ada's face flushed red in embarrassment. She had not seen this coming.

Camille had mercilessly condemned her in front of many others.

She had thought that, with Madeline in trouble, she had a chance to replace her. How did her plan backfire so quickly in the end?

She was aware that she had completely infuriated Camille.

However, she had not expected Camille to have such a good impression of Madeline. Otherwise, how would she side with Madeline at this moment?

Ada reluctantly endured the gaze of those witnessing this scene unfold. She could only walk away resentfully.

This was the first time Camille was this angry. She waited until her friends and family had left, then she sternly criticized Carter.

“Carter, why did you harm Eveline with such means? She’s a pretty good woman. I can understand if you’re using her to drive away Ada, but how could you make her bear the crime of bigamy? You know that the St. Piaf marriage laws on bigamy could ruin her entire life!”

Camille’s words were serious, and she meant business.

However, Carter leisurely took off his suit jacket and said irreverently, “It’s because she is a good woman, I want to marry her, but now...”

He paused. Then, he added insipidly, “This path is of her choosing. Regardless of the consequences, she’ll have to bear it herself.”

Carter headed upstairs when he finished speaking.

After hearing this, Camille felt that something was not quite right. She thought it over and immediately made a call. After the call, she went to her room for a change of clothes, and then asked the driver to fetch her somewhere.

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The police station.

Even though Jeremy's behavior obstructed the police officers' duty, the circumstances were not considered that bad, so he managed to quickly bail himself out.

However, he stood in front of the police station door, his steps slowed, and he was unable to take another step.

Madeline was still inside. There was a high chance that she would be charged with bigamy.

"Linnie."

Jeremy clenched his fingers, and a firm conviction emerged deep within his eyes.

"I'll make sure you'll reach home safely. Wait for me."

He gave his promise. He also believed that Madeline could sense his feelings.

A few moments after Jeremy had left, a luxurious car gradually stopped in front of the main entrance.

Camille grabbed her bag and gracefully got out of the car.

Madeline just finished with her statement and was following the officer out of the interrogation room. As she reached the door, to her surprise, she saw Camille walking toward her.

The police officer leading Camille was very courteous. He motioned to a junior police officer to take

Madeline back to the interrogation room again.

Camille and Madeline met eyes. When she saw the handcuffs on Madeline's wrists, Camille gave the police officer next to her a look.

The police officer quickly understood. He asked the officer next to him to remove the handcuffs.

Madeline naturally felt much more at ease without the restraints.

"I have something to discuss with Miss Montgomery. Could I trouble you two to wait outside for a moment?" Camille spoke very politely, but her tone sounded more like a demand and a command.

The police officer understood what Camille meant and left the interrogation room with the junior officer.

Camille looked at Madeline and pointed at the chair in front of her. "Come, let's sit down and chat."

Madeline could tell that Camille's words had power here. Moreover, Camille was able to make them remove her handcuffs. This was not something someone with a normal status could do.

"Thank you," Madeline expressed her gratitude and sat in the chair in front of Camille.

"You don't need to thank me. I just wanted to return the favor." Camille's tone was flat, and her face looked calm.

Madeline understood quickly. "Favor? You're referring to the time I prevented you from eating peanuts?"

“Yes.” Camille nodded gently. “You might not know that I have a severe allergic reaction to peanuts,” she explained. “It almost took my life ten years ago. I dare not imagine what would happen if it flared up again. That’s why I thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

When Madeline heard this, she was slightly stunned.

“Since you’d helped me once, I’ll help you this time too,” Camille promised Madeline.

“Are you willing to go against your son to repay this favor?” Camille’s answer caused Madeline to hesitate slightly. “Even if you genuinely want to help me, Carter won’t agree to this.”

“He has no say in this.” Camille’s sudden answer was abnormally loud. Even her expression looked magnanimous and honest. “Carter is the one at fault, whether we look at things logically or emotionally. Don’t you worry. I, Camille Abbot, am a woman of my words.”

A sense of admiration spontaneously rose from her heart then.

Ever since the day Camille took the initiative to find her to apologize, Madeline had felt that Camille was a woman who knew right from wrong. This time, though, she could see that Camille was brimming with an even brighter positive energy.

“Miss Montgomery, tell me, in detail, everything that has occurred from the time you met Carter until today. The more thorough, the better,” Camille enquired about the details.

Madeline did not hold back. She told Camille the entire thing, beginning from her first encounter with Carter and everything that came after, in every detail.

After Camille finished listening, she pondered for a while. Then, she got up and walked toward the door of the interrogation room.

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She conversed with the police officer who brought her in for a moment. Then, she turned around, smiling gently at Madeline. "I've bailed you out. You can leave this place for now, but you can't leave the St. Piaf borders for the time being."

Madeline did not forget that, as she was informed earlier, she could not bail out, yet she was now released from custody.

After coming out of the police station, Madeline was still hardly convinced that this was real.

Aside from words of gratitude, she did not know what else to say.

After accepting Madeline's gratitude, Camille handed over her phone to Madeline. "You can call your husband and ask him to pick you up. However, the two of you should stay in St. Piaf for the time being."

Madeline took over the phone, thanked Camille, and gave her agreement.

Jeremy was planning to head back to where he stayed. He certainly did not expect to receive a call from Madeline.

Ten minutes later, he rushed back to the police station entrance and saw Madeline standing there, safe and sound.

"Linnie?" Surprised and delighted, he grabbed her hands tightly. "How did this happen?"

Madeline smiled. "Jeremy, let's head to the hospital first."

Jeremy subconsciously glanced at his injured leg and nodded obediently.

On the way to the hospital, Madeline told Jeremy about Camille coming to see her just now. Jeremy's reaction when he finished listening was almost identical to Madeline's.

"I didn't expect her to be so understanding and righteous," Jeremy said with a sigh.

Madeline agreed. "I also found it surprising that she'd help me."

"This is your karma, Linnie." Jeremy put his arm around Madeline's shoulders. He finally felt steady and warm again.

With a piece of mind, Madeline leaned against Jeremy's arms. As long as she could be with Jeremy, she felt that it was worth enduring all of the pain and suffering. All for a better reunion.

After taking care of his injury at the hospital, Jeremy brought Madeline back to the hotel.

As soon as reached the hotel, Jeremy asked Madeline to take a shower. He went out to a nearby mall to buy some clothes for Madeline.

In the corridor on the way back to the hotel room, he was surprised to see that a woman was standing there, smoking a cigarette.

Jeremy paused and continued walking over. "Why are you here?"

When Shirley saw Jeremy approach, she took a drag of her cigarette and exhaled the smoke. She then curled her red lips. "Don't you feel that the poison in your body has been flaring up less and less?"

Jeremy's forehead furrowed. "What are you trying to say?"

"I'm here to remind you that the time for the poison to flare up is almost here. If you don't return to Glendale to see my brother Adam as soon as you can, something bad might happen to you."

"Then you're here to tell me to go back to Glendale immediately?"

"Exactly." Shirley's smile deepened as she nodded. "Leave St. Piaf as quickly as possible. This is my friendly advice to you."

As she finished speaking, she walked away leisurely in her high heels as she smoked her cigarette.

Jeremy had not forgotten Madeline's words not long ago. Camille told them to not leave St. Piaf for the time being. The weird thing was that Shirley had disappeared for some time. It was uncanny that she suddenly appeared here to tell him to leave immediately.

As Camille reached home, Carter stood in the middle of the living room with a cold look on his face, as if Carter had been waiting for her for a time.

"Mom, did you go to see Evelien?" Carter got straight to the point.

Camille handed her bag to the maid and gracefully removed her coat before turning to Carter. Her usual mild and gentle gaze was now much sharper. "Since you already know, then I won't beat around the bush. That's right, I went to see Eveline. I've even bailed her out."

Carter frowned in confusion. "What's your reason for doing that?"

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When Camille saw the displeasure on Carter's face, she sat down on the sofa calmly.

“Did you really trick Eveline into signing a marriage certificate with you? From the very beginning, didn’t she put up this pretense with you only to help you shake off Ada?”

“When you were signing the marriage certificate during the engagement, she only obliged and signed the certificate because you said it was simply a formality, isn’t that right?”

Faced with these questions from Camille, Carter could not offer any rebuttal.

His silence thus gave Camille the most direct answer.

Camille, however, was a bit vexed. “Carter, you’ve always been straightforward and upright when you act, and you disdained petty maneuvers like this, but this time...”

“That’s because at times, to complete a goal and task, certain skills are required.”

“I, however, don’t think this is a skill. This is manipulation and entrapment. This might even be destruction. You will ruin Eveline,” Camille rationally corrected him.

“However, if it weren’t for me, she would have died at sea.”

“Is that why you schemed against her?” Camille asked in turn. The air around them fell into silence once again.

Carter too became silent once more. His brows furrowed slightly, as though he was thinking about something.

“Carter, let me put it this way. I admire Eveline, and, admittedly, if she could be my daughter-in-law, I’ll

be happy. However, the truth is that she can't, so I hope I can still be friends with her."

When Carter heard this, astonishment flashed in Carter's eyes. A few seconds later, a smile appeared on his face.

"I didn't expect you to be so fond of her."

"I didn't at first, but you have to interact with someone to know what kind of person they are. Carter, it's good to have a shortcut, but if your shortcut to success is built at the expense of others, then I hope you can change your ways." Camille advised him earnestly.

Although he did not completely agree with what Camille was saying, Carter still smiled and responded to her, his attitude to her very respectful.

"I got it. I will behave appropriately."

Camille nodded, fairly satisfied. "I'll help you keep an eye out for more suitable candidates to be your future wife. As for Eveline's case, I'll arrange for the both of them to go back to Glendale as soon as possible."

After hearing this, there was a sudden glint in Carter's eyes. However, he did not fight Camille on this, only continued smiling and nodding at her.

After Camille went upstairs, Carter immediately ordered someone to find the hotel Madeline and Jeremy were currently staying at, and he went out a while later.

Madeline put on the new clothes Jeremy bought for her after her shower. Now, she was looking at the sea view from the French window. She leaned her head gently against Jeremy's shoulder. She felt that her heart could finally rest easy at the moment, yet she could not help but lament.

“I didn’t expect so many things to happen recently. I had thought that, after Ryan and Naomi’s cases were settled, I could safely return home, live a quiet and happy life with my beloved family, and pursue my career. However, I certainly did not expect Carter’s hypnotism.”

Jeremy tightened his grip on Madeline’s shoulder. He leaned down and lightly pressed a dotting kiss on her forehead. His deep eyes were filled with guilt and dissatisfaction.

“I keep saying that I would protect you, and yet I keep letting you face the dangers alone.”

Madeline lifted her eyes to look at the man’s beautiful jawline. “Don’t blame yourself. We can’t predict accidents.”

Jeremy smiled gently and lightly as he lowered his eyes to look into Madeline’s eyes. “Linnie, you’re still so forgiving.”

“That’s because we’re husband and wife.”

‘That’s because we’re husband and wife.’

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1646

This sentence came from Madeline’s mouth so naturally, but it pierced into Jeremy’s heart.

He could not help but remember his inappropriate behavior.

She always viewed him as the man she loved the most and her husband. However, he refused to admit her status.

When he thought about this, Jeremy did not know if it was a figment of his imagination but suddenly, he felt a sharp pain in his heart. Then, a familiar dull pain washed over him. It even began getting harder for him to breathe.

Madeline immediately noticed the changes in Jeremy's expression. She grabbed his arm tightly, asking, "Jeremy, what's wrong?"

Jeremy did not want Madeline to worry. He wanted to hide the fact that he was feeling extremely unwell, but his labored breathing caused him not to have the energy to speak.

Looking at Jeremy's complexion that was getting worse, Madeline started to panic. "What's wrong, Jeremy? What's going on? Tell me where the discomfort is coming from."

Madeline asked incoherently. Her eyes became red from the panic she felt because of this unknown fear.

"The poison. I think the poison is flaring up again..." Jeremy figured this might be a possibility, so he did not hide it from Madeline.

"Poison?" Madeline's pupils constricted. She did not expect the remaining poison in Jeremy's body to flare up at this moment. However, there was a fortunate smile on her face. "Jeremy, don't be scared. I brought the anti-toxoid test reagent. It's the one Adam gave me!"

With a look of surprise, Jeremy looked at Madeline who was running to the bathroom. He did not expect Madeline to bring the anti-toxoid test reagent with her wherever she went.

No.

This did not make sense.

Jeremy was confused when finally, something clicked in his brain.

'Did Linnie voluntarily come to St. Piaf with Carter? Was Linnie back to normal even before boarding the plane?'

After Jeremy came to this conclusion, he saw Madeline walking out of the bathroom with a flurried look on her face.

"I must have left it in Gray Manor," Madeline muttered to herself restlessly. She ran to Jeremy's side and helped him to sit on the bed. "Jeremy, hold on. I'll go out for a bit and I'll come back very soon! You have to wait for me to come back!"

After Madeline told him this, she was about to go out when Jeremy grabbed her and pulled her back to him.

"Linnie."

"Jeremy?"

"Linnie, answer me, was your hypnotism broken before you came to St. Piaf?" Jeremy asked as he endured the agonizing and torturous pain while holding Madeline's hand tightly.

Madeline nodded her head without denying it. Her eyes were filled with apologies. "I'm sorry, Jeremy. I acted on my own accord. I wanted to know why Carter was investigating you and the reason he was framing me, so I decided to beat him at his own game, but I realized I made the wrong move."

When Jeremy heard Madeline's answer, he did not feel so surprised anymore.

At the end of the day, she was still doing this for him.

“Linnie.”

“Jeremy, I always carry one of the anti-toxoid test reagents Adam gave me back then with me wherever I go. I was wearing my clothes before I put on the wedding gown today, but the anti-toxoid test reagent in my pocket is gone. I think I must have lost it in Gray Manor so I have to go back now. I promise that I’ll come back to you safely.”

Madeline wanted to leave after she promised Jeremy. However, Jeremy’s palm that was holding her tightened.

“No!”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1647

Jeremy used all of the energy he had to trap Madeline into a tight hug.

Madeline was stunned. She could feel Jeremy’s arms shaking when they were around her. His hands were also shaking and his entire body as well.

“Jeremy...”

Madeline’s heart started to ache.

She did not know if he was shaking because he was in too much pain or whether he was too worried about her.

“Jeremy, I have to go. No one and nothing here can help you aside from that anti-toxoid test reagent, so I have to go...”

“There’s someone else who can help me...”

Jeremy said this sentence weakly.

Madeline was stunned when she heard this. “Who?”

“Shirley Brown.”

That stunning face immediately appeared in Madeline’s brain.

“Shirley?” she asked in disbelief.

“Yes, her.” Jeremy tightened his arms around her. “Not long ago after I finished buying you the new clothes, I saw her standing outside the door of our room.”

“Why is she in St. Piaf? How does she know where we are?” Madeline widened her alluring eyes in surprise.

Jeremy furrowed his long eyebrows. “She even reminded me that the poison in my body would flare up soon and asked me to go back to Glendale to find Adam as soon as I could.”

When Madeline heard this, she somehow felt that something was amiss.

She let go of her arms around him and did not want to find out the answer at this moment. She quickly found Jeremy’s phone that was on his body.

After unlocking his phone, Madeline found Shirley's number in his contacts. However, while she was in the middle of doing that, the doorbell rang.

Madeline did not want to pay attention to it. However, it kept ringing and she could only go to open the door.

She thought it was room service, but after she opened the door, she saw Carter standing in front of her.

Carter still had the posture of an elegant son of nobility. However, to Madeline, this man was not as upright as the time when she had just met him.

Madeline blocked the door vigilantly when she figured that Carter might be here to cause trouble for her, or he might have even brought the police to arrest her.

However, before Madeline could say anything, Carter suddenly reached out his hand in front of her and opened his palm.

"You need this, right?" Carter asked. There was a faint smile that looked both righteous and evil on his handsome face.

Madeline's eyes lit up. She saw the anti-toxoid test reagent she needed in Carter's hand.

This was the anti-toxoid test reagent that she always had with her but lost unknowingly!

Madeline quickly reached out her hand to grab it but Carter clenched his fist tightly.

This movement seemed to have distinguished the light in Madeline's eyes.

She looked behind her and closed the door of the room slightly. Her black yet bright and clear eyes looked into Carter's smiling eyes sharply.

"Carter, don't make me look down on you," Madeline said softly.

Carter tugged the corners of his lips lightly and answered bluntly, "I don't care what kind of image I have in your heart. I just want to reach my goal."

Madeline stared blankly at the man who was smiling superficially. Suddenly, she realized that Carter was so much different than what she had imagined him to be.

This man was too mysterious, and until now, she still could not understand the reason behind his actions.

At this moment, his straightforwardness and 'honesty' made him seem extremely jolly.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1648

Madeline did not want to beat around the bush anymore. However, she did not want Jeremy to know that the person standing at the door was Carter.

She took a step toward Carter and closed the door.

"What's your purpose in doing this?"

"Today at 7 p.m., I'll be waiting in the study of Gray Manor. I'll tell you what my purpose is then." Carter gave her this answer and opened his palm once again. He picked up the anti-toxoid test reagent in his hand and shook it in front of Madeline.

“I think you don’t have a reason to reject, right? Once that poison flares up again, it’ll be 100 times worse than what you imagine.”

Carter’s words undoubtedly exposed the fact that he knew about Jeremy’s situation well.

Madeline had no choice and said, “Okay, tonight at 7 p.m. I’ll go meet you.”

“I hope you can avoid Jeremy as best as you can. Don’t let him follow you again. This will be the best for you and him.” Carter seemed to be reminding her out of goodwill.

Madeline nodded mechanically and agreed. “Okay, I won’t let my husband follow me.”

“See you tonight, then.” Carter curled the corners of his lips in satisfaction before handing the anti-toxoid test reagent in his hand to Madeline.

After Madeline got the anti-toxoid test reagent, she finally felt her heart feeling more at ease.

However, when she was about to turn around to walk into the room, she heard Carter say leisurely from behind her, “You didn’t lose the anti-toxoid test reagent. I took it out of your pocket. Maybe you think you’re in control of everything, but you might not know that I’m in control of more things than you are.”

“...”

A split second after she heard this, Madeline felt a chill rising from the bottom of her feet.

She turned around to take a look and saw that Carter had already left.

Madeline told herself not to think too much about it. She immediately went back to Jeremy and skillfully attached the anti-toxoid test reagent to the tiny syringe.

When Jeremy saw the anti-toxoid test reagent in Madeline's hands, he was surprised. "Linnie, who was knocking on the door just now? Why is this anti-toxoid test reagent..."

"Mrs. Gray asked someone to send this to me." Madeline found a seemingly reasonable excuse. "Jeremy, I'll inject you with this first. You'll feel much better soon."

Jeremy did not suspect what Madeline was saying at all. In addition to the pain that was torturing him, he did not have the mood to overthink as well.

After Madeline injected the reagent into him, she could clearly see Jeremy starting to recover.

When Madeline saw this change, she felt very much relieved. However, it was just temporary.

It had been a long time since the last time this happened to Jeremy, so she found this sudden flare-up strange. Plus, Adam's sister had even appeared and said all those weird things to Jeremy.

Madeline thought about this, and while Jeremy was resting, she used this opportunity to call Adam.

After Adam got news of this, he was stumped for words on the other end of the phone. After a while, he said, "I think you guys should stay away from Shirley Brown."

Shirley Brown.

He was calling his sister by her full name.

Madeline detected something strange when Adam addressed his own sister in such an estranged way.

“Can you tell me why?” Madeline asked softly.

After a while, Adam answered, “I don’t know how to explain this to you. I can’t make this clear in just a few sentences. If possible, you should come back as soon as you can but before that, don’t get in touch with Shirley.”

“I got it,” Madeline answered. After she hung up the phone, she found another number in her contacts and made a call...

Gray Manor.

Carter was sitting in the study staring at the clock on the wall in front of him. He was waiting for the minute hand to get to the position of 7 p.m.

When the minute hand was one second away from 7 p.m., the door of the study was pushed open.

He thought Madeline had shown up just in time, but when he saw the person who appeared, he could not help but furrow his brows.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1649

Carter looked at the person who came in and got up slowly.

“Can I help you?” he asked courteously, being very respectful toward Camille.

“I’m here to tell you that you can stop waiting now. Eveline won’t come,” Camille opened her mouth and told him with an insipid tone.

Camille's answer caused Carter's expression to freeze for a second. After a moment, he curled the corners of his lips. "You came all the way here to help her tell me this? I got it."

Carter smiled and finished saying that. Then, he sat back down on his seat.

Of course, Camille could see Carter's displeasure. She slowly walked to the desk and said earnestly.

"Carter, you've been exceptional ever since you were a child. Don't care too much about what your father thinks and be too stern with yourself to chase after those unattainable things. This will only make you lose yourself in the end."

After Carter heard what Camille said, he kept a small smile on his face. However, there was even more ambition and desire in his eyes.

"Don't worry, I know what I'm doing."

After detecting the subtle flash across Carter's eyes, Camille was feeling even more uneasy.

"Carter, I hope you can voluntarily cancel the marriage arrangement with Eveline so that she and her husband can leave St. Piaf."

When Carter heard this, there was a hint of disappointment on Carter's face.

He looked at Camille and there was a hint of disappointment on his handsome face. "I really hope you can side with me."

Perhaps Camille did not expect Carter to say something like this and even have such a desolate look on his face, but her firm attitude softened slightly.

“Carter, I’ll definitely side with you, but there are some things—”

“I understand. I know what I should do.” Carter sighed softly while looking listless. “Since you think I was wrong in this, then I will reassess myself. If possible, I hope you can help get Eveline to meet me. I need to settle the cancelation of the marriage with her in person.”

When Carter said that, Camille did not reject him anymore.

This was one of the reasons why she had asked Madeline not to leave St. Piaf for the time being.

They had to cancel the marriage agreement so that Madeline would not bear the crime of bigamy anymore.

“Alright, I’ll call her and help you arrange a meeting time.”

Carter seemed to smile in relief. “Thank you.”

“We’re family. You don’t have to be courteous with me.” After Camille said that, she turned around and walked out of Carter’s study.

Carter looked at the door that closed slowly and took out the mini crystal ball from his pocket.

Under the bright light, the crystal ball was sparkling. The translucent horizontal cut was reflecting gorgeous multicolored light rays. It looked stunning.

Carter looked at the crystal ball and smiled while remaining calm and collected.

Madeline stayed in the hotel with Jeremy where they were undisturbed for two days.

Seeing that Jeremy had pretty much recovered, Madeline planned to leave as soon as possible as well.

However, she had not forgotten Camille's advice. When she was about to call Camille to tell her what she was planning, Camille coincidentally called her.

"Miss Montgomery, Carter has agreed to cancel the marriage agreement with you. I figured that you might not want to come to Gray Manor, so I'll ask you to meet us tonight in the restaurant on the seventh floor of the hotel you're staying. What do you think?"

After hearing what Camille said, Madeline was shocked.

Carter agreed to this?

"Thank you for being so considerate to me, Mrs. Gray. See you tonight."

"Alright, see you tonight."

After promising Camille, Madeline hung up the phone.

She wanted to tell Jeremy what was going on, but when she turned her head, she saw Jeremy holding his phone and looking at the screen like he was lost in thought.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1650

"Jeremy, what's wrong? What are you looking at?"

When Jeremy heard Madeline's curious voice, Jeremy seemed to come back to his senses suddenly.

His long and thin fingers slid across the screen as though he did not want Madeline to see something. He immediately locked his phone and placed it into his pocket. He got up and walked toward Madeline with a gentle smile. Then, he grabbed her shoulder softly.

"Linnie, what did Mrs. Gray say to you?"

When he mentioned this, Madeline smiled. Her sweet dimples blossomed next to her lips as well.

"Guess." She decided to keep him on tenterhooks.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's smile without blinking. He unconsciously lifted his hand to stroke her cheek. His charming and deep narrow eyes were filled with heartbreak.

"It's been a while since I saw you smile like this." He sighed with sorrow. That statement carried a lot of complicated emotions.

Madeline immediately understood how Jeremy was feeling right now. She placed her palm over the back of his hand lightly.

"I'll keep smiling like this in the future. I know you'll make me happy and blessed forever."

When Jeremy heard that, he felt his heart turning sweet and bitter at the same time. She was so amazing and yet he only knew how to cherish her after so long.

After knowing how to cherish her, he was not able to protect her fully.

“Linnie.” Jeremy kissed Madeline’s lips and pulled her into his arms. However, this warm hug right now was not able to make him feel at ease.

They had gone through so many arguments and conflicts. At the same time, he also felt that a calm and peaceful life was hard to obtain.

“Jeremy, Carter agreed to cancel the marriage agreement with me. I won’t need to be restricted here soon.”

Jeremy’s wandering thoughts were brought back. “Did Mrs. Gray call you to say this?”

“Yeah, she asked me to meet her tonight in the restaurant on the seventh floor.”

“I’ll go with you.”

“Okay.” Madeline nodded. She leaned against Jeremy’s shoulder while feeling at ease. She closed her eyes in anticipation, saying, “I’m dying to go home with you soon. I want to see the children and our parents.”

Madeline suddenly felt concerned and lifted her head.

“Right, how’s my mother? Can she talk now?”

Jeremy smiled gently and pinched the tip of Madeline’s nose. “You’ll know when you get home.”

Madeline felt a sweetness in her heart.

The words 'get home' was the best phrase Madeline could hope to hear in a foreign country.

For their safety, Madeline and Jeremy did not go anywhere at all and only waited for the meeting tonight so they could cancel Madeline's marriage agreement with Carter.

For them, all places were the same as long as they were together.

However, when Madeline was leaning against Jeremy's arms for a nap in the afternoon, Jeremy took out his phone in annoyance and opened a conversation chat once again.

Looking at the contents of the message, he could not help but frown.

At the end of the day, he still had to take care of what he should.

Jeremy thought about it and gently carried Madeline to lie down on the bed before considerably covering her with the blanket.

He stood next to the bed and looked at Madeline who was sleeping soundly for a short while before turning around to leave.

After walking out of the door, he decisively called the number that had messaged him earlier. The moment the call got through, a familiar ringtone sounded behind him.

Jeremy stopped in his tracks and hung up the phone. A second later, a woman's soft voice could be heard from behind him.

"I knew you'd contact me eventually."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1651

Jeremy turned around, calm and composed. With an indifferent expression, he faced the woman who was walking toward him.

"The sudden flaring of the poison in my body wasn't due to chance, but rather a scheme, correct?" Jeremy asked directly. "You've never been helping me from the start, were you, Shirley, or should I call you Ms. Brown?"

Shirley, one arm folded while the other held a thin and long cigarette, leisurely took a long drag, and walked toward Jeremy while puffing away.

"When you thought you were at death's door and then decided to leave Eveline willingly before serendipitously meeting me, the 'doctor', on the plane—all of this was indeed a scheme".

Shirley, her red lips curled, walked toward Jeremy and stopped in front of him.

"I'm quite moved by you, actually, but I enjoy conducting experiments even more. However, I'm not the same as Adam. He likes to save people, while I like to... harm people."

She admitted with a magnanimous look, the smile on her grew more intense.

Jeremy inexplicably felt the woman in front of him to be completely unfamiliar. In the past, she had always seemed like a nice person. During those moments being tormented by the poison, she had come to his aid, and his situation had indeed stabilized ever since.

Judging from what the woman was saying now, however, she had never been helping him. She only wanted to achieve her personal goals.

Shirley smiled and took another drag of smoke.

“Jeremy, you’re truly quite smart. I originally intended to continue this pretense, but you immediately asked me if I was scheming against you as you came out, so I figured that I shouldn’t beat around the bush any further.”

“Then don’t. What are you trying to do? Are you planning to use the poison in my body to continue treating me as your experimental subject or what?”

“No.” Shirley chuckled and shook her head, the corner of her eyes crinkling. “Let me tell you then. You and Eveline can’t leave St. Piaf unless you pay a certain price.”

“Is this what you wanted to remind me as per your message?”

“That’s right.”

“Heh.” Jeremy could not help but burst out laughing lightly, his eyes were filled with suspicion. “Don’t you think that you’re contradicting yourself? Shirley, are you reminding me this because you have good intentions? The fact that you’re making the situation sound so serious must imply that you have another motive?”

As he said this, Jeremy suddenly felt something was amiss.

Linnie!

He suddenly thought of something. His expression changed abruptly, and he strode vigorously toward the room.

However, for some reason, the key card in his hands could not unlock the hotel room door.

In a moment of panic, Jeremy's heartbeat lost all control. He yelled at the door of the room. "Linnie, Linnie!"

Jeremy yelled a couple of times, yet Madeline's response could not be heard.

"Linnie!"

Bang bang bang!

Jeremy banged the door with force. In the absence of Madeline's response, he was panicking so much that he was about to kick the door open.

Just as he lifted his leg, the door opened with a click.

A drowsy Madeline, eyes hazy, looked at Jeremy's anxious face, which immediately banished Madeline's sleepiness. "Jeremy, what's wrong? Why do you look so flustered? Where did you go?"

Jeremy grabbed Madeline's hands and examined Madeline all over. Once he had verified that she was fine, he then let out a sigh of relief.

He subconsciously looked back at Shirley, but he realized that this woman was no longer in the corridor.

Noticing Jeremy's movement, Madeline also lifted her eyes to look over, but she did not see anything.

"Jeremy, are you okay?" Inevitably, she was worried.

Jeremy held Madeline's hand and pulled her back to the middle of the room, closing the door tightly behind him.

"Linnie, you have to be careful when you meet Carter tonight."

He solemnly reminded her. Madeline could tell that something was wrong.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1652

"Jeremy, did something happen?"

"I don't know how I should say this. In short, after we've met Carter tonight, we leave this place immediately."

"Yeah, okay." Madeline still felt that this was strange, but she did not enquire further.

However, she could clearly feel that Jeremy's palm, which was holding hers, turned slightly cold.

'Jeremy, what are you scared of? Or is this because of the poison?'

Madeline pondered anxiously. This feeling persisted until 7 p.m.

Camille called. She told Madeline that Carter was already waiting in the hotel restaurant, and Madeline could head over now.

However, Camille also added a reminder. "Carter said he'll only meet with you alone, so do ask your husband to wait for you someplace else and not at the restaurant, lest Carter changes his mind from displeasure."

Madeline too wanted this to go smoothly, so she agreed.

Although Jeremy was worried about Madeline, he was an unreasonable person.

When Madeline went to the restaurant by herself, he followed her until the outside of the restaurant. However, before he could get close, he could see Carter's bodyguards standing outside the restaurant.

Jeremy could only watch Madeline enter from afar. He saw Carter sitting alone at a spot with the best view in the restaurant. His impeccable attire bestowed upon him the image of an honorable gentleman and an elegant nobleman.

However, this gentle and lofty exterior belied his shrewdness, greatly contrasting with his appearance.

There was, however, a man standing next to Carter. This polite-looking man, wearing a pair of glasses and with a stack of documents in his hands, seemed like a lawyer.

With a glance, Jeremy could tell that Carter had booked the entire level of the restaurant.

If they were merely terminating the marriage contract, why was he making a big deal about it?

Jeremy kept feeling that something was amiss, but this is not the time to be rash.

From the moment she entered the restaurant, Madeline, however, also felt that something was wrong.

‘Carter specially booked the entire restaurant for this?’ It was obvious that this would not be as simple as terminating the wedding contract.

Madeline walked straight to where Carter was at, and she saw, on the table, the two documents they had signed in front of everyone back then.

At the time, Carter had lied to her, saying that this was just an engagement contract. She thought that she was helping him, so she believed him.

Despite feeling greatly repulsed by Carter, Madeline still maintained her demeanor. “Mr. Gray, thank you for letting me off the hook. I’m here now, so could we proceed with the legal procedure?”

Carter’s lips pressed into a smile when he heard that. “We’ll get to that, but first, have a seat.”

“Oh, I don’t think that’s necessary. My husband is waiting for me outside,” Madeline rejected blatantly.

Carter lifted his eyes lightly and glanced out of the restaurant, but his face was indifferent. Once again, he opened his mouth and gestured at Madeline.

“Sit.”

Madeline remembered what Camille had said, so she did not want to go against him.

After all, it all depended on Carter whether the procedure would be dealt with successfully.

She sat down. Then, the waitperson carried over one delicate dish after another. In the end, they even poured separate glasses of red wine for Madeline and Carter.

Carter leisurely took his glass and gently swirled the contents in the glass. “I’m still technically your savior. Since we’ll be parting ways and we won’t see each other ever again, we should just down this wine and part on good terms, is that okay?”

Madeline eyed the wine glass in front of her. She picked it up and sniffed it vigilantly. Once she had ascertained that it contained no foreign substance, she casually downed the wine.

“Will this do?”

Carter looked at the emptied wine glass and seemed to let out a knowing laugh. “That’ll do.”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1653

Madeline’s intuition told her that Carter’s smile held a deeper meaning to it, but she is unable to guess what is on Carter’s mind.

Madeline put down her goblet. For a few seconds, her gaze remained glued to the liquid at the bottom

of her glass.

“Mr. Gray, could we begin the procedure now?” Madeline urged.

Carter nodded and gave a sideways glance at the man waiting by his side.

The man who looked like a lawyer handed Madeline two documents.

“Hello, Miss Montgomery. I’m Mr. Carter’s lawyer. These are the divorce documents for you and Mr. Carter. Please have a look at the contents, and if there are no problems, please sign the documents.”

Madeline took the document, and, this time, she carefully read through every line of words in detail.

Back then, she had fallen for Carter’s tricks only because she had too much trust in Carter. This time, she did not allow herself the chance to be negligent.

Once she had read every line carefully, Madeline signed her name next to Carter’s signature.

After that, Madeline felt relieved, a great weight lifted off her mind.

However, she still could not help feeling somewhat incredulous that she had muddleheadedly become husband and wife with another man in name.

“From now on, we’re no longer husband and wife in name, is that right, Mr. Gray?”

“Yes, after signing this, Miss Montgomery, the agreement already takes effect. You and Mr. Gray are no longer husband and wife in name.” The lawyer by the side explained clearly.

Relieved to have this heavy burden off her chest, Madeline looked toward Carter who was minding his own business and had begun dining. In the end, she thanked him sincerely, “Even though we’re in a bit of a rough patch, I still want to thank you for saving me at sea, Mr. Carter.”

Carter’s movements slowed slightly and, without looking at Madeline, he leisurely uttered two words, “You’re welcome.”

Madeline did not stay further. She decisively got up and left.

Carter did not stop her in the slightest, only speaking to the lawyer by his side, “Handle this as quickly as you can. I, Carter Gray, am a man of my word.”

The man nodded respectfully. “Yes, Mr. Carter. It will be done.” The man quickly walked away after speaking.

Jeremy had been waiting by the door. When he saw Madeline coming out, he quickly walked over to her.

Seeing Jeremy walking over to her, she sped up. When they faced each other, the two of them synchronously spread their arms and embraced each other.

“Jeremy.” Madeline, feeling at ease, pressed against Jeremy’s chest.

Jeremy naturally tightened his embrace. “Has it been resolved?”

“Yeah, it’s resolved. I’ve already signed it just now, and I’ve nothing to do with him anymore.”

The weight on Jeremy's chest lifted as well. He raised his hand to touch Madeline's head and kissed her short hair before holding her hand and turned around.

Before he turned, Jeremy subconsciously glanced at Carter, who was still dining at his seat. He had a nagging feeling that something was amiss, but he could not put a finger on it.

He especially could not believe that this had gone so smoothly.

"Jeremy, give me your phone. I'd like to give Mrs. Gray a call." Madeline thought of conveying her gratitude.

Jeremy also thought that this was necessary, so he walked aside and called Camille.

Once she had learned that this had been smoothly dealt with, Camille too breathed a sigh in relief.

She did not say much before hanging up, only reiterating that Madeline and Jeremy should leave St. Piaf as quickly as possible.

Jeremy and Madeline were of the same thought, so they returned to their room to pack and leave.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1654

The hotel restaurant.

Carter was holding the wine glass, staring at the night view outside the window with a cool expression.

A while later, the sound of high heels could be heard drawing close nearby.

Betraying no emotions, he took a sip of the red wine and flippantly took out the mini crystal ball he carried with him. He held it in his palm and casually played with it.

“Carter.” Then came the woman’s charming and soft voice.

Not even bothering to turn his head, he coldly uttered a single word, “Sit.”

The woman curled her red lips into a slight smile and sat across Carter, wearing a flattering smile. “Carter, I’ve already completed the task. Are you satisfied?”

Her voice was followed by a moment of silence. Then, Carter spoke coldly.

“Do you have feelings for Jeremy?” His tone was frigid. “Shirley, it was I who gave you this codename. You best not forget what you should and shouldn’t be doing.”

Hearing Carter’s words, Shirley’s expression changed suddenly. She looked at Carter nervously, losing all semblance of the lofty and easy-going attitude that she displayed in front of Jeremy and other outsiders.

“I’ve always been using Jeremy solely for my experiments and plans, Carter. You are the only man in my heart.”

Upon hearing this, Carter’s fingers ceased playing with the crystal ball.

He lifted his deep pupils, completely devoid of warmth, and looked at that alluring face of hers, but he quickly broke his gaze in disinterest.

“How long will it take to flare up again?” He asked suddenly.

Shirley instantly understood Carter's meaning. "Suffice to say, they won't be able to leave St. Piaf."

She was extremely certain, a hint of victory glinted in her eyes.

"Don't worry, Carter. I'd concocted the dose myself, without the slightest of error."

"Are you certain that your brother won't ruin it this time?"

"Hmph, Adam simply couldn't make my newly developed anti-toxoid test reagent." Shirley's eyes narrowed, bursting with a strong sense of resentment and loathing.

"That's great." Carter picked up the red wine in satisfaction and poured a glass for Shirley.

He handed it to Shirley like it was a reward.

The sight rekindled the cheerful smile on Shirley's delicate and beautiful face.

As she stretched out her hand to receive the wine glass from Carter, she wanted to jump at this opportunity to touch Carter's hand, even if she only touched his fingertips. Carter, however, did not give her this chance in the slightest.

Shirley pursed his red lips, somewhat disappointed, but she did not dare to make any request.

"Thank you," She thanked him, her personality and attitude in stark contrast with her demeanor with outsiders.

She took two sips of the red wine. It was clearly wine, but she felt that it tasted like sweet soup, feeling

especially happy.

She had never thought that a man like this would bound her wild heart like this. However, after meeting Carter, she had lost herself.

In fact, seeing Jeremy's pampering attitude toward Madeline, she had an epiphany.

When it came to relationships, everyone has a weakness.

Despite her extensive attainments in medicine, she was a mess when it came to relationships.

She always did what Carter wanted her to do. She never dared to go against him.

With a cold look in his eyes, Carter looked askance at Shirley, observing the cautious and happy microexpressions on her face. Then, his lips curled up briefly before dissipating without a trace.

"I hope that, in the future, you'll be able to handle tasks as efficiently as Ryan."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1655

Shirley paused abruptly in the middle of drinking her wine.

Ryan...

She could still remember it clearly.

Carter mentioning this inevitably brought about feelings of apprehension in her.

“Carter, why did you mention Ryan suddenly? Unless... Unless Eveline noticed something?” Shirley asked very cautiously, lacking confidence in fear of provoking Carter.

A sneer appeared on Carter’s icy face. “She wouldn’t have thanked me just now for saving her life if she knew.”

Shirley quietly breathed a sigh of relief when she heard this.

“He was digging his own grave.” Carter’s eyes were full of contempt. “He’d debase himself in such a manner for a woman.”

“Carter, w-would you?” Shirley probed, her eyes were filled with both anticipation and apprehension.

Carter looked at her coldly. “Would I what? Would I forget what I should be doing because of you or any other women?”

“...” Shirley’s heart turned cold seeing Carter’s cold gaze, but this answer was to be expected.

She had known Carter for years. Not merely for a year or two, nor three to five, but eighteen years.

Despite being five years older than Carter, she was helplessly within the grasp of the man who could have been her younger brother.

Now that she thought about it, was it because, when she had wandered the streets in hunger and ragged clothes, abandoned by her parents, this man had gotten out of the car, handed her a piece of hot cheesecake, and then said, “Do you want to come home with me?”

Home.

She had no home at the time.

Her parents were remarkable medical scientists, who possessed superb IQ and skills.

Smart and a fast learner since young, she became very accomplished in the field of medicine. She had regarded her parents as role models, and she had even dreamt of becoming a medical scientist like them.

However, she was disliked by her biological parents, suffering from their son preference (TN: Son preference refers to the gender bias or belief that boys held more value than girls. For more details, please look up son preference on Wikipedia). Her parents only had eyes for her brother, Adam.

Unwilling to be forgotten and ignored this way, when she turned fifteen, she skipped class and school, wandering on the path of homelessness.

To survive, she had stolen food from the supermarket and money when nobody noticed. When she did get caught, she would suffer a beating and scolding. Other times, she would be dragged to the police station.

Since she was still young, each time only resulted in a lecture; she did not need to bear any substantial legal responsibility.

After suffering through hardships and the bitter cold, she then learned the bliss of feeling cherished and warm.

When she had needed food and a bed to sleep in the most, Carter had given her delicious food and luxurious lodging beyond that of ordinary people.

For ten years, she had stayed with Carter as a study companion.

She had stayed until he went to university and graduated, becoming a psychologist and a professor in the academic field of hypnosis, where he stood at the pinnacle of glory.

Meanwhile, she had overturned her original dream. She had become a vicious woman who only harmed others, never saving them.

Of course, every command had come from Carter.

Carter's goal was to take the throne of St. Piaf. He was not satisfied with the status of a mere viscount.

In this regard, she had already seen through Carter's ambition and desire for years.

With an extremely cold and indifferent personality, he rarely smiled. His face was perpetually like an iceberg, devoid of any expression of joy.

She sometimes wondered if Carter was indeed such a cold-blooded and ruthless man. She had been with him for more than ten years, yet he held no romantic feelings toward her at all, not even a little. He was even dismissive of her.

However, when they had first met back then, he had given her such a warm smile.

"I have to take down Glendale. Eveline is now the key to all of this."

Carter's voice, with its bewitching and sensual charm, slipped into Shirley's ears gently and slowly. She then roused from her reverie, picking up Carter's words.

"I will do my best to help you."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1656

"Help me?"

"No, not help," Shirley quickly corrected herself, "I'll do my part. Don't worry."

Carter then nodded his head slightly, satisfied, and observed the flux of emotions on Shirley's face before slowly getting up. His tall and lean figure walked past Shirley with an air of elegance and nobility. Then, he stopped.

Shirley stood up quickly, only seeing Carter's back.

"After this task is done, I might consider letting you formally become my wife," Carter murmured coldly.

After saying that, he sauntered toward the door.

Shirley's red lips parted slightly from shock, unable to return to her senses for a moment.

Dazed, she stared at Carter's back as he walked further away. The contour of his body left a clear and memorable mark in her eyes.

Even if it was just a formality, and even if he was just tossing her a fake but beautiful lie, she would still gladly endure the hardship.

"I will definitely get this done!"

Shirley solemnly promised at Carter's back.

Carter did not stop. He merely continued walking without a second glance.

...

When Jeremy had chased Madeline to St. Piaf, he had not brought much luggage, so there was not much for him to pack.

However, the problem now was that there were no flight tickets back to Glendale for the night. The earliest flight was scheduled for tomorrow evening.

Since it was still early, Jeremy decided to take Madeline outside for a meal.

With the marriage agreement canceled, Madeline felt a lot freer and more relaxed. She too wanted to have a meal with Jeremy, to hold his hands and clear her mind.

The streets of St. Piaf were very lively at night. The people here seemed warm and friendly.

However, as Madeline was walking with Jeremy on the streets, more than a few people seemed to be looking at her.

"Isn't that the woman who got married to Mr. Carter a few days ago?"

"The one who seduced Mr. Carter even though she has a husband."

“I think it’s her. I saw her videos online before. She’s very pretty.”

“Didn’t she get arrested for bigamy? Why did they let her out so soon? The handsome man next to her might be her first husband.”

“...”

First husband.

Madeline and Jeremy felt their heads hurting when they heard this description.

To avoid unnecessary trouble, Jeremy and Madeline tacitly sped up their pace, distancing themselves from those condemning and judging eyes.

As they walked, they sped up until they were running.

The two of them held their hands and darted through the crowd in the bustling street. As they passed multiple dimly lit streetlights in succession during this cold winter night, they suddenly felt as though they were back on campus all those years ago, returning to their teenage years where they could be reckless and indulgent.

However, it was a pity that she had not held his hand, running around during her youthful teenage years.

Madeline felt an ache in her heart, unsure whether her thoughts made her feel regretful.

She thought that feeling would flash past in an instant. Instead, the pain worsened.

Following Madeline's footsteps, Jeremy slowed down, and he noticed that there was something wrong with Madeline's complexion.

"Linnie, are you feeling unwell?"

Madeline clutched her chest and lifted her pale face. "Jeremy, my heart's hurting a lot."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1657

Jeremy's heart felt like it tightened similarly after hearing Madeline's answer.

Without any hesitation, he held Madeline in a bridal carry. He hailed a cab by the roadside and went to the nearest hospital.

Jeremy ran until he reached the emergency room door. Once the red light had lit up, he could not do anything but linger in the empty corridor, feeling restless.

He knew that Madeline did not have any heart issues, so how did it get so painful so suddenly?

'Was it because we were running?'

'I shouldn't have dragged Linnie into running around like that.'

'I shouldn't.'

Jeremy started beating himself up harshly.

The door of the emergency room opened suddenly, and a young nurse walked out hurriedly.

Jeremy wanted to halt the nurse to ask about Madeline's condition, but he was worried about interfering with her work.

Barely a moment after the nurse had walked away, two professional-looking middle-aged doctors, wearing serious expressions, came over and entered the emergency room.

This turn of events further rattled Jeremy's state of mind.

'Linnie, what's happening to you?'

'Why is your heart hurting suddenly?'

Jeremy was perplexed, his thoughts whirling. His eyes were glued to the red light by the emergency room door.

He did not know how much time had passed before the door opened once again, the doctor and nurse coming out simultaneously.

Jeremy immediately ran over to ask, "Doctor, how's my wife? Is she still in pain?"

Seeing the concern and worry on Jeremy's face, the doctor amiably comforted him. "We've given your wife some stabilizers, so her condition has stabilized for the time being. We've already done a full-body checkup on her. We'll only be able to know the cause of her sudden heartache once the results are out."

Jeremy did not ask any further questions when he heard this answer. Aside from staying by Madeline's side in the hospital room and waiting for the results, there was little else he could do.

The next morning, Madeline woke from her weary dream with a perplexed look in her eyes.

Jeremy had stayed with her the entire time she was asleep, not even daring to close his eyes for a moment's rest, lest something happened to Madeline again.

When Madeline recalled her sudden heartache the night before, she found it strange.

She was drinking the warm water Jeremy had poured for her now, one hand holding her cup and the other laying on top of her chest.

When Jeremy saw her movement, he anxiously approached her. "Linnie, are you in pain again?"

To avoid worrying Jeremy excessively, Madeline quickly shook her head and smiled at the man whose eyes were filled with apprehension. "No, I'm not in pain anymore. Don't worry too much, Jeremy."

"How could I not be?" Jeremy, brows furrowed, anxiously asked again, "Are you sure you're not in pain?"

"Really, I'm not." Madeline shook her head again. While touching her stomach, she emphasized, "I am a little hungry though."

Jeremy smiled and his brows relaxed when he saw that Madeline did not seem to be lying. "I'll buy you some breakfast then. I've heard St. Piau has pretty good bagels. I'll go buy some now."

"Okay, I'll wait for you." Madeline smiled and nodded, enjoying how Jeremy was taking care of her.

Even though Jeremy had not rested for the entire night, when he saw that Madeline had recovered, he felt relieved. More energetic, even.

After Jeremy left the room, Madeline was about to get out of bed to walk around when she saw a doctor and a nurse walking in.

“Miss Montgomery, we have your checkup report.”

“Report?”

Madeline was unaware of what had happened after she had passed out earlier.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1658

The doctor nodded and handed the reports to Madeline.

“Miss Montgomery, the circumstances of your heart attack last night were very strange. We ran some tests for you, and we did not find any heart-related diseases. Therefore, the pain you felt was not attributed to heart diseases.”

Madeline was not sure if she understood. “Um, doctor, why was my heart hurting then? Plus, I felt that I could barely breathe toward the end.”

The doctor frowned in puzzlement as he explained, “To be honest, Miss Montgomery, we don’t know what’s wrong either. Based on the report, there’s nothing wrong with your body. The only strange thing was your blood test.”

“Blood test?”

“That’s right. There’s an unknown component in your blood, and the hospital equipment couldn’t analyze it. I’d surmise that this unknown component to be the cause of your heartache and breathing difficulties last night.”

The doctor's explanation sounded clear, but Madeline felt as if she had fallen into an unknown terror.

For some reason, she started to feel somewhat uneasy.

Something unknown had appeared in her blood. What would it be?

"There's no need to be too worried, Miss Montgomery. Perhaps the equipment we have in the hospital isn't advanced enough. You can go to the royal hospital in St. Piaf. The medical equipment there is the most complete and advanced in the country. You and your husband can have a look there."

"Thank you, doctor." After thanking him with a smile, Madeline lowered her gaze and looked at the report in her hand.

Madeline could not help but frown as she looked through the expert data on the blood test report.

After looking at it for some time, a glint of realization flashed across Madeline's eyes, and her heart started to race.

She remembered the series of circumstances that happened to Jeremy instigated by the poison.

He also had experienced pain in his heart and breathing difficulties. Additionally, he had vomited blood when it got severe.

Madeline's fingers tightened somewhat on the report. Without much forethought, she immediately ripped the report into pieces and threw it into the bin, not wanting Jeremy to find out.

More than ten minutes later, Jeremy returned. When he saw that Madeline was already up, he handed the hot breakfast over to her.

“Linnie, have some breakfast. I’m going to look for the doctor.”

Madeline grabbed Jeremy as he turned to leave. “Jeremy!”

“Hmm?” Jeremy stopped in his tracks and turned around curiously.

Madeline hid the anxiety in her heart and instantly lifted a smile. “The doctor came over just now. He said that there’s nothing wrong with me.”

“The doctor came just now? Where’s the report then? Let me see.” Jeremy’s gaze scanned around Madeline, clearly searching for the report.

“The doctor said they’re going green now, so all reports can be viewed on our phones. Don’t worry, the doctor said I’m fine, so I’m fine. I can be discharged at any time. Since that’s the case, let’s go now.” Madeline went over and held Jeremy’s arm. “Let’s go, Jeremy.”

Even though Madeline was smiling and speaking coherently, Jeremy kept feeling as if something was amiss.

While he was not suspecting Madeline, as he was turning around, he spotted the torn pieces of paper in the bin. This inevitably raised questions.

‘Are those torn papers the report?’

‘Did Linnie rip them up?’

‘Why would Linnie do that?’

Jeremy's head was bursting with questions. After taking a few steps out of the room, Jeremy suddenly stopped.

"Linnie, you should go handle the discharge procedure. My stomach isn't feeling well, so I need to head to the toilet."

Madeline remained oblivious. "Go then. I'll wait for you here."

"Okay," Jeremy said before turning around quickly. From the corners of his eyes, he could see Madeline standing there waiting for him. He quickly turned the corner and went back to the room earlier.

They had only left for a short while, so no one had arrived to clean up just yet. Jeremy strode to the bin and picked up the ripped papers without hesitation.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1659

Jeremy picked up all the torn papers, but he noticed that the damage was extensive, requiring more time to piece the fragments together.

He could only resort to wrapping the pieces in a handkerchief. Then, he returned to Madeline's side, pretending nothing had happened after he went to the restroom.

"Jeremy, are you okay? Did you catch a cold?" Madeline asked, uneasy, as she grabbed Jeremy's hand.

Jeremy held Madeline's hand and intertwined his fingers with hers.

"I still intend to take good care of you for the rest of your life, so how can I let anything happen?" He smiled softly, but he somehow began feeling that the torn papers in his pocket weighed heavily on his mind.

After returning to the hotel, while Madeline bathed, Jeremy sat on the sofa and took the opportunity to quickly sort the pieces of paper.

Fortunately, the paper fragments were not too small, so Jeremy still managed to sort it out, messiness aside.

With his quick reading speed, he finished the entire checkup report in a blink of an eye.

There was certainly nothing wrong based on the content of the paper, but Jeremy also noticed Madeline's blood test report.

There was a deviation in one of the indices listed, and this index, in particular, quickly reminded him of his physical examination back then...

After her bath, Madeline came out of the bathroom, wiping her hair with a towel as she walked toward the bedroom. She lifted her eyes and saw a dazed-looking Jeremy sitting on the sofa, pieces of papers patched together on the coffee table in front of him.

Seeing those pieces of paper, a conjecture quickly formed in Madeline's mind.

She hurriedly walked over and, as expected, saw that it was the report that she had ripped and threw away.

Madeline slowly stopped wiping her hair and lowered her hand as she walked to Jeremy's side. Seeing him remain silent and beside himself, her hands reached out to touch his, but she noticed the coldness permeating the palms of his hands.

"Jeremy," Madeline gently called out Jeremy's name, "I know what you're thinking. This is exactly the

reason I didn't want to tell you for the time being."

The surrounding mood grew more silent after Madeline had spoken.

After a lengthy silence, Jeremy gradually showed some response.

One by one, he grabbed Madeline's fingers tightly and grasped them in his palm, lest she disappeared from his life.

Madeline could feel Jeremy's fear. It was identical to the time when she had been afraid that he would leave her forever.

"Jeremy, don't worry about it, and stop jumping to conclusions. We still don't know the specifics of the situation. Plus, I don't feel that there's any problem with my body, so it could just be a coincidence."

"Heartache, breathing difficulties, and eventually, severe enough to vomit blood..."

Jeremy's lips parted weakly. His voice seemed to tremble slightly.

"How did this happen? How did you also..." Jeremy raised his hand and grabbed his hair in distress.

"Jeremy, Jeremy, don't do this. I really am fine." Madeline quickly reassured him.

Now, he was just like her back then. Worried, apprehensive, and distraught. This feeling could neither be consoled nor cured.

He could only be fine if she was fine.

“Jeremy, listen to me. Even if I also have that poison in my body, don’t forget we still have Adam! He can help us.”

“Adam...”

A glint of realization suddenly flashed in Jeremy’s eyes and he stood up quickly.

“We’re going back to Glendale now!”

“We’ve booked an afternoon flight, so we’ll head to the airport after lunch.”

“Okay!”

Jeremy answered, the anxiety in his heart evident.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1660

He took the hairdryer and helped Madeline dry her hair.

While she enjoyed being taken care of by Jeremy, Madeline started to reflect on the recent events, finding them a little bizarre.

She had been eating and drinking the same things as the Grays. If someone had deliberately laced her food with a slow-acting poison, then who could it be? Further, how did this person come about the slow-acting poison?

Madeline pondered but quickly dismissed this thought.

At this point, she still could not be completely sure what is happening to her, so she should not freak herself out.

After her hair was dried, Madelina and Jeremy decided to have a meal before they went to the airport.

The winter in St. Piaf was extremely cold. Even with their coats on, they still could not withstand the bone-chilling winds of winter.

Jeremy was tightly holding onto Madeline's hand, so he could plainly feel her shivering hands.

"Linnie, you should wait at the convenience store in front. I'll tell you when I've gotten a ride," suggested Jeremy. He is unwilling to let Madeline continue being out in the cold street with him. He did not know why it was especially difficult to hail a taxi today.

Madeline was freezing. She could even feel herself shivering from the cold.

"Alright, I'll wait for you in the convenience shop." Madeline did not want Jeremy to worry about her, so she turned around and walked to the convenience store that was within 20 meters away.

She certainly felt much warmer once she was inside. However, she felt as if the bone-chilling cold was still seeping through her skin, so Madeline bought a cup of hot milk tea and sat down on the chair at the side to rest.

Despite the shop's heater and the hot beverage to warm her hands and body, Madeline felt even colder now.

She lifted her hand to touch her forehead and noticed that there was a layer of cold sweat.

Madeline was immediately stunned. She remembered the doctor's words, which subsequently reminded her of Jeremy's concerns.

'Could it really be that, without me realizing it, someone had poisoned me with an unknown component?'

After Madeline figured that this truly might be the case, she did not continue sitting in the convenience store and hastily walked toward the exit.

However, just as the automatic doors opened, a woman ran in hurriedly, colliding with Madeline just as she was about to leave.

The impact of the collision was so forceful that Madeline reflexively reached out her hand to hold the rack beside her, almost falling.

"I'm sorry, Miss. I'm in a hurry," the woman said apologetically.

This voice sounded slightly familiar to Madeline. As she lifted her gaze, she heard the woman's surprised voice at the same time.

"Mrs. Whitman? It's you!"

"Shirley." In a glance, Madeline recognized the alluring woman in front of her—Adam's sister, Shirley.

Madeline had heard from Jeremy that Shirley was also in St. Piaf. However, she did not expect to run into her in such a coincidence.

"Mrs. Whitman, you don't look too good. Are you feeling ill?" Shirley asked as she stepped forward and held Madeline's hand in concern.

Even though Madeline was feeling unwell, she remembered Adam's advice, reminding them to stay as far away from Shirley as possible.

Although Adam did not clarify his reasons, he had been his savior on multiple occasions, so Madeline was willing to trust him unconditionally.

Madeline supported her body and gently retracted her hand. "Thank you for your concern. It's just a cold. My husband is still waiting for me outside, so I should go now."

Madeline remained calm and composed as she quickly walked out of the door.

Before she could go far, however, she could hear the sudden chill in Shirley's voice coming from behind her.

"Since you're dying to get away from me, I'm guessing you already know something, Mrs. Whitman."

Madeline slowed down. Just as she was about to turn around to look, Shirley had already come up to her.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1661

When Madeline saw Shirley in front of her, she realized that it was not a coincidence she had run into her. It was all done intentionally.

A cold gust of wind blew over without a warning and Madeline immediately felt her body freezing over. Not only that, but her heart also started to ache vaguely.

When Shirley saw Madeline frowning, she curled the corner of her red lips slightly.

“I’m naming it AXT69. This is my latest mysterious anti-toxoid test reagent. I added some ingredients that can make people suffer even more on top of the original ingredients.”

While she said that, she walked closer in front of Madeline.

“Just like right now, you’re feeling excruciating pain in your heart. Apart from having breathing difficulties, you’ll also feel as though your entire body is being submerged in ice water. Every inch of your skin is enduring a coldness that feels as if you’re being sliced open by knives.”

After hearing what Shirley said, Madeline understood completely.

She did not need to confirm it anymore. Now, she was completely sure that she had been poisoned by that mysterious and terrifying thing unbeknownst to her.

However, Madeline had no idea how she got into contact with that thing in the first place.

Madeline clenched her fists and tried her best to compose herself. “Shirley, why are you doing this?”

“Heh.” Shirley did not answer Madeline. She laughed and asked, “Do you know why Jeremy’s condition flared up yesterday?”

Even though Madeline did not know the details, she could probably guess that this had something to do with Shirley.

Indeed, Shirley admitted confidently. "I deliberately induced it."

Madeline was getting more and more confused. However, she was still calm and composed. "Why did you do that? Didn't you save him before?"

"Saved him? No, I never wanted to save him. He's just an experiment. Do you understand what an experiment is?" Shirley said and took a cigarette from her bag before lighting it up. After taking an enjoyable drag, her smile became even more radiant.

"You're feeling mad and terrible, right?" Shirley laughed and looked at Madeline from head to toe. "You should also get a taste of what Jeremy feels when he's being tortured by the poison. Since you're such a loving couple, then you should experience his pain as well."

Shirley said and took another drag of her cigarette. She was puffing out smoke with practiced ease.

"Don't put too much hope on Adam. Even if he's capable, he won't be able to come up with an anti-toxoid test reagent that's able to control the poison in such a short time. However, don't worry, you won't die. It'll just make you suffer."

After Shirley's complacent words, Madeline felt as if her heart was being gnawed on by a million insects.

"Hiss!"

She could not help but let out a sound of pain. Her long and lean fingers grasped the clothes that were in front of her chest.

Shirley watched her with a grin on her face. "I have an anti-toxoid test reagent that can help you

alleviate the pain for the time being. It has no side effects. As long as you're willing to listen to me, then I'll give it to you."

Madeline was breathing heavily with difficulty as she looked at Shirley who was beaming while feeling pleased with herself. Then, she saw Shirley lifting her hand and shaking a bottle of anti-toxoid test reagent in front of her.

Madeline did not know if it was the poison or the devastatingly cold wind, but she even felt that her eyes were starting to hurt. Shirley's smile in front of her gradually became blurry.

"Eveline, in some ways, I'm pretty impressed by you. I feel so reluctant when I see you in so much pain, but the word 'easy' doesn't exist in the adult world, so..."

"Linnie!"

Jeremy's appearance interrupted what Shirley was about to say next.

He ran over to Madeline as fast as lightning. When he noticed the odd look on Madeline's face, he pulled her, who was shaking from the cold, into his embrace.

"Linnie, are you cold?" Jeremy's eyes were filled with worry. He was not in the mood to bother himself with Shirley.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1662

He quickly removed his coat and placed it over Madeline.

However, it did not seem that Madeline was becoming better at all.

“Linnie, what happened to you? Where does it hurt?”

“Jeremy, it’s useless no matter how many coats you give her. She’ll still feel cold, and she’ll still be in so much pain she won’t be able to breathe freely.”

Jeremy lifted his eyes suddenly. His frosty, cold eyes were stabbing straight at Shirley.

“What did you say? What do you mean?”

Shirley took a long drag of her cigarette. “Jeremy, you’re so smart and you still can’t tell what’s wrong with your wife?”

Jeremy’s pupils constricted, and he spotted the anti-toxoid test reagent in Shirley’s hand. “It’s indeed you. Shirley Brown, what are you trying to do?”

“Nothing. I just want to do an experiment.” Shirley chuckled lightly. “For your sake, just treat this as a gift for our acquaintance. Next time, you might not be so lucky.”

After Shirley said this, she threw the anti-toxoid test reagent in her hand to Jeremy.

Jeremy lifted his hand to catch it. Then, he took a look at the tiny bottle of anti-toxoid test reagent in his

hand. He wanted to stop Shirley to ask her a few questions but she had already left.

Madeline was in a bad shape right now and he did not have the mood to bother with Shirley. As such, he carried Madeline and ran back to the hotel.

He booked another room and carried Madeline who was shaking all over into the room.

However, even though the heater was on, Madeline was still shaking furiously.

Her face was initially pale with a pinkish blush, but now, her face was as pale as a white sheet of paper.

Jeremy held Madeline's hand and realized that her hands were very cold as well.

"Linnie."

"Jeremy, I'm so cold. This place hurts as well," Madeline used all of her energy to say with much difficulty.

"Linnie, don't be scared. You won't be in pain soon." Jeremy comforted softly. His heart was so anxious.

He immediately took out the anti-toxoid test reagent that Shirley had tossed at him earlier. After drawing the liquid into the syringe that came with it, Jeremy did not hesitate to inject the liquid in the glass syringe into Madeline's vein.

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows together and felt the bone-piercing coolness travel to every inch of

her body.

She had never felt so cold before. She was so cold she was suffocating and her breathing was labored. She felt so cold that she could not even take in a breath.

Looking at Madeline who was in so much pain, Jeremy held her while feeling his heart break. He lay down next to her and tried his best to give her the warmth she wanted.

Time passed slowly, and Madeline's body was not shaking as much as before. Then, she gradually fell asleep.

Jeremy felt more at ease when he saw that Madeline was not suffering as much anymore.

He kissed the space between Madeline's eyebrows, his eyes filled with heartache and doting. However, at the same time, there was also an intense and threatening rage brewing within him.

He grabbed his coat and picked up his phone to make a call. He got straight to the point and asked, "Where are you?"

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Jeremy asked coldly. After getting a reply from the person on the other end of the phone, he walked straight to the door. "Wait for me. I'll be there immediately!"

He spoke in a commanding tone but immediately changed his expression after ending the call.

Jeremy turned around and glanced gently at the sleeping Madeline before opening the door lightly to leave.

When he got out of the hotel, Jeremy realized that it was currently snowing.

Meanwhile, Shirley, dressed in a red coat, was standing and smoking conspicuously under a tree not far away from the entrance.

Jeremy hurriedly walked over. Shirley turned her head calmly when she heard the hurried footsteps behind her. "You sure are fast. Sure enough, Eveline holds an extraordinary position in your heart. This proves that I didn't choose the wrong target."

She smiled and walked toward Jeremy while smoking a cigarette, looking carefree.

The fluttering snow fell on the shoulders of her red coat. The clashing red and white formed an exceptionally strong contrast.

Looking at Jeremy's dark eyes, Shirley said leisurely, "You don't have to worry. Eveline won't die. She'll just suffer some pain at most."

Jeremy did not want to deal with her at all. "Don't tell me all this nonsense. Tell me, what is your purpose for doing this?"

Seeing Jeremy's straightforwardness, Shirley did not beat around the bush anymore. She shook the ashes from her cigarette and put her hand to her side. The cigarette between her slender fingertips was glowing and dimming.

"Jeremy, I know that you're a very important person in Glendale and you have the right to speak on many occasions. Almost all of those rich and famous in Glendale will respect you. It could be said that if you proclaim yourself as the number two young master in Glendale, no one would dare to call themselves the number one young master."

"So?" Jeremy asked impatiently.

“So...” Shirley laughed. Then, she continued, “Glendale is a good place and it’s an international metropolis. Other than that, it’s a city with great strength and potential. Glendale is also my hometown, so I like it a lot.”

After hearing this, Jeremy frowned. He did not want to waste any more time with Shirley. “You still haven’t gotten to the point, Shirley. Don’t go around in circles. What do you want?”

“Why are you in such a hurry? Are you worried that your darling wife will panic if she wakes up and can’t find you? Don’t worry, the anti-toxoid test reagent contains ingredients to make someone sleep peacefully. Anyone who takes the jab won’t wake up in another four or five hours.”

She smiled, obviously quite confident in what she had developed.

However, what Jeremy could not stand the most right now was the look of confidence on Shirley’s face. She was so pleased with herself after developing this harmful thing, and he could not stand this.

Shirley was not ignorant of Jeremy’s personality. However, she also expected that Jeremy would not do anything to women no matter how angry he was. As such, she was not worried.

“Jeremy, I want the right to speak in Glendale,” Shirley finally stated her purpose, “I know that there will be a major change in ZF in Glendale. I want you to arrange a position for me.”

“What position?”

“A position with the right to speak regarding the internal matters of ZF in Glendale,” Shirley added without hesitation, “As long as you can get it done, I won’t make Eveline suffer anymore. Also, I can help you get rid of the poison in your body as soon as possible.”

“I was wondering what request you’d have. Sure, I can help you arrange that,” Jeremy answered straightforwardly.

A glint appeared in Shirley's alluring eyes. She directly threw another bottle of anti-toxoid test reagent to Jeremy. "The poison in Eveline's body will flare up again in half a month. Keep this properly."

Jeremy held the glass bottle in his hand and felt as if he had been given alms. He lifted his eyes to see Shirley getting into a sports car on the side of the road before speeding away.

Jeremy noted down the car plate number and turned around. As he walked back to the hotel, he made a call.

Shirley drove the car to Gray Manor.

It had been so many years since she came back to this place.

She sat in the car and looked at the grand European-style building. Then, she could not help but start to feel nervous.

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She picked up the perfume and sprayed it all over her body before gargling with some mouthwash. She was worried that the lingering smell of cigarettes on her would leave a bad impression of her on the people inside the house.

After making these preparations, Shirley sat in the car for a while before getting out.

It was snowing heavier now, but she was not cold at all. Her racing heart and anxiety caused her entire body to feel hot.

She had just gotten to the door when the bodyguard standing guard at the door stopped her with a cool face.

“Ma’am, we can’t let anyone come in here. If you don’t have a reservation or an invitation card, please leave,” the bodyguard asked her to leave.

“I’m here for Mr. Carter. Please tell him that I’m Miss... Shirley.”

When she said the last word, she suddenly realized she did not have the right to call herself by her real name. She could only call herself by the code name given to her by Carter.

However, the bodyguard at the door did not take what Shirley said seriously at all. On the contrary, he scoffed and asked her to leave again, “There are too many women asking to see Mr. Carter. You? Tsk, go away, go away!”

When Shirley saw the bodyguard looking at her in disdain, her face fell.

She was not a soft and gentle woman. She would only exercise restraint when she was in front of Carter, removing her sharp edges.

She wanted to enter the doors of Gray Manor courteously, but now, she could not contain herself anymore.

However, when she was about to teach the two bodyguards in front of her a lesson, the butler coincidentally walked out of the house.

When the butler took a closer look and saw that it was Shirley, a look of joy appeared on his face.

“Miss Jenny?”

Miss Jenny?

The two bodyguards were confused. They looked at each other. Even though they did not know what was going on, they felt that Shirley might have a special position in this household.

“Miss Jenny, it really is you! Mr. Carter said you’re studying abroad so I thought I’d never be able to see you again.” The butler walked over and grabbed Shirley’s hands affectionately.

Shirley showed a rare true and sincere smile. She gently grabbed the hand of the old butler who was in his 50s. “Waterson, long time no see.”

“It’s been so many years. It’s cold outside, come in now.”

“Okay.” Shirley smiled and nodded. From the corners of her eyes, she could see that the two bodyguards did not even dare to look at her anymore, let alone stop her.

The old butler led Shirley into the house. After that, he asked the servants to make Shirley a cup of hot coffee. He also called someone to bring her some snacks.

“Miss Jenny has not been back for so many years. Sir and Madam will be so happy if they know, but Madam is not home now and Sir rarely comes back. Only Mr. Carter is in the study now.”

The old butler’s gaze changed subtly all of a sudden. “If Mr. Carter knows you’re back, he’d be happier than anyone in this house. I’ll go tell him now.”

“Waterson.” Shirley stopped the old butler and placed down the cup of coffee in her hand. “Actually, I’ve already contacted Carter so he knows I’m here. I’ll go see him myself.”

“Oh, I see.” The old butler nodded to show that he understood. “Miss Jenny, please help yourself, then.

This is your home. Do as you please.”

“Okay, thank you, Waterson.”

After Shirley thanked him, she went upstairs.

Two years ago, she had snuck back here in secret, so she was still pretty familiar with this place.

She wanted to go to the study directly to find Carter, but her feet unconsciously started leading her to the door of the bedroom she used to stay in.

What surprised Shirley was that the door was opened. Through the crack, an unexpected figure was reflected in her pupils...

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She could not believe that the figure in her eyes was real.

Shirley lifted her hand slowly to push the door open. The figure in her eyes became clearer, so she was sure that she was not seeing things.

In that instant, the snow on her shoulders started to become warmer.

Shirley closed the door gently, and when she was about to say something, the man standing in front of the French windows suddenly turned around.

It was dusk and snowing, so the room was dim, but Shirley felt that there was an abnormally beautiful light enveloping the man in front of her.

“Since you dare to come find me like this, it means that you’ve succeeded, right?” Carter asked in an icy tone. Moving his long legs, he walked to the desk. He then placed the photo frame in his hand on the table unconsciously.

Shirley walked straight to him. “It’s done. Jeremy has agreed to arrange for me to join ZF in Glendale.”

“Not bad,” Carter praised her unconsciously. “However, if your brother successfully develops an anti-toxoid test reagent that’s able to control this, the plan will be ruined. Do you understand me?”

“He won’t! Adam... Adam won’t be able to find a way to control this in such a short time. Even if he eventually does, our plan would have succeeded by then.”

“It’s not our plan,” Carter said, correcting her. His emotionless eyes scanned Shirley’s face.

He could see the loneliness in Shirley’s eyes. For some reason, he felt thrilled.

It was a thrill, right?

“Did you see Jeremy by yourself just now?” Carter asked coldly and walked toward the door.

Shirley followed him. “We talked in front of the entrance of the hotel.”

“You were talking amid the cold wind and falling snow. How romantic. I guess you haven’t forgotten about those beautiful times you spent with him in that half a year, right? You said you’re treating him like an experiment, but in your heart, you’re reluctant for him to get hurt. Am I right?”

After Carter said that, he walked out of the bedroom.

Shirley quickly chased after him. “Carter.” She followed behind him and walked next to him.

At that moment, it was as if she had recalled the time when they spent every day together.

There should be some feelings between the two of them after so many years, right?

Shirley thought about this in her heart, but perhaps some things, like feelings, would change with time.

She followed Carter into the study. She saw that aside from some renovation, the decorations were still the same as before.

The first thing she saw was the crystal ball the size of an apple that was placed on the desk.

She still remembered the story about the crystal ball.

Shirley’s eyes lit up with a spark of joy. She walked over to touch the crystal ball lightly. “Carter, you’re still keeping the crystal ball.”

Carter did not even look at it. “I’ve been wanting to throw it away for a very long time now, but this place lacks decorations, so that’s why I kept it.

“...”

The smile that finally appeared on Shirley’s face fell once again.

She looked at Carter. His stalwart heroic spirit, his perfect figure, and his face that carried no warmth were like an iceberg—there was only coldness.

“Carter, you weren’t like this before.”

“Yeah, I wasn’t like this back then. I don’t know when this started,” Carter said profoundly. Suddenly, his icy gaze oppressed Shirley’s gaze.

“Shirley, remember, stop minding my business. You’re just a chess piece to me now.” He warned, “The reason I took you in and raised you back then was so that I could use you today, do you understand?”

Shirley’s heart was aching when she listened to the man’s cruel words. However, she still smiled magnanimously.

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Just as she was about to answer Carter’s question, there came the sound of rapid footsteps outside of the study.

Immediately afterward, Camille came into the study with a hurried expression. Camille’s expression changed visibly when she saw Shirley, but it was quickly replaced with a smile.

“Jenny, you’re really back! I haven’t seen you for a long time. I have much to tell you. Come to my room first.”

Shirley glanced at Carter who nodded slowly in response. Then, she turned and followed Camille.

As soon as she entered Camille’s room, Camille ordered with a chilly tone.

“Close the door.” Shirley closed the door obediently.

As soon as the door closed, however, Camille's questioning voice came, filled with displeasure. "Shirley, it's really you. What are you doing back here?"

Shirley was stunned by the sudden change of attitude. She could recall that Camille was very fond of her. She even thought that she would miss her if they had not met in a few years. Camille's current attitude baffled her.

Regardless, Shirley still put on a smile. "Mom," she called out, her heart racing furiously.

"Don't you call me mother! I'm not your mother!" Camille interrupted, displeased. "What are you doing here? You're not welcome here. You should leave on your own later. Don't make me have to kick you out."

Camille was firm, treating Shirley like she was an enemy.

On the surface, Shirley seemed to be a strong and cold-blooded woman. Some might even say that she was vicious and merciless. Being here, in the presence of the Grays, however, she had no temper. She even seemed a little humble.

Since she had been in Gray Manor for all these years, she knew what Camille was like, of course. There must be a reason behind her treatment of Shirley.

"Shirley, the Grays have treated you pretty well, right? I've treated you well, yes? What about you though? Do you remember the day when you were determined to leave this family?"

The day when she was determined to leave this family...

A gloom gradually crept into Shirley's eyes. An emptiness instantly formed in her heart.

Amidst the silence, Camille waved her hand in annoyance. "Forget it. I don't want to say more. Hurry up and leave. Don't come to find Carter again. Your relationship with the Grays has already ended."

After Camille said that, she walked straight to the door and opened it without even looking at Shirley. "Leave."

Shirley moved toward the door with leaden steps. "I'm sorry," she said softly as she passed Camille.

Camille turned her face away, not wanting to hear her apology.

Shirley did not stay long. She walked into the yard, feeling depressed.

Seeing the door directly in front of her, she could not help but stop and look up, toward the location of Carter's study.

The snow fell heavily and silently. The snowflakes piled up on her body, the cold piercing her skin, yet she could barely notice any of it. Motionlessly, she stared in one direction.

Carter stood in front of the French window of the study. Although the sky had turned dark, he did not turn on the lights.

He was enjoying the warm air, a cup of tea, already cold, in his hands. Indifference in his eyes, he glimpsed at Shirley who was standing in the yard, willingly receiving the beating from the wind and snow.

'No matter how helpless or pitiful, Shirley, it's all because you owe me.'

Carter silently turned around, not sparing another look at Shirley.

As he was sitting at his desk, his gaze unconsciously fell onto the apple-sized crystal ball.

Memories flooded his mind, but he quickly put a halt to his recollection.

The memories that he desperately wanted to hypnotize himself into forgetting.

Thinking back, it had been almost eight years...

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Eight years.

This number meant a long torment to him.

In contrast to the eight years, he did not know why this moment made him feel anguish.

Carter's calm face betrayed subtle changes. He picked up his phone to make a call...

The wind and snow grew heavier, and the night gradually grew more obscure.

Despite that, Shirley remained standing at the same spot, her eyes staring at the study, which remained unlit this entire time.

Suddenly, she heard the creaking sounds of footsteps approaching her. It was the old butler. He held an umbrella as he stepped on the thin layer of accumulated snow to reach her side. Then, he held the umbrella over her head.

“Miss Jenny, the snow is getting heavier. Why don’t you go back?” advised the old butler, his eyes filled with pity.

Shirley shook her head, the snow on her hair drifted and fell away silently.

“I’m fine. I just want to stay here for a while longer... Achoo!”

Shirley could not help but sneeze mid-sentence as the cold pierced into her skin, making her shiver against her will.

She frowned, feeling her breath, as well as her cheeks, getting hotter.

Seeing that he could not change Shirley’s mind, the old butler handed the umbrella to her. However, Shirley shook her head, refusing his kindness.

“Waterson, you should go back first. I’ll... be leaving soon,” Shirley softly said, her desolate gaze shifted from the study as she finally turned around.

She recalled that, many years ago, she too was a member of this family.

The servants had respected her very much, and they had addressed her as Miss Jenny.

Camille had liked her very much too. She had thought that Shirley was smart and was quick to learn. Plus, she could also accompany Carter.

She had also thought that those moments could continue. However, it all ended abruptly on a certain day, a certain month, a certain year...

Carter returned to the French windows again. Despite being in the dark study room, he could clearly see Shirley turning and leaving.

The illumination from the yard streetlights was so bright that he could clearly see that Shirley's body and hair were covered with snow.

Frowning, Carter turned and stopped looking.

Just after he turned around, the sound of Shirley's footsteps toward the gates gradually died away. One second later, she collapsed on the cold snow-covered ground.

"Miss Jenny!" The old butler rushed over while calling for help. "Guards! Quickly!"

Carter silently sat on the sofa, alone, with the lights still off.

Suddenly, he heard a commotion downstairs.

He seldom cared about the trivial goings at home, but he felt a faint uneasiness in his heart this moment.

He got up and walked out. As soon as he reached the top of the stairs, he saw a bodyguard hastily enter, carrying a woman in his arms.

Without asking, he immediately recognized the woman in the bodyguard's arms.

Carter's eyes darkened, and his expression instantly became increasingly cold.

He strode downstairs, his every step seemed steady, neither fast nor slow.

When the old butler saw Carter descending the stairs, he walked over hurriedly, his face flustered, and pleaded humbly, "Mr. Carter, Miss Jenny had been standing outside for far too long. She might have caught a cold. I have already contacted Dr. Lane. I'm wondering if Miss Jenny could stay and rest here for the night?"

Carter pressed his thin lips together, displeased. "Since you've already acted on your own accord, why do you still seek my opinion?"

The old butler trembled. "Mr. Carter..."

Carter ignored him and faced the bodyguard who was carrying Shirley tightly. In a chilly tone, he asked, "Do you enjoy carrying her? Are you reluctant to put her down?"

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"..." The bodyguard was momentarily speechless, but he also did not know where to place Shirley.

The old butler immediately gestured. "Come with me, upstairs, to Miss Jenny's room."

The bodyguard nodded, carrying Shirley upstairs as per the old butler's orders.

"Stop." Carter stopped them in a cold voice. "Are you confused as to who is your master? If you are, you can leave immediately."

"..."

"..."

The bodyguard and the old butler were both taken aback.

The bodyguard figured that he might lose his job if he did not put Shirley down right now, so he walked to the sofa, ready to toss Shirley onto the sofa.

Just as he was about to, he saw Carter coming up to him.

“Mr. Carter, I’ll put this woman down now,” explained the bodyguard. He was a big man, almost 1.9m tall, but he seemed to tremble with trepidation in front of Carter.

Carter said nothing, only coldly looked askance at the bodyguard. Then, he spread his arms, taking Shirley from the bodyguard, and turned around, heading straight up the stairs.

The bodyguard and old butler shared a look. They were both confused by Carter’s action.

Carter took Shirley back to the bedroom where she used to stay. The bed was very soft and big, and it even smelled of sunshine, indicating that the maids had always been taking care of this room.

The maids came in to help as per the butler’s orders. However, as soon as they entered the bedroom, they saw Carter, his face as cold as an iceberg, removing all of Shirley’s coat and clothes, leaving only her underwear.

This degree of close contact seemed very ordinary to Carter, but the two of the maids blushed a little as this scene unfolded.

Carter’s family doctor, reserved solely for the royalty, soon arrived. After examining Shirley, he said that there was nothing serious, only that she had caught a cold and a fever, and her body temperature was a little high.

After the doctor had left, Carter asked the maids to make some ginger tea.

He glanced at sleeping Shirley, then walked back to the desk, picking up the photo frame again.

The boy and girl in the photo frame stood side by side, radiant and cheerful smiles on their faces.

“Hmph.” Carter laughed suddenly, then he glanced at Shirley. “Big sister?”

Carter sneered and roughly threw the photo frame.

Shirley, who was deep in slumber, woke up when she heard the noise.

She opened her eyes. Groggily, she saw Carter’s cold facial expressions as he walked toward her, his entire body radiating an aura colder than frost.

Shirley examined her surroundings and realized she was lying in bed, in her room when she had stayed in the Gray Manor.

She slowly sat up, her head feeling abnormally heavy. She remembered standing in the wind and snow, and she figured she might have caught a cold and a fever.

However, she was not at all worried about her body. She knew the art of healing, so this minor problem was nothing to her.

As she was about to sit up and get out of bed, Carter suddenly grasped the back of her neck.

Shirley's gorgeous eyes widened in surprise as she looked at Carter's expressionless face.

With Carter's palm on the back of her neck, she could feel that the unparalleled coldness penetrating her feverish skin, as though it instantly froze her body.

"Carter?"

Confused, Shirley looked at Carter, whose face grew increasingly cold. She quickly apologized to him.

"I can walk on my own. I won't bring you any trouble. Please don't get mad."

"You don't want to make me mad, huh? That sounds nice, but what have you done back then?"

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Back then.

It was back then again.

Those two words struck a chord in Shirley.

"Shirley, do you know how much I hate you now?" Carter practically spat his words out through gritted teeth, his grip tightening.

Shirley winced in pain, her brows knitted tightly together. Coupled with the fever, the intense pain all over her body made her feel like she might explode.

Even so, she did not feel that this pain was too bad. She had already suffered so much throughout these

years.

The most painful things to her were being abandoned by her parents and being hated by the man she loved.

“Let me say this, Shirley. You should’ve just stayed away after leaving back then. Since you have the guts to come back, then you should be prepared to be tormented by me!”

Carter’s face, which rarely showed any emotions, betrayed a furious expression.

He tossed Shirley, who had no strength to resist, onto the bed. When Shirley was least expecting it, he leaned over her.

Shirley was stunned. Despite her pain, she also felt joy.

This scene felt even more like a dream to her. In her dazed dream-like state, she could still hear the man’s clear yet cold voice. “Didn’t you say that you love me the most, and expressed a reluctance to part from me? This is the outcome you’ve been wanting the most, right?”

His low voice was laced with a hint of delight and disrespect, yet Shirley found it pleasurable.

She would accept it gladly, even if he was mocking her.

...

Outside the windows, the wind and snow continued to grow heavier, quietly covering every corner of the city with a layer of silver coating.

Inside the hotel room.

Jeremy had been staying by the bedside the entire time, waiting for Madeline to wake.

He looked at the time. It had almost been 6 hours since the injection, but Madeline still had not awakened.

Feeling a little worried, he took out the test reagent tube Shirley had given him. As he walked to the balcony, he took out his phone to call Adam.

After he explained the circumstances to Adam, Adam exclaimed in disbelief. "I didn't expect her to become like this."

"Can Linnie be saved?" Jeremy was anxious to know the answer. "I don't want her to experience the pain I've experienced."

"I think I need some time to research this. Currently, I have no clue as to what Shirley had done to Eveline."

"I'll take Linnie back to Glendale as soon as possible."

"Okay, bring her back as fast as you can. Keep the test reagent Shirley gave you properly," Adam urged again. Right before the call disconnected, he quickly stopped Jeremy. "Can you give me her contact number?"

Jeremy pondered for two seconds before asking, "Don't you have her contact number?"

"She wouldn't want to contact me. She hates me." Adam laughed bitterly.

Jeremy was confused. "You're brother and sister."

"Well, yes, we're brother and sister, but she always had something weighing heavily on her mind, so that's why she'd stray onto the wrong path." Adam sighed in regret. "Actually, she had been a good sister back then."

Hearing the helplessness in Adam's voice, Jeremy did not probe further.

After he hung up the phone, he sent Shirley's contact number to Adam. Then, he returned to the bedside to watch Madeline.

He gently held Madeline's hand and placed it next to his lips to kiss it.

'Linnie, I won't let you experience the same pain I've been through.'

'It felt so terrible.'

However, Jeremy kept feeling that something was amiss. 'What was the purpose behind Shirley's request and her actions?'

Why did he feel that someone was instructing Shirley behind the scenes?

After deliberating about this, Jeremy decided to contact Shirley once again.

He placed Madeline's hands down and walked back to the cold and windy balcony.

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Over at the other end, Shirley, against the will of her weak body, slipped away from Carter's tight embrace.

The phone in her coat started vibrating as she got up.

Sitting on the bed, she took a deep breath before picking up her coat.

The phone was still vibrating. Seeing the remark on the screen made her frown.

As she contemplated whether to answer Jeremy's call, an icy palm suddenly grasped her wrist, followed by an extremely cold voice that ambushed her from behind.

"You really did fall in love with Jeremy. You'd even want to answer his call at this time."

Carter's chilly voice, suffused with dissatisfaction, pierced into Shirley's ears.

Before she had time to explain, Carter snatched her phone away and threw it forcefully at the corner of the wall.

The phone immediately stopped vibrating; the screen shattered into pieces.

In low spirits, Shirley stared at the shattered phone, sitting at the same spot in a daze. A sense of endless loneliness invaded every cell in her body, causing her to feel cold all over.

Carter got up calmly. In a carefree demeanor, he wore back his shirt and other clothing that he had removed, one by one.

As if nothing had happened a moment ago, he remained as the noble and elegant prince in everyone's eyes.

With his unique and deep eyes, he looked askance at Shirley, towering over her.

"Enough with this pitiful expression. Didn't you use to seduce me like this? Heh." In the end, he let out a cold chuckle, brimming with endless derision and disdain.

After saying that, Carter turned around casually.

Shirley put on her coat as she walked to the corner of the wall, picking up the shattered phone.

As she had expected, the phone was shattered to the point where there was no way to turn it on, its cracked screen resembling a spider web.

However, her phone still contained a lot of important information, so she had no choice but to keep it for now.

Shirley dragged her heavy body upright. When she turned, heading to the bathroom for a shower, she saw the photo frame, tossed onto the desk.

She walked over and took it for a look. She immediately felt heat surging to the corners of her eyes.

If she had not made that decision back then, would Carter have turned out differently?

She remembered. During those years when she knew him, he would smile.

...

Back on this end, Jeremy, standing on the balcony, tried calling Shirley for the third time. He still had been able to get through on the first call, but now the phone seemed to be turned off. Jeremy figured that Shirley had turned off her phone, deliberately ignoring his calls.

He had no other options for now, so he could only go back to his room.

As he returned to the bedroom, much to his surprise, he saw Madeline slowly waking.

Jeremy quickly ran to the side of the bed. "Linnie, are you awake?"

Madeline moved her eyelids, opening her eyes.

When she saw the man in front of her, Madeline pressed her lips together into a small smile. "Jeremy..."

Her tone sounded extraordinarily weak, as if all of the energy in her body had been sucked dry.

"Linnie, I'm here. How do you feel now? Are you still feeling unwell?" Jeremy helped Madeline sit upright, letting her lean on his chest.

Madeline shook her head. "I'm fine now. I just feel exhausted all over."

Jeremy tightened his embrace, empathizing. "Linnie, let's head back to Glendale. Adam will think of a way to help you."

“Can we still leave today?” Madeline looked out the window. Initially, they were going to take the flight this afternoon, but it was already night now.

“I’ve already booked plane tickets for tomorrow afternoon. We’ll definitely go home tomorrow, Linnie.” Jeremy promised as he held her hand.

Madeline looked into Jeremy’s gaze, filled with concern and empathy, and lifted her hand to touch his cheeks. “Okay.”

However, the doorbell rang at this moment, which was followed by the sounds of hurried knocks on the door.

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Jeremy and Madeline shared a look before he got up and walked to the entrance.

He cautiously peered into the peephole, but he did not see anyone standing there. Then, the doorbell started ringing again.

Jeremy opened the door decisively, scaring the person outside, who was about to continue ringing the doorbell, into retracting their hand in fear.

"You again." When Jeremy saw the woman standing near the wall by the door, his eyes were filled with disdain. "It's best if you stay away. My wife and I don't want to see you."

Of course, Ada knew Jeremy hated her, but this time, she was ready to go all out.

Camille already hated her anyway, so if she wanted to fight for the chance to get into the Gray family, she could only scheme her way through.

Seeing that Jeremy was about to close the door, she quickly reached out her arm to stop him.

Who knew Jeremy would be this callous? Without the slightest concern about her hand, he continued pushing the door close.

Ada's arm was crushed by the door. "Ah!" She let out a wail.

When Ada saw that the door was closing, she quickly blurted out, "I know Shirley Brown's weakness!"

Despite some distance laid between them, Madeline could almost hear Ada's roar even inside the room.

'Shirley's weakness?'

Jeremy's eyes narrowed slightly. Doubtful, he asked, "You know Shirley Brown?"

A pleased expression immediately emerged on Ada's face. "Of course, I know her. You could say that I know her very well because I used to live with her, and it wasn't merely for a year or two."

Judging from confidence written all over Ada's face, Jeremy was certain that Ada truly knew Shirley.

'Shirley was from Glendale and Ada was from St. Piaf. How would they have known each other?'

Ada saw the curiosity in Jeremy's eyes, and she grew more confident. "You must want to know more about Shirley, yes? May I come in? After all, it's not convenient to talk here."

Jeremy could not stand seeing Ada's villainous glee. As he was about to object, he heard Madeline's approval from behind him.

"Let her in."

He turned around and saw Madeline standing a short distance from him.

“Linnie, why did you get up? Sit down and rest, quickly!”

Jeremy strode next to Madeline and held her shoulder, bringing her back to the bedroom.

At this moment, he heard the door closing. He lifted his eyes and saw Ada walking in, minding her own business.

Ada peered at the weak-looking Madeline and rolled her eyes in contempt. Then, she sat on the sofa and spoke in a muffled voice.

“I don’t really want to see you at all. I wouldn’t have come here if it wasn’t for the sake of my future.”

“If you didn’t want to come, then get out now! No one begged you to come in!” Jeremy mercilessly chastised her as he walked over to her.

Ada’s initial smug instantly froze. She even felt a little fearful.

How could she have forgotten Jeremy’s concern for Madeline?

She would be digging her own grave if she targeted Madeline in front of him.

Ada pressed her lips together, not daring to speak another word against Madeline.

However, Madeline, unbothered by Ada's words, walked straight over. Bluntly, she asked, "How did you know Shirley? What's the point in coming over to find us?"

"I came here to make a deal. As for how I know Shirley..."

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Ada kept Jeremy and Madeline on tenterhooks, the corner of her lips curled.

"Before learning how I met Shirley, I think you should know something else first."

Jeremy's eyes filled with disgust seeing Ada making a show out of this.

"I don't have time to listen to your nonsense. Just tell us if you want to. If you waste any more time, you should just get out immediately."

"..."

After suffering two consecutive defeats, Ada no longer dared to put on a mysterious act.

However, she hesitated for a moment before speaking, as if considering something.

"Carter gave Shirley her name."

'Carter and Shirley knew each other?'

The revelation about that relationship caught Madeline and Jeremy by surprise.

Jeremy finally understood. The person who had been manipulating Shirley was Carter.

"When Carter was ten years old, he brought Shirley back to the Gray Manor. Ever since then, they had been living together, spending time with each other, day and night. Although I could be considered as Carter's childhood sweetheart, honestly, compared to Shirley, I'm still a bit far off."

Ada was visibly unhappy and discontent as she said these last words.

The man she liked since childhood had never cared about her.

"I don't know where Shirley came from. I just know that had stayed by Carter's side for over ten years. In fact, for a long time, I could tell that Shirley liked Carter, but Carter doesn't reciprocate her feelings. She was just a homeless child abandoned by her parents, yet she hoped to become a viscountess? She's obviously dreaming!"

Ada gritted her teeth. Jealousy was an ugly look on her.

She snorted. "She's pretty tactful though. She had left the Grays on her own accord a few years ago. From that time on, the Grays never mentioned her again. She had never resurfaced, as if she was dead, yet now she's suddenly returned! I saw it all!"

Ada recalled the scene she had witnessed not long ago at the Gray Manor's entrance as well as the scene at the convenience store entrance, where Madeline and Shirley had confronted each other.

"I didn't expect her to turn out like this after leaving for a few years. She seems more charming and coquettish than before. Tch, did she think that she could come back and fight me for the position of the viscountess just because she got prettier?"

Ada's fists were tightly clenched. A while later, she relaxed. "Okay, I've told you everything I know. Now, it's your turn to help me."

Jeremy coldly glanced at Ada. "The things you've said don't seem useful to us in any way."

"..." Taken aback, Ada suddenly felt anxious. "What do you mean it's useless? If it wasn't for me, would you have known the relationship between Shirley and Carter? Mr. Whitman, you're a businessman, and all businesses run on trust."

"Trust? You dare talk about trust with me?" Jeremy chuckled, immediately lifting his fierce narrow eyes. "That day, in this exact spot, you had told me that you had wanted to make a deal with me as well. What happened then? You were just colluding with Carter, leading me into the trap. Do you think I'd still trust your words?"

"..." Ada grew more anxious hearing that. "I was forced to do that!"

"Forced? Then, did Carter force you to call the police at the wedding?"

"..." Ada's mouth dangled open; her face suddenly turned crimson. She did not know how to explain herself.

"Get out. Now." Jeremy kicked her out. "If you don't leave, I'll have someone kick you out."

"..."

Ada would never have compromised, but she did not expect Jeremy to call the hotel security to kick her out.

“Jeremy, how could you do this? I’m here to make a deal with you! How could you not keep your word?” Ada yelled and shrieked again in disbelief.

Jeremy, too tired to deal with her, closed the door immediately. After a while, Ada’s voice gradually disappeared.

Jeremy’s lower lip pulled down as he contemplated the information that Ada had just unveiled. As he turned and lifted his head, he saw the petite woman standing a short distance in front of him, gazing at him with a weird look.

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Jeremy could not help but briefly froze. Then, he walked toward Madeline.

“Linnie, why are you looking at me like that?” Her gaze seemed to be questioning him.

Madeline, betraying no emotion, gave a measured look at Jeremy, and suddenly smiled. “I didn’t expect my husband to act this shamelessly.”

Jeremy had thought that Madeline was questioning his earlier actions. Upon hearing this, he smiled in turn.

“Trust is off the table when dealing with the likes of her, but the information she provided is indeed useful.”

Madeline smiled and nodded in agreement, then quickly reverted to her serious look.

“Shirley and Carter knew each other, and they have an intimate relationship. That means that Shirley was just following Carter’s orders when she acted against me. Shirley used this kind of thing to keep me in check, but at the end of the day, it was all to get at you, Jeremy. I really don’t understand what they’re up to.”

Madeline’s troubled look calmed Jeremy down instead. “Maybe we’ll find the answer to this question when we return to Glendale.”

Since Shirley had made this request, he was certain that he would only get the answer after returning to Glendale.

The next day, Jeremy and Madeline finally boarded the plane back to Glendale without a hitch.

They did not return to the old manor until the evening.

As soon as she went in, a gust of familiarity rushed toward Madeline, making her feel steadier and more at ease.

Home was always the warmest no matter where one went.

Seeing their parents returned, Jackson and Lillian immediately ran over, hugging their legs. Even their youngest son, still wobbly on his feet, managed to stumble toward Madeline’s side, affectionately hugging her calf. “Mommy, mommy...” He called out in his little boy’s voice.

Madeline bent over and embraced her youngest son, kissing him again and again. “Mommy misses you too, Pudding.”

“Do you not miss me and Lily, mommy?” Jackson’s aggrieved voice came from beside her.

Madeline handed Pudding to Jeremy, squatted down, and, with a loving and gentle smile, embraced both children.

“Of course, I miss Jack and Lily too! You are mommy’s and daddy’s darlings. Come, give mommy a kiss.”

Madeline pressed her face, still smiling, close to them. Jackson and Lillian obliged and pressed their cute tiny mouths toward her and kissed Madeline on both cheeks.

“Me too.” Jeremy squatted and lifted that firm yet refined and handsome face.

Indulgently, Jackson and Lillian eagerly ran over, planting kisses on Jeremy’s cheeks.

A warm current of emotions flowed across Madeline’s heart when she saw such a warm scene.

From the corners of her eyes, she saw Eloise sitting on the sofa staring at her.

Madeline swiftly got up and walked over, squatting down in front of Eloise. “Mom.”

As she went to hold Eloise’s hand, Eloise avoided her briefly. She gave Madeline a puzzled look, then her gaze softened.

“You’re Eveline. That Eveline.”

Upon hearing this, Madeline could tell that Eloise once again regarded herself as someone else with the same name as Eveline.

Although a little disappointed, she felt at ease seeing Eloise in good health.

“Don’t worry, your mother will be able to recall everything after a while.” Karen came over and comforted her.

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Madeline looked back at Karen and expressed her gratitude. “I’m so grateful to you for all your help in caring for my mother all this while. I truly mean it.”

Karen could fully sense Madeline’s sincerity. She raised her hand and patted Madeline’s shoulder lightly, her eyes filled with love and kindness that she never had before.

“We’re family. You don’t need to thank me. I feel at ease now that you’re back safely. You and Jeremy ought to rest up in your room first. The other issues can be dealt with later. Plus, there’s no need to worry about your mother. I’ll take care of her myself.”

Hearing Karen’s words, Madeline was quite moved.

Sometimes, life was truly wonderful. At the very least, it never crossed her mind that, one day, her relationship with Karen would be like this.

Madeline and Jeremy returned to their bedroom. Although they had not been back for a very long time, the room had been thoroughly cleaned, all traces of Naomi erased.

After lying down on the familiar bed, Madeline felt her fatigue melting away.

Jeremy laid next to Madeline, gently pulling her into his arms. “Linnie, are you tired?”

Madeline leaned against Jeremy’s body, free from her worries. She closed her eyes and took a deep breath. “I’m exhausted.”

She did not continue to hide how she felt right now. She was distraught from the consecutive series of predicaments around her. Even now, her body was infected with some unknown poison.

Jeremy suddenly tightened his embrace and leaned down, planting a soft kiss on Madeline's forehead, guilt-ridden.

As her husband, he had been incapable of protecting her throughout it all.

"Linnie..."

"Jeremy, don't blame yourself." Madeline could guess what Jeremy was about to say. She opened her eyes and lifted her head, lying on him. "No one can predict what comes next, and you've already done what you should, so don't blame yourself."

When he heard that, Jeremy felt his heart ache. He softly stroked Madeline's cheek. "Linnie, don't you know that sensible women are the easiest to get hurt?"

"I don't believe in that. I only know that my husband will do all he can to make me happy."

Madeline smiled sweetly and kissed Jeremy's thin lips.

When they broke off the kiss, he regained his initiative, pressing his hand against the back of Madeline's head and lifting his head to kiss her lips.

His heart was bursting with unmeasurable excitement and desire to make love to her, but he stopped himself.

Once they had stopped flirting, he held Madeline and sat up. "Linnie, we should head over to Adam's place. Nothing is more important than your body's condition now."

Madeline thought Jeremy had a point. They swiftly drove to Adam's house, bringing along the last tube of test reagent Shirley had given them.

The sky had already turned dark. Although Madeline and Jeremy felt uncomfortable with troubling Adam, they were worried that Madeline's condition could worsen with every passing second.

When they arrived, Adam was sitting alone in the living room, dazed, and holding a toy bear.

Upon seeing Madeline and Jeremy, his mouth curved into a slight smile.

"You're here."

Adam said as he took the test reagent from Jeremy. He realized that it was vacuum-packed. Once opened, it would be contaminated by bacteria.

That way, when it was time for Madeline to use the test reagent, she would be in trouble.

"It seems like I can't test this right now. I'll need to wait until the time when you need to use the test reagent. I'd only be able to extract a drop for examination then," Adam said, helpless. Then, he asked, "Have you seen Shirley? What did she tell you?"

"She has an unusual relationship with a man named Carter," said Jeremy. "The man who had barged in here last time. Do you still remember him?"

Adam tried recalling and nodded slightly. "I remember." However, he was more perplexed now. "Who's this person?"

Jeremy filled him in with every detail he had gathered, which Adam found inconceivable. "This person has quite the background. How did Shirley know him?"

"It is said that your sister appeared suddenly at the Gray Manor over ten years ago. Since then, your sister had constantly been with Carter, day and night, but then she left the Gray Manor for some unknown reason a few years back," Madeline explained.

Adam's long brows snapped together, his eyes betrayed his helplessness, hesitating to speak.

Madeline caught this change in his eyes. "Adam, why did your sister leave home back then? She would have been just a little girl more than ten years ago."

Adam gave a melancholic and wry smile as he sat down on the chair, somewhat weakly.

"She has always misunderstood. She wrongly thought that our parents do not love her and that there's no place for her in this family. In reality, our parents had only wanted to give her the best arrangement, but she was too stubborn. She'd rather cut off relations with us and leave this family. She'd also refused to listen to our explanation."

Madeline and Jeremy shared a look after hearing this.

Although Adam did not provide the specifics, they could still feel his helplessness in this matter.

"She's very smart. She has been smart since she was a child, and she's able to learn everything in a snap. She'd said that her dream was to become a medical scientist like our parents. She is indeed very talented in medicine, so I thought that she would grow up to be an exceptional doctor, but in the end..."

Adam said with a sigh.

“She has achieved great attainments in this field, and the reagents she has studied on are avant-garde. I think I’d need to spend some time examining it.”

“Eveline, why don’t you stay here for the time being? That way, when your condition flares up again, I could simultaneously provide immediate help and get the sample from this test tube.”

Adam suggested, showing a genuine consideration for Madeline’s physical condition.

“In that case, apologies in advance for the bother.” Jeremy immediately agreed on Madeline’s behalf. “Linnie, we’ll move here tomorrow and stay for a while.”

Madeline raised her eyes in surprise. “Are you going to live here with me too?”

“Of course, he’d want to be with you. You’re the one he cares about the most,” Adam jokingly answered before Jeremy could speak, but the smile on his face gradually faded. “If only I had someone who cares about me like this. I imagine that it must feel great.”

Adam’s statement immediately reminded Madeline of Cathy.

However, this large house was empty. It did not seem that Cathy was around. Moreover, the children were nowhere to be seen as well.

“She’d moved out,” Adam said suddenly, as though he had read Madeline’s mind. He seemed extremely down. “Actually, I knew this day would come. Her memories won’t remain lost forever, and she won’t stay forever in the false relationship I’d created for her. She’s still in love with that man the whole time.”

That man, as well they could tell, was Felipe.

However, Adam was not being bleak. He instead smiled in acceptance. "Perhaps the most special thing about a relationship is loving someone yet unable to have them."

Madeline and Jeremy understood what this meant.

The most precious thing about a relationship was mutual love.

"I'll walk you back." Adam walked Madeline and Jeremy to the door.

When he was about to turn around, Adam saw an unexpected yet familiar figure appearing in his sight.

Madeline was similarly astonished, but she was also pleasantly surprised.

"Cathy." She greeted her with a smile.

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Cathy walked toward Madeline with a smile, saying, "Evie, it seems that you've gone back to your regular self. Has the hypnotism been broken?"

Madeline nodded. "It's all thanks to you, Cathy. You and Adam have helped us a lot."

Upon hearing this, Cathy looked at Adam. "Adam has also helped me a lot," she said with sincere gratitude in her eyes.

Meeting Cathy's gaze, Adam gave her a gentle and friendly smile.

“You’re here so late, is there anything I can help you with?”

“I left something here so I dropped by to get it back.”

Adam quickly understood. “Wait for me.”

As he said that, he turned around and entered the house. A moment later, he walked out with a teddy bear in his hand.

“You’re here for this, right?” Adam smiled and handed it over. “Juan likes to sleep with this doll the most. He’ll make a fuss if he doesn’t have this teddy bear with him.”

When Cathy heard Adam say that, she could not help but feel touched inside.

She walked up to Adam and took the teddy bear from his hand. “Thank you, Adam.”

“You don’t have to thank me. I should apologize to you instead. I took advantage of your amnesia to lie to you for so long,” Adam apologized as he felt guilty. “I shouldn’t have tampered with your memories, let alone create a false relationship between you and me. Also, you should be very clear now that Juan and Jan belong to you and Felipe.”

Although she already knew this a long time ago, Madeline was quite moved when she heard the words from Adam’s mouth.

However, Cathy did not have any complaints, nor did she blame anyone. Despite everything, she was still really grateful to Adam. Without Adam, she would not have had the chance to be reborn again. Without Adam, she would have indirectly died under Felipe’s gun.

“Adam, you didn’t take advantage of me. You only did that to me out of good intentions. I understand

that I've let you down," Cathy said with sincere gratitude, "I'll bring Juan and Jan to see you. They're reluctant to be apart from you too but I really can't continue to live here and disturb you, Adam."

"I understand. Take good care of yourself. If you need help, just ask me." Adam was still so generous and friendly.

"I will. Well, I'll leave now. I can't be away for too long."

Adam had nothing to say so he nodded. "Be careful on the way back."

They had been living with each other for hundreds of days and nights, but at the end of the day, she did not belong to him.

"Cathy, Linnie and I are about to leave too. Let us send you back." Jeremy offered courteously.

Cathy looked at Jeremy and Madeline, seemingly pondering for a moment before she finally answered, "Okay."

Adam suddenly lowered his eyelids after he watched the familiar figure turn around.

There was still some lingering warmth in his palm but it was not a warmth that he could hold.

The car slowly drove onto the road and Cathy sat in the backseat with Madeline. She was holding the teddy bear Adam had bought for her son back then in her hand.

She knew she had let down a man who wanted to love her and care for her, but she had no choice.

She could continue to stay with Adam and live like how they used to, but this would be very unfair to Adam. She believed that Adam would not want her to thank him like this.

As such, the best thing for both of them was for her to leave.

After staying silent for a while, Cathy lifted her head to look at Jeremy who was driving and said, "Do you have anything to ask me and is that why you offered to give me a ride back, Jeremy?"

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1677

Jeremy looked in the rear-view mirror and saw Cathy looking at him calmly.

"Have you visited Felipe?" he asked.

"Yeah, I've gone to meet him," Cathy said, her eyes darkening slightly. "He has also figured that the two children belong to him."

"Does he already know?" Jeremy and Madeline were both surprised at her words.

Cathy did not nod or shake her head, merely whispering, "Although I didn't admit it, I think he must already know."

"I know it's very selfish of me to say this, but Cathy, those two children are Felipe's only hope for appealing and commutation." Jeremy's tone was soft, even carrying a hint of a plea.

Although he and Felipe had a lot of friction between them, blood was thicker than water and he was still Felipe's nephew. Plus, those things in the past were over. They had already moved on from those things.

Cathy lowered her head and fiddled with the teddy bear in her hand. She was still speaking softly, "He should take responsibility for all the things he has done. He's still at fault no matter how you look at it."

“But—”

“Jeremy, focus on driving,” Madeline parted her lips to stop Jeremy from trying to change Cathy’s mind.

Jeremy looked at Madeline and did not say anything more.

After sending Cathy back to the apartment she was currently staying in, Jeremy contemplated for a while before getting out of the car and chasing up to Cathy who had already walked away.

Madeline was sitting in the car. Due to the distance, she could not hear what Jeremy said after he called out to Cathy, but she saw Cathy nodding.

After a while, Jeremy was back in the car and Cathy had already walked into the entrance of the apartment.

The car started again and Madeline wanted to ask what was going on out of curiosity, but just as she was just about to speak, Jeremy was one step ahead of her and spoke first.

“I asked Cathy to go to see Felipe again.”

“Did Cathy agree?” Madeline asked. She had only seen Cathy nodding.

However, Jeremy’s answer was not as she thought. “Cathy didn’t agree to it. Maybe Cathy finds it hard to forgive Felipe for what he had done. Maybe she doesn’t hate Felipe for hiring someone to kill her, but she’s just bothered about the illegal trades Felipe previously involved himself in.”

At once, everything became clear to Madeline when Jeremy said that.

If Madeline thought about it from another angle, it would be hard for her as well to forgive Jeremy if he had involved himself in something like that—let alone accept him despite it all.

“Since Cathy refused, why did she nod her head just now?”

“I told her that I would go to see Felipe and tell him honestly that they have two children together. She didn’t object to that.”

Madeline looked at the bleak winter night outside of the car window with a thoughtful look. “Will Felipe appeal to have his sentence reduced because of this?”

“I don’t know.” Jeremy sighed silently. When they stopped at the red light, he reached out and held Madeline’s hand tightly.

Madeline looked back at him suspiciously, and coincidentally, her eyes met Jeremy’s soft and gentle almond eyes.

“Linnie, I think I’m really lucky. I hurt you so much back then yet you’re still willing to give me a chance.”

Madeline pursed her lips and smiled. “Maybe I owed you in my previous life, or maybe we have a very strong bond.”

Jeremy smiled as well. “I hope the bond between Cathy and Felipe is as strong as ours.”

“I hope so.” Madeline sighed, but they could only pray and hope that this was the case.

...

The next day.

Madeline got up early in the morning and made breakfast for the two children.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1678

Now, the person Madeline was most worried about was Lillian. Except for the two words 'Daddy' and 'Mommy', she still could not speak.

After eating breakfast, Madeline straightened the clothes of the two children and took their hands to walk them to the front door where they would wait for their ride.

While walking, something fell from Lillian's hand. She hurriedly stopped, broke free from Madeline's grip, and walked back. Then, she squatted down and picked something up.

Madeline walked over to take a look out of curiosity and found that the little girl was holding a piece of candy in her cute, fair, and chubby hands.

The candy's wrapper looked a bit old, as though it was expired.

"Lily, do you want to eat candy? I'll buy some for you. It looks like you can't eat this candy anymore," Madeline persuaded softly.

Lillian blinked her big eyes and then shook her head slightly.

The little girl looked at Madeline as though she wanted to say something, but even after moving her little mouth, she could not utter a single word.

Madeline's heart ached as she caressed her little princess' head pitifully. She then turned back to tell

Jackson, "Jack, remember to look after your sister in kindergarten. Don't let other children bully her."

"Of course, I won't let anyone bully my sister, but there is someone who bullied my sister and I can't teach him a lesson." Jackson shrugged his little shoulders helplessly.

When she heard that someone had bullied Lillian, Madeline's expression instantly changed.

"Who bullied your sister? Tell me!"

"Uh... It's that brat, I think his name is Fabian."

"..."

Madeline was stunned when she heard that. Brat?

Jackson, a 6-year-old, was calling Fabian a brat?

After a few seconds, Madeline came back to her senses and asked, "Jack, did you say that Fabian bullied Lily? How did he bully her?"

Jackson put his hands in his pockets and said coolly, "He came to the kindergarten to find Lily and gave her this candy. He said that this was a goodbye gift. After that, Lily keeps bringing this candy everywhere she goes. She doesn't eat it either. She just holds it in her hand."

After listening to her son's narration, Madeline finally understood why the little princess cared so much about this candy.

In retrospect, she had not heard from Fabian for a long time, nor did she know what he was up to.

Yorick and Lana were dead, and he had no family members in this world anymore. However, he seemed to be very fond of Lily from the first moment he met her.

As she thought about this, Madeline could not help but sympathize with Fabian.

“Lily, do you miss that guy named Fabian very much?” Madeline asked, touching the little princess’ head.

Lillian merely blinked without nodding or shaking her head.

“Lily, do you want to see him?”

Madeline asked again, but this time, she saw the little princess shaking her head.

She did not want to see Fabian.

“If I were Lily, I wouldn’t want to see that brat too. He said he wanted to be Lily’s boyfriend when she grows up but he suddenly disappeared. He’s not trustworthy at all,” Jackson complained. After that, he walked over and held Lillian’s hand affectionately.

“Lily, let’s go to school.”

Madeline came back to her senses and saw Jackson holding Lillian’s little hand as they walked toward the nanny van that had been waiting at the door.

She stayed where she was and immediately took out her mobile phone to call Fabian. She did not get through until the third call.

Madeline asked straightaway, "Fabian, where are you now?"

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When the person on the other end of the phone heard Madeline's words, he replied rudely, "Who's Fabian? There's no Fabian here! Stop calling me!"

After he said that, he hung up the phone, leaving Madeline only to hear the disconnect tone.

She was stunned. When she was about to call again, she realized she could not get through anymore. The only possibility was that her number had been blocked.

Madeline lifted her eyes to look at the nanny van that was driving farther away. When she thought about Lillian's behavior just now, she started to feel a little worried.

She could imagine that Fabian must hold a very special position in her precious daughter's heart.

When Fabian saved the little princess from Felipe, they had mysteriously and inexorably formed some kind of bond.

Madeline looked at the phone number that had blocked her and there were questions in her heart that could not be answered.

Fabian had left all of a sudden. She could not understand what could be the reason behind his actions.

"Linnie." Jeremy approached her from behind. "Why are you standing here with such a solemn look on your face?"

Madeline turned around and looked at him. She relayed what their son had just told her to Jeremy. "It seems that Fabian has really left. He's even canceled his old phone number. It seems that his number is being used by someone else now."

After Jeremy heard that, he took out his phone to try to call Fabian's number. In the end, his number was blocked as well.

"I don't think he canceled his number. I think he's intentionally stopping himself from contacting us." Jeremy analyzed the situation and said, "If he canceled his number, why would it be such a coincidence that my number can't get through to him as well?"

When Madeline thought about this, she could not help but feel a little disappointed in her heart.

"Why is he so determined to stop all contact with us?"

"Perhaps it's because of Yorick and Lana's death." Jeremy could only think of this reason. "If he wants to blame us for the deaths of Yorick and Lana, then it's not altogether inexcusable."

"I don't think Fabian is someone like this," Madeline said affirmatively. She had known Fabian for so long. She thought that Fabian was just hedonistic on the surface, but on the inside, he was more mature and steady than most adults.

When Jeremy heard Madeline say that, Jeremy felt that it was reasonable.

Fabian was indeed not that kind of person. Plus, Jeremy still remembered how Fabian had risked his life when he was saving Lillian with him.

"It seems that Lily misses Fabian a lot, but when I asked her if she wanted to see him, she shook her head." Madeline recalled the desolate look on the little princess' face and felt very worried.

“Linnie, don’t be too worried. I’ll find Fabian and ask him about this. I’ll take you to Adam’s place first. I’m going to the prison later.”

Madeline figured that Jeremy must be going to see Felipe. “Jeremy, I’ll go with you.”

“Okay.” Jeremy smiled and agreed.

The husband and wife looked at each other and smiled. They had already reached a tacit mutual understanding.

After leaving some luggage at Adam’s place, Madeline and Jeremy arrived at the prison.

Here, Felipe was counting down the days he had left to live.

He refused to see anyone, but when he heard that Jeremy and Madeline were here, he ultimately decided to see them.

Madeline and Jeremy were waiting in the conjugal room, and after a while, Felipe arrived.

He no longer had his usual gentlemanly and graceful appearance. At this moment, he was slovenly in dress and manner, looking extremely wretched and battered.

Madeline looked at the person in front of her in surprise. At that moment, she could not believe that this was the man who had pulled her back from the brink of death.

However, Felipe looked pretty calm. He sat down opposite Jeremy and Madeline, the corner of his lips lifting slightly.

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"I didn't expect to see you again." He broke the silence in a light manner, but the smile on his face was no longer charming and looked a little desolate.

"Have you really decided not to appeal?" Jeremy went straight to the subject. "You have the opportunity to appeal and I can help you find a lawyer so that at least you won't be sentenced to death."

"I don't need it anymore," Felipe refused decisively. "I've been obsessed for so many years and as a result, it's all for nothing. I've had feelings for a woman for so many years, but in the end, I personally drove her to misery..."

He paused as he was talking, his brows furrowing with endless grief and melancholy.

"We should let this end here."

"Grandpa is still waiting for you to go back."

At Jeremy's words, there was a slight change in Felipe's expression. Jeremy could see that Felipe was still a little reluctant to leave this world, but it was just that he could not spare himself when he thought about what had happened to Cathy.

"Apologize to Uncle for me. I can no longer step into the Whitmans' door." Felipe's eyes went red.

"You still have a chance as long as you're willing," Jeremy repeatedly advised. Although Felipe had made a lot of mistakes, he did not have to die to atone for his crimes.

Felipe fell into a short silence when he heard the words, but after a while, he still refused.

“Jeremy, Eveline, I only have one request. I hope you can spend more time with Cathy in the future. Apart from Adam, I’m afraid that there’s no one else to accompany her here.”

“What do you mean?” Madeline asked suddenly, her tone straightforward and sharp. “She still has two children to accompany her.”

As soon as he heard the mention of the two children, Felipe’s dim eyes lit up.

“The two children—”

“Are yours,” Madeline said these two words without hesitation.

Although Felipe had already figured this out, he was still taken aback when he received such a certain answer.

The light in his narrow eyes became brighter and it was as though it had lit up his gloomy heart as well.

“So, will you still stubbornly await death?” Madeline asked sharply.

Felipe was really stunned. He could no longer be as resolute and decisive as before. The light in his eyes that was getting brighter was the best proof.

“Actually, I can feel that Cathy still has feelings for you.”

“Really?” Felipe raised his wet and red eyes that were full of expectations.

Madeline nodded slightly. She was not lying to Felipe, she just told him candidly about what she

thought.

“If Cathy didn’t have feelings for you, she would not have taken the initiative to withdraw the court’s accusation against you. Otherwise, with an additional charge of attempted homicide, you wouldn’t be able to escape the death penalty at all.”

“It turns out that Cathy was the one who took the initiative to revoke this...” Felipe sighed as he leaned back in the chair in exhaustion.

He closed his eyes and opened them slowly after a while.

“I want to see her again for the last time. Can you help me persuade her to come and see me again?” Felipe pleaded.

Seeing the strong hope in Felipe’s eyes, Jeremy agreed without hesitation. “I’ll help you arrange it.”

Felipe, who was sitting limply in the chair, immediately became more energetic. “Really?”

Jeremy nodded. “I’m a man of my word. Just wait, I’ll not only persuade Cathy to come and see you, but I’ll also let you have a special meeting. Just wait for me to arrange it.”

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Jeremy’s promise suddenly imbued Felipe’s life in prison with meaning.

If there was truly anything or anyone that Felipe could not bear to part with, it would be Cathy.

If he could be granted any other unlikely wishes, it would be that he could see the two children again.

The children.

The thought of them kindled an extremely warm feeling within Felipe.

When he was the love of Cathy's life, not only had he ignored her, but he had also killed those two children with his own hands.

He knew he would never be able to make it up to Cathy any more, but he certainly had not expected that she would be pregnant with his baby when the accident occurred.

This was God's gift. Yes, this was God's gift to him.

Now, he hoped that Jeremy could arrange for this day to come as soon as possible.

After they had left, Madeline went to stay with Adam. A few days passed, and the poison in her body did not flare up. Nevertheless, she did not forget how excruciatingly painful it had been when the poison had flared up.

As she sat in front of the window sill, basking in the rare, warm winter sun, her attention was focused on the small tube of anti-toxoid test reagent lying in her palm.

When she reflected on the relationship between Carter and Shirley, Madeline finally figured out exactly when she had been poisoned.

It was that night when Carter had so willingly agreed to cancel the marriage agreement. There must have been something amiss with the glass of red wine he had poured for her.

Since Carter would certainly have known about her keen sense of smell, the poison must have been colorless and tasteless. This would explain why she had not detected anything when she drank it.

They truly had planned this out far in advance, and had set their plot in motion ages ago.

Madeline clenched her fists. From the corner of her eye, she saw a figure approaching.

“She truly did take good care of me when I was young. She was a good sister.” Adam’s very gentle voice drifted to her ears.

Madeline lifted her eyes and saw Adam approaching her, a smile on his face.

“You mean your sister Shirley?” She asked.

“Yes.” Adam nodded. From the smile on his face, one could tell that he was thinking of something pleasant. “When I was young and heedless, I did a lot of ignorant and rebellious things. Every time something went wrong, she would always stand up for me.”

As he said that, his eyes filled with the scenes from his memories.

"I still remember the time in fifth grade when I had skipped class to catch frogs at a pond with a few of my classmates and she happened to spot us. Just as she was about to take me back to school, my parents, who were on their way home from work, caught sight of us.

"To save me from getting scolded, she said that she was the one who encouraged me to skip class. Even after my parents had punished her by making her copy out a 70,000-word medical book, she still came and comforted me, telling me that everything was fine."

As Adam spoke, his eyes started welling up with tears.

"She was a good sister in the past, don't you think?" Adam asked Madeline. Since the present-day Shirley had given him a different impression, he wanted to hear other people's affirmations of Shirley.

Madeline slowly stood up. "Perhaps she used to be a good sister. However, ever since she ran away from home and left this family, I don't think she's the sister you knew anymore."

"I'm sorry," Adam said remorsefully. "I finally understand what kind of person could develop this sort of poison. If it was Shirley, it's no surprise at all. She's always been very accomplished in this aspect since she was young."

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"However, she's using her talents and gifts in ways she shouldn't." Madeline could not help but sigh. "It truly astounds me. The sister hurts others while the younger brother saves them."

"I'm sorry."

"Adam, you didn't do anything to wrong me, so there's no need to apologize to me. On the contrary, I'm truly grateful to you." Madeline conveyed her sincere gratitude. "Without you, I won't be here today, and my son would've died long ago."

"Saving others is a doctor's mission. It is also my only conviction and aspiration ever since I've matured

in thought.”

“You’re a very good person, Dr. Adam.” Madeline lauded him sincerely. As soon as she finished speaking, she suddenly felt her temple throbbing uncomfortably.

Adam was very observant. He immediately noticed something was wrong with Madeline. “Are you feeling unwell?”

Madeline did not bother putting up a tough front. “My head is hurting a little...” she said. She wanted to head to the bedroom to sit and rest briefly, but as she lifted her gaze, everything in her vision seemed to be spinning.

Adam hurriedly stepped forward, supporting Madeline’s arm. “Are you feeling dizzy?”

“I think the poison’s flaring up. I was perfectly fine right before this, so it shouldn’t be possible that I’d suddenly get dizzy,” Madeline said, guessing.

However, this was insufficient for Adam to make a judgment call. There was only one test tube. Madeline’s current symptoms were completely different from the symptoms she first experienced. If he made a mistake, then Madeline would suffer.

As Adam struggled with this dilemma, Madeline’s phone rang.

It was an unknown number. Adam answered for Madeline, and the voice that came from the other end of the line surprised Adam.

“Eveline, it should be time for your second flare-up.” Shirley’s tone sounded extremely confident. She

chuckled. "This experience should feel a tad better than one before, doesn't it? While it can be a little uncomfortable, my control was on point, so no matter how uncomfortable you feel, your life will not be in danger."

While listening to Shirley's inhumane words, Adam's heart suddenly trembled.

"Do you even know what you're talking about?" Adam could not help but roar out in rage.

Shirley was stunned. She did not expect Adam to be the one answering the phone.

"You'd use your talents, and the gifts you'd inherited from our parents, to commit this kind of utterly heartless act. Shirley Brown, do you not feel any guilt?"

Shirley was a little lost when Adam yelled at her, but when she heard this, she suddenly sneered.

"Guilt? Ask the two dead persons whether they feel any guilt?" Shirley asked in a cold voice. Then, she followed up with a harsh warning, "I'm telling you, Adam, you better not interfere any further. Otherwise, I won't show mercy, even if we are siblings!"

"Shirley, what do you want..."

Beep.

Before Adam could finish speaking, Shirley hung up.

Adam dared not be distracted or wasting time. He immediately injected the tube of test reagent that Madeline held in her hand into her vein.

Jeremy, who happened to be back, saw the scene unfolded as he reached his bedroom door. His expression changed as he quickly ran to Madeline's side, holding Madeline, who was now slowly losing consciousness, in his arms.

"Linnie, Linnie!" Jeremy yelled a few times, but there was no response from Madeline. He cast an anxious look at a dazed Adam. "Adam, what happened to Linnie? Why did she pass out?"

"It's another flare-up," Adam answered Jeremy's question, quickly returning to his senses, and suddenly feeling the unusual heaviness of the syringe in his hand.

"She should just be asleep for a while. She'll be fine when she wakes up. However, based on my many years of experience, Eveline's condition might be..."

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Jeremy's heart skipped a beat at Adam's sudden pause, but he quickly calmed down.

"Linnie and I have been through a lot together, so there is nothing I can't handle. Tell me what's going to happen next, Adam."

"I've just talked to Shirley," Adam said. "Judging from what she had said, and the symptoms of Eveline's flare-up, the symptoms may differ each time she experiences a flare-up. Furthermore, it might worsen each time."

It might worsen each time.

Those words felt like heavy rocks crashing down on Jeremy's heart. His eyebrows tightly knitted together as he looked at Madeline, who had now fallen asleep...

Madeline slept for the entire afternoon. When she woke, she saw Jeremy staring at her with a gentle gaze.

She had always been aware of the circumstances right before she fell asleep. Before Jeremy could speak, Madeline spoke instead, comforting him. "Jeremy, don't worry. I'm fine."

After hearing Madeline's comforting words, Jeremy felt even more distressed.

He sat on the bed and raised his hand, softly stroking Madeline's delicate cheeks. "Linnie, sometimes I'd truly hope that you could be coquettish and complain like those ignorant little ladies. I truly don't want you to be so compassionate. You're obviously the one who is suffering, yet you're the one who is comforting me."

Madeline smiled slightly. "You're so weird, Mr. Whitman. Most men want their women to be considerate, gentle, and thoughtful, yet you're the complete opposite. Do you want me to behave like a little lady, acting coyly and without restraint?"

"I hope so. I truly hope so." Jeremy held Madeline's hand tightly, holding them in his palms, and kissed them. "Linnie, you are too thoughtful, in the past and the present. That is why I hope you'd be less thoughtful in the future."

Madeline understood what Jeremy meant by "less thoughtful". She smiled and nodded. "Okay, I got it. I'll try to make myself into a 'less thoughtful' little lady in the future."

Jeremy pressed his lips into a smile. He bowed his head close to Madeline, dropping a light kiss on her somewhat pale lips.

“Linnie, I made you suffer again because of me.” He lowered his voice, his words ridden with guilt.

Madeline smiled, shaking her head. “Have you forgotten, Mr. Whitman? We are husband and wife, and the husbands and wives should stick together, through thick and thin.”

Jeremy hugged Madeline, feeling his heart breaking further. “Linnie...”

“Cough.”

Madeline was about to speak, but she could not help but cough slightly.

Jeremy released his arms nervously, and his eyes were filled with worry. “Linnie, are you alright? Is the poison flaring up again?”

“No, don’t worry.” Madeline immediately assured him. “I just feel a slight discomfort in my throat.”

Jeremy breathed a sigh of relief, but his gaze turned more solemn.

He knew neither when Madeline would flare up next nor what her condition would be like. He only knew that before it came, Shirley had to be dealt with.

“Jeremy, how’s the arrangement regarding Felipe wanting to see Cathy? Didn’t you say that Felipe and Cathy could meet at a special ceremony? What is it?” Madeline finally revealed her curiosity.

“You’re still concerned about that right now?” Jeremy touched Madeline’s head. “Relax, I think they should be seeing each other now.”

“Now?” At this point, Madeline’s shock overshadowed her curiosity.

She still wanted to ask further, but Jeremy took her hand.

“Linnie, let me bring you somewhere.”

“Where?”

Jeremy gave a mysterious smile. “To a place that is worth remembering and imbued with memories.”

A place that is worth remembering and imbued with memories.

A scene quickly emerged in Madeline’s mind...

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1684

The blue sea and the salty sea breeze.

That was the smell of April Hill all year round.

Now, however, the sea breeze blew with a biting coldness.

Crash.

The waves rushed forth, repeatedly crashing against the reef and shore.

On the empty beach, two figures stood face to face.

Felipe had deliberately groomed himself today, restoring his former graceful gentleman image. He now looked at the person in front of him, unlike in the past, with tenderness and affection.

The person in front of him no longer looked the way she did back then as well.

Cathy's once tender and sweet little face was now adorned with a hint of mature charm unfamiliar to him. There was no longer the pure admiration for him in her eyes; it had been replaced with some level of calmness and composure that could only be gained through experience.

Whoosh.

Although the sea breeze felt like knives as it blew at them, Felipe did not feel the cold, for his heart was burning hot at this moment.

He had not expected Jeremy to arrange for him to meet Cathy here.

Even though a policeman waited for him in the police car a short distance away, even though he had only one hour, he was already satisfied.

Amidst the silence, Felipe finally summoned the courage to speak. "Cath."

The way by which he addressed her, though in a familiar voice, bore a hint of foreignness within its intimacy.

Cathy calmly looked at Felipe. Her tone was still so gentle as she spoke. "There's no need for you to call

me that, Mr. Whitman. It should be clear to you that you don't have much time, so if there's anything you want to say, you should just say it as quickly as you can."

In the face of Cathy's indifference, Felipe felt disappointed, but he figured that this was fine.

The best outcome would be for her to let go.

Smiling in relief, he said, "Cath, you remembered everything, is that right?"

Cathy no longer denied it. "Yes, I have remembered a long time ago. I'm also aware that Evie and Jez have already told you that you are the father of those two children."

Upon hearing Cathy's admission of this, an indescribable wave of emotions seemed to ripple through Felipe's heart.

"However, I won't be letting them know that you're their biological father. You are not worthy."

Cathy's words seemed to rapidly freeze the ripples of emotions in Felipe's heart. His whole body seemed to immediately freeze over too, let alone his heart.

Who could he blame though?

He only had himself to blame.

Felipe put on a bitter, self-deprecating smile, the light in his eyes flickering. A while later, he uttered, "Adam is a good man. He's worthy for you to depend on."

Cathy looked at Felipe, indifferent. "Of course, I know Adam is a good man. I don't need you to tell me that, Felipe. If you don't have anything else to say to me, I'll leave then. My kids would cry if they didn't see their mother for too long."

After she had said that, Cathy glanced at Felipe and turned around.

"Wait." Felipe hurriedly stepped forward. At that moment, he could not control himself as he grabbed Cathy's hand.

The moment their skin came into contact, everything around them seemed to suddenly come to a standstill.

At this moment, it was as though the two of them were the only people on earth.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1685

Felipe and Cathy locked eyes. After a long while, Cathy returned to her senses and broke free from Felipe's hand.

"What on earth do you want to say?" Cathy asked, seemingly impatiently. "If you're still not going to speak, I'll leave, seriously."

Seeing the decisiveness in Cathy's eyes, Felipe dared not waste any more time.

Carefully, he took out an object from his pocket, then stretched out his hand toward Cathy.

Cathy looked down. The sight of the red string in Felipe's palm stupefied her.

"I'm sorry. Forgive me for only realizing your importance after losing you. Forgive me for discovering you to be that little girl I have been thinking about for more than ten years only after realizing your importance."

When Cathy heard Felipe's words, her expression became slightly dazed for a moment, and a strange emotion flashed in her eyes.

"What... did you say?" Her tone, losing the earlier calmness, now sounded somewhat shaky. "Didn't you know the entire time? Didn't you only decide to sponsor me because you knew about our first meeting back then?"

"No." Felipe shook his head slightly. "This whole time, I had mistaken Eveline as you."

"... What?" Cathy was shocked once again. At the same time, she finally understood.

'No wonder Felipe had been so concerned about Madeline and would protect her no matter what. It seemed that he had made a mistake...'

"For all those years, since meeting Eveline, I had thought she was you. I had thought that she was the girl who had given me the red rope when I was a child, bringing me hope and joy. Until I thought that you were going to leave me forever. Then, I finally realized that, after all these years, I had been giving the warmth and love that I should have given you to the wrong person."

"..."

Upon hearing this, tears silently fell from Cathy's eyes.

Those tears were quickly dried by the wind, and she started laughing through her tears.

"Cath, perhaps we're not fated to be with each other in this life." Felipe raised his hand and tried to caress Cathy's cheek, but midway, he clenched back his fist, slowly retracting it.

“When Jeremy had hurt Eveline back then, he could turn back because he had not crossed the line. However, I’m different. I had crossed the line. This is also the gap that prevents us from coming together again.”

Felipe smiled as he spoke.

“I’m happy to be able to see you again. Adam will bring you happiness, and I sincerely wish you two all the best. Of course, I wish that the two children would grow up healthily too. You’d also have to keep this secret forever. Don’t let them know that they have such an abominable biological father.”

In the end, Felipe still took Cathy’s hand.

He once had the opportunity to hold these small and soft hands tightly, but he had pushed them away ruthlessly. Now, all he could do was put them down gently.

Felipe placed the red rope in Cathy’s palm before bowing his head. Then, he pressed a deep kiss on the back of her hand. In the end, he could only let go.

“Cath, you must live a blissful life.”

After giving his blessing, Felipe turned around.

The moment he let go, Cathy felt as though her heart was being hollowed out.

She clenched the red rope in her hand, watching Felipe’s bleak silhouette as he walked further away from her. Tears pricked at the corners of her eyes again.

“Felipe!”

She called out his name with an indescribably intense feeling.

Felipe's footsteps came to a halt.

He turned his head. It was unsure if his eyes were moist from the sea breeze as his vision of the beautiful face seemed slightly blurry. Gradually, he could not see Cathy's expression clearly, but he could hear her question clearly. "Felipe, is there still a chance for us to see each other again?"

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1686

Upon hearing her words, Felipe gave a slight and gentle smile. "In the next life, Cath. I'll see you in the next life."

His tone, light and shallow, blew past Cathy's ears like a gust of wind, falling instead into her heart, leaving an extremely profound imprint.

Cathy's tears broke out from her eyes against her will.

The next life, he said.

It turned out that they were truly not destined to be together in this life.

Felipe quickly got into the police car. The moment the car started, he looked at her through the car window, and tears welled up in his eyes.

'Cath, I'll only be able to see you again in the next life.

'In my next life, I'll be a respectable and law-abiding person. Never again will I cross the line and stoop to anything unscrupulous.

'Cath, thank you for coming into my life. Thank you, and goodbye.'

He thought to himself before shifting his gaze away.

As the police car promptly drove away, Cathy remained rooted to the ground, not knowing what it means to feel relieved...

Half an hour later, Madeline and Jeremy arrived at the beach of April Hill.

Madeline immediately saw Cathy standing in a daze by the coast, while Felipe was nowhere to be seen on the beach.

Jeremy too was a little bewildered. They were promised an hour, and the time was not up yet, so why had Felipe left?

When Cathy heard movement behind her, she glanced back. She forced a smile upon seeing Madeline and Jeremy.

"He had already left. He told me that he'll see me in the next life." The smile remained plastered on her face. "I think he has already made up his mind."

"How could it turn out like this?" Jeremy said in disbelief.

He had thought Cathy to be the last ray of light that could pull Felipe out from the darkness.

However, Felipe's final decision remained unchanged.

“Linnie, stay here with Cathy. I’m going to talk to Felipe.” Jeremy hurriedly said and drove away immediately.

Seeing Cathy’s sorrowful face, Madeline felt sorry for the woman with all her heart.

“Cathy, deep down, you still can’t let go of Felipe, can you?”

Cathy tugged the corners of her lips, feeling dejected. “It’s truly easy to fall in love, but it turns out that letting go is very difficult. So difficult...”

She sighed. As she looked at the endless sea, the light in her eyes gradually faded...

Jeremy rushed to the prison that held Felipe as quickly as possible. Soon after, Felipe arrived.

Instead of being bound in handcuffs, he was impeccably dressed. He also seemed to be accepting of his impending death, visible from his tranquil manner.

However, Jeremy was infuriated seeing him act this way. “Felipe, have you thought this through? Do you honestly want to choose this path? Do you know that you could appeal? Even if you had committed those crimes, you also have the opportunity and the right to give yourself a chance to fight for a heavy sentence. This is a right granted by the law!”

“Jeremy, I know you only want what’s best for me, but I’ve already made my decision. I hope you can respect it,” Felipe said lightly.

“Respect? In that case, are you showing respect for Cathy? Are you showing respect for your two children? No, you aren’t, Felipe. You’re only thinking about atoning for your sins, but do you think that your passing on is a means of atonement? I’m telling you, it’s not!”

“Felipe, I’m asking you again. Do you truly want to give up on this opportunity?”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1687

Jeremy had always thought that he was of a calm disposition, but now, he was on edge.

Felipe was giving up on himself. As his nephew, Jeremy was extremely worried.

Jeremy knew that if Felipe were willing, Felipe could certainly avoid the death penalty. However, he seemed to have accepted his fate.

He had also thought that, after meeting with Cathy and learning that he had two children, Felipe would certainly aspire to continue living. On the contrary, the meeting only solidified his determination to walk resolutely towards death.

“Felipe, have you thought about it, truly?” Jeremy sought his confirmation yet again. “You only live once. There’s no turning back.”

After listening to Jeremy’s earnest reminder, Felipe seemed to be lost in contemplation.

A long while later, Felipe lifted his gentle and narrow eyes.

“Jeremy, I need your help for the final time.”

“Tell me.”

“I hope Cathy will have a blissful and carefree life from now on.”

“You can give her the bliss that she wants.”

Upon hearing his words, Felipe curled his lips into a small smile. “Her bliss would require a condition, and that would be for me to withdraw from her life.”

Jeremy frowned at this. “How in the world do you want me to help?”

Felipe only gave a mysterious smile. “Jeremy, I believe that with your ability, you’d certainly be able to assist me in performing this task with perfection.”

Jeremy stared at Felipe’s smiling face in confusion. Felipe’s words slowly made it clear to Jeremy what Felipe’s favor would entail.

Jeremy could deeply sense Felipe’s love for Cathy in his words.

He pitied them and felt a pang of heartache for Felipe.

Felipe was most probably very regretful, but regret was often useless.

In this regard, Jeremy had already experienced much himself.

Fortunately, he and Madeline could still turn back, but Felipe and Cathy...

...

The seaside of April Hill.

Madeline accompanied Cathy for some time as they enjoyed the sea breeze. Although it was a little cold, Madeline did not want to disturb her.

Madeline, watching Cathy standing motionlessly on the shore like a wooden person, felt a pang of heartache for her.

As she was about to persuade Cathy, Cathy looked back and gave Madeline a friendly smile.

“Evie, you don’t need to accompany me. Just let me stay here by myself.”

Madeline approached her. “Cathy, if there’s anything that’s bothering you, don’t hesitate to talk to me about it. You’ll have my undivided attention.”

Tears pricked the corners of Cathy’s eyes. Biting her lip, she strode toward Madeline and hugged her. “Evie.”

The way Cathy called out to her tightened Madeline’s heart.

She held Cathy and gently patted her back, comforting her. “I’m here. Don’t cry. Just tell me if you have any grievances.”

The corners of Cathy’s eyes were soaked as she could no longer fight back the tears. “He said that he’ll see me in the next life. He said that he has always loved the wrong person.”

Madeline’s patting motion suddenly stopped. Based on Cathy’s words, Felipe still intended to accept the death penalty, no longer wanting to appeal.

This surprised Madeline.

It seemed that he seeks death as his atonement.

It was evident that, deep down, Cathy could never truly let go of Felipe.

Despite her earlier memory lapse, the instant that she remembered, her feelings for Felipe would have only become stronger.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1688

Besides comforting Cathy, Madeline did not know what else she could do at this moment.

Half an hour later, Jeremy drove back to the beach of April Hill.

When she saw Jeremy, Cathy hurriedly approached to probe him with her questions.

"Jez, did you meet with him?"

Jeremy faced Cathy, who had an expectant look on her face, and gave a slight nod. "Yes."

"Well, what did he... What did you guys talk about?"

Recalling Felipe's request before he left, Jeremy paused for a while before speaking.

"He hopes that you could live a blissful life."

The terse statement felt like a cold sword stabbing through Cathy's heart.

The glint of expectancy in her eyes slowly crumbled until the wind blew away the remnants of her shattered hope, and the light in her eyes completely faded.

Once they had sent Cathy back, Jeremy brought Madeline back to Adam's place.

Adam was currently away at the hospital for consultation.

Madeline could tell that something was up with Jeremy since his return from the meeting with Felipe. As it was awkward to ask him with Cathy in the car earlier, she was waiting for this moment to ask. "Jeremy, what did you guys talk about when you went to see Felipe? It's not just as simple as what you'd told Cathy, isn't it?"

Jeremy had already decided earlier to inform Madeline, but he had not expected her to see through him so quickly.

"Linnie, you certainly know me well." Jeremy could not help but sigh. "Yes, that wasn't the only thing we talked about."

"What else did you talk about then?"

"He asked me to do something for him."

"What is it? You can't even tell Cathy about this?"

"That's right. This is something that can be known by anyone except Cathy," Jeremy said as his expression grew serious.

Madeline immediately realized the import of this matter. At the same time, she became more inquisitive and confused.

“What is it, exactly?” she asked.

As she said that, the hallway reverberated with the sounds of high heels clicking against the floor.

Madeline and Jeremy simultaneously looked up and saw Shirley.

Wearing a coat, Shirley slowly strutted closer toward them. “You must be surprised. You just got a call from me not long ago, yet here I am, in the flesh.”

She chuckled. “Don’t be too surprised. I just want to observe how my experiment is coming along, and my experiment seems quite successful.”

Jeremy had initially intended to seek out Shirley for a solution, so he certainly had not expected her appearance.

Emotion darkened his eyes as he quickly walked toward Shirley. “Shirley, if you want to conduct your experiments, I’ll be your subject. Stop tormenting my wife any further.”

Shirley looked at Jeremy with admiration. “It’s her who I intend to torment. Wouldn’t it be a waste of effort if I were to torment you?”

“Shirley, you...”

“Jeremy.”

Madeline interrupted Jeremy in a gentle tone. She met Shirley's grinning eyes with a calm and sharp gaze.

"Jeremy, let her continue tormenting me. After all, Miss Brown had said that my life won't be so easily ruined no matter what. In that case, so long as I live, I think I can handle whatever torture and suffering that might follow."

Shirley laughed. "Mrs. Whitman is indeed no ordinary woman. Since you are so courageous, I do hope you can survive the next flare-up."

As she carried out her profound speech, she glanced around the house. Her gaze eventually became fixated on the calendar for a few seconds.

"Ah, no wonder he's not in. It seems that today's that day."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1689

Shirley stared at the calendar for a few moments, then she suddenly turned and left with a cold expression.

Madeline and Jeremy shared a look before shifting their gaze onto the calendar.

That day?

What day was Shirley referring to?

A cemetery in the city outskirts.

For nearly the entire afternoon, Adam had been sitting in front of a tombstone at which two individuals

were laid to rest.

He initially had to go to the hospital for consultations in the afternoon, but this day was too special.

Adam sat alone on the edge of the railing in front of the tombstone. He quietly faced the tombstone and whispered with a smile.

“It’s been another year. Time passes so quickly. I had wanted to come here earlier, but my friend suddenly became unwell, so that delayed me for a bit.” Adam explained to the tombstone. “You must be disappointed, aren’t you? It’s still just me this year. My sister, she...”

“I’m here now, aren’t I?”

A sudden voice interrupted Adam mid-sentence.

He paused abruptly. He looked back in disbelief and saw Shirley walking with a carefree demeanor toward him in a beautiful coat.

Shirley leisurely approached him. She shifted her gaze from the white chrysanthemum in front of the tombstone, to the burning candles, and finally to the engraving on the tombstone before her. Her eyes grew icier the longer she looked at it.

“When did you come back?” Adam asked. They had just talked on the phone not long ago, and he still remembered Shirley’s cold attitude on the phone. He would never have thought that someone who had never asked after their parents for more than ten years would suddenly appear here.

“Does it matter when I came back? Isn’t my appearance on this important day all that matters?” Shirley asked with a sneer.

Adam frowned. Such words were always a little unsettling to him. However, today is their parents' death anniversary. It could not have been better now that Shirley came to pay her respects, so he did not want to pry for now.

He walked over and handed a candle to Shirley. "Light a for mom and dad. You had never visited them all these years."

Shirley looked at the candle that Adam was handing out and seemed to ponder for a few seconds. She then reached out her hand.

While Adam had thought that Shirley would light the candle, Shirley threw the candle to the ground and stepped on it with her foot instead.

Additionally, Shirley stretched out her hands and swept the flowers and burning candles off the stone table.

The rattling sounds of the falling objects instantly broke the silence in the cemetery.

Adam, briefly stunned, stepped forward to stop her, but it was too late.

"Shirley, have you gone crazy?" questioned Adam. "This is your birth parent's resting place!"

"Birth parents?" Shirley sneered, responding with extreme coldness. "I don't have such patriarchal parents."

"They were not patriarchal, Shirley. You've always misunderstood mom and dad!" Adam growled lowly, his typically mild and gentle face betraying a never-before-seen impatient look.

"Shirley, for all these years, you've always thought that mom and dad only loved me and not you, but in

fact, the person they had wanted to protect and nurture was you!”

As he finished speaking, Shirley cackled.

“Heh, hehe, hahaha...” Shirley howled with laughter. “Adam, you’re only saying this to get the anti-toxoid reagent for Eveline, aren’t you?”

“This is our family’s affair. Why would I involve an outsider?”

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Adam emphasized, then carefully explained.

“Shirley, you always think that you’re so smart, but you’re extremely stupid when it comes to this! You keep thinking that our parents hadn’t cared about you and ignored you. Even when they’d sent you to St. Piaf to further your studies, you still think that they’d abandoned you. I’m telling you, Shirley, you’re just too conceited!”

“Shut up!”

Shirley stopped Adam, feeling slightly infuriated.

“Who do you think you are to lecture me? I’m warning you, Adam. Stop meddling in my business with Eveline and Jeremy. If you dare antagonize me by helping them develop the anti-toxoid test reagent again, you’d just be asking for trouble!”

“Trouble? By trouble, do you mean Carter Gray? The man who has you at his beck and call, isn’t that right?”

When Adam mentioned Carter, Shirley's expression changed abruptly.

Adam felt even more pained upon seeing the change in Shirley's expression.

"Are you in love with that man?" Adam asked in a much softer tone.

Shirley did not respond.

Adam frowned further. "Shirley, stay away from that man. Otherwise, you'll be beyond redemption."

He spoke as he brought out a small notebook from his coat pocket. "I know that you won't believe anything I say, so you should uncover the truth by yourself."

He handed the notebook to Shirley.

Shirley lowered her gaze, glanced at it, her pupils suddenly constricted in recognition.

It was an old and aged little notebook. She knew it so well that she could still remember where the brown stain on the cover came from.

"You should still be able to recognize dad's notebook, right? You should still be familiar with dad's handwriting too. I found this when I was packing mom's and dad's belongings after they'd passed away. You ought to read dad's diary entry back then and see for yourself whether they had loved you or had wanted to abandon you."

Shirley stared at the notebook for a long time, but she did not take it, laughing absent-mindedly instead.

“Do you still intend on lying to me, Adam?”

“I think you don’t have the nerve to read the contents. Am I right, Shirley?” Adam asked sarcastically, then gently placed the notebook on the stone table. “Regardless of whether you want to read it or not, I’ll leave this here. At the end of the day, I just want to tell you that a doctor’s duty is to save the dying and heal the wounded. I won’t just stand by and watch my patients suffer. That is why, Shirley, I’ll definitely save Eveline.”

After saying this, Adam cleared the mess that Shirley had caused before turning around to leave with the garbage.

Shirley stood alone in the cold winter wind. Her mind was awl with Adam’s every word.

She lifted her gaze, facing the tombstone which was engraved with the names that she would never forget as long as she lived.

Here laid her closest family members, yet her heart bore only hatred for them.

All these years, she had always been insistent and firm in her belief that her parents, having no love for her, had always wanted to abandon her. However, on this day, at this moment, her firm belief seemed to be shaken, making her anxious and frightened.

There was a sudden blast of bleak and biting cold wind, and the notebook was blown off the stone table.

Shirley had wanted to ignore the notebook so that she could continue hating them. Coincidentally, the notebook, blown off by the wind, fell at her feet.

She had to notice it now. She had to squat down and pick up the notebook.

She had intended to avoid looking at the notebook contents no matter what, but through the corner of her eye, she heedlessly glimpsed at the contents of one of the pages...

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Shirley held the corner of the notepad, her fingers trembling slightly.

Upon seeing the familiar handwriting, the cold wind seemed to dampen the corners of her eyes in an instant.

It was unknown how much time had passed before Shirley stood up with a cold look on her face while biting her red lip and pinching the corner of the notebook.

Her almond eyes were filled with tears as she stared indifferently at the engravings on the tombstone in front of her. After staying for about ten seconds, Shirley turned and left.

A few days later, news quickly spread on the internet.

The news was of Felipe's death sentence.

When Felipe's photos, education, background, and all the relevant information were dug out, many pitied him, but more were feeling pleased with this decision.

Those who had committed a crime should not be sympathized and felt sorry for.

Cathy also saw this push notification. The moment she saw the news, she seemed to have fallen into the ice cave. Her whole body was cold and stiff.

He had chosen not to appeal, after all. He willingly accepted the death sentence in the end.

In addition to that, the day of the death penalty had also been pushed forward.

Cathy glanced at the two children playing with the nanny in the living room and decided to go out after some contemplation. However, as soon as she walked into the hallway, her son Juan ran to her.

“Mommy, Mommy, where are you going?” The little guy raised his innocent eyes and looked up at Cathy curiously.

Cathy bent down and tried hard to put a smile on her face. “Mommy is going to see an uncle.”

“Uncle? Is it the handsome uncle who helped me pick up my balloon?” the child asked in a childish tone. Although his words were a little inarticulate, Cathy still understood him.

She touched his little head and nodded gently. “Yeah.”

“I want to go too.” The little guy waved his cute hands.

Cathy paused and asked again, “Do you really want to go too?”

“Yes!” the little guy said affirmatively without thinking.

Cathy was silent for a few seconds. Then, she nodded. "Okay, then you can come along with me."

As she said that, she took the child's hand and stepped out, leaving her daughter to the nanny's care.

On the way to the prison, Cathy's heart was beating anxiously. Her hands kept clasping the corners of her clothes.

She should not be going to see Felipe anymore, but he was going to die. He was dying. He was going to be dead...

The word 'dead' kept lingering in Cathy's mind. She could not face it and could not accept the day when Felipe would die, but this day was about to come.

Ten minutes later, she arrived at the prison only to coincidentally see Madeline and Jeremy walking out from there.

Cathy hurriedly walked over and asked, "Evie, Jeremy, did you guys just visit Felipe?"

Madeline and Jeremy looked at each other before shaking their heads at the same time. "He doesn't want to see anyone anymore."

This answer made Cathy's heart go cold. By anyone, it also included her, right?

Her legs felt as if they had been filled with lead and she could no longer move forward.

“Mommy, Mommy,” the little guy called out to Cathy and shook her hand.

Cathy came back to her senses. “What’s the matter, Juan?”

“Mommy, are we not going anymore?” the little guy asked.

Cathy did not know what to say for a moment.

“Cathy, you should go in. Maybe Felipe will want to see you.” Jeremy’s face was solemn. “If you’re able to change his mind, you should persuade him to appeal again. If you can’t...”

Jeremy paused as he said that and Madeline raised her eyes to look at Cathy whose eyes were restless. She said, “If you can’t, then treat it as the last time you’ll be seeing him and bid farewell to him.”

Farewell. The last time...

Cathy was unable to face those words until now.

After a long while, Cathy stepped forward.

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She took the child by his hand and walked into the prison.

Madeline and Jeremy were waiting at the entrance while holding hands. The warm winter sun looked brilliant, but it was unable to bring them any warmth at all.

After Cathy entered the building, she explained to the prison guard why she was here.

Due to Felipe's extraordinary circumstances, the prison guard asked Cathy to wait outside.

While she was waiting, Cathy became sick with worry.

She wandered back and forth in the hall, waiting for a less regrettable result.

It did not take long for the prison guard to come back, but he only had an answer that made Cathy's heart turn cold.

"Miss Jordan, Felipe said that he doesn't want to see anyone, especially you."

Cathy was stunned. 'It turns out that I'm the person you don't want to see the most right now.'

She smiled. "Thank you."

After thanking him, Cathy turned around but looked back again after taking two steps.

"He's about to be executed, isn't he?"

The prison guard glanced at Cathy and nodded.

With this definite answer, Cathy felt her vision turning black and even her brain was blank for a

moment.

Madeline and Jeremy had been waiting outside. They hoped to wait a little longer because if they were here long enough, it would mean that Cathy had seen Felipe. However, in the end, Cathy came back out again soon after.

“It seems that he has already made up his mind.” Madeline and Jeremy looked at each other. “Felipe has given it a lot of thought.”

“Then we shall respect his wishes and help him fulfill his last wish.”

“Okay.”

Madeline nodded. Suddenly, she felt a touch of warmth from the winter sun.

The days after returning home, Cathy would stay in her apartment in a daze and rarely went out. Most of the time, she would just be standing on the balcony tending to the yellow roses.

‘Felipe, maybe you didn’t know this but yellow roses also carry meaning.

‘It means I’m still waiting for you.

‘However, you will eventually leave me. You’ll leave me forever and ever.’

Cathy did not expect Felipe to be sentenced so quickly and would even be executed soon.

When she woke up early this morning, the sky was gray.

Cathy held the umbrella and walked to the flower shop downstairs. She bought a bunch of yellow roses as usual. When she walked out of the shop, the rain suddenly became slightly heavier.

Looking at the city shrouded in rain and fog, Cathy's heart seemed to fall into darkness.

As her thoughts wandered, her phone vibrated. It was a call from Adam. Cathy answered and Adam's gentle greeting sounded from the other end.

"Are you okay?" Adam's voice was gentle and laced with boundless concern.

Cathy froze for a moment before speaking, "I'm fine. How about you?"

On the other end, Adam was silent for a while. "I'm fine too. If you have time, bring the kids over to hang out with me. I miss Juan and Jan."

"I'll bring them over to play with you. Thank you, Adam. I'll hang up now if there's nothing else."

"Okay." Although Adam was a little reluctant, he still ended the call.

Cathy looked at the dimmed phone screen. Then, the screen lit up again while she was in a daze. This time, it was from Jeremy.

For some reason, she started to feel dazed when she looked at the incoming call.

In the end, she still answered the call. "Jeremy, what's the matter?"

"He's gone."

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It was just a few brief words but they were deeply imprinted in Cathy's heart.

She also instantly understood what he meant by that.

"Cathy, are you still listening?"

Cathy abruptly came to her senses when she heard Jeremy calling out to her.

"I am."

She tried to control her emotions and keep calm, but she still could not hide the tremble in her voice.

"Thank you for telling me about this, Jeremy. If there's nothing else, I'm going to hang up now."

Cathy hung up the phone in a hurry at the same time she finished her sentence.

She did not have the courage to continue listening at all. She could not even handle even one more word.

The rain in front of her was getting heavier and heavier. The dense raindrops seemed to smash against her heart, causing her intense pain.

The yellow roses in her arms seemed to lose their colors in an instant, losing their original meaning as well.

Tears escaped from her eyes unconsciously, blurring her vision.

'Felipe Whitman, I don't know if we'll meet again in the next life, but in this life, it seems we have no chance of meeting ever again.'

...

After the flare-up from that day, Madeline moved back to Whitman Manor.

The original plan was that when Madeline had a flare-up, Adam would take a sample of the anti-toxoid test reagent that Shirley gave her. However, the situation was so urgent that Adam did not manage to get the sample of the anti-toxoid test reagent.

Adam felt very guilty regarding this because this was his purpose for letting Madeline move in and now it was all for nothing. However, he would not give up just like this. He started studying the poison developed by Shirley with another approach.

Madeline was not bothered but Jeremy was even more worried now.

He had no idea what poison Shirley had used on Madeline, and he did not even know what would happen to Madeline the next time her condition flared up.

When he recalled what he had gone through whenever he had flare-ups, he could not imagine the pain Madeline would have to endure. It might even be several times worse than what he had gone through.

However, he did not express his worries. He no longer expressed his worries in front of Madeline.

After Madeline returned to Whitman Manor, she had more time to take care of Eloise and accompany her children. Among the three children, she was worried about Lillian the most.

Jeremy knew what Madeline was worried about. Plus, he finally got a response after sending people to look for Fabian.

During breakfast, Jeremy stopped Madeline who was going to take care of the children. "Linnie, there's news about Fabian."

Madeline was alarmed but pleasantly surprised. "Where is he now? Is he still in Glendale?"

"He's returned to F Country," Jeremy told Madeline what he had learned. "He's also started a business, and he seems to be doing pretty well."

"He started a business?" Madeline pondered thoughtfully for a few seconds. "Jeremy, did you get into contact with him?"

Jeremy frowned and shook his head slightly. "He didn't change his number. He just doesn't want to contact us anymore."

Upon hearing this, Madeline inevitably felt a little disappointed.

She did not understand Fabian as a person at the beginning, but eventually, she started treating him as a trusted friend.

Madeline did not think that Fabian wanted to distance himself from them because of what had happened to Lana and Yorick. He was not that kind of person. He had a sense of justice and would stand on the side of justice rather than his family.

“Jeremy, I want to meet Fabian. I’m not doing this just for Lily. I also want to figure out why he’s decided to cut off contact with us. I don’t think he’s doing this because of what happened to Lana and Yorick. He’s not that kind of person.” Madeline was very sure of Fabian’s personality in her heart.

Jeremy also agreed. “I’ve asked someone to look into him. He’s coming to Glendale next week to discuss business. Although he doesn’t want to see us, we can still go see him.”

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“Okay.” Madeline had come to a decision. She needed to meet Fabian.

The moment she made her decision, her phone rang.

When she saw that it was from Cathy, Madeline looked at Jeremy.

“Linnie, don’t forget the last thing Felipe told us.”

“I know,” Madeline promised before picking up the call. She put Cathy on speaker.

Apart from the sound of rain, it was silent on the other end of the call.

“Cathy.” Madeline was the first to break the silence. She could probably guess what Cathy was feeling right now.

“It’s me, Evie,” Cathy finally said something, “Evie, I want to know where he’s buried.”

Madeline looked at Jeremy and then said calmly, “Do you want to go see him?”

“He didn’t want to see me for the last time but I shall go and see him for the last time,” Cathy explained. Madeline could hear the helplessness and pain in her words.

Madeline did not say much and just replied, “I’ll send you the address later.”

“Thank you, Evie. I’m hanging up now.”

“Cathy.” Madeline stopped her. “Do you still hate Felipe?”

After she asked that question, there was a long silence on the other end of the call.

Madeline could probably guess the answer. She did not ask anymore and said, “I’ll send the address over to you. You should go when the rain stops. It’s inconvenient to go on a rainy day.”

“Thank you for your reminder, Evie. I’ll take good care of myself. I won’t let people who care about me worry anymore.”

“That’s good.” Madeline hung up the phone while feeling at ease. However, she still had a feeling that Cathy would definitely rush to the destination the second she got the address.

Just as Madeline expected, Cathy grabbed an umbrella and left the house after receiving the address.

On the cold and windy winter morning, the cemetery was so quiet that there was only the sound of rain and wind.

Cathy slowly walked to one of the tombstones and looked at the words ‘Felipe Whitman’ engraved on it. While she was looking at it, she started laughing all of a sudden. However, after some laughing, she

started crying.

“I’m sure you didn’t expect to die before me, right? You thought I was dead these last two years.”

“Felipe, I guess what was between us is just a joke.”

“I’ll raise the children myself. If you can hear me, then remember to look over the kids.”

Cathy muttered to herself. She slowly bent down to put the bouquet of yellow roses in front of the tombstone.

“Don’t think that everything has come to an end now that you’re dead. Felipe, I hate you. I still hate you.”

Cathy clenched her fists as indescribable pain started overflowing from her heart.

The good and bad memories started replaying in her mind like a movie. However, those memories were just mere grains amid the quicksand that was the flow of time.

She opened her eyes that were filled with tears and the words ‘Felipe Whitman’ were flickering in her blurry vision.

“If there’s a next life, let’s not meet anymore. Perhaps the best ending for both of us is to see each other but not know each other.”

After she said that, Cathy closed her eyes. The wind caressed her cheeks and brought away the tears in the corners of her eyes.

She turned around with her umbrella. When she was about to leave, she saw a few men in black who looked like bodyguards standing in front of her.

Cathy was puzzled and also noticed that something was amiss. "Who are you people?"

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Cathy took two steps back in caution. She was wondering if they were the thugs who had caused trouble for Felipe back then, but they did not look like those thugs.

"Who are you people?"

She asked again and took out her phone in secret to call her emergency contact.

"Miss Jordan, don't be scared. We mean you no harm. Our boss just wants to have some coffee with you."

"Who's your boss?" Cathy asked and pressed the number of her emergency contact.

"You'll know who it is when you go. I hope you can cooperate with us. Don't make us take you to the car with brute force," one of the men who looked slightly refined said in a profound manner.

Cathy stopped her finger that was pressing the button. Before she could say anything else, the bodyguards walked toward her.

"Miss Jordan, please."

Cathy did not show any fear or weakness when she saw the men's imperative looks.

“Who’s your boss? Why should I go with you without knowing anything?”

When the man saw that Cathy was not cooperating, he sighed helplessly.

“Since you’re not cooperating with us, Miss Jordan, we can only use this way to take you to the car.”

The man said and eyed the bodyguards at one side.

Two of the bodyguards walked to both of Cathy’s sides and lifted her up without breaking a sweat.

“What are you doing?! Let me go!”

Cathy struggled with all her might, but she could not win against those tall and sturdy men no matter what.

She was forcefully taken into the car. The car was driving very fast, so it was impossible for her to jump out of it. She could only let them do whatever they wanted with her.

Adam was in his office doing his research with full attention. When he was done, he noticed that Cathy had called him not long ago.

He quickly called her back but realized that she had switched off her phone.

Adam started feeling nervous. He quickly checked the location of Cathy’s phone and found out that her phone was in a place he had never been to before.

At this moment, Cathy was sitting in an extravagant-looking European-style living room. As she faced the

cold and expressionless face that looked like an iceberg, her heart was filled with questions.

“Professor Gray, why did you go through so much trouble to bring me here?” Cathy went straight to the point. “My children are still waiting for me at home, so I can’t stay out for too long.”

When Carter heard the way Cathy addressed him, the corners of his lips moved slightly.

“I noticed you back when we were in the academy. You’re talented in hypnotism and your results were exceptional as well. The only person who could break my hypnotism so far is you.”

It sounded as if Carter was praising Cathy, but she did not think so.

“Professor Gray, can you just tell me why you brought me here?”

When Carter saw Cathy’s impatient expression, he slowly lifted his cup of coffee and leisurely took a sip.

“Taste this coffee. Is it the same as the one you had in St. Piaf?”

“...”

Cathy peered askance at the coffee on the coffee table. She did not know why Carter was saying that.

“Have a taste.”

Carter parted his lips again, and his tone was mild.

When Cathy thought of what had happened to Madeline, she looked at the cup of coffee but did not reach out to hold it.

Carter detected Cathy's doubts and smiled. "You're very cautious. However, don't worry. I didn't add anything to the coffee. I didn't have a particular reason when I asked my men to bring you here. I just want you to stay here for some time."

"You want me to stay here?" Cathy was in disbelief. Then, she saw Carter nodding firmly.

"Why do you want me to stay here?"

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Carter smiled slightly as he gracefully placed the cup down.

Without speaking further, he stood up and left.

Cathy stood up in response. "Carter Gray."

She called out, but Carter ignored her and continued to walk on.

Cathy had thought of chasing after him, but then saw Shirley walking past Carter and toward her.

Upon seeing her stunning face, memories started to resurface in Cathy's mind.

"You're Adam's sister (TN: Cathy formally addressed Adam as a senior here), aren't you?"

Shirley curled her red lips into a smile. She then took out a cigarette, taking a drag. "Adam? I had

thought you were already my sister-in-law, but I guess that's not the case."

Although Cathy understood what Shirley had meant, she did not panic. "Do you and Carter know each other? Why did you guys bring me here?"

Shirley did not answer Cathy's question. She took another drag of her cigarette and asked, "The person you love is named Felipe Whitman, is that right?"

Cathy's felt as though something had brutally pierced her heart at the mention of Felipe.

She absentmindedly stared at Shirley; her gaze seemed unfocused.

Seeing the dazed-looking Cathy, Shirley's smile immediately vanished.

"My brother had given you his heart and had even raised those two brats for you, yet all you keep thinking about is that man, Felipe. Love and relationships in this world are just unfair, isn't it?"

"Nonetheless, God is still somewhat fair. Now that the Felipe guy is dead, would you say that this is your karma for disappointing my brother?"

Hearing the word "karma", Cathy quickly returned to her senses.

She looked into Shirley's eyes which flickered with a disdainful grin, and calmly said, "If there's truly karma in this world, then the ones who deserve it the most are those malefactors who commit wicked acts."

"Are you talking about me?" Shirley scoffed in contempt. "Miss Jordan, just stay here obediently. Don't even think about leaving for the time being."

“Wait!” Cathy called out to Shirley who turned to leave. “Why are you locking me up here?”

“Why?” Shirley smirked. As she was about to continue speaking, a maid ran over hurriedly.

“Why are you so flustered?” Shirley asked coldly.

“There’s a refined-looking young man in glasses insisting on barging in. He said his important friend is here.” The maid shot a glance at Adam as she spoke.

When Cathy and Shirley heard the maid’s description, they deduced who this man was at the same time.

‘It was Adam.

‘This man was surely Adam.’

Cathy thought quietly and noticed Shirley’s expectant look, a confident smile on her face.

“Let him in.”

“Yes,” the maid responded and turned around.

Shortly after, Adam quickly ran into the living room, appearing before Cathy.

“Cathy!” Adam spotted Cathy and ran over to her with a worried look. “Cathy, are you okay? What in the world happened? Why are you here?”

"I had her brought here." Shirley's voice drifted from one side.

Adam looked back and saw Shirley sitting on the sofa, leisurely holding a cigarette as she smoked it.

Adam frowned. He had already told Shirley what he needed to and had even shown her the notebook, yet Shirley was still acting like this.

Not wanting to say much else, he grabbed Cathy's hand. "Cathy, let's go."

"Go? Are you sure you can leave?"

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The chill in Shirley's emotionless voice was palpable.

Adam looked at Shirley, tightening his grip on Cathy's hand, and continued toward the door.

Barely a few steps and Shirley's voice drifted from behind once again.

"Adam, I brought her here so that you can be content with your lot. Don't you even think about stepping out of the door."

Upon hearing these words, Cathy instantly understood.

She was merely bait for Adam, who would come and look for her here, luring him into this trap.

Adam's fists clenched as he suddenly turned around. When he saw Shirley smoking in a carefree demeanor, his face fell. "Shirley, you should've already read dad's notebook. Why are you still acting like this?"

Shirley stepped toward Adam, her face insipid. "Adam, you're already an adult. Are you so naive to think you could solve this matter, one that had been gnawing at my mind for all these years, just by doing that? Let me tell you. It's not possible!"

She gritted her teeth as she spat out the last three words.

Adam could deeply sense Shirley's heartlessness. He also knew there was nothing else that he needed to say. He only wanted to get Cathy away from here.

"If you just want to keep me here, I'll stay. Let Cathy go," Adam requested firmly.

However, Shirley would certainly not agree to that. "None of you are allowed to leave," she said, her eyebrows raised.

After her cold words, she instructed the maid next to her before she went upstairs.

As Adam stared at Shirley's figure decisively walking away, he could not help but frown.

Cathy, seeing Adam's troubled expression, tried to ease his anxiety.

"Let's just stay here then, treat this as a holiday. You're her brother, so she shouldn't do anything to you."

Adam sighed softly after hearing that. He looked at Cathy; his eyes filled with regret while hers flickered with a smile.

“I’m sorry for dragging you into this. I’m the one she’s after.”

“I should be the one apologizing. If it wasn’t for me, you won’t even be in this mess,” Cathy apologized, then thanked him sincerely. “Adam, I’m very grateful for your concern. No one else has shown me such care besides my parents.”

Adam’s eyes glinted, feeling touched by her words.

While he knew Felipe had been executed, he never thought that he would get his chance this way.

However, a selfish notion lingered in his mind—the notion to grab the chance to care for her forever.

As Adam brought Cathy to the room that Shirley had arranged for them, he surveyed the surroundings. While it might seem easy to escape, Adam doubted that was the case.

Judging from Cathy’s words, Adam also finally understood the kind of person Carter was.

Cathy was unclear as to Carter’s and Shirley’s purpose for trapping Adam here.

However, Adam quickly dispelled Cathy’s uncertainty.

“They don’t want me to develop an anti-toxoid test reagent that cures the poison within Eveline’s body.” Adam could see through their plan. “Shirley developed a type of poison, which has been taking effect in Eveline’s body. She doesn’t want me to develop an anti-toxoid test reagent to combat this poison.”

“What? There’s still poison in Evie’s body?”

"That's right." Adam frowned in distress. "I truly don't understand why on earth Shirley's doing this."

"Perhaps it's not what she wants to do, but who she's doing this for."

Upon hearing Cathy's words, Adam was stunned as realization hit him. "Could it be Carter? She's doing this for Carter."

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"I think so." Cathy was certain about this.

She suddenly thought she could see her old self in Shirley.

Back then, she would similarly do anything for Felipe without hesitation. She would do it for Felipe no matter what it was.

Back then, she had even hypnotized Jeremy for that man...

However, that day was already long gone.

Now, not only was that day long gone but so too was that person.

While she was lost in thought, she heard Adam's phone ringing.

"It's Jeremy," Adam said, gesturing to Cathy to not make a sound.

Cathy nodded, then Adam picked up the phone. "Don't worry. I assure you, I'll develop the anti-toxoid test reagent to heal Eveline as soon as possible. I've been busy with my research recently, so don't worry if you can't contact me. I'll call the moment there's an update."

Cathy could tell that Adam did not want Jeremy to know about his captivity. Her heart suddenly ached for this man who always prioritized the needs of others with little consideration for himself.

Meanwhile, Jeremy, oblivious to Adam's and Cathy's plight, had been mostly concerned about Fabian's movements all this while.

Based on what he understood about the situation so far, Fabian would be reaching Glendale in two days.

When Madeline had learned this, her immediate concern was her precious daughter.

She knew the little princess truly wanted to see Fabian.

Fabian must have an extraordinary presence in the little princess's pure heart.

However, she did not tell Lillian about the possibility of seeing Fabian again. She sent the children to school as usual, and on her way home, she got a call from Jeremy. He told her Fabian would be arriving at Glendale by plane in an hour.

Madeline drove straight to the Glendale Airport. About two hours later, Madeline had yet to see Fabian at the airport exit.

At this moment, a tall figure appeared out of nowhere at the entrance of the kindergarten Lillian and Jackson attended.

The man wore a black coat over his towering figure, emitting a cold and mature air of austerity.

He stepped forward, approaching the guardhouse by the entrance.

When the guard saw the man, he went up and asked, "Who are you looking for, sir?"

"I'm looking for a child named Lillian Whitman from Sunflower Class B," the man said calmly.

The guard thoughtfully regarded the man. "Sir, who are you to Lillian Whitman?"

The man briefly froze, then answered, "I'm her family."

"Family?" The guard was doubtful. Before he could ask further, the man handed him a photo.

It was a photo of him and Lillian.

When the guard saw this photo, he lowered his guard. "Wait here for a moment."

"Okay." The man nodded slightly. He saw the guard walking in, and soon after, a petite figure appeared.

The class teacher held Lillian's hand as they slowly walked toward him.

Upon seeing that pure and adorable face again, the man's eyes narrowed, subtly glinting.

As Lillian finally saw the man, her small legs slowly came to a halt.

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When the class teacher saw that Lillian had stopped, she curiously looked at the man standing outside the gate. She then bent down and gently asked Lillian, "Lily, do you know that man? If you do, nod your head. If you don't, you can shake your head to tell me."

After the class teacher had spoken, Lillian neither shook nor nodded her head for more than ten seconds.

The class teacher found this to be a little peculiar. She knew that while Lillian could not speak, she could understand simple sentences.

She glanced at the man outside the gate and let go of Lillian's hand before walking over.

"What's your name, sir? You'd said that you're Lillian's family, but it seems that she doesn't know you." The class teacher voiced her concern.

"My last name is Johnson," the man replied. He looked toward Lillian, who remained unmoving, and slowly took out a piece of candy from his pocket.

Lillian seemed to be roused by the candy. She blinked her vivid, clear, and large eyes, then put her small hand into her pocket and took out a similar-looking candy.

When the man outside the gate saw the piece of candy in that small hand, a smile appeared on his handsome face.

"Long time no see, Lily," Fabian said in a soft voice as he reached out his hand to Lillian.

Lillian gazed into Fabian's eyes, gleaming with a warm smile, before taking a few steps forward slowly.

As the class teacher watched this transpiring, she asked again, concerned, “Lily, do you actually know this man?”

Lily, no longer silent, nodded seriously.

She walked up to Fabian and waved her small hand.

Fabian understood. He squatted in front of Lillia, smiling.

Lillian’s clear, large eyes gleamed radiantly as she reached out her fair little hands to hold Fabian’s palm. She then placed the candy which she had been keeping properly all this time into Fabian’s palm, gesturing to the man to hold it tightly.

Fabian’s eyes glinted, feeling touched in the softest spot in his heart.

The softness, however, quickly hardened for some reason.

“Long time no see, Lily. Let me take you out to play, okay?” Fabian coaxed.

Without any hesitation, Lillian nodded with fervor, her pure and adorable baby face beaming with joy.

Upon seeing Lillian and Fabian interacting with such familiarity and Lillian’s joyful smile, the class teacher was more at ease with leaving Lillian with Fabian, but she gave Madeline a call all the same.

Madeline and Jeremy, who were still waiting at the airport enquiring about Fabian’s current location, had not expected to receive this call.

“Did you say that a young man named Johnson picked up my daughter?”

“That’s right. Lillian seemed to know him very well,” the class teacher said as she took a photo and sent it to Madeline. “This is the man. Please confirm it for me, Mrs. Whitman.”

When Madeline had received the photo and taken a look, she and Jeremy were both shocked.

They had not expected Fabian to have arrived earlier, let alone expected that the first thing he did after arriving at Glendale was to find their precious daughter!

“Mrs. Whitman, do you know this man?”

“Yes, I know him. He’s a friend of mine,” said Madeline as she hastily ran to the parking lot with Jeremy, “Miss Ina, could I trouble you to put my friend on the phone? I’ve not been able to contact him.”

The class teacher was about to hand Fabian the phone upon hearing that, but when she lifted her gaze, she saw that Fabian, Lillian on his arm, was already walking across the zebra crossing.

“Mrs. Whitman, your friend had already left with Lily.”

These words somehow made Madeline begin to feel apprehensive.

Jeremy, who was just beside her, could tell that Madeline was worried, so he immediately comforted her. “Linnie, don’t worry. Fabian won’t hurt Lily.”

Even so, Madeline was still concerned.

“He’s still not picking up his phone.”

Madeline started to feel increasingly uneasy. Their numbers had been blocked, so she had deliberately changed to a new number, yet Fabian still did not pick up her calls.

She was having misgivings about this. ‘What on earth happened? Why was Fabian suddenly treating them like strangers?’

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While Fabian could be considered a stranger, his behavior toward their little princess was out of the ordinary.

Otherwise, why would he find Lillian immediately getting off the plane?

An amusement park nearby.

Since it was winter and the working hours, there were not many people at the park.

Even though the sun shone brightly, it was not enough to warm the body in the chilling winter.

Fabian was standing by the railing, watching Lillian who sat happily on the carousel. His face and eyes no longer held the warmth from earlier.

He narrowed his eyes, staring at the candy on the palm of his hand.

The candy wrapper had already faded, and the candy inside too had expired. Just like some other things, they had deteriorated in these two years.

However, he very well understood that, despite the faded wrapper and expired candy, some ingredients, like some relationships, still held unique meaning.

While still deep in thought, his phone started vibrating again.

He knew that it had to be from Madeline and Jeremy.

Fabian ignored it. When the carousel was slowing down, he walked up and waited for Lillian.

When the carousel stopped, he reached out and gently pulled Lillian into his arms.

Touching that soft petite body somehow dispelled the anxiety in Fabian's heart.

He again carried Lillian to another amusement facility to play. He watched her play, staying with her the entire time.

As they leisurely walked around, he bought Lily a balloon, a doll, and sweet cotton candy.

Although children were undoubtedly very annoying and clingy creatures, yet Fabian did not find Lillian to be annoying in the slightest.

The only thing he found unfortunate was Lillian's inability to speak.

The person who was responsible for causing Lillian's inability for normal speech was his sister Lana.

'Heh, Lana.'

She was dead. They were all dead.

All his family members were dead.

Thump!

While Fabian was lost in thought, he heard a sudden noise.

He lifted his gaze and saw that Lillian had fallen. He blanched immediately as he strode over to her.

“Lily, where does it hurt? Tell me, quickly!” Fabian’s eyes were filled with worry and concern.

Lillian pointed at her right knee where her sock was ripped, faintly revealing a scratch wound.

This should be very painful for a five- or six-year-old little girl, yet Lillian’s clear, wide, round eyes shed not a single tear.

She neither cried nor made a fuss. Her calmness and stubbornness greatly resembled Madeline’s.

However, Fabian felt his heart aching.

He scooped up Lillian with an arm and headed toward the doctor’s office.

The doctor immediately cleaned Lillian’s wounds, but for some reason, the blood on her knee seemed to keep coming, oozing out without end.