

The doctor had no choice but to simply wrap some bandages around Lillian's wound.

Fabian found this odd. 'How could a wound keep on bleeding and not stop?'

Without hesitation, he carried Lillian to the nearest hospital.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1701

Madeline had not been able to contact Fabian the entire time. She also did not know where Fabian had taken Lillian. Despite her uneasiness throughout this ordeal, she still believed that Fabian would certainly not hurt Lillian.

"Linnie, I know where Fabian had taken Lily." Jeremy sent Lillian's location to Madeline's phone.

This surprised Madeline. "Did you put a GPS tracker on Lillian?"

"That's the work of our precious son," Jeremy looked proud as he said that. "Even though Jack is only, he could sometimes think more comprehensively than we could."

Madeline strongly agreed with this fact.

There were several instances where Jeremy had managed to save Madeline from trouble in the nick of time thanks to her son.

However, upon seeing Lillian's location, Madeline's heart started racing again.

“Why’s Lily in the hospital? Why did Fabian take Lily to the hospital when she’s fine?”

“Linnie, let’s not worry too much yet. We’re heading over now, and we’ll know what happened as soon as we get there,” Jeremy comforted Madeline with a soft voice.

Madeline, however, was still feeling anxious, and this feeling continued to eat at her on the way to the hospital.

When they arrived at the hospital, Madeline was the first to get out of the car and went into the hospital. She ran hurriedly toward the outpatient service following the location Jeremy had sent her.

In her hurry, Madeline ran into a man as they both rounded the same corner.

“I’m sorry, sir. I’m in a hurry...”

While Madeline was apologizing, she lifted her gaze to see a familiar face.

Compared to how he had previously looked, the handsome face in front of her had more hints of maturity.

“Fabian, I guess this counts as bumping into you,” Madeline said knowingly. “Why did you cut off all contact with us? Additionally, why did you take Lily away after getting off the plane? Where’s Lily? Why did you bring her to the hospital?”

Fabian listened to all of Madeline’s questions with a calm expression. His face, which used to have a

self-indulgent look to it, let out a small smile.

“That’s a lot of questions. Which one would you like me to answer first?” Fabian’s tone was completely different from that of the past. His friendly, carefree tone was now laced with detachment and coldness.

Madeline got straight to the heart of the matter as well. As a mother, Madeline was most concerned about her precious daughter right now.

“First, tell me where’s Lily.” Fabian turned his head and looked behind him. “Lily’s in the doctor’s office.”

Madeline wanted to run past Fabian to the doctor’s office as soon as she heard the answer.

“However, it’s best if you’re mentally prepared.”

Madeline heard his sudden words as she walked past Fabian.

She abruptly stopped in her tracks; her heart started to feel uneasy again.

Madeline turned, looking at the side of Fabian’s cold face. “What do you mean, Fabian? What do you mean by that?”

After Madeline had said that, Jeremy too arrived hurriedly.

Jeremy briefly met Fabian’s eyes before shifting his gaze away, indifferent. “Linnie, what’s wrong?”

Madeline gently shook her head, her eyes glued to Fabian's face. "Fabian, explain to me, clearly, what you just said. What do you mean by 'mentally prepared'?"

Jeremy could immediately tell that something was off with these words. "Fabian, why did you say that? Where's my daughter?"

Fabian, looking at the frantic faces of Madeline and Jeremy, slowly lifted his hand and handed them a medical test report.

"The doctor suspects that Lily has leukemia."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1702

'What?'

Fabian's answer, like a thunder in clear weather, shocked Madeline and Jeremy. The weight of the news felt like a sudden, heavy downpour, drenching them head to toe.

Madeline's vision went blank, as though all the oxygen in her body had been sucked out.

"Linnie!" Jeremy supported Madeline, who seemed to be on the verge of fainting.

Madeline, suddenly roused from her state, shot a glance at Fabian, then turned around and ran toward the doctor's office nearby.

Jeremy too glanced at Fabian, then quickly chased after Madeline. "Linnie, slow down."

He was worried about her, but at the same time, he was also worried about Lillian.

'No, there must be a mistake.

'Lily has been fine all this while. How would she have leukemia?'

Jeremy kept denying this in his heart, as did Madeline.

When they reached the doctor's office, Madeline pushed the door open. As the doctor was about to speak upon seeing Madeline and Jeremy, they heard Lillian calling out to Madeline lovingly, "Mom."

Madeline swiftly ran to Lillian and squatted in front of her. "Lily, Lily, tell me. Where does it hurt? Let me take a good look at you."

Madeline asked incoherently. Tears fell down her cheeks as she spoke.

Fabian's words just now were like a sharp sword cruelly piercing through her heart, which now felt like it was bleeding profusely.

"Linnie, let's calm down so that we don't frighten Lily. Let's ask the doctor first." Jeremy walked over and gently patted Madeline's shoulder, then handed Madeline a handkerchief to wipe the tears that were overflowing from her eyes.

Madeline recomposed herself, then turned toward the doctor.

“Doctor, we...”

“You’re Lillian’s parents?” the doctor asked instead.

Madeline and Jeremy nodded in tandem. “We’re her parents.”

“You’re just in time.” The doctor said and looked at Lillian in pity. “Your friend had sent your daughter over for a checkup. When I was examining the little one’s condition, I noticed that she was bleeding excessively. There could be something wrong with her blood clotting capability, that is why I suspect that she has leukemia.”

Upon hearing the doctor’s answer, Madeline’s mind went blank again.

“Linnie, Linnie, stay strong.” Jeremy held Madeline’s shoulder to comfort her.

In truth, his heart was also in great pain right now, as though it was being sliced to bits. However, as a man, as a husband, he could not let himself display his sadness and worry.

Although there was a raging storm in his heart, he had to hold out, holding up the umbrella amidst the tempest. For her, and for their children.

Madeline fought back her tears. She turned to look at Lillian who blinked her huge eyes, then felt waves of excruciating pain.

The child was barely five. Pure and bright, she was still young and ignorant, yet she had to endure this

kind of pain.

Madeline suddenly felt exhausted. All she wanted was to have a peaceful life with her family, but such times always seemed out of her reach.

“You don’t have to worry for the time being. This is still merely my conjecture. We’ll have a concrete answer once we’ve completed a more comprehensive examination on the child.”

However, following the doctor’s hopeful words, Fabian’s cold voice drifted from the entrance of the doctor’s office.

“There’s no need to wait for the result.”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1703

Madeline and Jeremy turned toward the voice and saw Fabian slowly walking into the office.

He gazed at the little one, who was standing at a side, blinking her clear, large eyes at him. He could not help but frown slightly.

“We basically could confirm that Lily has this disease,” Fabian answered with certainty. “I’ve already reminded you to be mentally prepared.”

“Fabian, how would you know that my daughter has this disease? Why did you find my daughter immediately after getting off the plane?” Jeremy questioned, feeling doubtful.

“Can’t I come back to see an old friend?” Fabian seemed to be downplaying his answer. He was even teasing the five-year-old Lillian as an old friend.

Madeline resisted waves of pain crashing against her as she turned back toward Lillian.

She had been so distressed earlier that she only just noticed the thick layer of gauze covering Lillian's knee.

"Lily, what happened here?"

Lillian lowered her head and, for a few seconds, stared intensely at her knee. Although the little girl tried to speak, she still could not make a sound.

Suddenly, Madeline, dazed, felt the pain in her heart intensified.

How could she forget that her precious daughter could not say anything aside from "daddy" and "mommy"?

"I brought her to an amusement park, and she fell when I wasn't paying attention," Fabian explained from behind Madeline.

"You brought my daughter to an amusement park?" Jeremy's confusion deepened further. He lowered his gaze and looked at his wife and daughter, then he looked askance at Fabian. "Come out for a moment. I have something to ask you."

Fabian frowned. He seemed unwilling to comply, but in the end, he turned to follow Jeremy out of the doctor's office.

"What do you want to talk to me about, Mr. Whitman? My time is precious now."

These words made Jeremy realize that he could no longer recognize this person.

“Fabian, could you tell me why you’ve been cutting off contact with us? When you had left, why did you go out of your way to meet with my daughter?”

After listening to Jeremy’s questions, Fabian momentarily seemed reticent. A while later, he removed a pack of exquisitely packaged cigarettes from his pocket, then he took out a cigarette, seemingly about to smoke.

“This is a hospital,” Jeremy reminded him.

Fabian paused briefly, but then quickly smiled. Nonchalantly, he turned and walked to the emergency staircase at the end of the corridor, then lit the cigarette.

He smoked and puffed away with expert ease.

A white cloud of smoke faintly floated past his face, obscuring his facial expression.

This was the first time Jeremy saw Fabian like this. Now, Jeremy was more certain that the Fabian before him and the Fabian he and Madeline had known were two different people.

“Do I need a reason to cut ties with you? I don’t have a special relationship with you guys anyway. It’s just that we used to get along.”

Fabian answered, his words were devoid of emotion as if he was talking to a stranger.

Jeremy could sense Fabian’s resolve in this, so he did not want to get tangled in this any further.

“Alright. Since you want to cut all ties with us and have even blocked Linnie’s number and mine, why are

you still contacting my daughter? You went to the kindergarten and took my daughter away the moment you got off the plane. You even brought her to the amusement park. Why are you so eager to curry favor with my daughter?"

"Why..."

Fabian repeated the word as if he was talking to himself. Suddenly, he laughed.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1704

"No reason. I want to see her, so I did."

Fabian answered matter-of-factly.

"That's why you want to cut ties with us? It's because you want to?"

"Uh-huh," Fabian replied with a half-smile as he lit the cigarette. "If there's anything else you want to ask, I can answer you now so that you two won't keep contacting me through all sorts of channels."

Fabian's answer clearly showed that he had no intention whatsoever of maintaining contact with them after this.

Jeremy's long eyebrows knitted together as he was about to speak, but then he heard hurried yet familiar footsteps behind him.

He looked back and saw Madeline running toward him with a worried expression.

Jeremy, not in the mood to deal with Fabian, quickly turned and ran to Madeline.

“Linnie, did something happen to Lily?” he asked with concern, fearing that the situation would go from bad to worse.

The look on Madeline’s face looked especially frightful, worrying him further.

Madeline glanced at Fabian, who was enjoying his cigarette by the window, then averted her gaze and shook her head. “Jeremy, let’s go home. The doctor said that Lily needs a comprehensive examination as soon as possible, only then we could arrange for her treatment.”

“Okay.” Jeremy held Madeline’s hand and turned, no longer paying any attention to Fabian.

Madeline glanced at Fabian again, but he only stood by the window without any response as he continued to smoke.

As per the doctor’s advice, Jeremy and Madeline brought Lillian for a comprehensive examination. When the results were out, it was just like Fabian had said—there was a problem with Lillian’s blood clotting capability.

This meant that when the little girl bled, it might be impossible for her to stop the bleeding.

It was still fortunate that the little girl’s situation was yet to be considered terrible. At the very least, she had not reached the stage where a bone marrow transplant was required.

Nevertheless, it was not that much better.

Madeline did not keep Lillian’s illness a secret. When their family members learned of Lillian’s physical condition, they were all shocked and heartbroken.

Madeline, utterly deflated, stood by the French window. She looked at Lillian who was being held in Karen's arms, then closed her eyes, feeling exhausted.

Jeremy approached Madeline. "Linnie."

He held her gently and said, "We've been through so many difficult times together. I believe that we can get through this as well."

Madeline, feeling dejected, leaned her head against Jeremy's shoulder. "Last time, it was me. Now, it's my daughter's turn. I'm so scared that Lily would go through the hardships I'd gone through."

"She won't." Jeremy tightened his embrace. "Lily will get better. Trust me, okay?"

Madeline lifted her gaze toward her precious daughter, who was completely oblivious of it all. She saw Lillian sitting on Karen's lap. There was an innocent smile on Lillian's pinkish cheeks, and her adorable hand was still fiddling with the candy that bonded her with Fabian.

Madeline could not help but frown. She moved out of the embrace and faced the man; her expression was serious while his was gentle.

"Jeremy, what did you and Fabian talk about? Did he tell you why he wants to cut ties with us?"

Jeremy frowned and shook his head. "He became kind of strange."

"I think so too. It's like he's another person. Why on earth has he turned out this way?"

Jeremy pondered, then ventured a guess. "Perhaps this was the reason."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1705

'Reason?'

The puzzlement in Madeline's eyes intensified. "What reason?"

Jeremy seemed to hesitate for a few seconds, but he suddenly shook his head gently. "Nothing. Maybe I'm just overthinking. Linnie, let's briefly discuss Lily's treatment."

He changed the subject, but he was starting to find Fabian's change suspicious.

Since Madeline was now more concerned about Lillian's disease, she did not question.

In the following days, Madeline and Jeremy had rushed between a few hospitals, and eventually found a place for Lillian in the hospital that was well-known and most authoritative in treating leukemia.

Madeline could not stand seeing such a young child going through so much pain. She had initially expected the child to swiftly recover and be able to speak, but they were merely jumping out of the frying pan and into the fire.

Moreover, Eloise's mind had yet to recover even now, so Madeline truly felt mentally exhausted.

The night came as usual.

Madeline was at the side of Lillian's bed. After Lillian had fallen asleep, she tip-toed out of the room and into the corridor for some fresh air.

Presently, Jeremy was on his way home to get some daily necessities, so he would only be back a while longer. Now, there was only Madeline.

Madeline was about to sit down for a short rest when a nurse walked over and asked, "Excuse me, are you Lillian Whitman's mother?"

"I am."

"This is about Lillian's information. I'd need you to verify them."

Madeline glanced at the room. Even though the child was sleeping soundly, she was still quite worried.

The nurse, noticing Madeline's worries, said, "I'll ask my colleague to watch over the child. Don't worry."

"Thanks," said Madeline as she followed the nurse to the nursing station.

However, the moment Madeline left, a figure swiftly walked over from the end of the corridor and sneaked into Lillian's room.

The tall and upright figure went straight toward Lillian's bed. Seeing the peaceful face still soundly asleep, the man reached out and caressed her cheeks. He then placed a bundle of powder blue baby's breaths on the cabinet by the bed.

Click.

The door to the room opened suddenly. A nurse walked in and eyed the man, who stood next to the bed, with suspicion.

"Who are you?"

He briefly froze when he heard the words, then retracted his hand.

He immediately turned to leave without a word.

“Hey, who are you?” Confused, the nurse quickly and vigilantly chased after him.

The man, however, was quick on his feet, so she was unable to catch up.

Worried that something could happen to the unguarded Lillian, the nurse dared not continue her pursuit. She turned back and returned to the room, helping Madeline to watch over Lillian.

Barely a moment had passed, Madeline returned, and the nurse explained to her what had just happened.

Upon hearing the nurse’s description of the man, Madeline could roughly guess who it was.

She requested the nurse to continue watching over Lillian, then turned and headed toward the end of the corridor.

The hospital was very quiet at night. Madeline reached the door to the emergency staircase and saw that there was light coming from the staircase. This meant that the sound-activated light was turned on, clearly indicating that someone was there.

Without hesitation, Madeline pushed the door open and went in.

A faint smell of tobacco drifted over, and Madeline saw Fabian standing by the staircase, a cold look on his face as he smoked.

Fabian was slightly shocked to see Madeline, but he still managed to look very calm.

“You’re still as smart as ever, figuring out that I’m here, my lady,” Fabian said in a mocking tone all the while addressing Madeline as “my lady” like how he used to.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1706

“Didn’t you want to cut ties with us? Why are you still visiting my daughter then?” Madeline asked.
“Fabian, can you tell me what kind of mentality you’re having right now?”

“What kind of mentality...” Fabian murmured in repetition. He tapped his cigarette with his finger lightly. The tip of the flickering cigarette turned into ashes that fell by the side of his feet silently.

“Heh.” Suddenly, he laughed.

Madeline suddenly felt that the look in Fabian’s eyes had changed. His gaze now was filled with a kind of hostility.

“If I tell you I have a mentality for revenge, what would you say to that?”

Revenge.

That word was very serious.

Madeline frowned. “Are you going to take revenge on Jeremy and me? Do you think we’re the ones responsible for Yorick’s and Lana’s deaths?”

Fabian narrowed his eyes, and there was a hint of disappointment in them.

"I thought we were friends this whole time, but eventually, I realized that I was just being used by you guys. Eveline Montgomery, we're not friends anymore."

Madeline was getting more and more confused as she listened to him. She did not know why Fabian would think that all of a sudden.

"Fabian, I think there's some misunderstanding between you and us."

"It's not a misunderstanding." Fabian denied this decisively before continuing, "Eveline, from now on, we can only be enemies."

When Madeline saw the decisiveness and firmness in Fabian's eyes, she felt that she did not need to explain too much.

"Alright, if you insist on thinking this way, then please go ahead. However, don't approach my daughter, okay?"

After she said that, Fabian lifted his hand to take a drag on his cigarette.

"I think it's hard for me to do that, Eveline."

"Fabian, you—"

"Go look at your precious daughter. Watch out, something might happen if you're not by her side," Fabian reminded her profoundly.

Madeline's expression changed. She immediately turned around and ran back.

'Lily!'

'Did Fabian deliberately lure me here?'

'Please don't let anything happen to you, Lily!'

Madeline thought in her heart. Her heartbeat became more and more frenetic along with her footsteps.

When Jeremy arrived at the hospital, he saw Madeline hurriedly running over before he got to the door of the ward. He quickened the pace of his footsteps and sped toward Madeline. The two of them rushed over from both directions to the door of the ward.

"Linnie, what happened? Did something happen to Lily?" Jeremy's face was filled with worry.

Madeline did not have time to explain the situation to him. She turned around and pushed the door open.

"Lily!" Madeline ran over while losing her head out of fear. She saw that there was no one in bed. The nurse from just now was gone as well.

A cold chill surged from the bottom of her feet, and Madeline felt as though every cell in her body had turned cold.

"Lily... Lily is gone." Madeline looked at the empty bed with a despondent look. Her eyes went red in that instant.

"Why did Fabian do this? Why? What do we have to do with Yorick's and Lana's deaths? Why does he

want to seek revenge on us?”

“Linie, what are you talking about? What happened to you?” Jeremy held Madeline’s shoulders in concern. He forced her to look at him. When he saw Madeline’s teary and red eyes, his heart ached even more.

“Linnie, did you see Fabian just now? What did he say to you?”

Madeline looked into Jeremy’s eyes with a lifeless look in her eyes. When she was about to say something, the nurse who had been watching Lillian just now appeared at the door. “Mrs. Whitman, what are you doing here?”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1707

When Madeline heard the nurse asking her this, she abruptly came back to her senses.

She strode over to the nurse and grabbed the nurse’s hand. “Nurse, where is my daughter? Why is my daughter missing?”

“Missing?” The nurse blinked in confusion. “Lillian is sleeping in the next ward. How is she missing?”

“Next ward?”

Madeline immediately understood and noticed that this was not Lillian’s ward after all.

She ran out of the ward and into the next ward.

When she saw Lillian sleeping soundly in bed, Madeline’s racing heart started to calm down.

“Linnie.” Jeremy got behind Madeline and lifted his hand to caress her short hair.

Linnie turned around abruptly and hugged Jeremy. She could not hold in the tears that were welled up in her eyes.

Jeremy held Madeline while feeling sorry for her. He comforted her, saying, “I’ll always stay with you. Just cry if you want to. Don’t force yourself.”

Madeline bit her lip and nestled tightly against Jeremy’s chest as she let all her tears out.

However, she did not dare to cry too loud. She was worried that she would wake her little princess who was sleeping.

She was terrified. She was scared that something had happened to Lillian earlier, so that was why that situation happened just now. She did not realize she had walked into the wrong ward.

Madeline stayed in Jeremy’s arms for a very long time before finally recomposing herself.

When they saw that their child was still sleeping soundly, Madeline and Jeremy walked to the chairs outside the ward to sit down.

Madeline told Jeremy the conversation she had with Fabian just now. After Jeremy heard about it, he was not surprised. It seemed that he had expected this.

“I had also wondered if Fabian had suddenly changed because of Lana’s and Yorick’s deaths,” Jeremy stated the guesses he had in his heart.

However, Madeline thought that it was not so simple. “Yorick was executed because he violated the law and the same for Lana. She did so many things and in the end, she was killed by Ryan. The deaths of the siblings had nothing to do with us at all. Why is Fabian blaming us?”

Jeremy also thought that Madeline was making sense. He furrowed his handsome sword eyebrows and parted his thin lips, saying, “Perhaps something we don’t know about happened in between. If not, Fabian wouldn’t have said that to you either.”

‘I thought we were friends this whole time, but eventually, I realized that I was just being used by you guys. Eveline Montgomery, we’re not friends anymore.’

This statement repeated in Madeline’s and Jeremy’s heads at the same time.

“Linnie, something must have happened to Fabian and that was why he said this.”

“But I’ve never used him before. At first, I thought he was very unreliable and looked like a hedonistic son of rich parents who only know how to have fun, but gradually, I started to treat him as someone I could trust,” Madeline said before sighing in pity.

“Now, he’s treating us as enemies and the people he’s going to take revenge on. I’m so worried if he’ll do something to Lily.”

“I don’t think he will.” Jeremy gave her a firm answer. He grabbed Madeline’s hand and looked at her gorgeous eyes that were filled with worry. “Linnie, trust me and trust Fabian too. Trust that he won’t hurt Lily.”

Madeline nodded and leaned her head against Jeremy’s shoulder.

However, when she was about to close her eyes to rest for a while, her heart started racing all of a sudden.

Jeremy could see that something was not right with Madeline. "Linnie, what's going on? Where does it hurt?"

Madeline sat up and tried her best to keep herself calm, but she could not stop her heart that was racing again. "Jeremy, I think it's starting again. The poison is flaring up..."

Madeline lifted her hand to put it where her heart was. Her face was also gradually becoming paler and paler.

Jeremy's expression changed as well. He carried Madeline bridal style and placed her on the carer's bed in the ward. "Linnie, don't be scared. You'll be fine."

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"Okay..."

Madeline replied weakly. At that moment, she felt as though cold waves were furiously crashing against her. It was as if she had fallen into an icy lake where she was slowly sinking. That bone-piercing feeling was about to drown out all of her senses.

"I'm so cold..."

Madeline murmured.

Jeremy quickly wrapped Madeline tightly with the blanket, and at the same time, he increased the temperature of the air conditioner. However, Madeline was still shaking uncontrollably.

Aside from feeling sorry for her, Jeremy could not do anything. This feeling of not being as capable as he wished to be caused him to feel distraught and anxious.

Jeremy calmed himself down and reached out to stroke Madeline's cheek. He comforted her in a soft voice.

"Linnie, hold on. I'll call Adam now. You'll get through this."

"Okay..." Madeline blinked.

She knew she would be able to make it through.

Shirley had told her she would not die as well. She would only have to suffer this kind of unknown torment.

Plus, it was also unknown what would happen the next time this happened.

While comforting Madeline, Jeremy made a call to Adam. However, he could not get through to Adam no matter how he tried.

He tried to call Cathy but it was the same result.

Jeremy looked at the time and thought that it would be impossible for Adam and Cathy to be sleeping at this hour. However, they were not picking up his calls.

As he watched Madeline suffering from the pain, he quickly called the dean of this hospital whom he was familiar with. After a while, an experienced doctor in a white coat walked into the room with a stabilizer.

Jeremy stood at one side as he watched the doctor inject the stabilizer into Madeline's vein. However, Madeline's chills and heartache only slightly got better for the time being.

The doctor said that he could not do anything as well. Madeline's symptoms did not look like normal symptoms of any disease.

After the doctor left, Jeremy stayed next to Madeline for a while. After making sure that Madeline was not in as much pain anymore, he called the nurse over to take care of Madeline and his daughter before he hurriedly left.

He drove to Carter's villa in Glendale. After he arrived, the bodyguards at the gate stopped Jeremy from entering.

Jeremy immediately beat up the two bodyguards and walked to the living room.

After the two bodyguards that had been defeated got up from the ground, they quickly ran over to chase after Jeremy. They even wanted to take action against Jeremy, but before they could do anything, Jeremy punched them. The two fell to the ground while wailing in pain.

"Shirley Brown, get the hell out!"

Jeremy yelled at the stairs.

Adam and Cathy, who were in the room, ran to the door when they heard this.

They wanted to go out but the door was locked from outside. They could not open the door at all.

"The poison in Eveline must be flaring up again, so that's why Jeremy is here." Adam's guess was correct.

Cathy started to become worried as well. "What should we do now? Is Evie in danger?"

"I'm not sure." Adam frowned. When he thought about Madeline's situation back then, he could not make any judgments.

Adam lifted his hand and slammed on the door with all his might.

"Open the door!"

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Adam tried to make some noises to get Jeremy's attention while he was downstairs.

Cathy also tried to slam on the door while screaming. However, there seemed to be no sounds of activities around them even after a long while. It appeared that no one had heard them.

Jeremy heard some noises, but he did not know where the noises came from. He only knew that someone was repeatedly knocking.

He felt that something was amiss. When he was about to go upstairs, he saw Carter at the staircase.

"Don't you think it's inappropriate for you to come to my house so late at night, Mr. Whitman?" Carter's face was as cold as an iceberg as he came downstairs emotionlessly.

"Whose name were you calling out just now? Shirley?"

When Jeremy saw Carter pretending to look confused, he looked at him coldly.

“Carter, stop pretending. Shirley is part of this whole plan with you. I already know it.”

“Oh? Really?” Carter asked coldly with a calm and indifferent expression. “If that’s the case, why are you still here? If you know we’re in this together and that the poison in your wife’s body doesn’t have an anti-toxoid test reagent, why did you still come to me?”

“You don’t have to teach me how to do things! Get me Shirley!” Jeremy did not have time to beat around the bush with Carter. His heart was now occupied with the desire to ease Madeline’s discomfort. However, only Shirley was able to help Madeline now because she was the person who created this poison.

When Carter saw Jeremy so deeply worried about Madeline, a small smile appeared on the corners of his lips.

He asked a maid to bring some tea over. He sat down on the sofa leisurely to drink the tea.

“Carter, ask Shirley to come out. I know she must be here.” Jeremy was sure. It had always been easy for him to track someone in Glendale.

If he wanted to find someone, he would have no problems doing it.

He also knew about Shirley and Carter coming to Glendale back then.

Carter slowly took a sip of his tea. “Even if she comes out to see you, she doesn’t have an anti-toxoid test reagent for you. Even if she does, it’s only able to ease your wife’s condition temporarily.”

“Don’t spew nonsense with me.” Jeremy’s patience was wearing thin. “Carter, you can do whatever you want in St. Piaf, but let me remind you, this is Glendale!”

Carter's hand that was holding the teacup froze.

It looked as if he was contemplating something. After that, when he was about to say something, a loud bang came from upstairs. It sounded as if someone had kicked a door open.

Jeremy and Carter looked in the direction of the sound at the same time. The next second, Shirley's figure appeared in their vision.

Carter's gaze turned cold. He placed his teacup down and stood up coldly.

When Jeremy saw Shirley, he quickly ran to her.

He grabbed her wrist and tightened his grip on her without mercy. "Shirley, where is the anti-toxoid test reagent? Give it to me now!"

Shirley knitted her beautiful eyebrows in pain. Then, she curled her red lips into a smile.

"Is the poison flaring up again?"

"Stop asking when you clearly know the answer. Where is the anti-toxoid test reagent?"

"I need time to develop the test reagent and I don't have any extra anti-toxoid test reagent with me anymore," Shirley said carefreely. However, after she said that, she could feel the grip on her wrist tightening.

"Really? No more? Alright!" Jeremy said and pulled Shirley forcefully into the direction of the door.

When they had only taken a few steps, Carter's cold and indifferent voice could be heard from behind them.

"Let go of her." His tone was indistinct but filled with imposing chills.

Jeremy ignored Carter's warning and continued dragging Shirley over to the door.

The next second, Jeremy suddenly heard the sound of someone loading a bullet into a gun. Then, a force came whooshing behind his ear at lightning speed.

His hearing was exceptional and he was very nimble.

In just a split second, he dodged the bullet that flew past the side of his face.

Carter had fired the gun.

Jeremy stopped, and Shirley, who witnessed this scene, was startled.

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She looked at Carter in disbelief. She saw him holding a gun with a cold expression. His face looked frigid, like he had on an emotionless poker face.

His elegant and noble image in front of others was completely reversed at this moment.

Right now, he looked like a cold-blooded and cruel duke of the night. He had a dark aura emitting from his body.

He clearly wanted to prevent Jeremy from taking Shirley away just now, so that was why he had fired

the gun.

'Did he do that for me?'

Shirley's heart started racing.

Carter held the gun and walked toward Jeremy.

"No one can take anything away from my manor in front of me. It doesn't matter if this is Glendale."

'Anything.'

This description caused Shirley's initially gleeful heart to plunge into the abyss.

Right.

How would he care about her?

He had been using her this entire time. Their relationship was like that of a master and a servant.

"Jeremy, let her go," Carter requested, his eyes looking icy.

However, Jeremy's eyes looked colder than Carter's. "Don't think I'll let her go if I don't get the anti-toxoid test reagent."

After he said that, a slight change appeared on Carter's emotionless face.

“Jeremy, are you sure?”

“I’m very sure. You guys are the ones who are not sure.”

Jeremy said and dragged Shirley away even harder.

“Jeremy, you’re making me feel that you’re a challenging person to deal with,” Carter said this profound statement suddenly.

Jeremy could sense the profoundness in Carter’s statement, and he also realized that this man might take action against him. As such, Jeremy was prepared.

However, at this moment, two sets of frantic and messy footsteps could be heard from upstairs.

“Jeremy!”

Adam’s voice could be heard soon after.

Jeremy’s leaving footsteps and Carter’s act of pulling the trigger abruptly stopped.

Thud, thud, thud. Adam quickly came downstairs, followed by Cathy.

Jeremy finally understood why he had failed to get through to Cathy and Adam. They had been trapped here.

Jeremy looked askance at Shirley, his eyes filled with disdain. “You’re even taking action against your

brother. Shirley Brown, you're truly despicable."

Shirley smiled when Jeremy ridiculed her.

"Of course. If not, how else would I develop such poison to use on humans?"

"Shirley!"

"You're in a lot of pain, right? You've experienced that kind of pain before, but now, it's your wife's turn." Shirley chuckled as if she was mocking Jeremy.

"Is this time different from before? She's feeling a weight on her chest, having breathing difficulties, and experiencing chills all over her body, right?" Shirley accurately stated Madeline's current symptoms.

Jeremy's grip tightened, and he wanted so badly to crush this evil woman into pieces.

Shirley gritted her teeth and frowned in pain. However, she soon curled her red lips into a smirk again. "Jeremy, do you want to know what the poison will do to the woman you love the most at the final stage?"

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Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1711

The final stage.

Jeremy's heart suddenly sank. He could see Shirley's face betraying a sly expression as she spoke.

Shirley's smile widened further upon seeing the worry in Jeremy's eyes.

"Forget it, I won't reveal it to you now so that you won't get worried."

"Shirley!" Jeremy's patience was depleted. His deep, narrow eyes glared with a cold edge. "I'm not in the mood to waste time with you. I want the anti-toxoid test reagent. Do you understand?"

"Hiss." Shirley could not suppress her pain. Her wrist felt like it could break anytime at Jeremy's mercy.

Her beautiful brows snapped together. She then chuckled softly through gritted teeth, a helpless expression on her face.

"I understand, but you should also understand that I don't have any extra anti-toxoid test reagent."

When Jeremy heard this, his eyes emitted a ghastly murderous intent, and his thin lips pressed together. Without another word, he abruptly grabbed Shirley by her neck ruthlessly and dragged her outside.

“Ugh... Cough!”

Shirley had not expected Jeremy to be so menacing.

She immediately lost all control over her breathing. In that instant, she could see Carter’s face turning cold and fierce, as if he would explode at any second.

Just when she had thought Carter would come to her rescue, she saw Adam running over to her with a worried look on his face.

“Jeremy! Release her first! She doesn’t have the anti-toxoid test reagent, but I do. I’ve been experimenting the whole time, and I’ve almost succeeded! Really!”

Adam had deliberately emphasized that to convince Jeremy to temporarily release Shirley, who nearly suffocated.

Jeremy stopped in his tracks. He lowered his eyes and glared at Shirley in disgust before turning back to Adam.

“Do you think this kind of person is worth it? She’s unfit to be your sister.”

“This isn’t a matter of worthiness. I only know that, as a doctor, I have no intention to allow any living being to receive a death threat in my presence.”

Adam answered calmly, the panic on his face from a second ago vanished.

Jeremy peered coldly at Shirley and let out a chilling, sarcastic laugh, then suddenly released his grip.

Shirley fell onto the cold, hard floor with a thud, greedily gasping for air.

Just a moment ago, she truly had thought she would die from suffocation.

She had also thought Carter would rush over to her rescue at that moment, but even now, he merely stood by and watched, indifferent.

She had indeed mistaken that earlier shot as his care for her.

Shirley lifted her gaze and met the man's condescending eyes. She then laughed at herself. A bitter feeling crept up her throat, and she started coughing. Unable to hold back her embarrassment any further, tears fell from the corners of her eyes as she continued coughing.

"Jeremy, bring me to Eveline. Don't waste any more time. Hurry!" Adam reminded Jeremy.

Despite the rage that was already burning within Jeremy, Adam's reminder prevailed. Now no longer interested to continue teaching Shirley a lesson, Jeremy wanted only to immediately return to Madeline and ease her current symptoms.

"Linnie's in the hospital. Let's go!" Jeremy said as he took a step out of the door.

Adam and Cathy quickly followed.

Carter watched the three of them leave and frowned.

The bodyguards awaited his orders for pursuit, but Carter gave no orders.

He walked toward Shirley who still laid sideways on the cold, hard floor. His tall and lean body towered over Shirley like an ice sculpture as he peered disdainfully at Shirley.

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"Did you do that on purpose? You want to free your brother, don't you?" Carter asked coldly, the sternness expressed with the corners of his eyes and his eyebrows frightened Shirley.

"I... Cough cough... Why would I let him go?" Shirley answered Carter as she coughed. "He was the reason my parents had neglected me back then, the reason they'd sent me to study abroad. It wasn't for my future. The fact was that they'd just wanted a better opportunity to nurture their precious son. Hmph!"

Shirley looked toward the direction where Adam had left and chuckled coldly.

"I only want to see just how great their precious, cherished son truly is."

Shirley said this through gritted teeth.

Nonetheless, tears silently fell from the corners of her eyes. Her fists clenched as the thought of the notebook, containing her father's handwritten, surfaced in her mind.

Upon hearing Shirley's words and seeing the tears trickling out of the corners of her eyes, Carter's

eyes darkened.

He suddenly bent down and carried Shirley, who had still been lying on her side on the floor, in a bridal carry.

Shirley did not dare to expect much more. Being in Carter's arms right now was exactly what she had wanted.

...

The hospital.

It was the middle of the night when Jeremy got back to the hospital room.

Even though Madeline had been injected with some tranquilizer, she was still shivering under the blankets.

Jeremy's heart ached. There was nothing else he could do for Madeline.

If it was possible, he truly would endure it all in Madeline's place.

During their departure from Carter's villa, Adam had been informed of Madeline's current symptoms by Jeremy.

He had first gone home to retrieve some of his things before following Jeremy to the hospital.

After a cursory examination of Madeline, he had given Madeline an injection with the anti-toxoid test reagent that he had brought with him.

After the injection, Madeline's heart still ached, and the chills all over her body persisted. Ten minutes later, color finally returned to Madeline's face.

On the side, Cathy shifted her gaze from the poison-afflicted Madeline to Lillian who had leukemia. The sight distressed her to the point of tears, so she turned and left the room quietly.

Soon after, Jeremy and Adam came out of the room as well.

With a serious look on his face, Adam explained the situation to Jeremy.

"I've injected Eveline with an analgesic that I developed. It can't cure her completely, but it can temporarily help relieve her pain. To eliminate the poison, we'd still need to find out exactly what Shirley used in developing the poison. That's the only way we can prescribe the right cure for Eveline."

"That's not something she'd tell us. She's in this with Carter, and Carter's goal is to get to me. Until this goal has been achieved, they'll only be using Madeline to control me."

In this regard, Jeremy understood clearly. He finally let go of his strong facade and sat down on the chair in exhaustion.

"Lillian has leukemia, and Linnie is in this state. Further, I'm not fully recovered. I truly don't know when all of this will end."

He lamented. For now, he only wanted to release the pressure he had been holding in.

Once this is over, he would still be the husband Madeline needs and the father his children want to depend on.

“It’ll all get better.” Cathy gave him her blessings. “I believe that we reap what we sow. Evie is a good person, so I’m sure she’ll be blessed.”

Jeremy smiled when he heard that. “I agree.”

His smile was quickly replaced with another frown. “Adam, since you’ve heard what Shirley said earlier, do you know what would be the symptoms that Linnie will show when the poison reaches the final stage?”

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Adam frowned when he heard Jeremy’s question.

He only spoke after a few moments.

“I can’t be certain what symptoms would appear during the final stage, but I realize that Eveline’s flare-ups have been too frequent, and the intervals in between them were very short. This is unlike what you’d experienced back then.”

Jeremy too frowned in turn. “What does this mean?”

“This means that they want to achieve something in a very short period. Once the poison in Eveline’s body reaches its final stage, they’ll use this to coerce you into trading away something beneficial.”

Jeremy had already understood this.

The thing he wanted to know the most right now was the symptoms Madeline would exhibit.

Overwhelmed with worry, he lifted his hand to massage his forehead, exhaustion creeping out from his heart.

“I’m very sorry,” Adam suddenly apologized.

Confused, Jeremy lifted his gaze. “Why are you apologizing to me?”

“At the end of the day, she’s still my sister,” Adam simply answered.

While Jeremy understood what Adam meant, he only had gratitude and appreciation for Adam.

“You’re you, and Shirley’s Shirley. I won’t place you on the same level as her. Additionally, you’ve been helping us this entire time. If it weren’t for you, I’d be dead, and Linnie, as well as Jack, might not be alive now.”

“I am a doctor. It’s my duty to save others.” Adam repeated the same statement but then sighed in regret. “I truly don’t understand her. I’d already shown her the notebook, so why can’t she understand the trouble our parents had endured back then? Why is she still full of resentment?”

When Cathy saw Adam looking so troubled, she walked to his side and lifted her hand, patting his shoulder.

“Adam, don’t be sad. Perhaps your sister is compelled by her hardship.”

“Heh.” Adam softly laughed at himself. “What hardship could she possibly have? Her hardship is that

she's unhappy with how well our parents had treated me back then, always thinking that our parents had wanted to give up on her."

Upon hearing Adam's sarcastic remarks, Cathy was uncertain how to continue comforting him.

"She could be doing this for Carter." Jeremy voiced his suspicion. "A woman would be willing to do anything for a man."

While Jeremy was not referring to anyone specific, Cathy could not help but be stunned.

Yes.

She agreed.

She wholeheartedly agreed with Jeremy's words.

In the past, she had committed acts that went against her desires and conscience for Felipe. She had even heeded Felipe's instructions to hypnotise Jeremy, nearly causing the demise of Jeremy and Madeline's relationship.

This thought made Cathy blamed herself.

At the same time, it reminded her of Felipe.

He was dead now. Executed.

On that day, right before his grave, she had been taken by Carter's men before she could bid a proper

farewell.

“Cathy. Cathy.”

Cathy, still lost in thought, heard Adam calling to her.

She abruptly came back to her senses, then realized that Jeremy had gone into the room, and Adam was the only person next to her now.

“Cathy, let me drive you home first. You haven’t been back home these few days. Juan and Jan would be worried.”

Cathy nodded. “What about you, Adam?”

“I’ll move in with you.”

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“You’re moving in with me?” Cathy felt surprised, but she also quickly figured out the reason.

“Is it because you don’t want anything else unexpected to happen to me, getting kidnapped to be used for blackmail again, so you want to protect me?”

Adam looked at Cathy without denying it.

“I don’t want you to go through any further shock. Even if they want to do anything to you again, at least I’ll be by your side to protect you.”

Cathy felt touched by Adam’s words, but they both knew that was not the same as love.

...

After Adam and Cathy had left, Jeremy stayed in the hospital room, watching over the two girls he cared for the most in this life.

One was his beloved wife, and the other was his precious little princess who he longed to protect. These two were so important to him, yet he could not protect them.

He lifted his hand and stroked Madeline's cheek softly. Even the sight of her sleeping face could not dispel his anxiety.

Whenever he thought about that unknown final stage of the poison, Jeremy felt as if his heart was burning.

"Linnie, what should I do to make everything better?"

Jeremy held Madeline's hand, kissing it again and again.

It seemed that he had never felt so helpless before. It was because this predicament was beyond his control and understanding.

That poison was developed by a specialist, so even if he were to start researching it now, it would still be too late.

The only thing he could do right now was to trust Adam. On the other hand, that woman was now essentially a fanatic. She no longer had any thoughts or opinions, and would only listen to Carter.

After Jeremy had kept watch for a night, Madeline awoke the next morning.

He could see that Madeline looked ill, her face lacking color. It was clear how much Madeline had suffered last night.

However, Madeline did not show any weakness in her. The first thing she did after waking was to check on Lillian.

When she saw that her daughter was still soundly asleep, Madeline immediately felt that her pain no longer mattered.

In the following days, Madeline and Jeremy safely stayed in the hospital to care for Lillian, whose condition stabilized too.

While Jeremy dared not inform Madeline about the poison's final stage of the poison, Madeline did not seem bothered by the poison despite it having caused her so much pain the other night.

On Monday morning, Madeline stayed next to Lillian as usual. She watched the doctor give Lillian an injection using a syringe with a thick needle. Her little princess, barely five, pouted and widened her eyes without making a sound, let alone bursting into tears.

The sight broke Madeline's heart into pieces. Despite Lillian's age, her endurance and stubbornness were exactly like Madeline's.

However, she did not hope for her precious daughter to be like her mother, shouldering so much pain like her.

After hanging the IV, Madeline caressed the little girl's head. "You're amazing, Lily."

Lillian blinked her huge eyes and smiled.

Madeline felt her heart ache further as she held the little girl. "Lily, I'll heal you no matter what."

Lillian seemed to understand as she nodded knowingly.

Madeline truly felt relieved. She hoped that her daughter would be intelligent, but not too intelligent.

"Daddy," the little girl suddenly called out for Jeremy.

"Daddy's bringing Jack to see you. They'll be here soon, so wait a little longer, Lily," Madeline comforted Lillian in a soft voice.

Lillian blinked and suddenly, her lively, wide eyes stared toward the door, her gaze seemingly frozen.

Madeline found it odd, so she looked in the direction of the little princess's gaze. She immediately saw an uninvited guest.

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Madeline stood, on her guard, and turned toward her precious daughter who remained ignorant.

She did not want to deal with this uninvited guest in front of the young child, but she was extremely uncomfortable with stepping out of the room, leaving this child alone in the room.

"What's wrong? Are you scared to see me, Mrs. Whitman?" Mockery could be heard in the woman's voice. "Don't worry. I've heard that your daughter has an incurable disease, so I specially came here to express my sympathy," Shirley said as she strode in, handing a bouquet of powder blue baby breaths to Lillian.

Madeline had wanted to stop her, but she did not want to frighten the child with her aggressive actions. She could only watch as Shirley tried to worm her way into being friends with Lillian.

“Lillian, these flowers are for you. Do you like them? I’ve heard that powder blue baby’s breaths are your favorite flowers. You ought to admire them properly. You might not necessarily have the chance to receive such beautiful flowers next time.”

She handed the flowers over, but Lillian did not take them. Her pair of beautiful, lively, wide eyes merely stared silently at Shirley.

Madeline could not bear watching this any further. Shirley’s words were plainly cursing her.

“Shirley, if you still have an ounce of conscience left, you’d only come at my husband and me. Do you think it’s admirable to bully a little kid?”

Shirley held the bouquet and straightened her back. Seeing Madeline enraged, Shirley’s smile further relaxed.

“Your daughter’s not an ordinary child. She’s the precious baby that’ll make you and Jeremy lose all reason.”

Shirley smiled knowingly. Madeline clearly understood the message Shirley had intended to convey with her words.

“Tch! How did you raise your children, Mrs. Whitman? I came to visit this child with good intentions. I even brought her flowers. It’s fine if she doesn’t accept my kindness, but she didn’t even thank me.”

Shirley then chuckled softly and displayed a look of realisation.

“Oh, no! How could I forget? Your precious daughter is mute. It’s because that woman, Lana, had scared your daughter into becoming mute.”

When Madeline heard this, she clenched her fists, but she had to control her emotions.

She loosened her hands and pressed her pink lips together into a faint smile.

“Well, so you know Lana?”

Shirley seemed to freeze momentarily upon hearing that. She then admitted nonchalantly, “Of course I know her. I don’t think there’s any harm in telling you now. I was the one who developed the poison that’s still in Jeremy’s body.”

Madeline was unfazed when she heard this.

“Birds of a feather indeed flock together.”

“...”

Madeline looked Shirley in the eye.

“If the reason you came here today is to strike at me, hurt me, and make me suffer, then I’ll tell you now that you’ve succeeded.

“As a mother, I would rather suffer than watch my children suffer any sickness or misery. The biggest blow for me right now is my daughter’s disease. Shirley, just as you’d hope, I, Eveline Montgomery, truly am in a lot of pain and suffering right now.”

“...”

Shirley was dumbfounded as she had completely not expected Madeline’s words.

While she was still out of sorts, she still caught sight of Madeline’s unshakable resolve in that sharp glare of hers.

“However, don’t think you’ve won just like this, Shirley. Eveline Montgomery will never crumble in the face of hardship and danger.”

When she heard Madeline’s words and saw the tenacity in her eyes, Shirley asked, “Eveline, are you truly not scared?”

“No one could be unafraid of misfortune and the unknown, but not everyone would surrender to the fear of the unknown.

Upon hearing this, Shirley’s expression changed, but a corner of her red lips lifted again.

“No, you will surrender. The reason I’m here today is to make you surrender.”

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As Shirley was speaking, she looked at Lillian who was leaning against the hospital bed with a confused face.

She placed the baby’s breath, which had been in her hand, on the bedstand. A moment ago, Shirley’s eyes had been full of hostility and sarcasm. Her eyes were gentle as they scanned Lillian’s small face, then, with an arrogant and disdainful look, fell back onto Madeline.

“Eveline, I know you’re a special woman. You’re so special that you’re unyielding and tenacious. However, she should also know that I’m an evil woman. That is why I had especially concocted the poison in your body.”

“What about it?” Madeline asked indifferently.

Shirley’s beautiful eyes narrowed. “You already had three flare-ups. After these three stages, the poison in your body will slowly reach the final stage.”

As she spoke, she stopped for two seconds, taking two steps toward Madeline.

As Shirley confronted Madeline’s naturally stunning face which wore no makeup, Shirley’s eyes were tinged with a hint of regret and pity.

“Eveline, you won’t be able to endure the final stage.”

“Is that so?”

“Yes.” Shirley decisively gave her a firm answer. “Eveline, let me ask you a question. What’s the most terrifying and mortifying experience that you’re most reluctant to relive in your life?”

The most terrifying and mortifying experience that she was not reluctant to relive...

For some reason, Madeline felt as if her emotions were being drawn out by Shirley’s words. She immediately thought of the experience from years ago. Those extremely painful and dark memories...

At that moment, Shirley caught the uneasiness that flashed across Madeline’s eyes.

“Linnie. Linnie.”

Upon hearing the man’s gentle voice calling out to her by her side, Madeline abruptly returned to her senses. She blinked in surprise as she noticed that, unbeknownst to her, Shirley had already left, and Jeremy and Jackson were before her eyes.

Madeline forced a smile on her face quickly. “Jeremy, Jack, you’re here.”

“Mommy, what were you thinking about just now? Daddy and I were calling you the entire time, but it’s like you didn’t hear us.” Jackson lifted his handsome little face, peering at Madeline curiously.

Jeremy too was confused. “Linnie, what were you thinking about?”

“Nothing,” Madeline denied it. She did not want Jeremy to worry about her when he was already so vexed, so she came up with a random lie. “I was just thinking about Lily’s condition.”

Jeremy held Madeline’s hand to comfort her. “I’ve managed to contact the most prestigious doctor in the field. Lily will recover.”

“Really?” Joy immediately appeared on Madeline’s face.

Jeremy nodded affirmatively. “I promise. Our daughter will definitely be fine.”

The man’s firm promise immediately made Madeline feel much more optimistic.

Jackson ran over to the bedside and held Lillian’s hand.

“Lily, are you in pain?” Jackson asked, pointing at the needle on Lillian’s neck.

Lillian shook her head. There was a small smile on her fair yet pinkish little face.

“It really doesn’t hurt?” Jackson was still uneasy. He felt that it must be very painful to have such a thick needle in one’s body.

Lillian pursed her lips. When she was about to shake her head, she nodded this time instead.

It hurts. How could it not?

Seeing this scene unfolded, Madeline and Jeremy felt as if their hearts had been pricked.

Jeremy patted Madeline’s shoulder. As he lifted his gaze, he noticed the bouquet of baby’s breaths next to Lillian.

“Did someone come to visit Lily?”

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Madeline could not deny it now that Jeremy had asked.

“Yes, I guess so.”

“You guess so?”

“I... I was at the nursing station. The bouquet was already on Lillian’s bed when I came back.”

Madeline avoided Jeremy's gaze when she spoke. She knew that she was being untruthful, but she had to lie to him.

It was because she truly could not make someone up out of thin air.

If she had told him that Shirley was here, Jeremy would certainly be angry.

"Could it have been Fabian?" Jeremy guessed.

Madeline immediately followed along. "Fabian? It's possible."

"We're the only people who know that Lily likes powder blue baby's breaths. Apart from Fabian, I can't think of anyone else," Jeremy said, giving his analysis.

Madeline very much agreed.

Indeed. Besides their parents, who else would understand their children's preferences?

This shows how thorough Shirley had been in researching them.

On this day, Shirley's words Madeline kept appearing on her mind from time to time.

This poison was made especially for her. When the poison reached the final stage, there would be no way for her to endure the symptoms.

Dread, fear, and the experience she was reluctant to relive.

Madeline did not want to be affected by her words, but she could not stop herself from taking this to heart.

Based on her calculation, all three flare-ups had happened within a month. Madeline's hunch and estimation were that this fourth flare-up would happen within this week.

Madeline did not tell Jeremy about this, but she did not know that Jeremy had already known about this.

Jeremy would go to Adam's place every day because he was expecting Adam to develop the anti-toxoid test reagent that could cure Madeline.

Even if it could not cure Madeline, it would be fine if it could alleviate Madeline's pain.

However, as the days went by, Adam was still unable to make good progress.

The thought that Madeline's suffering might be even more led Jeremy to a decision.

In the evening, after notifying Madeline, Jeremy left the hospital.

He drove his car to a street away from Carter's villa. Jeremy calmly waited in the car from sunset until nightfall, waiting for the right moment with the utmost patience.

Four to five hours later, Jeremy finally saw a car driving toward Carter's villa.

After a few seconds of careful observation, he quickly started the car.

Shirley was just returning from elsewhere, and thinking that she was nearly home, she took out her phone to read her messages. Suddenly, there was strong light beaming at her from afar.

She reflexively raised her hand to block the light, then saw Jeremy's unique thin eyes from the corners of her eyes.

Shirley immediately understood what was happening. Unable to block the light in the distance in time, she frantically steered the car around.

Jeremy stepped on the pedal, chasing after her. He had anticipated Shirley to be panicking now, so he further accelerated, using his car to force Shirley's car to a dead end. He then crashed the front of his car into Shirley's driver's seat door.

Bang! Shirley's car suddenly lost control and crashed into the railings, white fumes quickly rose from the car hood.

Jeremy quickly stopped his car, strode toward the door of the passenger seat of Shirley's car, then opened the door.

Shirley was now lying on the steering wheel, unconscious. Jeremy, without hesitation, yanked Shirley out of the car, then stuffed her into his car trunk.

Carter's villa.

Carter was sitting in the living room awaiting Shirley's return.

The tea in his teacup was almost finished, and Shirley was still not back.

Carter pondered, feeling that something was amiss.

He called Shirley. The call got through, but no one answered the phone.

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Shirley always answered his call.

Carter opened a location application on his phone and quickly found the location of Shirley's phone.

He noticed that the location of Shirley's phone was near the villa, but it remained stationary on the spot, unmoving.

Without hesitation, Carter rose and walked to the garage. He then got into his car and went to the street near the manor following the location indicated on his phone.

Before he had arrived, Carter could see from afar that Shirley's car had crashed into the railing, white fumes still rising out of her car hood.

Carter's eyes darkened. He quickly got out of the car and strode toward the door of the driver's seat.

In that second, he had no idea how much fear and anxiety he had in his heart.

"Shirley!"

Carter yelled at the driver's seat, his voice trembling.

When there was no response, Carter felt his heart and body went cold.

He got a closer look and realized that there was no one in the car; only Shirley's phone glowed on the phone stand.

Carter felt less uneasy now.

He swiftly observed the surroundings and noticed a dent on the side of Shirley's car, suggesting a collision.

'Was it an accident?

'No.

'If this was merely an accident, why would Shirley disappear along with the culprit?'

The more Carter thought about this, the fishier it seemed. He wanted to retrieve the security footage for this place, but there would be obstacles.

This was not St. Piaf. No one would give him the green light for his actions, and he certainly could not act recklessly here.

Even though Carter felt anxious, he could only adhere to the standard procedures and make a police report, letting the traffic police deal with this.

It was already past dinner time, and the food served on the dining table had already turned cold.

Carter had sat at the dining table for a very long time, but there was still no news from the traffic police.

No one knew what he was worried about. Even he was a little confused. It seemed that Shirley had an immensely important position in his heart.

However, he did not want Shirley to remain in this position. Not at all.

He hoped to hate her, to exact vengeance on her for leaving him years ago.

In a dark underground garage with no source of light, Shirley awoke as a pail of cold water was poured over her.

She opened her eyes. She thought she heard a loud crashing sound in her mind, then recalled what had happened before she fell unconscious.

“Awake?”

There was completely no emotion in Jeremy’s cold voice.

Startled, Shirley lifted her head.

A ray of the chrome yellow incandescent light illuminated Jeremy’s handsome face and his firm features.

He wore a black coat and was sitting on an old chair near her, his presence emitting an intimidating chill.

Through the transom, a ray of moonlight cast into the room and fell exactly onto his alluring, bottomless eyes, reflecting a cold, silver glint in his deep gaze.

Shirley suddenly felt her body turning frigid as the terrifying chill, much colder than the biting winds of winter outside, enveloped her inch by inch.

“Jeremy, what are you trying to do?” Shirley asked directly. “Are you trying to get the anti-toxoid reagent for Eveline?”

Jeremy coldly stared at Shirley. “Will you give it to me if I ask for it?”

He chuckled softly as he asked rhetorically. “That was my initial idea, but I’ve changed my mind now.”

As he spoke, he suddenly lifted his right hand, shaking an object between his long and thin fingers.

“Do you recognize this?”

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In the silence that followed, Shirley turned her gaze toward Jeremy’s hand.

When she saw the object in Jeremy’s hand, her expression evidently changed.

Jeremy stood, his tall and straight figure casting a dark shadow over Shirley who laid on the ground, unable to get up.

“I’m guessing that you know exactly what this is?” Jeremy slowly squatted and gently opened the syringe in his hand.

“Give someone a dose of their own medicine,” Jeremy said as he grabbed Shirley’s arm, not giving

Shirley any chance to resist, then injected the anti-toxoid test reagent directly into Shirley's vein.

Shirley frowned in pain, her eyes widening at the same time.

She could only watch as Jeremy proficiently injected the cold liquid into her veins. At that moment, she felt as if all the cells in her body were frozen.

"Hiss."

This was the new type of poison that she developed. The AXT69. She had developed this to deal with Madeline.

However, she had not expected that the extra samples would be used on her own body in the end.

Seeing the change of emotions on Shirley's face, Jeremy felt a hint of satisfaction within him upon exacting his vengeance.

"Now, do you now know how someone feels when they're injected with this twisted thing which you developed?"

Jeremy mercilessly grabbed Shirley's collar and questioned, "I won't bother pursuing the matter of the torture and hardships I'd suffered, but now you're using this poison on my wife. Shirley, you're certainly vicious. Adam's such a kind person. How did he end up with a sister like you?"

Jeremy then pushed Shirley away.

Shirley laid on the cold, hard ground, her head in a daze. The poison that had been injected into her veins was spreading inch by inch. The bone-piercing cold was completely different from what Madeline had originally experienced.

Madeline's poison had been mixed in the red wine. To prevent her from discovering it, the poison had been colorless and tasteless.

That was how she had been able to fool Madeline into drinking the red wine.

Meanwhile, she had another use for this vial of anti-toxoid test reagent.

This was meant for an emergency, to prevent anything unexpected from happening.

However, she had not used this vial of anti-toxoid test reagent, so she always kept it in her bag with her. She had not expected that the syringe would be used on her now.

'Was this karma?'

Shirley wondered sarcastically as she lifted her trembling hands to hug herself.

However, this would not provide any warmth. Direct injection would be far more torturous and painful than simply swallowing the poison.

"Hiss..."

She let out a grunt of pain.

Jeremy looked down on Shirley, enjoying her torment.

He did not have a single ounce of sympathy for the vicious woman who kept harming others.

One had to bear in mind, Shirley was only bearing a fraction of what Jeremy and Madeline had to bear.

Since he could not obtain the anti-toxoid test reagent to cure Madeline, he would just have to let Shirley share the same experience. Let her feel how twisted the poison she developed was!

Jeremy turned and picked up the pail of cold water, which had not been used up, then poured it on Shirley's face.

Shirley moved her head, trying to avoid it, but her entire body was sluggish.

She trembled all over, and her mind was a mess.

"Are you cold? In a lot of pain? It even feels like you can't breathe now, huh?" Jeremy asked, sneering.

The sight of Shirley's face, which was gradually turning pale, brought him only joy.

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"Shirley, if you're able to, you could keep on enduring it and suffer. If you can't stand it anymore, get me the anti-toxoid test reagent. Otherwise, don't even think about seeing the sun again in this lifetime."

As he was about to leave after speaking, he happened to hear a customized ringtone.

He looked askance at Shirley, who could not speak at all, then walked to a side, answering the phone.

“Linnie.”

He spoke first, gently calling out to Madeline.

Madeline’s gentle and pleasant voice responded from the other end. “Jeremy, won’t you be coming to the hospital tonight? Is there still work at the company?”

Jeremy turned to glance at Shirley, then walked toward the basement door. “I’ll be done soon. I’ll head over in a moment. You should lie down and rest if you’re tired. Where’s Lily?”

“I’m not tired yet. Lily’s already asleep.”

“I’ll head over now.”

“Take your time. Drive carefully,” Madeline reminded him.

Jeremy felt a warmth in his heart, but he started to feel uneasy again at the thought of Madeline suffering from the poison very soon.

After hanging up, he walked back to Shirley.

“Have you properly thought about what you’re going to do?” he asked bluntly.

Shirley held her arms and, with great effort, lifted her eyelids.

“There’s no anti-toxoid test reagent.”

Shirley's voice trembled as she spoke.

"The ones I gave you back then were only half-complete. They could only briefly alleviate the symptoms."

"What did you say?" Jeremy's eyes immediately darkened.

Shirley chuckled bitterly. "Jeremy, you could have the half-complete products, but it's best if you let me go. Otherwise, you'd only be helplessly watching the woman you love most continue to suffer."

"Heh." Jeremy chuckled coldly in disdain. "If there's no completed anti-toxoid test reagent, what is your worth to me? Do you think I need you for the half-complete test reagents? Your brother Adam's much more talented and capable than you."

Jeremy's praise for Adam seemed to strike at Shirley's vulnerable spots, and the expression on her face instantly changed.

"Nonsense! I am more talented and capable than him in this!" Shirley defended herself passionately. "I'm smarter than him, and I have a better chance of becoming a medical scientist than him. They didn't even give me a chance! It's their fault! It's all their fault!"

She was suddenly growling and snarling. Her facial expression turned malevolent, showing how much this mattered to her.

No longer interested in Shirley's mad ravings, he turned and left.

"Jeremy, get me out of here!

"This is illegal imprisonment!

“Without my anti-toxoid test reagent, Eveline could definitely not endure it!

“Jeremy!”

Shirley’s heart-rending screams continued, but they were eventually cut off by the basement door.

Jeremy drove back to the hospital as if nothing had happened. The moment he saw Madeline and Lillian, he felt relieved.

Madeline was oblivious to the fact that Jeremy had gone to find Shirley, nor did she know that he had injected Shirley with the same anti-toxoid reagent poison as the one from which she was suffering. However, she inevitably found it curious that there was some dust on Jeremy’s coat.

“Jeremy, did you just come from the office?”

“Yeah, I just finished my meeting.” Jeremy did not look Madeline in the eye as he casually came up with a lie.

“Is the meeting room so filthy? Why is there so much dust on your clothes?” Madeline patted the dust on Jeremy’s shoulders with suspicion. She had wanted to help him tidy his clothes when, much to her surprise, she felt a woman’s earring in Jeremy’s pocket.

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“Jeremy, why do you have this in your pocket?”

Madeline brought the earring in front of Jeremy. Of course, she was not suspicious nor was she questioning him. She just felt that this was a little strange.

When Jeremy saw the earring, his mind went straight to Shirley.

He figured that it had fallen into his pocket when he brought Shirley into the car.

Jeremy did not know how he should dodge the question. He figured Madeline would not believe any excuses as to why he had a piece of woman's jewelry in his pocket.

Upon seeing Jeremy hesitating as though he did not know how to answer her, Madeline felt a little worried. "Jeremy, what's the matter with you? Who does this earring belong to?"

Jeremy knew he could not hide this anymore, and he really did not want to lie to Madeline either.

"It probably belongs to Shirley." Jeremy did not hide it anymore.

"Why is Shirley's earring in your pocket? Did you go to find her?" Madeline's expression became anxious as her heart started beating frantically. "Jeremy, did you do something to her?"

Jeremy felt remorseful when he saw Madeline's worried expression.

He held Madeline's shoulders and when he was about to tell her what was going on, someone pushed the room door open all of a sudden.

Lillian was sleeping but when she heard the noise, she woke up abruptly.

Jeremy looked at the man who barged through the door in displeasure. "Why are you here? Don't disturb my daughter's rest. Get out."

Madeline looked at Carter in dissatisfaction and quickly walked to Lillian to comfort her.

However, Carter did not leave. Instead, he strode over.

His expression was cold as he questioned in an icy tone.

"Jeremy, where did you hide Shirley?" Carter asked, going straight to the topic.

Madeline detected something fishy when she heard this. "Carter, why are you asking this?"

"Why don't you ask your husband what he did?" Carter asked with eyes filled with hostility.

Jeremy went over and protectively pulled Madeline behind him. "Carter, don't you think that you're being pathetic by asking this? What did I do? Have you asked yourself what you've done? What kind of shameful things have you asked Shirley to do?"

After Jeremy asked that, Carter seemed to fall into momentary silence.

It seemed that he did not have anything to refute.

Jeremy walked over to him, and their two pairs of eyes that were beautiful in their own way met.

Their hostile gazes crashed into each other savagely mid-air.

“Carter, I did to Shirley what you asked her to do to my wife. What she’s enduring now is nothing compared to what my wife and I had to endure.”

When Carter heard Jeremy’s answer, there was a look of anxiety in Carter’s eyes.

“What the hell did you do to her?”

“Why? Are you worried? Are you worried that something will happen to the chess piece you’re manipulating?”

“Jeremy.”

“I won’t tell you where she is, just like how she refuses to hand over the anti-toxoid test reagent to me.”

Jeremy’s tone was decisive. The aura emanating from his cold eyes completely overpowered Carter at this moment.

Carter saw the overwhelmingly strong aura in Jeremy’s eyes and felt his determination to save Madeline with the anti-toxoid test reagent.

“Jeremy, if you want the anti-toxoid test reagent, you should let Shirley go. Without her, you won’t be able to get the anti-toxoid test reagent!” Carter said in a warning tone while looking a little impatient.

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However, this time, Jeremy remained very calm. He chuckled softly and carefreely, saying, "Shirley has already told me that the anti-toxoid test reagent hasn't been made. So even if she's standing here, it won't be of use."

"So you won't let her go, huh?" Carter was slowly losing his patience.

"You can go now. Don't disturb my daughter's rest." Jeremy chased Carter away coldly.

Carter pressed his lips together tightly. He looked at Lillian who was blinking her clear wide eyes and then looked at Madeline while saying, "Jeremy, don't regret this."

"The thing I regret the most is that I only waited till now to teach that vile woman a lesson."

'Vile woman.'

Those two words pierced Carter's eardrums. He felt that they sounded abnormally ear-piercing.

Carter did not continue questioning Jeremy and turned around to leave with a cold expression on his face.

After Carter left, Madeline immediately comforted the little princess and put her back to sleep. After Lillian was asleep, she looked at Jeremy before the two of them walked out of the room.

“Jeremy, is that true? Did you kidnap Shirley?” Madeline asked directly.

To be honest, she wanted to hear him denying this but she only saw him nodding.

“That’s right, I kidnapped her and locked her up.”

“Jeremy...” Madeline felt a twinge in her heart and she wanted to ask Jeremy to let Shirley go. After all, this was not something just and honorable.

However, before she could continue, Jeremy interrupted her.

“Linnie, I can’t take this anymore.” Jeremy held Madeline’s hand tightly in his palms.

She could feel Jeremy’s anxiety and uneasiness from the way he was holding her so tightly.

“Jeremy, are you worried about me? Are you worried that the poison will torment me a lot when it reaches the final stage so that’s why you kidnapped Shirley to force her to give you the anti-toxoid test reagent?”

After she said that, Jeremy lowered his eyelids silently.

Madeline felt her heart aching, but at the same time, she felt loved and pampered.

“Jeremy, let her go. I don’t want you to do something so unreasonable because of me.”

“Linnie, I’m clear-headed and I know what I’m doing.” Jeremy’s gaze looked firm. “I’m just doing to her what she did to you. I can’t let them always have the upper hand over us. Linnie, we can’t be so passive anymore.”

Madeline saw Jeremy’s unwavering decisiveness. After pondering, she figured that she could not change his mind anymore.

Plus, it was true that Shirley had done all kinds of evil.

“Jeremy, where did you imprison Shirley? I want to go see her,” Madeline suggested, but Jeremy rejected without hesitation.

“I won’t let you see her. This is my own doing so I won’t drag you into this.”

“I’m already in this now, aren’t I?” Madeline emphasized and looked straight into Jeremy’s eyes. “Jeremy, I’m your wife. I won’t run away if you’re in trouble, do you understand?”

When Jeremy heard this, he suddenly felt remorseful. He regretted kidnapping Shirley now.

However, now that things had already arrived at this point, he could only continue with it.

The next morning, Jeremy called Karen to come to take care of Lillian in the hospital. After that, he took Madeline to the place where he was imprisoning Shirley.

On the way, Jeremy sensed that someone was following them. As such, he deliberately took a very roundabout way. After making sure that he had lost the person behind him, he eventually drove to the destination.

Madeline was surprised when the car stopped and she saw the building in front of her.

'It's this place.'

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1723

Madeline got out of the car. She had never thought that she would come back to this villa again.

After all, this place was filled with a lot of unhappy memories.

Jeremy carefully observed Madeline's expression. He knew this place had given her too much pain. To be honest, he was genuinely reluctant to bring her back here.

"She's in the basement." Jeremy broke the silence and went over to open the iron gates.

Madeline followed after him. When she stepped into the premises, she felt a strong uneasiness rising in her chest.

Perhaps it was because the weather was cold today, so whenever the wind blew, the coldness would penetrate her skin like thorns.

Madeline could not endure this discomfort so she followed Jeremy to the basement.

When the door of the basement was opened and the light streamed inside, Madeline could see a person lying on the cold and damp floor.

Madeline quickly walked to Shirley and grabbed her arm.

She could feel that Shirley's entire body was hot, even her breath. It seemed that she was having a fever.

At this moment, she looked battered and exhausted. She had lost her bright and beautiful appearance as well as her arrogant attitude whenever she was in front of people.

“Shirley,” Madeline called out to her.

Jeremy watched them coldly at one side. “Linnie, she won’t die. You don’t have to worry about people like her.”

Madeline understood how much Jeremy despised Shirley. However, if something happened to Shirley and she died here, Jeremy’s future would be destroyed.

“Jeremy, get her out of here. Ask Carter to come to get her.”

“No way.” Jeremy rejected decisively. “Even if she dies, it’ll be an appropriate punishment for her crimes. Linnie, why are you worried about people like her?”

“The person I’m worried about is you, Jeremy Whitman,” Madeline emphasized with a stern tone.

Suddenly, Jeremy was dazed. He felt as if his judgment had been affected by his anger because what Madeline said hit him hard now.

She was worried about him. How could she be worried about Shirley?

Jeremy squatted down and stroked Madeline’s cheek.

“I’m sorry, Linnie.”

“There’s no sorry between us,” Madeline said. She used all her might to pull Shirley who was drifting in and out of consciousness. At the same time, her heavy gaze was glued to the man who was furrowing his eyebrows.

“Jeremy, I know you hate Shirley, but this is not right. Even though they’ve done such things, it doesn’t mean we can. I know you’re doing this for me and you’re unconvinced, but you can’t use their methods.”

After Madeline said that, she used all her might to drag Shirley outside.

Before she could take two steps, Jeremy hurried over and yanked Shirley away from Madeline.

However, after he did that, Shirley started to slowly regain consciousness.

“Jeremy, let me go...”

Shirley said weakly and sluggishly.

Jeremy lowered his eyes to look at her coldly. “Are you feeling the pain and discomfort now? Shirley, this is what you deserve.”

He said and dragged Shirley forcefully toward the entrance.

Madeline thought Jeremy was going to let Shirley go, but she did not expect him to drag Shirley into the guest room.

He then pushed Shirley onto the bed without pity.

Shirley let out a muffled sound of pain and shifted slightly on the bed. She had no energy left in her body.

Sunlight poured into the room from the French window, shining on Shirley's face and body that was covered with dirt. At this moment, she looked especially sloppy and battered.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1724

Perhaps Shirley had never imagined that this would happen to her one day.

When Madeline saw Shirley in this state, she fell silent.

"Jeremy, are you really not going to let her go?"

"Letting her stay here is already my absolute limit." As Jeremy said that, he grabbed Madeline's hand to walk out of the door. At the same time, he locked the door of the guest room.

He turned around and held Madeline's shoulders. Then, he said earnestly, "Linnie, don't worry about me and don't feel sorry for this woman. She's the one who poisoned you and it's because of her that we have to suffer the pain of getting tormented by the poison again. If we can't get better, then she also should not think about getting better."

After hearing what Jeremy said, Madeline suddenly felt relieved.

She smiled gently. Her warm palm was caressing the side of Jeremy's cheek softly. "Jeremy, I completely understand what you mean. We'll go according to your plan and keep Shirley here for the time being. If she can come to her senses and give us the anti-toxoid reagent, it would be the best. However, if she doesn't, I also hope that you can try your best to handle this rationally."

After Madeline said this, she lifted Jeremy's face when she saw that he was silent. Her beautiful eyes were looking straight into his eyes.

"Jeremy, look at me and promise me this."

Jeremy looked into Madeline's eyes, nodding seriously and gravely.

"I promise you, Linnie. I won't do anything irrational."

"Okay." Madeline smiled in satisfaction. "Give me the key to this room."

Jeremy did not hesitate before handing the key to Madeline.

Madeline opened the door and when she entered the room, she saw that Shirley had already gotten out of bed.

She looked battered and exhausted, but it was not as bad as before.

When Shirley saw Madeline, Shirley stopped in her tracks. When she wanted to say something, she saw Jeremy coming in after Madeline and she backed away subconsciously.

"Jeremy, Eveline, don't think that you'll get the anti-toxoid reagent by locking me here. You will never get the anti-toxoid reagent by doing this!"

Jeremy chuckled in a low voice, filled with disdain. "If we can't get it, neither can you. You've also been injected with the same poison as Linnie. You'll go through whatever Linnie goes through soon enough."

“...” Shirley bit her dry lip and there was a look of panic in her alluring eyes.

She was panicking. Of course, she was panicking.

She had always watched other people suffer in pain after she developed the poison.

She had never been tormented by the poison she developed before, but she knew it must be a horrible experience.

Even though she had not reached the first stage of the poison, the pain when Jeremy injected her with it was enough for her to feel it deeply.

Madeline caught the uneasiness on Shirley’s face and she turned around to look into Jeremy’s eyes.

“Jeremy, you should go out and wait for me. Let me talk to her for a bit.”

“Linnie, you have to be careful. She’s not like you. You have a cautious heart but she has a heart that only knows how to hurt people.”

“...” When Shirley heard this, she had nothing to say as well.

“I’ll be careful. Don’t worry.” Madeline gave Jeremy a reassuring answer.

Jeremy did not say anything anymore. He turned around to walk to the door before closing it.

He did not walk away and just stayed at the door.

If Shirley really wanted to do something reckless, he would be able to rush in there and protect Madeline immediately.

Meanwhile, inside the room, after Shirley saw that Jeremy had left, she sat down on the bed while letting out a sigh of relief.

She leaned against the side of the bed, seemingly exhausted. She was looking at Madeline insipidly as she said, "Mrs. Whitman, what do you want to talk to me about?"

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1725

Madeline did not answer Shirley. She walked to the closet and took out a clean set of clothes from inside.

"I think it must be hard for you to stand the state you're in right now. You can go and take a shower."

Madeline placed the clothes at the end of the bed gently.

"You have a slight fever. Here's a first aid kit. I think you should know better than anyone what you should take to make your fever go down."

Shirley was puzzled after she heard what Madeline said. She looked at Madeline with suspicion.

"Eveline, what are you trying to do? Are you requiting evil with good?"

Madeline smiled indifferently. "I'm not that great nor am I sanctimonious. However, we're on the same boat now. After all, I still have to depend on you to recover, right?"

After Madeline said that, Shirley looked at the woman who was smiling slightly and fell into silence.

She was locked up here now, so she could not develop the anti-toxoid reagent. Hence, Madeline would never be able to get treated and it would be impossible for her to be completely recovered as well.

“Shirley, I don’t know what you’re thinking about, but don’t worry. My husband is right, we’re not the same. You want to hurt people but I won’t. So you can take a shower with no worries and take a comfortable nap.”

After Shirley heard this, she kept feeling as if something was amiss. She looked at herself from top to bottom and touched her face. Then, she decided to do just as Madeline said.

“Alright, I’ll listen to you, Mrs. Whitman. I’m going to take a shower and go to sleep after that.” Shirley got up and grabbed the clothes at the end of the bed. Then, she turned around and walked into the bathroom that was attached to the room.

Madeline looked in the direction of the bathroom for a few seconds before opening the door of the room.

When Jeremy saw Madeline walking out, he looked into the room and did not see Shirley. However, he heard the sound of running water coming from the bathroom.

“Linnie, what did you talk about? Is she taking a shower?”

“Yeah, she’s taking a shower now.”

“Linnie?”

“Jeremy, I know what I’m doing. Don’t worry.” Madeline looked at Jeremy profoundly and smiled.

Jeremy saw the confidence in her beautiful eyes. He wanted to ask more questions, but suddenly, he felt as if he understood what she meant.

“Jeremy, you should go back and take care of Lily. I’ll stay here for a bit.”

“Alright, I’ll listen to my wife.” Jeremy agreed. At the same time, he exhorted in concern, “You have to be careful.”

“I will.”

Madeline answered seriously, letting Jeremy leave with ease.

Shirley was showering in the bathroom. She was still feeling dizzy, her brain turbid. She felt that there must be something amiss with Madeline’s behavior. However, she could not wrap her head around why Madeline wanted to do this.

Shirley felt weak, and she also knew that she had a fever. It was such a cold winter day and Jeremy had splashed so much cold water on her. Plus, she spent the entire night in that basement so it was impossible for her not to have caught a cold.

She finished showering while enduring her discomfort. After that, she put on the clothes Madeline gave her. The moment she stepped out of the bathroom, she smelled food.

Shirley stopped in her tracks and saw steaming hot food on the table. There was also a cup of hot water on the side and next to it was a white-colored antipyretic.

Shirley was dazed. When she was wondering if she was dreaming, the door opened once again.

Madeline walked in with a set of clean four-piece bedsheets.

“You were starved for one whole day. Eat something first.” Madeline walked to the side of the bed as she said that and started to change the bedsheets.

Since Shirley had been in bed just now, the sheets were now dirty and messy.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1726

While this further increased Shirley’s suspicion, she certainly was hungry.

She did not think that Madeline would do anything to the food, so she started eating without worries.

When she finished, Madeline had already changed the bedsheets.

“You ought to stay here for the time being.” Madeline walked up to Shirley. “I know you like Carter, but that doesn’t mean that you should follow that person blindly.”

“Heh. Eveline, are you teaching me how to conduct myself?” Shirley chuckled and asked. “Don’t you recall that you too had done a lot of stupid things for Jeremy back then?”

Madeline calmly smiled at that. “Back then, I loved him so much that I had lost myself, but I never did anything that goes against my conscience or harms others, not even for him.”

“...”

Shirley, silent upon hearing that, momentarily did not know how to refute Madeline.

Unconvinced, she bit her lip, and her eyes were hostile and doubtful. “Eveline, what on earth do you and your husband intend to do?”

Madeline curled her beautiful lips slowly. "You should be grateful that you have a good brother."

"..."

"Just think about it."

After Madeline said that, she turned and walked out the door.

Shirley saw that Madeline was about to leave. Although Shirley had regained a fair bit of her energy after bathing and eating, she thought about being locked up here for who knew how long. Seeing Madeline's back, she suddenly charged toward Madeline.

'Eveline, thank you for your hospitality, but at the end of the day, I am not a good person, so I won't fall for this!'

Shirley silently thought as she suddenly reached out with her hands and tried to pull Madeline back in to borrow her momentum to run out.

However, Madeline quickly turned her head.

Shirley was shocked. Before she could react, Madeline grabbed Shirley's wrist, restraining her.

"It's not time for you to leave yet, so be obedient and stay here."

Madeline released Shirley's hand as she spoke.

Shirley, still physically weak, stumbled backward and bumped into the bedside.

Madeline glanced at Shirley, then firmly walked out of the door and locked the door from the other side.

As she was about to head downstairs, Madeline's footsteps gradually came to a halt.

She looked at her previous master bedroom, then suddenly turned and walked toward the room.

The door was ajar. After taking a step inside, Madeline felt an intense discomfort washing over her.

Scenes seemed to play in her eyes. Scenes of the time when she had been wronged and hurt in this very room.

The scenes in which Jeremy had ignored her, neglected her, and treated her brutally played in her mind like a movie, appearing one after another in her eyes.

She had already let go of all these, but these scenes now flooded her mind, bringing her pain.

Madeline quickly turned to leave the bedroom, nearly running down the stairs as she left.

When she was outside the villa, she felt that her heart was beating abnormally fast, and it seemed to have gotten more difficult to breathe. Those fragments of memories also persisted in her mind.

Madeline staggered, suddenly recalling Shirley's words from before...

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1727

Shirley had said, "Eveline, let me ask you a question. What's the most terrifying and mortifying

experience that you're most reluctant to relive in your life?"

Madeline knew better than anyone the experience she was most reluctant to recall. It was the time when she had been in so much pain that she had wanted to die. To her, it had been a time of misery. A living hell.

Madeline then suddenly realized what might happen when the poison reached the final stage that Shirley mentioned.

'No.

'Don't jump to conclusions.'

Madeline's mind wondered, then she gently shook her head, collecting her thoughts.

Her heart was racing. Once her breathing difficulties had alleviated, she hailed a car by the roadside, considering returning to the hospital.

After getting into the car, however, Madeline's imagination ran wild against her volition again.

Initially, she had been unafraid of the physical pain and torment. She had thought she could endure them because the pain she had experienced previously was far worse than it was now.

She had made it through those experiences, so why should she fear?

However, Madeline had a feeling that the final stage Shirley mentioned would not torment Madeline physically, but rather destroy her mentally.

Screech!

The car braked suddenly as Madeline was still deep in thought.

Her body reflexively launched forward, quickly grabbing onto the handle.

“What happened?”

Curious, Madeline lifted her gaze and looked.

Without waiting for the driver’s answer, Madeline immediately understood what had happened.

She saw that Carter and his car were in front of the taxi; it was clear that Carter had forced the taxi to stop.

“I’m sorry, that’s my friend. I’ll get out now.” Madeline immediately paid the driver and got out.

Upon seeing this, the driver knew something was amiss, so he reversed the car and left.

White snow gusted furtively into the air as biting squalls passed by on this winter day.

Madeline calmly looked at Carter who wore a black coat. His mannerism did not seem to be that of the cultured and refined noble that he had before. Now, his presence seemed to radiate a dark and chilling aura as dangerous as the piercing cold wind.

“I don’t want to cause you trouble,” Carter said, breaking the silence.

Madeline listened as the cold wind whistled past her ear. She lifted her hand to wrap her scarf around her neck.

“Why did you stop me then, Mr. Gray?” Madeline asked calmly.

Carter walked in front of Madeline. “Where’s Shirley?”

Madeline could not help but feel that something was odd upon hearing this.

She had thought that Carter intercepted her here because he had been tailing her, but that did not seem to be the case. He might have merely been waiting for an opportunity on this road.

“Are you concerned about her, or are you worried that your plan would be affected if something happens to your pawn?” Madeline asked and chuckled softly.

Carter seemed to frown, then opened his mouth to speak in a cold, but not quite angry, tone. “Eveline, I’m quite fond of you, truly. I think you’re very special, but I hope that you won’t use it in a different place.”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1728

Upon hearing Carter’s words, Madeline smiled softly. “Thank you for your compliments, Mr. Carter, but I don’t need them. I don’t need you to think I’m special, and I certainly don’t need your admiration. On the contrary, you repulse me.”

Carter’s lips seemingly curled. “Is that so? Is that why you won’t tell me where Shirley is?”

“That’s right, I won’t.” Madeline maintained her cool as she looked into Carter’s inscrutable eyes. “However, if you intend to abduct me now to exchange for her, go ahead. I can’t compete with a man’s strength anyway.”

Carter had initially considered this. If Madeline would not speak, he would similarly use this method, abducting her so that Jeremy would exchange Shirley for Madeline.

However, he had not expected Madeline to have already seen through his thoughts and intentions.

Admiration flashed across Carter's eyes. "Eveline, you're indeed extraordinary, but I won't abduct you."

He walked toward the door to the passenger's seat and said, "Mrs. Whitman, please join me for a cup of tea at my place."

Madeline knew that she did not have a choice. As she got into the car, she swiftly sent a text to Jeremy when Carter was not looking.

Carter did notice Madeline's action. He figured that Madeline was texting Jeremy, but he pretended not to have noticed it.

His initial goal of whisking off Madeline was to let Jeremy know that Madeline was with him. Since Madeline had already informed Jeremy, she saved Carter some time.

Half an hour later, Madeline returned to the villa once again.

Upon getting out of the car, Madeline noticed that the snow had gotten heavier. The wet and cold ground was covered with a thin layer of snow.

Madeline pulled her coat tighter as she gradually made her way over the snow and into the entryway.

It was warm inside the house. Carter instructed a servant to brew some black tea and bring over some snacks.

He seemed unhurried as he turned and sat on the sofa before slowly speaking.

“It wasn’t truly my intention to cause so many of these incidents. At first, I’d just wanted to discuss business with Jeremy. After realizing that the chance of us reaching an agreement was close to none, I went with the most direct approach, which was you.”

Madeline calmly listened to Carter, then dryly asked, “What business did you and my husband talk about?”

Carter gazed into Madeline’s beautiful eyes for a few seconds, then the corner of his lips lifted into a mysterious smile.

“The plan was already scrapped, so there’s no point talking about it again. However, I won’t be stopping the current plan.”

“Your current plan is to use me to keep my husband in check to obtain your deep secret, is that right?”

“Deep secret.”

Carter repeated those two words, then elegantly lifted his black tea and took a sip.

“Indeed. As you’ve said, it is indeed a deep secret.”

Upon hearing that, Madeline fell silent for a few seconds then resumed her questions. “What exactly is the relationship between you and Shirley? Why does she listen to every word you say?”

“What’s our relationship?” It seemed that Carter was lost in thought, and there was a slight change in his expression as well. Carter seemed to only return to his senses a while later. “An insignificant pawn.”

“If she’s insignificant, then why are you so worried about this pawn to the point of searching everywhere for her, Mr. Gray?”

“Because...” Carter quickly stopped himself after uttering a single word. His sharp eyebrows and dazzling eyes rose as his handsome face smiled in intrigue.

“It seems that you’ve mistaken who’s in charge here, Mrs. Whitman. I brought you here, so I should be the one directing this game instead of you questioning me incessantly like you’re interrogating a criminal.”

Madeline pretended to only realize this after hearing it. “Oh, I’m sorry. I’ve truly mistaken who’s in charge. Since that’s the case, please go ahead and ‘interrogate’ me, Mr. Gray.”

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Madeline’s calmness impressed Carter yet again.

Perhaps it was this calmness of her that had made him feel that she was special back then.

Carter placed the cup in his hands steadily. “I don’t have anything to ask you.”

He checked the time on his watch. “Your husband should be here soon.”

Just as Carter had spoken, Madeline could hear the familiar car engine sound coming from the outside of the villa entrance.

That was Jeremy's car.

Carter glimpsed at the French window through the corner of his eyes. "That was certainly fast. You're someone he cares about indeed."

"You're so good at cracking jokes, Mr. Gray. I'm his wife, could he not care about me?" Madeline asked and chuckled lightly. "Some people are quite pitiful, however. They obviously care about someone, yet they don't know how to care for them. Don't you think so?"

"..."

Carter's smile froze.

He could tell what Madeline was sneering at him, he did not know what Madeline had meant exactly.

Thud thud thud thud.

The familiar sound of footsteps came closer, and Madeline immediately rose from the sofa.

"Linnie!"

"Jeremy, I'm here."

Madeline looked toward the man who was walking over. The sight of Jeremy's hurried and frantic look made her sincerely feel sorry for him.

If it were not for her wanting to be alone with Shirley and asking Jeremy to leave, this would not have

happened.

At least now that they had reunited, Jeremy would protect her, even if Carter had shown up.

“Mr. Whitman, you’ve arrived very quickly.” Carter was the first to speak.

Jeremy’s cold gaze swept past Carter’s face, then walked straight to Madeline and grabbed her hand.

“Let’s go.”

“Don’t you want to sit down for a chat, Mr. Whitman?” Carter asked as he took a new teacup and poured another cup of black tea.

“It’s snowing so heavily out there. Why don’t you sit down, enjoy some tea and chat for a bit?”

Jeremy looked at the leisure and carefree Carter, then lowered his eyes, meeting Madeline’s eyes, and sat on the sofa facing Carter while holding Madeline’s hands.

“You want to chat, huh? Alright, I’ll chat with you. What’s the purpose of you doing all these? What on earth are you trying to do by asking Shirley to develop this kind of poison to manipulate others?”

Carter silently listened to Jeremy’s questions, then calmly said, “Specifically, I intend to manipulate you, but you should’ve already known that a long time ago.”

He briefly paused as he spoke, and the smile his gaze deepened as he peered into Jeremy’s sharp and charming eyes.

“For you, Mr. Whitman, the physical pain and mental torture had been but a brief suffering, at most. However, it won’t be the same for your wife. She’s your weak spot.”

Carter certainly saw through this.

However, the anger in Jeremy’s heart was surging.

He felt as though he and Madeline were just like experiment subjects for Carter to examine in detail.

Regardless of what Carter knew, he certainly could not know everything about them.

“Carter, you’ve got one thing right. My wife is indeed my weak spot, but she’s also my armor. I’d advise you to stop provoking us. Otherwise, you’ll find it far more difficult to achieve your goals, and I’ll do everything in my power to stop you.”

“Heh.” Carter chuckled softly. “Mr. Whitman, I don’t think you can threaten me anymore,” he said, standing up. “If the poison remains in the body of the love of your life, you will always have to worry. You might have also forgotten about one thing, so let me remind you.”

Carter deliberately paused as he spoke, the corner of his lips curled upward as he looked at Jeremy’s light flax-colored hair and amber eyes.

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“It seems that you’ve forgotten that the poison in your body is not completely cleared as well.”

Carter spoke confidently.

Jeremy’s expression remained static despite this reminder.

“What about it? You seem to be quite confident. Was it just because of this?”

“No, I am completely confident.” There was an assured look on Carter’s face. “Jeremy, since you’re here and we’re done talking, let me bring you guys somewhere.”

Without speaking, Jeremy and Madeline shared a look.

“What is it? Are you guys scared?” Carter asked provocatively. “If you’re scared, you’re free to not follow.”

Carter then turned and walked toward the basement.

Madeline remembered this place. Carter had hypnotized her here back then. Unbeknownst to Madeline, a completely different world was hidden in the basement.

Through the side door, there was a large-scale laboratory.

The laboratory was equipped with state-of-the-art instruments.

Madeline saw that the test tube racks were neatly arranged with vials of various colors and sizes. This scene gave Madeline an extreme chill.

These vials of anti-toxoid test reagents, likely developed by Shirley, had a variety of effects.

“Can you guess whether the anti-toxoid test reagent you’re looking for is here?” Carter asked with a proud smile on his face.

Perhaps he was proud of the fact that he owned so many mysterious anti-toxoid test reagents.

“Eveline, do you know what will happen during your next flare-up?”

Carter kept them on tenterhooks. He observed Jeremy’s reaction before speaking.

“You will recall the worst and the most painful experience in your life.”

Madeline was unsurprised by Carter’s answer. On the contrary, she had already expected this.

However, Jeremy immediately froze when he heard this answer.

Carter was visibly very satisfied by Jeremy’s reaction.

“What about it? I’ve already figured out what you’re referring to. Did you think I would be frightened by this, then submit to you, listen to you, and return Shirley to you?”

Jeremy was now shocked by Madeline’s calmness and questions.

‘She knows?’

‘How did she know?’

“What is it? Are you disappointed that the thing you’d thought could threaten me doesn’t affect me in the slightest?”

Carter looked at the smiling Madeline and suddenly felt slightly defeated. "Eveline, you truly are a special woman. Unfortunately, no matter how special you are, you will submit when the time comes."

"We shall see."

Upon hearing the conversation between Madeline and Carter, Jeremy felt his temples throbbing furiously.

He faced Madeline. The sight of her calm and serene mannerism left an excruciating ache in his heart.

'It seemed that Linnie had already known about the pain and torment she'll be going through in the final stage, yet she never said a single word.

'Does she intend to suffer this alone?'

Jeremy dared not imagine that Madeline would again suffer the horrendous experiences of the past.

He could not let her relive those horrible experiences.

"Carter, tell us your final terms. I'll agree to anything as long as you have the anti-toxoid test reagent."

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Jeremy suddenly relented.

Madeline quickly turned, facing Jeremy's firm expression, though she did not find this unexpected. He relented solely because of the concern he had for her.

The corner of Carter's lips raised at these words. This was the answer he wanted.

"Carter, state your terms," Jeremy requested, not showing much patience for Carter.

Carter did not beat around the bush. "Let Shirley go," he said bluntly.

Madeline had thought that Carter's demand would be something very difficult or unreasonable. However, she had not expected Carter's only stipulation was Shirley's release.

Jeremy too found this doubtful. If this was the only stipulation, why should he not oblige?

After all, his main purpose in kidnapping Shirley was to exchange her for the anti-toxoid test reagent.

"I can let her go, but I have to see the anti-toxoid test reagent first. She told me herself that there's no completed product, so I'd like to verify that you're telling the truth and that there's truly an anti-toxoid test reagent," Jeremy asked carefully, probing.

He could not afford any more mishaps. Madeline's safety depended on this.

Understanding Jeremy's concerns, Carter slowly turned and walked toward a mini-fridge. Once Carter had entered a passcode on the fridge, the door opened.

Madeline and Jeremy shared a look, then saw Carter retrieving a vial of transparent anti-toxoid test reagent from the fridge.

It looked the same as the anti-toxoid test reagent Shirley had given them back then.

“She’s not lying. There isn’t a complete product that can heal you completely. This one’s just a half completed. You can use it to alleviate your symptoms for the next flare-up.”

It was just a half-complete product.

Disappointment flashed across Jeremy’s eyes, but it was better than nothing.

He could not standby and watch Madeline flare up and suffer through those horrendous past experiences again, no matter the cost.

He reached out his hand to Carter. “Give it to me.”

Carter shook his head lightly. “I won’t give it to you until I see Shirley.”

“Carter, I’m a businessman, and trust is vital in businesses. Once I, Jeremy Whitman, have promised something, I’ll certainly fulfill it.”

“However, I’m not a businessman,” Carter said with a cold expression, then placed the anti-toxoid test reagent into his coat pocket. “Mr. Whitman, lead the way.”

Carter was asking Jeremy to take him to Shirley.

Jeremy, without hesitation, grabbed Madeline’s hand and turned. “Follow me.”

After saying two words to Carter, Jeremy turned and went back the way he came.

Jeremy and Madeline got into the same car while Carter followed them in his car.

Jeremy looked at the rearview mirror, glancing at the car that was tailing them closely as his expression became grimmer.

Madeline was silently in thought when she heard Jeremy suddenly speaking.

“You already knew what’ll happen. Why didn’t you tell me?”

Madeline quickly understood what he meant. She shifted her gaze from the snow drifting outside the window onto Jeremy, who wore a cold expression on his face.

“I’m not scared,” Madeline said softly, “there’s nothing I can’t handle.”

“Linnie, this isn’t about whether you can handle it or not, it’s...”

“I understand. I do understand.” Madeline earnestly looked at the agitated man and softened her tone. “Jeremy, I truly do understand.”

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Jeremy gave Madeline a serious look, saying nothing in response.

The snow grew heavier over time, gradually piling on the ground.

Half an hour later, Jeremy's car stopped at the villa's gates once again.

When Madeline got out of the car, her eyes were immediately drawn to the two lines of tire tracks that were imprinted on the snow.

This villa was detached. Under normal circumstances, no one would be passing by this place, let alone leaving tire tracks at the gates, unless they came here deliberately.

"I see. You've locked her up here," Carter said as he got out of the car. "Lead the way." He seemed impatient, but his expression still looked perfectly calm.

Perhaps Jeremy was still worried about Madeline, for he did not notice the tire tracks on the snow.

He opened the gates and led the way with Madeline in tow.

"Jeremy, something's off," Madeline said, expressing her concern.

"Off? What do you mean?" Jeremy asked, confused. However, when he was at the entryway opening

the door, he immediately felt an uneasiness hanging in the air.

Madeline too realized that something was wrong. She sniffed the air around her, then her expression suddenly changed.

“I think something has happened!” Madeline said with emphasis, immediately running upstairs.

Jeremy strode behind her.

Upon seeing this scene, Carter, who stood behind them, felt that something was amiss and quickly ran upstairs with them, toward the entrance to the guest room.

“Why are you two running so fast suddenly? What’s wrong?” Carter asked in displeasure, then his eyes fell upon the guest room door.

He saw that the door lock was broken and there were footprints on the door, suggesting someone had forcefully kicked it.

Carter’s expression immediately changed. “She’s here?”

Jeremy was silent while Madeline, her beautiful eyebrows slightly furrowed, said, “I smell blood.”

Madeline’s words put Jeremy and Carter on guard, their eyes simultaneously narrowed. Carter, however, was one step ahead of Jeremy as he violently pushed the door open.

The smell of blood intensified, and Madeline swiftly entered the guest room. She immediately saw a horrific puddle of blood, still fresh, that stained the snow-white rug. The room also showed signs of struggle.

However, Shirley was nowhere to be seen.

“Jeremy, where is she? Where’s Shirley?” Carter asked impatiently.

This was the first time Madeline saw such an extreme expression on this man’s usually emotionless face.

“Shirley was right here when I left. Carter, you can see that someone had clearly been here,” explained Madeline.

“Sorry, I don’t see it.” Carter’s face fell, looking at the blood on the rug, and he clenched his fingers one by one.

“This was your plan all along, isn’t it, Jeremy? You had intentionally put on such a good show! You said you want to make a deal with me, exchanging Shirley for the anti-toxoid test reagent, but the reality is that you didn’t even want this deal at all!”

Carter’s face was cold, his tone brimming with accusation.

“I would never pull this kind of trick. Someone had barged into this room and taken Shirley away. If you’re truly worried about her, I can help you in finding her current location.”

“There’s no need!” Carter rejected him coldly and suddenly took out the half-complete anti-toxoid test reagent from his pocket. “Since she’s nowhere to be found, this deal is off, Jeremy. Don’t even think about laying your hands on this anti-toxoid test reagent!”

As his voice fell, he suddenly lifted his hand and violently threw the anti-toxoid test reagent out of the balcony.

“Stop!”

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Jeremy shouted, attempting to stop Carter, but Carter had made up his mind.

With all his might, Carter hurled the vial of anti-toxoid test reagent out of the balcony, ensuring that neither party won.

However, Jeremy was unwilling to stand by and watch Carter throwing out the anti-toxoid test reagent. At that moment, he launched himself toward the trajectory of the vial, leaping forward like a sword flying from its scabbard, his entire person seemed to soar with the vial.

Madeline’s heart suddenly leaped as this scene unfolded.

“No! Jeremy...”

Madeline cried out in alarm and ran over to Jeremy.

However, she could not catch up with Jeremy’s speed. She watched as Jeremy jumped down the balcony, trying to catch the vial of anti-toxoid test reagent.

“Jeremy!” Madeline ran hurriedly to the balcony and looked down. She then turned to head downstairs to find Jeremy.

However, when she ran past Carter, he suddenly reached out a hand, grabbing her arm.

“Let go!” Madeline struggled angrily.

Displeasure colored his face. "What did you guys do to her? Where did you hide her?"

Madeline looked Carter in the eyes, unflinching from his suspicious gaze.

"Listen, Carter. Shirley was here initially. Before I'd left, I'd let her bathe, eat, and sleep comfortably. Now that something bad has happened to her, it should be obvious that someone else is behind this. Why should I put up this act with you? Do you think I could've predicted that you'll make this deal with my husband and come here?"

Carter's brows furrowed at Madeline's questions.

While he still gazed at Madeline with suspicion, his grip loosened noticeably.

Madeline used this chance to break away from Carter's grip and quickly ran downstairs.

She rushed straight to the ground level beneath the guest room balcony where she found Jeremy squatting, and she darted toward him.

"Jeremy, how are you? Did you hurt your leg? You still have a scar from the time when you jumped out of a balcony in St. Piaf! How could you be so reckless and jump like that again?"

Madeline was speaking incoherently, torn between caring for Jeremy and scolding him.

She wanted to check whether Jeremy had injured himself, but when she reached out her hands, Jeremy grabbed them.

"Linnie, I'm fine. Really." Jeremy smiled. He had just jumped down from such height, yet his

expression betrayed no sign of discomfort.

“Linnie, look at this,” Jeremy opened his palm and asked, “where’s Carter?”

“I think he’s still in the guest room. Was that really Shirley’s blood? If so, who kidnapped her?”

“It should be hers.” Jeremy was certain.

As his voice fell, he heard hurried footsteps coming from the living room.

A slight change came over Jeremy’s expression. “Linnie, the anti-toxoid test reagent that Adam gave you, you bring it with you at all times, right?”

Madeline nodded. “Yes, I always keep it with me.”

“Good. Give it to me. Quickly.” Jeremy reached out his hand.

Madeline’s heart skipped a beat as she grew very nervous. “Jeremy, are you unwell? Could it be that you...”

“I’m fine, Linnie. Let’s leave it at that for now. Quickly, give it to me.”

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At Jeremy’s urging, Madeline questioned no further. She quickly retrieved the anti-toxoid test reagent she kept in her pocket and handed it to Jeremy.

Jeremy took it just as Carter walked out from the entryway.

He immediately spotted Jeremy and Madeline, then walked straight over.

He shifted his gaze toward the vial of anti-toxoid test reagent that laid next to Jeremy. Upon seeing the shattered pieces of the vial, Carter's eyes flashed with delight, then darkened further.

"Jeremy, that was the only available vial of anti-toxoid test reagent that could help Madeline, and now it has been shattered. Now, you can only watch the suffering of your beloved. Unless you release Shirley. She'll then have time to develop the anti-toxoid test reagent."

After listening to Carter's words, Jeremy calmly stood up.

Madeline got up as well. She lightly patted away the snowflakes on Jeremy's coat, looking at the shattered vial by Jeremy's feet with a grave expression.

"Carter, you still dare think so highly of yourself. Since you've already thoroughly investigated Linnie and me, you should know that I'd never risk my wife's safety."

Jeremy walked up to Carter; Jeremy's eyes blazed with anger despite the biting cold winter snow.

"Truth be told, I'd never wanted to let Shirley go. That's not all. I'd even locked her in the basement with neither food nor drink for the entire night."

Carter furrowed his brows. "Jeremy!"

"That woman has developed such a twisted and damaging thing to harm Linnie and me. Do you think I'd still be kind to her? Even if I'd truly tortured her, she'd only be getting what she'd deserve."

"You..." Carter's mouth set into a hard line, and his eyes glowed with rancor.

“I’m not finished,” Jeremy interrupted Carter coldly, Jeremy’s deep, alluring eyes were more imposing than Carter’s. “If it weren’t because of my wife’s urging, I wouldn’t have even let that vile woman sleep in the villa guest room in comfort. A despicable reprobate like her, who only sees the life of others as experiments, is unworthy of any sympathy.”

A vile woman.

A reprobate.

Upon hearing Jeremy’s description of Shirley, Carter’s fists slowly clenched as the raging flame within him was about to erupt at any moment.

However, at the brink of Carter losing control of his overflowing anger, Madeline suddenly spoke.

“I treated Shirley kindly not because I pity Shirley, but because I pity how she’s being manipulated,” Madeline said while looking into Carter’s eyes, which suddenly had a confused look.

“Shirley is very detestable, and she did many despicable deeds. However, the one who is even more detestable, more despicable, is the one who’s behind her instigating her to commit these deeds. Wouldn’t you say so, Mr. Gray?”

“...”

Carter immediately fell silent.

He knew very clearly that Madeline was referring to him.

That is correct. Shirley had only been following his orders.

If she was a vile woman and a despicable rat, then he would be even worse.

This thought made Carter chuckle.

The white snowflakes fluttered past his eyes, and in that second, it was as though the snowflakes had turned black.

Carter's elegant face finally revealed a never-before-seen sinister smile.

"Seems that I wasn't the only ones who have done a thorough investigation. You guys have investigated me thoroughly as well," he said provocatively, an abnormal chill in his voice. He shifted his gaze to the shattered vial on the ground, then to Madeline.

"Madeline, for the sake of our relationship, I didn't initially want to see you in so much pain. However, there are no longer any anti-toxoid test reagents, and you guys seem unwilling to release the one who developed the anti-toxoid test reagent. Further, your husband insisted on making me his enemy. I guess you can only resign yourself to fate now."

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With that, Carter turned and left with a carefree demeanor.

Madeline, staring at Carter's back as he walked away with such finality, felt slightly uneasy.

She felt her chest tightened upon seeing the vial of anti-toxoid test reagent shattered on the snow.

Noticing the changes in Madeline's mood, Jeremy, whose face was surprisingly happy, held her hand and comforted her.

“Linnie, I know you’re worried about me, but your condition is more urgent now. Even if poison inside me were to flare up, it wouldn’t be much of a problem with Adam around. However, it’s a different story for you. Carter would never genuinely give you the anti-toxoid test reagent.”

Madeline could not deny that Jeremy had a point. Nonetheless, she was still fairly upset seeing the shattered vial.

Once Carter had left, Madeline and Jeremy returned to the guest room once again.

Jeremy examined the room’s condition and inspected the puddle of blood.

It was indeed human blood, and judging from the state of which it had dried up, this incident had likely happened not long ago.

“Jeremy, who do you think wanted to kidnap Shirley? What would they benefit from kidnapping Shirley?”

Jeremy, who seemed to be in thought, did not answer Madeline’s question, but instead responded with a question of his own. “Linnie, what kind of relationship do you think Carter and Shirley have?”

Madeline pondered for a few seconds and said, “Honestly, I think Carter has romantic feelings towards Shirley.

“You’re saying that Carter has feelings for Shirley?”

“Yes.” Madeline nodded. “That’s what I think.”

“I think so too. Carter doesn’t merely think of Shirley as a pawn,” Jeremy agreed, then his handsome eyebrows furrowed slightly. “I have an idea who is likely to be behind this. This kind of trick could kill two birds with one stone, and there’s only one person who would benefit most from this.”

As Jeremy analyzed the situation, his deep eyes flickered with foresight.

Madeline looked into those eyes and seemed to immediately have some idea what he meant.

‘It seemed that only one person could benefit from this.

‘However, would that person truly be bold enough to do this?’

...

In a damp and dark basement.

Shirley once again woke up from her stupor, feeling a chill all over her body.

Due to her blood loss, her body was lacking in warmth.

Amidst her grogginess, Shirley felt a sudden, dull pain in her stomach.

“Hiss.” She curled up in pain. Through her blurry vision, she saw a woman, who wore a cap and face mask, aggressively kicking her.

“I thought you were dead,” the woman mocked. She then bent down and yanked Shirley’s collar. “Who asked you to get in my way? Let me tell you this. You have yourself to blame for this outcome!”

she warned fiercely.

The woman then pushed Shirley away. Prone, Shirley lifted her head with great effort. She tried standing, but felt a fiery pain in her ankles.

Even now, Shirley, feeling neither afraid nor panic, calmly posed her question instead.

“Who... the hell are you? You said I got in your way, but can you at least tell me how I got in your way?”

As Shirley’s voice fell, the woman suddenly yanked Shirley’s collar again in rage and lifted her hand, slapping Shirley’s face twice, without even saying a word.

“Shirley, don’t think that you can get away with this because you now have a bit of talent and looks. He didn’t belong to you before, and he won’t ever belong to you!”

As the woman spoke, she suddenly got up and took a fruit knife from the table at the side.

While Shirley felt dizzy and dazed, she could still clearly see the woman walking over to her, the fruit knife in hand.

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The light in the basement was dim, so Shirley could not see the woman’s face. However, she could imagine how malicious this woman’s face would look now.

“What are you trying to do?” Shirley supported herself with both hands and tried her best to move backward.

She was not scared of the torture this woman would inflict on her, but she could not accept sustaining any injuries on her face.

No woman could accept this.

The woman waved the fruit knife and strode in front of Shirley, towering over her as she arrogantly peered askance at Shirley.

“Shirley, I know I can never compare to you in some aspects and I can never replace you. The only thing I can do now is to change your physical appearance.”

After Shirley heard this, she was even more certain that this woman wanted to disfigure her.

She knew if she did not fight back, her face would be atrociously disfigured in her hands.

She could not sit here and resign to her fate.

When she saw the woman waving the knife at her face, Shirley used all her might to push the woman away.

The woman thought Shirley had lost all resistance, so she was completely caught off guard when she was suddenly pushed. She fell to the ground, and the fruit knife in her hand also dropped.

The woman muttered angrily while picking up the fruit knife in a hurry. However, Shirley was even faster than her and was now holding the fruit knife.

Fearing that the tables would turn at this critical moment, the woman pressed Shirley's hand down and the two of them started fighting.

Since Shirley was weak, the woman managed to trap Shirley under her.

The two of them fought for the fruit knife, and amidst the chaos, the sharp blade slashed across the woman's palm.

"Ah!" the woman screamed in pain, and at the same time, flames of rage filled her heart.

She snatched away the fruit knife that Shirley was holding tightly in her hand as her eyes turned aggressive.

"Go to hell!"

She held the handle of the knife and slashed the sharp blade across Shirley's right cheek.

"Ah!"

An overwhelming sharp pain immediately washed over Shirley.

Shirley was instantly alert without a trace of muddle-headedness.

She lifted her hand to clutch her wound, the blood quickly staining her palm red.

"Shirley, do you feel the pain now? Who asked you to offend someone you shouldn't? You should think about who you offended back then. Don't blame me, I'm just doing this under someone's instructions. Think about who you've offended recently."

'Who I've offended recently?'

Shirley clutched her face that was bleeding profusely, and she was in so much pain that her bones were trembling. She could not think. The only rivals whom she could think of were Jeremy and Madeline.

When she remembered how Madeline had let her take a shower, change her clothes, eat, and sleep in such a friendly manner, Shirley could not help but chuckle sarcastically.

"Eveline, I almost believed you. I didn't expect you to be so good at acting."

Shirley said in self-mockery before pushing away the woman who was restraining her. Then, she stood up shakily and stumbled toward the door.

The woman initially wanted to stop her but when she heard what Shirley had just said, she felt that it was unnecessary.

She removed her mask and cap before curling her red lips to display a sinister smirk. She was pleased that she managed to get away with this.

"Shirley, it's good that you've arrived at this conclusion. Remember to go back to Carter and tell him who did this to you."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1737

Shirley clutched her face and ran forward without bothering which way she was going, braving the biting cold wind and snow.

The blood that seeped through the gaps of her fingers fell on the white snow drop by drop, and beautiful blooming flowers seemed to appear on the ground in a split second

Shirley did not know how long she had been running for, nor did she know where she was headed to. Her consciousness was getting more and more blurry. When she almost fainted, she rushed out into the road.

A taxi could not stop in time and directly crashed into Shirley who was running around blindly.

The taxi driver quickly hit the brakes and was so scared by this sudden incident that he was holding the steering wheel without budging an inch.

“It’s not my fault. She ran out into the road. It’s not my fault.”

The driver kept emphasizing.

When Adam and Cathy saw this from the backseat, the two of them opened the door and got out at the same time.

As a doctor, Adam would not leave the wounded to die without trying to save them.

Adam initially thought it was just a stranger who had carelessly dashed out into the road, but when he saw the face that was covered with dirt, Adam’s heart palpitated with fear.

“Shirley? Shirley!”

He called out to Shirley repeatedly but she was not reacting at all.

Adam tried to feel for Shirley’s breath, and her weak breathing caused his heart to plunge violently.

He carried Shirley, who was covered in blood, back into the car. Cathy also quickly got back into the car. The moment she sat down, she heard Adam roaring at the driver frantically.

“To the nearest hospital, hurry!”

The driver did not dare to delay it for even half a second. He immediately pressed down on the accelerator to speed to the nearest hospital...

Madeline and Jeremy went back to the hospital.

Karen was taking care of Lillian who was getting an intravenous infusion.

When Karen saw the two of them, she pointed at the bouquet of powder blue baby breaths on the table and said, “A masked man came to visit Lily just now. That man was very weird. He didn’t say anything and just left after putting the flowers down.”

“A man?”

“He looks like he’s in his 20s. He’s tall and handsome. I think he looks somewhat familiar but he was wearing a mask so I can’t be sure,” Karen explained.

Madeline walked to the bouquet and noticed that there was a glass jar full of colorful candies behind the bouquet.

When she saw the candies, Madeline arrived at a conclusion with much certainty. **“It was Fabian. He left the flowers and the jar of candies.”**

Jeremy approached Madeline to take a look. Indeed, there was a jar of candies behind the flowers.

“I don’t know what he’s trying to do. He wants to cut ties with us but he still cares about our daughter so much.”

Madeline smiled and sighed. Then, she turned around to look at Jeremy.

“Jeremy, what are you planning to do with Shirley? Can you get the security footage to see where she is right now?”

“Alright, I’ll get someone to do it now,” Jeremy said and walked to one side to make a call.

Madeline walked to the side of the bed to caress the sleeping little princess. As she watched the cold liquid seeping into the child’s body little by little, she felt incredibly helpless.

“Lily, you have to stay strong and make it through this.”

“Our Lily will be fine. However, I heard that something has happened to your body recently. What’s going on?” Karen asked with a friendly tone.

Madeline smiled. “Don’t worry, Mom. We’ll all make it through this.”

She promised, and at the same time, she was giving herself the confidence to make it through this.

Then, she recalled the test tube that Jeremy had broken himself.

She took out her phone and called Adam.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1738

She would not feel assured if she did not have the anti-toxoid test reagent that Adam gave her with her.

If Jeremy were to experience another flare-up at a sudden timing, she would not know what to do.

However, even though she could get through to Adam, no one was picking up the call.

Madeline figured that Adam might be busy, so she thought she would call him later. However, when she was about to put her phone away, Adam called her back.

Madeline quickly answered the call and heard Cathy's voice from the other side.

"Evie, it's me."

"Cathy, are you with Adam? Is he unable to come to the phone now?"

"Evie, he can't come to the phone because..."

After Madeline heard what Cathy said, her eyes flashed suddenly.

Jeremy came back into the ward after making the call. When he saw Madeline's strange expression, he strode to her and asked, "Linnie, what's going on?"

"Something bad has happened to Shirley." After Madeline said that, she grabbed Jeremy's hand to walk out of the ward. At the same time, she turned around and said to Karen, "Mom, I'm going out with Jeremy for a bit. Please look after Lily."

Karen waved her hand. "Go ahead. Don't worry, I'll look after Lily."

After getting a reply from Karen, Madeline held Jeremy's hand and quickly walked out of the ward.

"Linnie, where are we going?"

"The operating room."

"Operating room?" Jeremy was puzzled. Then, he had an assumption and asked, "Is Shirley in the operating room?"

"Yeah." Madeline nodded and started to increase her walking pace without realizing it.

Soon, they arrived at the corridor that led to the operating room.

From afar, Madeline could see Adam sitting on one of the chairs with a heavy and worried look on his face. Meanwhile, Cathy was sitting beside him.

When Cathy saw Madeline and Jeremy, she walked over to greet them.

"Evie, Jeremy, she's still inside and we don't know her condition yet."

Jeremy looked at Adam who looked dispirited and spotted the bloodstains on Adam's clothes. He could guess that the dried blood came from Shirley.

Shirley had disappeared from the villa, so how did she suddenly show up here?

Jeremy was confused. "What happened? Why is Shirley in the operating room and why was she with you guys?"

Cathy shook her head lightly. "I'm not sure what's going on as well. When Adam and I were on our way home, we saw Shirley darting out into the road all of a sudden. The taxi driver couldn't stop the car in time so he crashed into her. However, before the car hit her, she was already hurt. Plus, there was a very deep knife wound on her face."

"She's been disfigured?"

"Someone did it to her," Adam said something at this moment.

Madeline looked at Adam and saw that he had a look of dismay on his face.

Even though he did not approve of a lot of the heinous things Shirley did and he abhorred her actions deeply, they were still siblings who were related by blood. Nobody would be able to be unaffected under these circumstances.

Madeline and Jeremy could guess who was the person who had kidnapped Shirley, but they did not expect them to be so heinous.

"Do you know who did this?" Adam saw the light flashing across Madeline and Jeremy's eyes.

When Madeline was about to say something, the door of the operating room opened.

Adam turned around and rushed over immediately. "Dr. Lewis, how's the patient?"

The doctor shook his head with a heavy look on his face. "Dr. Brown, I did everything I could. Perhaps it'll be better if you perform the surgery."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1739

After hearing this, Adam felt his heart turn ice-cold. It was as though it had been submerged in bone-chilling ice water, causing his entire body to freeze.

When Madeline heard this while standing at the side, she found the situation to be strange. She did not dare to believe that Shirley would die just like this. "Doctor, how's the patient doing now?"

When the doctor saw that Madeline was with Adam, he explained in detail, "Judging from the current situation, she may end up losing her mobility and will have to spend the rest of her life in a wheelchair. The wound on her face is also abnormally deep, so it can be said that she'll be disfigured."

Disability and disfigurement.

Madeline immediately recalled her own situation from back then.

She had been blind and also disfigured. It could be said that she had gone through the exact same thing as what Shirley was going through now.

"This is the patient's current state. Perhaps she might improve after a recovery period, but it might take a very long time or even a lifetime."

After Adam heard this, he nodded gently to show that he understood. "Thank you, Dr. Lewis."

He turned around slowly, the back of his figure looking abnormally bleak.

"Evie, Jeremy, I'll go stay with Adam." After Cathy informed Madeline and Jeremy, she quickly followed Adam.

Madeline lifted her eyes to look into Jeremy's eyes. There was a complicated look in both of their eyes.

Madeline did not know whether this encounter and ending were Shirley's karma. If it was, then what about the things she had experienced before?

Cathy and Adam came to the garden below the hospital.

It was still snowing and a thick layer of snow had already piled up on the ground.

Adam stood amid the snow and the wind like a statue. He showed no emotions and was not speaking.

Cathy tried to get close to him. "Adam."

She called out. She initially thought Adam would not pay attention to her, but he still turned his head.

"Cathy, it's cold out here. You should go in first. Let me stay here for a while."

"Adam, you were with me during the most torturous and coldest time of my life, so I'll return the favor. I'll be with you no matter what the circumstances are."

Upon hearing this, Adam's expression changed slightly.

He wanted to tell Shirley to leave again, but he felt that Cathy might not listen to him.

He smiled softly and walked forward slowly. The fluttering snow flew past his shoulders and landed

on his hair.

“I really miss my childhood,” Adam lamented.

Cathy was touched by this sentence as well because she also missed her childhood.

She missed the year, the month, and the day when she first met Felipe at the beach.

Back then, their encounter had been so pure, but ultimately, he still could not escape what life had planned for him.

He was dead now.

They would never meet in this life again.

“She used to be a good sister and was amazing.” Adam reminisced sincerely. “She thought Mom and Dad only loved me and they neglected her because they wanted to care for me. However, she didn’t know that only one of us could study abroad in St. Piaf and our parents gave the chance to her. She thought they did this to abandon her.”

Adam furrowed his thick eyebrows in distress.

“I had given her the notebook. She wouldn’t have wasted time on insoluble problems if she had just read it. Why is she still so stubborn in going about things the wrong way?”

“Back then, she said she wanted to be a great medical scientist like Mom and Dad, but now, she has become a witch who only knows how to harm people and use poison on them...”

“How did things become like this?”

Adam lowered his eyelids in pain while sighing with melancholy.

Cathy placed her hand gently on Adam’s shoulder. “Sometimes, a misunderstanding or complication can cause someone to obstinately persist in going about things the wrong way. They will only come to the realization after you solve the matter that gnaws at their mind.

“Adam, your sister will be very devastated after she wakes up and sees the condition she’s in. When that happens, you have to stay with her and care for her. I’m sure she’ll feel your sincerity.”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1740

“I don’t know if her leg will recover, but I’m sure you have a way to heal her face, right?”

When Cathy asked this, her eyes were twinkling.

She believed that Adam had this ability.

After she asked that, both of them fell into a brief moment of silence.

Adam looked as if he was thinking about something. After a while, he lifted his head and looked at Cathy with a small smile on his handsome, flawless face.

“Thank you, Cathy.”

“If you thank me, you’re treating me as an outsider. Adam, you’re like my family member, so you don’t have to be courteous to me.”

Family member.

When those two words reached Adam's ears, he felt happy yet disappointed at the same time.

However, he was feeling more delighted than anything.

After all, a family member went beyond a friend; it was a special presence.

Shirley was transferred to a private hospital ward.

After being unconscious for a day, she woke up in the middle of the night.

Despite feeling very weak when she lifted her hand, she still used all her might to touch her face.

The thick layer of bandages on her cheek proved that what had happened before was not a dream but reality. Her face had really been disfigured.

Shirley felt her heart turning cold, and when she was about to move, she suddenly realized that her legs were not responding to her. She wanted to move but could not. She had even lost all feelings in her legs.

'How is this possible?'

Beads of cold sweat appeared on Shirley's forehead. She tried to move again but she still could not move her legs.

In that instant, it was like a bolt from the blue and it struck her straight in the heart, splitting it into

two.

She felt as if all of the blood in her body had been drained and her entire body was cold.

In addition to that, it felt as if the night sky outside the window had shrouded her. She felt that everything in front of her was black and icy.

While she was feeling distracted, Shirley saw a figure from the corner of her eyes. Then, she turned her head to see Adam sitting on the chair at the side of the bed with his eyes closed. He looked exhausted because his brows were still furrowed even when he had fallen asleep.

When Shirley thought about her current situation, she felt that this was oddly laughable.

At this moment, Shirley felt as if her heart had lost its normal rhythm. Soon after, her breathing started to become rapid.

She reflexively lifted her hand to press it against her heart, but she still could not soothe this uncontrollable feeling.

She knew very well that this was one of the symptoms when the poison flared up.

She did not forget how Jeremy had personally injected the poison into her veins that day.

Heh.

She chuckled coldly with self-mockery. This was karma.

This was karma, indeed.

Shirley gritted her teeth and gripped the blanket tightly. She looked at Adam who was sleeping soundly and slowly moved her upper body.

At this moment, she only wanted to leave. She would get out of here even if she crawled.

However, her lack of energy and the injuries she sustained after the accident would not allow her to do so. Plus, due to the poison in her body, she would have difficulties breathing. How could she crawl out of here?

However, Madeline was still determined. She endured the debilitating pain to try to move again, but her body tilted to one side and she lost her balance before falling straight to the hard floor.

However, at this moment, a pair of warm hands held her.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1741

Shirley could tell that those hands were that of a woman.

Dazed, she lifted her eyes and was met with a pair of clear, wide eyes.

"The doctor said that your injuries will need proper care to recover, so it's better if you rest," Cathy said gently as she slowly helped Shirley back to the bed.

Shirley sat back down, then gave a cold chuckle.

"Which quack said that? Could I ever recover from my current condition? If they can't even make the most basic of judgments, they shouldn't even be doctors!"

She mocked cynically while enduring her pain.

“Do those pompous quacks think that they’re being kind by telling such lies? I don’t need such hollow kindnesses! Just say that I am crippled and disfigured! There’s no hope for recovery!”

Upon seeing Shirley giving in to despair, Cathy sternly emphasized.

“Of course there’s hope! Yes, there might be a lot of unqualified doctors out there, but there are also a lot of good doctors, like Adam, who’s also your brother. Believe in him. He’ll definitely help you recover and return to your old self.”

“Shut up!” Shirley huffed, interrupting Cathy. “Who do you think you are? You dare shamelessly spew such nonsense at me? Do you think I know nothing about medicine?”

She turned her face and peered at Adam who was still asleep. **“I know everything he knows! However, he might not know what I know. I understand my current situation perfectly. Heh. If I’m helpless at this, what hope can I have for him?”**

Arrogance flashed in Shirley’s eyes.

Cathy finally saw the dissatisfaction within Shirley.

It was the extraordinarily intense determination to surpass her brother whom she thought her parents had loved more.

In other words, she was jealous.

However, her jealousy was entirely misplaced.

“You’re Cathy, right?” Shirley stared at Cathy while suppressing the debilitating pain in her body. “Get the nurse for me, immediately. I don’t intend to stay here. I don’t want to see this person, or anyone related to him. I want to leave this hospital immediately!”

Shirley was very emotional, but Cathy still looked at her calmly.

“If you still want to get better, you should continue resting. If you want to be crippled and disfigured for the rest of your life, then you can continue making a fuss.”

“...” Shirley bit her dried lips. “Are you threatening me? Heh.”

She gave a cold chuckle, laced with contempt, then suddenly reached out to press the call button.

However, before she could reach it, her hand was met with a palm that felt familiar to her.

Shirley turned and saw Adam, who had awakened unbeknownst to them, standing on the other side of the bed, his upright body emitting a resilient aura.

He retracted his hand that was blocking the call button and pushed Shirley’s hand back.

“You ought to be a little more compliant if you don’t want to die,” Adam warned, his gaze penetrating.

Shirley was briefly stumped for words, then chuckled mockingly and said, “Adam, I don’t need you to pity or feel sorry for me. I certainly don’t need you to cure me.”

“Do you think I want to save you?” Adam asked her coldly. “I’m a doctor in this hospital, and they have passed you to me. I’m just following the standard operating procedures. If it weren’t for my performance appraisal, I’d have handed you to the other doctors.”

“...”

Shirley had not expected this answer. She had wanted to refute Adam when he turned to walk away with a cold expression, but the poison intensified at this moment.

Her pain was so excruciating that she could not straighten herself, and her face abruptly blanched.

Cathy could tell something was wrong with Shirley, so she hurriedly called out to Adam, “Adam! She doesn’t look too good.”

Adam abruptly stopped in his tracks. He hastily looked back and saw Shirley, her head lowered, clutching her shirt around her chest, breathing too erratically and rapidly.

Adam quickly strode back to the front of the room and grabbed Shirley’s wrist, checking her pulse.

He noticed that Shirley's pulse was unsteady and irregular. This situation was critical yet familiar.

"Do you have the same poison in you as Eveline?" Adam asked in disbelief.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1742

Shirley effortfully retracted her hand. "I don't need your concern."

"I certainly don't want to be concerned about you. Even if you were to suffer and die by this poison, a pernicious person like you would deserve it."

"..."

"Adam."

"However, I have not forgotten. I'm a doctor, and it is a doctor's duty to save others. Just like with mom and dad, I won't let anyone die by my watch, not even if they're my enemies."

"..."

Shirley's movement immediately became sluggish when she heard these words.

It was as if the pain had stopped at this moment as well.

"Heh. Hehe..."

After a long while, she chuckled, coldly and bitterly.

When she returned to her senses, Adam was no longer in the room; only Cathy remained, standing at one side.

“Adam will be back soon.”

Shirley said nothing in response, no longer having the energy to speak.

Although she had developed the poison, she had never known that one of the components could cause such intense pain once inside the human body.

It was so cruel.

“Ah...”

Shirley could not help but wail out in pain.

She could not imagine how Madeline had gone through this. She felt that she could not endure this any further.

However, she knew she would not die. The first three stages of this poison only consisted of physical torment. Once it had reached the final stage, the torment would be mental.

She would once again experience the memories she did not want to relive. Those lonely, cold, and dark days when she had been depressed...

“Hiss...”

The fourth stage has yet to arrive, but Shirley’s heart had already begun to have a splitting pain.

She tried to suppress her emotions, but she still could not control her tears.

Cathy, seeing Shirley’s pained look, went up to comfort her. “Hold on a little longer. Adam will definitely have a solution for this.”

“A solution...”

Shirley let out a light chuckle through her red, teary eyes.

“I developed this poison and I don’t even have the antidote. Who would have it? Get lost! I don’t need your sympathy.”

Shirley forcefully pushed Cathy’s hand away.

Cathy, caught off guard, nearly fell, but someone supported her from behind.

“Evie.”

Upon hearing Cathy calling out to Madeline, Shirley spent all her might to lift her red, teary eyes and looked over.

Shirley remembered the moment when that mysterious woman had sat on Shirley and disfigured her. She also remembered what that woman had said to her.

“Shirley, don’t blame me for this. I’m merely doing this on someone else’s behalf. Think about who you have offended lately.”

As the phrase kept on repeating in Shirley’s ears, she tightened her grip on her clothes.

Upon seeing Shirley’s current state, Madeline calmly walked over to the bedside. Before Madeline could speak, Shirley suddenly pulled out the IV, which had been attached to the back of Shirley’s hand, and grabbed Madeline’s wrist, intending to stab the IV needle into Madeline’s neck.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1743

When Cathy saw this, she swiftly ran up to intervene. “Evie, watch out!”

Madeline was caught off guard by this sudden attack, but with her agile reflexes, she easily caught Shirley’s wrist, putting a stop to her deranged action.

“Evie, are you okay?”

Worried, Cathy walked over to Madeline’s side, then turned toward Shirley and reprimanded her.

“Why do you still want to hurt people? Even now, do you still not think that you’ve gone too far? What on earth did Evie do to offend you, causing you to hurt her time and time again?”

Shirley, enduring the waves of pain, stared at Madeline through gritted teeth.

“Yes... Why do I want to hurt her time and time again? It’s because I am heinous! It’s because I’m a cold-blooded, inhumane tool! Hahahaha...”

Shirley started laughing maniacally in self-deprecation, then tightly gritted her teeth as she endured the intense discomfort.

“Eveline, do you find it extremely infuriating and depressing that you’ve encountered someone like me? One can only blame it on your horrible luck! I’ll accept the fact that you had someone to do this to me. I have only myself to blame for having provoked you first. Isn’t that right, Mrs. Whitman?”

Cathy frowned, confused by Shirley’s words.

“What are you babbling about?”

What does Evie have to do with your injuries? You were the one who darted out of the road, causing that driver to run into you because he couldn’t break in time.

“Heh.” Shirley softly chuckled at that. “Observe, Eveline. You’ve put on such a great act. Everyone thinks You’re put on such a great act. Everyone thinks you’re such a gentle and kind woman. The truth is that your side is even more sinister and vile than I am”

Madeline was completely unbothered by Shirley's opinions and comments about her. On the contrary, she answered Shirley with a calm and composed look on her face.

"Yes, I am a sinister and vile woman, so fret not, I too won't let you die this easily. You still have something I want, after all."

Shirley tightly pressed her dry, pale lips together. "Don't even think about getting the anti-toxoid test reagent! I certainly won't develop it!"

Madeline gave a cold chuckle, then shrugged nonchalantly. "That's still not bad. From now on, I'll have you as company whenever I have a flare-up. We can be there for each other."

Madeline's calm reply seemed to induce in Shirley a phantom pain, as though her injuries had worsened.

Dissatisfied, she clenched the bed sheet, panting, and said, "Heh, Eveline, do you honestly think it'll be that easy to make it through the fourth stage? Let me tell you that you definitely won't be able to handle it! You'll definitely come begging, but I'll definitely refuse to save you!"

"Just you wait. Let's see whether I'll beg for you to save me when the day comes. Who knows? When the time comes, maybe you'll be the one who's begging."

After Madeline had spoken, she turned around, untroubled, and left.

Cathy saw the hatred burning in Shirley's eyes and the discomfort that Shirley must be experiencing all over, then strode after Madeline. Madeline had reached the entrance when she saw Cathy

following her. She stopped and said, "Cathy, you should go back to keep an eye on her."

Cathy nodded with a solemn expression. "I will, but Evie, what did you mean by what you said earlier?"

You have nothing to do with the scar on her face, right? You wouldn't do such a thing, and there was just some misunderstanding, right? Why didn't you explain it to her?"

Upon hearing Cathy's words, Madeline could feel Cathy's trust in her. She then smiled lightly. "

Those who trust me would naturally do so. There's no use in explaining to those who do not trust me. Cathy, you should return and stay with her."

Madeline lifted her eyes, studying Shirley who was currently suffering from the poison and her injuries.

"I think she would need someone to keep her company now."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1744

After Madeline had finished speaking, she left.

She had initially come here to look for Adam. While she was at it, she went to check up on Shirley. She had not expected to nearly have another brush with trouble.

Regardless, just as she and Jeremy had expected, whoever kidnapped Shirley had achieved their goal of making Shirley misunderstand Madeline.

Madeline had a hunch regarding this person's identity.

In the hospital room.

Jeremy was telling Lillian a fairytale.

The little princess drifted into sleep while listening to the delightful fairytale. Jeremy then planted a soft kiss on the little princess' cheek before tucking her in. As he was getting up, he saw that Madeline had returned.

Madeline and Jeremy looked at the little girl who had fallen asleep, then shared a look and a smile. With a tacit understanding, they then walked toward the chairs by the entrance and sat down next to each other.

"Linnie, what's the situation over there?"

"Coincidentally, Shirley had a flare- up while I was there. With those injuries on her body, her condition seemed terrible."

Jeremy held Madeline's hand, intertwining his fingers with hers, and his eyes were gentle and filled with concern. "Even if her pain worsens, or her condition worsens, she's not worth your sympathy , Linnie."

Madeline pressed her lips together into a slight someone who has harmed us so cruelly. It's just that if we still don't identify the poison's components, I'm afraid we'll be under Carter's control forever."

"We won't," Jeremy said with perfect certainty, his grip on Madeline's hand tightened as well.

“Linnie, there’s something I have yet to tell you.”

“What is it?”

“When I injected the anti-toxoid test reagent into Shirley, I extracted a small sample should’ve immediately handed it to Adam, but I have not got the chance this turn of events.”

This news was indeed completely beyond Madeline’s expectations.

If they had the specimen, it would not be difficult to develop an anti-toxoid test reagent that could combat the poison.

“In fact, I contacted Adam when you went to see Shirley. He said he was on his way home. He sounded frantic.”

“I think Adam is going to get the anti -toxoid test reagent that could eliminate the poison in Shirley. He truly still cares a great deal about this sister.”

As Madeline was making her conjectures, Adam had been on his way back for the anti-toxoid test reagent as Madeline had guessed.

When Adam rushed back into the hospital room, Shirley was curled up in bed. Cathy, unable to do much else, had only stayed by the bedside.

Adam swiftly assembled the syringe, then grabbed Shirley's arm, identifying the location of her vein, and expertly injected the syringe.

Shirley grunted. The moment of sharp pain was immediately followed by a cool sensation, which slowly soothed the pain all over her body.

Shirley slowly lifted her head and, with disbelief, looked at Adam who was Administering the injection.

"How... How did you get the anti-toxoid test reagent? Did you come up with it just from your deductions?" Shirley gasped and asked, using all her strength, her eyes betraying her displeasure. "Impossible! You can't come up with the anti-toxoid test reagent just like this. Adam, you can't be smarter than me in this!"

Shirley denied hysterically. "Tell me, where did you get this?"

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1745

Adam calmly completed the injection, then his gaze drifted over to Shirley's hostile face. He had not a single ounce of intention to explain, and he could not be bothered with quibbling with Shirley about this.

He looked at Cathy who stood by the bedside and gently said, "Cathy, you should head back. I'll watch her."

Cathy shook her head. "I can still watch her. You must be exhausted today."

Adam unenthusiastically glanced at Shirley. "I can't help that I'm related to this person."

He sounded disgusted as he uttered this.

"..." Shirley was speechless.

Cathy had wanted to advise Adam again to rest, but she also figured that Adam might want to have a word with Shirley, so she spoke no further.

"I'll bring breakfast tomorrow. You should get some rest soon as well, Adam," Cathy said and grabbed her bag.

Adam sent Cathy to the entrance and did not forget to remind her, "Be careful."

After sending Cathy off, Adam returned to the hospital room.

Color had returned to Shirley's face; she now looked better than before. At least the poison was not tormenting her further. However, the injury on her face and legs would not heal so easily.

"How did you hurt your face? There are injuries on your legs too," Adam asked coldly, not sparing another glance at Shirley.

Shirley chuckled softly and leaned backward. "It was Eveline. She had someone do this to me."

Adam briefly froze, then lifted his eyes. "Did you say Eveline was behind this?"

Upon seeing Adam's reaction, Shirley smiled with even more disdain. "I knew you'd react like this.

You'd rather believe that woman than believe your biological sister."

"Well, so you still remember that you're my sister, huh?" Adam asked. "You should reflect upon yourself while you're here. Besides, I can assure you that Eveline would never ask anyone to do this to you."

Adam spoke sternly, then turned to leave the room, closing the door securely behind him.

Facing the empty hospital room, Shirley's negative emotions immediately overwhelmed her.

She touched her face, then looked at her unmoving legs, feeling as though the night sky outside the window was slowly swallowing her whole.

"Carter."

She murmured Carter's name, clenching her fists.

This time, she truly had no chance. Although she had carried out his orders perfectly, it did not matter.

After leaving the hospital room, Adam immediately went to the temporary office the hospital had

arranged for him.

He had previously asked the driver to send Shirley to the nearest hospital, and this hospital was not the hospital he was working in.

Moreover, the hospital did not hand Shirley to him.

This was merely an excuse that he had come up with to treat Shirley.

It was the middle of the night when he took out the old notebook to find a photo in between the pages.

The photo showed a family of four. It was the photo that he had picked up and kept safe after Shirley broke the photo frame.

The corner of Adam's eyes grew dry upon staring at this photo.

'Sister.'

Could he still rediscover his proactive sister who had been full of life, who used to stand up for him?

It was past midnight.

The light in Carter's study remained on. He answered one call after another, but still, nobody had any news of Shirley for him.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1746

For someone who had weathered many storms, he had expected himself to be unmoved by this, but right now, he was fretful.

Up until daybreak, Shirley's whereabouts still eluded him.

Carter then decided to search for her himself. However, as he got up, someone abruptly pushed the study room door open.

Through the entrance came Camille.

Carter found this unexpected. "Why are you in Glendale as well?"

Camille did not answer Carter, but asked, "Are you looking for Shirley?"

Carter paused briefly when he heard that, then calmly admitted it. "I am."

"Why are you still looking for her?" Camille's expression turned extremely sour in an instant. "You should have seen through this kind of woman a long time ago."

This kind of woman.

The corners of Carter's eyebrows seemed to furrow slightly at Camille's description of Shirley.

"Carter, don't tell me that you're still concerned for this woman. If you recall what she'd done back then, you shouldn't still have feelings for her."

Camille's words were laced with repulsion and hatred of Shirley.

Carter put away the vexed emotions portrayed between his brows, and his handsome face instantly wore a cold expression, reverting to his usual stone- cold expression.

"I haven't had any feelings for her for some time. The reason I've tolerated her presence is to have her gradually pay back for the things she had done to me."

Camille's expression changed upon hearing the words "pay back".

"You should just let this kind of woman go. What's the point in getting payback?"

Camille did not want to see Carter committing anything unreasonable or cross any lines.

"I've heard that she has even developed some type of poison that harms humans just to sell them at a high price to certain sketchy individuals. That woman could not be saved, Carter. You ought to stop dealing with her. Since she left so decisively all those years ago, you should now just think her dead."

As her voice fell, the air around them plunged into silence.

Carter knew that Camille despised Shirley. Camille was a reasonable woman who valued relationships, so her hatred toward Shirley was not without reason. This he understood enough.

However, he could not understand his heart.

“Don’t worry, I haven’t had any feelings for her for some time. My current dealings with her have only been work-related.”

Camille did not want Carter to get into contact with Shirley, not even for work. However, she knew she could not force Carter to a corner because it would only produce the opposite of the desired outcome.

After Camille had left, Carter slowly returned to his seat and turned on his phone.

Shirley seemed to truly vanish from the face of the earth; he could not get hold of any news of her.

Of course, Carter, still suspicious of Madeline and Jeremy, did have them followed, but there was nothing suspicious about the two of them.

Now that Camille had told him this, he temporarily gave up looking for Shirley. However, his mind brood on.

Shirley has stayed in the hospital for approximately ten days. during which she had another flare-up. Even though Adam had given her the injection which could soothe her, he had intentionally waited for Shirley to experience the poison’s torment and pain before giving her the injection.

He wanted Shirley to experience how scary and heinous the poison she had developed was.

Shirley could only tolerate this. Now, she was a good-for-nothing without any power to resist. She could only endure this.

After being bedridden for half a month, the thing she cared about most was still the injury on her face. When the time to remove the bandages had finally arrived, Shirley impatiently asked Adam for a mirror.

“A person may not be beautiful, but if she has a kind heart, she won’t be ugly; if her heart is black, she’ll be ugly no matter how beautiful she may be.” Adam gave Shirley a cold look, then tossed the mirror to her.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1747

Of course, Shirley understood what Adam meant, but she cared not for that now.

As a woman, she could not accept her face to be disfigured.

Now that she had lost the ability to feel and move her legs, and no one would help her to a mirror, she could only pick up the small mirror Adam had tossed to her.

Before she looked, Shirley was mentally prepared because, even if she could not see them, she could feel the uneven scars on her right cheek.

She held her breath and brought the mirror to her eyes. Despite the small size of the mirror, she could still clearly see the hideous scar on her initially flawless face.

Shirley’s eyes widened, staring at the scar for about ten seconds. She then violently threw the mirror at the floor, smashing it.

“No!”

She could not accept this reality even though she had already acknowledged this earlier.

Adam coldly observed Shirley by the side as she leaned against the bed. Her face was pale, both hands clutching the bedsheet. In the end, she could not muster the courage to touch or see her face again.

“Shirley, this is what you reap for your evil deeds. You said Eveline has someone do this to you. Even if it was truly her, you have absolutely no right to complain.

“just look at what you’ve done to them. Even now, the poison inside Jeremy and Eveline is still not completely cleared!”

Adam berated sternly.

After being stumped for words for a moment, Shirley sudden burst out laughing.

“You’re right. This is what I deserve.”

Shirley lifted her teary, red eyes. “Adam, you’re cold and ruthless, just like the husband and wife who died a long time ago. You’re also so cold-blooded in dealing with your family members!

“I am your sister, and you’ve spared no sympathy or concern despite my current state, yet you care for Jeremy and Eveline, whom you are not related to at all, instead.

“Adam Brown, you certainly are something. You’re indeed their most precious, most highly regarded good son!”

In the face so Shirley’s mocking and ridicule, Adam did not want to offer any explanation.

He took Shirley’s medical report and lowered his eye, taking a glance.

“Your body’s condition no longer shows any other problems now. As for the condition of your face and legs, You’d need to have regular checkups.”

“Adam, what are you trying to say?”

Adam slowly closed the medical report. “ I’m saying that you can be discharged now.”

“Will you be needing my help in informing your superior? Adam asked, a cold expression on his face.

Shirley seemed confused by the word “superior”, but then quickly realized that Adam was referring to Carter.

In their eyes, was she merely Carter’s subordinate?

She laughed at herself. ‘That’s still fine. At least this was slightly better than being used.’

Adam, noticing better than being used.’

Adam, noticed the change in Shirley's expression, pretended to be perplexed and asked, "Is Carted not your superior? Don't you listen to everything he says? You had a work accident, so as your superior, he should bear some responsibilities, no?"

"This has nothing to do with him," Shirley suddenly said, her tone abnormally firm and quick. "There's no need for you to inform anyone. You should just need to get me a ride and I'll leave on my own."

Adam looked at Shirley, betraying no emotion. "I am not your subordinate, so I'm not obligated to get you a ride."

"What would you have me do then?" Shirley said anxiously.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 1748

Holding the breakfast in hand, Cathy saw the scene unfolded when she reached the hospital room entrance. After some contemplation, she decided to speak up. "Adam, I have an idea, but I'm not sure how the both of you will feel about it."

Shirley and Adam lifted their gaze at the same time.

Cathy slowly stepped into the room and suggested, "Adam's house is big, and the guest room is always empty. Further, Adam, you're Miss Brown's doctor. If both of you were to stay at the same place, it'd be more convenient for you to keep a close eye on your patient's condition."

Cathy then paused, deliberately observing the changes in Shirley and Adam's expressions.

“At the end of the day, Miss Brown is still your sister, and it’s very normal to have your sister staying with you. What do you think, Adam?”

After listening to Cathy’s suggestion, Adam darted a cold look at Shirley from the corner of his eyes, then sarcastically asked, “Does she still think that she’s my sister?”

“It seems more like you don’t want to have me around, Adam, and I simply won’t let you get what you want,” Shirley said through gritted teeth, then looked at Cathy.

“Help me with the preparations. I’ll be discharged shortly, then I’ll go and stay at his house.” Cathy glanced at the silent Adam. “I misspoke. That’s not his house— that’s my house too!”

Adam was not bothered to quibble over what Shirley had said. He merely shot a glance at Cathy and turned to walk toward the entrance.

“Whatever,” he said without looking back.

When he walked past Cathy, Adam gave Cathy a knowing look.

Adam and Cathy’s eyes met, and then they smiled.

Soon after, Madeline learned that Shirley was moving in with Adam. While she was not in a hurry to look for Shirley, Jeremy was.

He handed the sample of the poison he had extracted from Shirley to Adam, hoping that Adam was

able to find time in developing an anti-toxoid test reagent that could combat the poison as soon as possible.

Adam solemnly agreed, indicating that he would do it promptly.

As a doctor, he wanted to save people. Additionally, deep down, he hoped that nothing would happen to Shirley.

After all, they were siblings.

This was a relationship that he could never give up in his lifetime.

Even if Shirley had turned into a cold- blooded and cruel person.

At the end of the day, she was still his sister.

Shirley stepped into the house once again, but the feeling she had in her heart was different from the last time she had entered.

She had indeed read the diary Adam had given her.

However, she refused to face it or believe it.

Cathy cleaned the room for Shirley which Adam had assigned to her.

Although Adam and Shirley did not say it, Cathy could tell this was nothing like a guest room—it was Shirley's old room.

She could also tell that despite Adam's nonchalant expression on the surface, he had been behind the development of the situation.

The reason Shirley could move in was that Adam already had the opinion to have her move in Cathy had merely helped him by bringing this up.

While Carter had listened to Camille and had not gone to find Shirley any further, in reality, he still got people to seek out Shirley's whereabouts.

Today, Carter finally got news about Shirley.

He cleaned himself up, put on a coat, then left in a hurry, deliberately avoiding Camille as he left.

Snow began to fall amidst the biting cold winter winds when Carter stood at the entrance of Adam's house. He stopped momentarily, then stepped forward.

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Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1749

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1749

Carter had been here once, so he knew this was Adam's house.

However, Shirley and Adam were antagonistic. He knew that Shirley despised her brother, so he found it curious that Shirley would be staying here.

As the wind and snow grew heavier, Carter stepped into the house, feeling the warmth enveloping him.

He patted away the snow accumulated on his shoulder and entered.

Cathy was making soup for Shirley. She quickly lifted her gaze when she heard the sudden footsteps entering the house and saw Carter walking toward the stairs.

Cathy became more alert at the sight of Carter. "You're trespassing again, Mr. Gray."

Carter, paying no heed to her words, glanced at Cathy. "She's upstairs, right?"

"The person you're looking for is not here. Please leave." Cathy's attitude was firm.

Carter continued ignoring Cathy and kept to himself as he went upstairs.

" Stop!" Cathy hurried toward him to intervene. " Carter, this isn't your house. You can't come here whenever you want."

When her voice fell, Carter slowly lifted his eyelids.

"Typically, no one can stop me from going anywhere I want."

"However, this is a private residence. You can't come in here without the owner's consent!" Cathy intended to confront Carter to the bitter end, betraying no hint of fear of Carter.

Carter's face rarely displayed signs of emotions, but his brows now twitched, and he lifted his gaze and glared at Cathy.

"The owner's consent? Do you think she'll disagree with me? She owns this house too, doesn't she?" Carter looked upstairs, and it was clear who he was referring to.

“However, I didn’t hear her consent! ” Cathy insisted on stopping him. Her clear and beautiful pupils glowed with unyielding courage.

Meanwhile, Shirley was resting in the room, leaning against the bed. Since the gigantic house was quiet, she could clearly overhear the conversation downstairs.

She had not expected Carter to come here, but right now, she dared not face this man.

She wanted to leave but she was not immobilized by her unfeeling legs.

She did not want Carter to see her hideous, crippled, and disfigured state.

With a strenuous effort, Shirley moved herself to the side of the bed, intending to hide in the closet or the bathroom. This way, at least, she could ensure that Carter did not see her current state.

She used all the strength in her arms to support her body as she crawled on the floor.

Her unfeeling legs were then dragged onto the floor with a loud thud.

When Cathy and Carter, still at the stairs, heard this muffled sound, their gaze simultaneously shifted toward the source of the sound.

Cathy, intuitively sensing something had happened to Shirley, immediately turned, intending to examine the room, but Carter was one step ahead of her.

"You can't go!" Cathy reached out and seized him.

Carter's face fell, and he now looked extremely annoyed and impatient. He turned around and his eyes, usually gentle and calm, were looking sharp and hostile.

"I've never hit women, so I hope you won't be the first."

He then swung Cathy's hand away and resumed walking.

This time, however, his arm was seized by another strong palm.

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chapter 1750

Carter's face fell. Extremely annoyed, he turned around, and this time, instead of seeing Cathy, he

was met with a pair of fearless and determined eyes.

"I've never hit anyone before, and I too hope you won't be the first to make me go against my principles."

Adam's piercing eyes confronted Carter's.

Carter had not expected Adam to suddenly return home, but even so, this was not enough to prevent him from seeing Shirley.

Of course, Adam could tell what Carter was thinking. While pulling on Carter's arm, unrelenting, Adam gave Cathy a look.

Cathy immediately understood and swiftly ran upstairs.

When Carter saw this, he tried to break away from Adam's grip to follow Cathy, but Adam further tightened his grip.

Carter finally could not continue maintaining his elegant and noble façade.

"Adam, right now, you still have a chance. I don't want to fight you, " Carter said while giving Adam a knowing look as if he was holding back a rage of fury that could erupt at any time.

However, Adam was undaunted.

“Carter, I’ll only say this once. This is my house, and you are not welcome here. If you don’t leave now, I will take action against you.”

“Heh.” Carter scoffed at this. “If it’s a fight you want, it’s a fight you’ll get! ”

There was a sudden, loud thud when Cathy reached the entrance to the bedroom.

However, she did not have time to look back. She opened the door and quickly ran in.

Inside, Cathy immediately noticed Shirley had slipped down the side of the bed and rushed over.

“I knew you’d do something stupid to avoid that man. ” While it sounded like Cathy was grumbling under her breath, she still held Shirley’s shoulders in a friendly manner, supporting her back onto the bed with great effort.

However, Shirley pushed Cathy away in a half-hearted manner. “Let me go! He’s coming! I don’t want to stay here! Hide me in the closet! Hurry! ”

Her face was full of panic and fear as she fervently pleaded.

Cathy could not help but frown. "Why are you so scared of him? He has only been using you this whole time, asking you to develop the poison to harm others. It was all his idea. You should have let a man like him go a long time ago! "

"Shut up! Shut the hell up!" Shirley interrupted Cathy incoherently, and Shirley's eyes turned red without Shirley realizing it. "Jordan, are you teaching me how to conduct myself now? Did you forget how much you loved that man Felipe Whitman? You loved him until the day he died, didn't you?"

Cathy was momentarily stumped for words when Shirley brought up Felipe. However, she quickly recomposed her wandering thoughts and calmly looked into Shirley's red eyes.

"Yes, I thought about him until the day he died, but this doesn't stop me from looking down on him and despising what he'd done. I see it all clearly, but what about you?"

"...." Shirley was stupefied by this.

"Listen, Adam's fighting that man downstairs for you. What about you? Even now, do you still care

about that man and not worry that he might hurt your brother?"

It was as if these words froze Shirley.

Heavy and hurried footsteps could now be heard from outside the door.

Cathy lifted her gaze and immediately saw Carter striding into the room, dark rancor emitting from his body.

His furious eyes swept over Cathy's face and finally landed on Shirley...

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chapter 1751

When Shirley heard the sound of footsteps, she knew Carter was here.

She knew she would not be able to hide at this moment, so she could only face him.

However, she still did not dare to show the ugly half of her face to the man she looked up to and admired. The moment Carter appeared, she turned her body and hid her right cheek that was scarred so that Carter could not see. She only allowed him

to see her left cheek that still looked flawless, smooth, and charming.

As for her crippled legs, she could only continue sitting on the bed while pretending as if she was carefree.

Carter looked at Shirley who was sitting motionlessly on the bed and moved his long legs to take two steps closer to the bed.

He noticed the coldness on Shirley's face.

"Have you forgotten what I told you?" Carter questioned right after he opened his mouth. His tone sounded extremely cold.

However, after he said that, his face gradually fell when he saw that Shirley was ignoring him.

"Shirley," he called out her name, his tone laced with anger that was on the verge of overflowing.

Cathy glanced at Shirley, and when she saw Carter trying to get close to Shirley, Cathy went up to stop him.

"Mr. Gray, Miss Brown doesn't want to see you now. I hope you can respect her wishes."

Carter was forced to stop in his tracks. His displeased gaze landed on Cathy's face irreverently.

His eyes were suddenly filled with admiration.

"I never knew you were so courageous back when we were in St. Piaf Academy. However, you were in St. Piaf for so long, so you should know me quite well. Are you sure you want to challenge my prestige?"

Carter's words sounded like he was warning Cathy.

However, Cathy was not scared and she did not cower at all.

She looked into Carter's icy and piercing gaze before saying calmly, "Mr. Gray, I hope you know that this is not St. Piaf but Glendale. This is also not your house."

"Heh. Interesting, " Carter smiled and uttered unenthusiastically. However, his gaze changed and he looked like he was going to take action.

Adam rushed to the door of the room with wounds on his face. When he saw something amiss with Carter's expression, he realized that Cathy must be

in danger. He immediately rushed over to stop the man.

However, he heard Shirley saying something after only taking a few steps.

“Mr. Gray, please get out of my house.”

The coldness in Carter’s eyes and his action of lifting his hand froze the moment he heard what Shirley said.

‘Mr. Gray?’

He could not believe that he just heard Shirley calling him that.

However, that voice indeed belonged to Shirley.

Carter furrowed his long eyebrows and lifted his eyes that were as deep as the sea to look at Shirley who was leaning on the bed. She only had the side of her face turned toward him.

“What did you just say?” Carter asked in disbelief.

Shirley remained seated. She said coldly, “I said, please get out of my house, Mr. Gray. Also, I hope that you won’t come over ever again.”

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chapter 1752

Shirley sounded very decisive.

Carter seemed to be stumped for words for a while. Then, he tugged the corners of his lips.

“Shirley, do you know what you’re saying?”

“I do. I know what I said,” Shirley answered slowly without even lifting her beautiful eyes. “I’ve thought it through, and I won’t let you manipulate me like an idiot. We were just using each other anyway, Mr. Gray. You used me to reach your goals, and to be honest, I was also just using you.”

When Carter heard this answer, he felt as if he had heard a huge joke.

“You were using me?” He scoffed and asked, “What were you using me for?”

“You still can’t tell what I was using you for?” Shirley asked. The corner of her red lip that looked slightly pale was lifted in a disdainful smile.

“The first time I met you, I knew you could give me a life of luxury and the best education.

“I was just pretending to be pitiful to gain pity from you and Camille. I wanted you guys to keep me in Gray Manor, I wanted to make you reluctant

to have me leave. I wanted you to plead with camille yourself so that I could stay to become your playmate and study buddy.”

“Hmph. ” As Shirley said that, she chuckled while feeling pleased with herself. “Carter, I’m very good at acting, right? You must have thought that I was so in love with you and I couldn’t live without you so I would be willing to do anything for you, right?”

You’re wrong. We were just using each other. I was only pretending when I was with you, and now, this is the true colors of Shirley Brown.”

After hearing what Shirley said, Carter did not have the previous look of anger on his face anymore.

He looked at Shirley who had never once looked at him since he entered and eventually asked after a long while, “Are you sure you’re telling the truth?”

“Of course, ” Shirley answered decisively. The corners of her beautiful eyes were slightly lifted as she scanned Carter’s face coldly.

“ If not, why do you think I stopped contacting you for so long and even came back to live here? You should see now that I’ve sorted things out with my

brother. I'm bored of the game between you and me, so that's why I didn't bother contacting you."

Carter thought his heart was strong and it was able to conquer everything. However, when Shirley's decisive words pierced his eardrums, he felt as if an invisible dagger was piercing through where his heart was.

This feeling reminded him of when Shirley had left without telling him.

Back then, she had left so decisively.

Now that he thought about it, she really did not love him and that was why she could cruelly leave without any reluctance.

Carter's expression and gaze froze.

"Shirley, you're something else," he mocked with a light chuckle. "You'd better pray that I won't see you again. If not, I'll make you pay for using me."

After he warned her, his icy gaze scanned Shirley's disdainful face.

When he turned around and saw Adam glaring at him, he gave him the same warning.

"It's best if you don't meddle in Jeremy Whitman's business. If not, both of you will suffer the consequences."

After Carter said that, he strode away. When he walked past Adam, it seemed that he used all of his might to bump into Adam's shoulder.

Adam was caught off guard and crashed into the doorframe after stumbling backward.

"Adam." Cathy quickly ran to Adam. When she saw the wounds on his face, she knew that Adam had put his life on the line to fight with Carter to stop him. However, an elegant gentleman like Adam would never be able to defeat a man who had been trained and knew how to fight.

"Adam, are you okay? Your wounds... I should treat your wounds for you." Cathy looked at Adam in concern.

"I'm fine. Don't worry about me. " Adam comforted Cathy. When he was about to say something to Shirley, he suddenly heard a muffled thud coming from the side of the bed.

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chapter 1753

Cathy and Adam looked at the source of the sound and were shocked by what they saw.

Shirley had fallen from the bed once again and it was obvious that she did it on purpose.

She could not walk, so she could only crawl. She was now crawling to the balcony.

When Adam saw this, he would be lying if he said he was not sad.

It was his sister, so he could not ignore her.

He strode to Shirley who was dragging the lower half of her body to crawl forward, reaching out to pull her up.

“Shirley, what are you doing? Are you crazy?” Adam angrily rebuked her. His emotional and angry yells only reflected how worried and concerned he was about her.

However, Shirley did not listen to him. She forcefully pulled Adam’s hand away and stared straight at him with eyes that had turned red unbeknownst to them.

“Let me go! Adam, are you so naive to think that I was telling the truth just now? I haven’t made up with you nor do I think of this place as my home.

Also, I've never once thought of you as my brother! Let me go immediately! "

When Adam heard this, he looked at the emotional and tearful Shirley with disappointment in his eyes.

"Do you like that man so much? You like him so much that you can throw away your dignity and self-respect, huh? Alright, go! Crawl to him like the good-for-nothing you are! "

Adam clenched his fists, and under Shirley's intense provocation, he let go of his hand.

Shirley fell to the cold hard floor once again. Cathy did not expect that Adam would really let go of his hand. When she wanted to go help Shirley up, it was already too late.

Shirley, who had fallen on the floor, frowned in pain but she did not make a sound. She continued to crawl to the balcony.

Her beautiful and charming eyes were filled with sparkling tears.

However, how could she match up with Carter's walking speed when she was crawling?

Before Shirley could crawl to the balcony, she heard the familiar sound of the engine from downstairs.

She knew it was the sound of Carter leaving in his car.

She figured that she might not be able to see this man again, hence Shirley gritted her teeth and used all of her might to crawl forward. When she got to the balcony, she saw that familiar sports car speeding away from the corners of her teary eyes.

Carter...

Shirley clenched her fists and watched as Carter's car drove farther away. Her tears eventually fell drop by drop on the back of her hands.

"Heh, hehe, hahaha..."

Shirley lowered her head and started laughing at herself.

Her laughter reverberated amid the cold and biting snow and wind, sounding extremely mournful.

Carter sped all the way back to the manor.

The moment he went through the door, he saw Camille sitting upright and still on the sofa in front of him.

“You went to see her again.” It seemed that Camille knew this well and had seen through everything. “ Carter, don’t forget what you want. Are you seriously going to neglect your bright future for that woman?”

It was rare that Camille would talk to Carter in such a solemn manner.

“This is the last time, ” Carter promised. “From now on, I won’t go and see her again.”

“Good.” Camille was satisfied. Then, she said seriously, “Carter, I know you’re exceptional and you have dreams and aspirations. The future and prosperity of St. Piaf’s royalty depend on you.”

When Carter heard this, doubts appeared on his face.

Camille rarely talked to him about this. She had even mentioned previously that she did not want her son to participate in the fight among the royalty. However, she was taking the initiative to bring this up now.

There must be a reason for this.

“Carter, I’ve found a suitable candidate to be your viscountess. Not only do you know this person, but you also know her very well.

” I hope your wedding will go smoothly this time.
”

While Camille said that, she gestured to the butler to hand the tablet over to Carter.

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chapter 1754

Carter took the tablet and had a look. When he saw the photo on the screen, his eyes were filled with shock. It seemed that he could not believe what he was seeing.

“You want me to marry her?” Carter looked at Camille in suspicion.

Camille nodded firmly. “She’s the most suitable candidate for now, Carter. You’re someone who’s going to achieve great things, so I don’t want you to be driven by your emotions and let a woman affect your bright future.”

Carter looked at the photo on the screen with intense disgust in his heart. However, when he

suddenly remembered what Shirley had said, he suddenly laughed.

“Don’t worry, I’ll focus on my career from now on. No woman will be able to affect my mood anymore.”

“Good.” Camille stood up and turned her head to order the butler, “Go and prepare for Mr. Carter’s marriage. It has to be grand, and I want to let everyone in St. Piaf witness that moment.”

“Understood, Madam,” the butler replied and was about to go make preparations.

“Wait.” Carter stopped him.

Camille looked at Carter. “Are you not happy with my suggestion or arrangement?”

“I want the wedding to be held in Glendale,” Carter voiced what he was thinking in his heart.

“Here?”

“I want it to be in the most luxurious hotel in Glendale.”

“However, you have a special identity in St. Piaf. This wedding will not just be a wedding, it’s more o

f a contest, " Camille said earnestly. However, she did not force Carter. Instead, she softened her tone.

"Can you tell me why?" "Jeremy Whitman."

Carter said those two words without any hesitation.

Camille pondered for a few seconds and then nodded. "We'll just do it your way, then. We'll have the wedding in the most luxurious hotel in Glendale."

She promised and looked at the butler. "Go, we must make it look honorable and grand."

The butler nodded and answered, "I will not disappoint you, Madam."

After Camille and the butler left, Carter stood where he was with the tablet still in his hand.

The screen had already darkened, so he lifted his long and thin fingers to lightly tap on it.

The photo that appeared in front of him caused him to feel more resentful.

He threw the tablet on the sofa and walked to the laboratory in the basement.

He looked at the anti-toxoid test reagents that were arranged neatly on the rack. Ultimately, he chose one of the anti-toxoid test reagents.

“Shirley, do you think my plan can’t go on if I don’t have you? I was just using you this whole time.”

He murmured to himself. He was saying that so carefreely, but somehow, a strong unconvinced feeling was disrupting his thoughts.

Hospital.

It was finally sunny.

Even after more than a month of treatment, Lillian’s health was not getting any better. She was still sick.

Lillian would react strongly to every injection. She would feel sick and throw up too.

At the same time, the little princess’ black and soft hair kept falling. Eventually, the doctor suggested that she cut all of her hair.

Even though Lillian could not speak, she understood everything.

Although she would not have hair now, she could still grow it out after she recovered. Her hair would never be as important as her health.

On a bright and sunny afternoon, Madeline carried the little princess to the sofa on the balcony.

When she was just about to sunbathe with her child, the nurse who usually took care of Lillian came to see Madeline. She said the doctor needed to tell Madeline something.

Madeline figured that it was about Lillian's condition, so she did not hesitate. After asking the nurse to take care of Lillian, she went to the doctor's office. After Madeline left, the nurse took out her phone to call a number. "Mrs. Whitman has left and Lillian is alone in the ward. You can come now."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1755

After the person on the other end of the phone received this call, they hung up without saying anything.

The nurse was curious. When she was wondering if she had been scammed, she received notification on her phone that she had received an impressive sum of money.

The nurse was delighted because she could buy the bag she had been eyeing for a long time now.

Then, she placed all of Lillian's medical records on the table according to the order she received from the person who transferred her the money. After she did all of that, she closed the door and left.

Less than a minute after she left, a tall and upright figure appeared at the door of the ward.

The man did not hesitate before pushing the door open and walking into the ward.

After Madeline left, Lillian stopped paying attention to what was going on inside the ward. She

was sitting on the sofa on the balcony, as quiet as a delicate doll as she looked out at the scenery.

However, when she heard someone pushing the door open and coming in, she turned her tiny body to look over.

Fabian's approaching footsteps slowed down when Lillian looked over to him.

He was wearing a brown coat and a face mask. He had a bouquet of powder blue baby breaths in his hands. In his other hand, he was carrying a glass jar and inside the jar were colorful candies.

Lillian looked at Fabian and blinked her bright, huge eyes.

She supported herself using the sofa to stand up. However, since she had been receiving daily injections, she was very weak. It was very difficult for her to stand up.

Fabian could tell what Lillian was thinking, so he quickly recomposed himself and walked in front of Lillian.

When Lillian saw Fabian suddenly approaching her, she lifted her little head and looked straight into Fabian's eyes.

She wanted to say something, but in the end, she still could not utter a word.

Fabian frowned and squatted slowly to hand the bouquet to Lillian.

Lillian loved baby breaths, so she slowly lifted her tiny hands to gently hold the bouquet Fabian was giving her out of kind intentions.

She wanted to say thank you but she realized that her throat could not sound out those two words.

Lillian lowered her eyelids in desolation. Her curly eyelashes were fluttering up and down, like tiny blades slicing across Fabian's heart again and again.

He was heartbroken.

He also had this feeling the first time he met Lillian.

Back then, it was because he had seen Felipe using such a small child. When he saved Lillian, the heartache he felt had come naturally.

Now, this heartache was not only instinctive but perhaps it was also laced with apology.

The reason Lillian became like this had to do with his sister, Lana.

When he saw that Lillian looked a little dejected, Fabian handed the jar of candies over to her.

Lillian wanted to take it but she shook her head, pointing to the cabinet in the ward.

Fabian understood and walked over to the cabinet to pull the drawer open. He saw the jars of candies that he had given her over the past month inside.

Yes, she was sick, so she could not eat such sweet candies. He had handpicked all of the ingredients to make the candies just so she could eat them, even making them himself. They were all handmade without preservatives.

However, he understood.

Fabian turned around and saw Lillian looking at him with wide clear eyes. He felt his heart warming up, and then, he walked to the table to pick up the records the nurse had placed there.

Actually, he had been paying attention to Lillian's situation in secret.

However, when he finally saw Lillian's medical records and the state she was in after going for treatment every day with his own eyes, he could not help but grasp the stack of records tightly.

He knew he did not have much time here and Madeline would be back soon. He did not want to delay this anymore either.

Fabian quickly walked back to Lillian and lifted his hand to caress her head.

However, after removing the red hat on Lillian's head, to his astonishment, he realized that Lillian did not have hair anymore. Fabian was lost for words. His hand that was holding the hat was frozen in mid-air.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1756

When Lillian saw Fabian at a loss for words, she avoided Fabian's gaze, hurt evident in her eyes. She then reached out to take the hat and gently put it back on.

In a daze, Fabian gradually gathered his wandering thoughts. At this moment, he made the final decision.

"Lily."

He finally spoke, his solemn eyes looking straight into Lillian's melancholic, big eyes.

"Lily, do you want to come with me?"

Fabian asked gently but his tone betrayed urgency. He was worried that Madeline would soon return.

Lillian, not understanding what Fabian meant, only blinked and looked at him.

"Lily, I'll bring you somewhere that could heal you. You'll be able to get better quickly, then you can talk just like how you could back then."

Lillian vaguely understood what Fabian meant this time. She blinked her clear eyes and her pink lips moved to speak. "Daddy. Mommy."

Daddy. Mommy.

Those were the only two words that Lillian could utter now.

Fabian understood how Lillian felt. She wanted her father and mother.

He gave a gentle smile as he stroked Lillian's small face. "Lily, do you trust me? I will love you and protect you just like your daddy and mommy. I will take care of you forever.

"Trust me."

Fabian firmly promised, then suddenly opened his arms to carry the confused-looking Lillian.

Although Lillian was still small, she could recognize Fabian with certainty.

She knew that he had good intentions. He had never bullied her before. Sometimes, he would even show up to protect her.

However, she was confused with the current circumstance and incapable of asking.

Madeline was confused when she came out of the doctor's office.

The doctor had said that he did not look for her. Lillian's condition currently neither improved nor worsened, so there was nothing important he wanted to discuss with Madeline.

However, the nurse who cared for Lillian daily had told Madeline that the doctor was looking for her.

Madeline found this odd, so she hastened her steps back to the hospital room. She had expected the nurse to be taking care of Lillian, but Madeline saw that the door was agape and there was no one inside.

There was only an out-of-place bouquet of powder blue baby's breaths on the balcony sofa.

Madeline immediately understood. She instantly turned and ran to the elevator.

The moment she was a distance away from the elevator, she saw a tall man carrying Lillian into the elevator.

"Lily!"

Madeline hurriedly ran over, but unfortunately, the door of the elevator automatically closed.

This was the seventh floor, and it was a hassle waiting for the hospital elevator. Madeline had no choice. She ran toward the staircase and sprinted to the hospital entrance.

It was an extremely cold winter day, but Madeline was now drenched in sweat.

She examined each car leaving the parking lot, trying to see if Lillian was in any of them. As the cars drove by, however, she still could not find any sign of Lillian.

In between her moments of panic, Madeline remembered the GPS.

She opened the application on her phone and immediately located Lillian. She was on the road next to the hospital entrance.

Madeline dashed over and indeed found Lillian, who was being carried into a car by a man.

“Lily!”

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chapter 1757

Lillian and Fabian heard Madeline shout.

They looked in Madeline’s direction at the same time; Lillian leaned toward Madeline but Fabian was holding her tightly.

“Let go of my daughter! ” Madeline bellowed at Fabian while she comforted Lillian. “Don’t be scared, Lily. I’m coming over to you now.”

However, Fabian, not heeding Madeline’s words, opened the car door and got in quickly, Lillian in his arms.

“Lily! Lily!”

Madeline repeatedly yelled, but the car had already begun to drive away. She was too late to stop it.

Since she could use the GPS to track Lillian's location, Madeline ran back to the parking lot and got into her car to give chase.

Although she had never driven this fast in her life, she was completely in control of the steering wheel.

Madeline rapidly caught up with the car that Lillian was in.

Fabian was in the backseat with Lillian in his arms. Through the rearview mirror, he could see that Madeline's car was right behind them.

"Speed it up when it's safe to do so, " Fabian ordered the driver.

"Yes, Young Master Fabian, " Fabian's attendant answered.

"Mommy."

Lillian suddenly called out to her mother.

Fabian turned and saw that Lillian's adorable eyebrows were furrowed as she stared, through the glass window of the back of the car, at Madeline's car that was closing in behind them.

It seemed that she could recognize her mother's car.

Fabian was heartbroken, but he remained firm on his decision.

He raised his head, caressing Lillian's head through her hat. "Lily, trust me. I'll definitely cure you, then I'll take you back to see your daddy, mommy, and brother."

While Lillian understood what Fabian said, her clear and bright eyes were still filled with melancholy.

Fabian turned and looked back, seeing Madeline's car was still close behind them.

He asked his attendant who was driving to make a turn and speed up, successfully losing Madeline.

Soon after, Madeline's car reappeared in the rearview mirror.

Fabian found this odd, but then noticed the red string around Lillian's neck.

"Lily, can you let me see your red string?" Fabian asked for Lillian's consent.

Lilly blinked, then put her small hands on the red string, gently taking the pendant down.

It was a crystalline jadeite. While miniature, the jadeite was extraordinarily refined and in the shape of Lillian's horoscope —a vivid and realistic crab just the size of an average fingernail.

Fabian carefully examined it and finally found a tiny GPS tracking device at the bottom of the crab.

He then understood how Madeline was able to accurately follow them. This was the reason.

"Continue to speed up, and turn left," Fabian ordered the attendant who was driving.

Madeline was following the car in front of her closely when she saw the car suddenly speeding up and making a turn.

When Fabian saw that Madeline also sped up, he slowly removed the chip that was attached to Lillian's jadeite and rolled down the window of the car.

"Lily, there's something dirty on the surface. Let me throw it away for you."

After he said that, he put his hand outside the window and loosened his grip.

The tiny chip was instantly lost to the wind.
Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1758

Madeline was about to turn at the next junction to stop Fabian's car, but at that moment, the location of the red dot on her phone abruptly changed.

It should have been moving forward, but it suddenly moved back before stopping.

In that instance, Madeline did not know if she should go forward or turn back around.

However, she did not have time to think. She quickly turned her steering wheel and drove to the location where the red dot had stopped at.

The location, however, was in the middle of the road where cars came and went.

The cars criss-crossed on the road, yet the red dot never moved.

Madeline then understood. Someone had disposed of the GPS on Lilian.

She watched the bustling street. It was a rare sunny day in winter, yet a gloom came over her, darkening everything she saw.

“Lily.”

Madeline murmured Lillian’s name, feeling extremely helpless.

After Jeremy got the call from Madeline, he rushed to her as fast as he could.

Madeline was sitting by the flowerbed near where Lillian’s tracker had stopped, staring blankly, dejected.

Jeremy was extremely worried at the sight of Madeline’s state.

“Linnie.”

He softly called out to her and sat down next to her, then gently grabbed her hand, comforting her.

“Linnie, don’t worry. The person who abducted Lily must have a purpose, so she won’t be in danger temporarily.”

“Not ‘temporarily’. She’s certainly not in any danger, ” Madeline corrected. “The person who abducted Lily is Fabian.”

“Fabian?”

“Yes, I’m sure it’s him.” Madeline sounded certain. When she realized Lillian was missing, she was

anxious but not frantic. She did notice the powder blue baby’s breaths on the sofa and the candy jar.

Aside from Fabian, no one else would secretly give Lillian flowers and candies like this.

“If it truly was Fabian, then we don’t have to worry. He would never hurt Lily.” Jeremy was very relieved. He was certain that Fabian would not do anything to hurt Lillian as well.

However, Madeline let out a dejected and long sigh, anxiously slapping her forehead. “What on earth is he trying to do? If he indeed thinks that we were related to Lana and Yorick’s death, he can come at us. Why is he bothering Lily?”

“Lily...”

“Yes, I know he’s not malicious, and he’s been great to Lily, but she’s sick now. The child is sick,

and it's no ordinary illness. She needs constant treatment. What on earth does Fabian intend to do by abducting Lily now?"

Madeline was extremely fretful. As she spoke, her eyes grew wet, and hot tears dripped onto the back of Jeremy's hand.

An ache started to burn in Jeremy's heart.

He grabbed Madeline's shoulder and pulled her into his arms, giving her warmth and comfort.

"Linnie, don't be sad. I promise that I'll bring Lily back to you."

Madeline leaned against Jeremy's chest and let her tears flow. "I know. I know you'll bring our daughter back home. I know..."

"Yeah, there's no need to cry now." Jeremy reached out to wipe away Madeline's tears, then lowered his head to kiss her wet cheek.

"Trust me. Lillian will be back to us soon." "Okay."

Madeline sobbed and responded. At this moment, her phone in her bag started to vibrate, and Madeline's intuition told her that it was from Fabian.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1759

Madeline took out her phone and indeed saw Fabian's name on the screen.

He had now unblocked her number just to make this call.

Madeline's finger trembled, then she immediately picked up the call.

"Fabian, where did you take Lily? You bring her back right now!" Madeline's tone was frantic, and it was clear how worried she was presently.

Of course, Fabian had already anticipated Madeline's mood. However, his tone was extraordinarily calm.

"Mrs. Whitman, I know you're worried about your precious daughter. I'm calling you just to tell you that she's safe. You don't need to worry. Nothing will happen to her."

Fabian's tone sounded abnormally distant; his promise and guarantee only made Madeline anxious.

"Fabian, I don't need you to tell me that she's safe.

I only want to see my daughter with my own eyes. My daughter will truly be fine when she's with me.
"

On the other end of the line, Fabian stayed silent for some time, then said, "If that's the case, I am afraid I will only disappoint you then."

Madeline froze when she heard that. "What do you mean?"

"Am I not making myself clear?" Fabian asked, his question heavy with implication, then suddenly called out Madeline's name affectionately, "Eveline."

"..." Madeline was lost for words and momentarily dazed.

Back when she became friends with Fabian, he would call her name in that joking tone of his.

It sounded affectionate to her back then, but now, it sounded completely different.

"Eveline, could you tell me whether you can turn back time once something has happened?" Fabian asked meaningfully.

Fabian immediately followed with his answer.

“It doesn’t matter if something had happened or if someone had died. None of them could ever return.”

Madeline’s head hurt when she heard this. She no longer knew how to answer Fabian.

Jeremy grabbed Madeline’s phone and, facing the screen, impatiently and angrily asked his question.

“Fabian, what are you trying to say? Lana and Yorick only had themselves to blame for their deaths. However, if you insist on blaming their deaths on us, then you can come at us. Lily is just a child! Bring her back right now! ”

When Fabian heard Jeremy’s angry words, he lowered his head to look at Lillian who was sound asleep, leaning against his arms, then looked at the scenery outside the window of the plane, a firm look flashed in his eyes.

“The view in Glendale isn’t bad, but this will be the last time I’ll be here.”

Fabian left them with four final words. “We’ll never meet again.”

Beep beep beep.

His voice fell, then the phone line disconnected. All that remained was the busy tone.

When Jeremy tried returning the call, Fabian's phone status was already turned off.

"Jeremy, what should we do now? What on earth did Fabian intend to achieve by abducting Lily?" Madeline was gradually losing her head.

Jeremy comforted Madeline. "Linnie, I'll go get the camera footage by the road now. Don't worry."

"Okay, get it quickly then! Hurry! " Madeline said incoherently as she kept nodding.

Jeremy was worried and heartbroken seeing Madeline in this state.

It felt as if this world had never been kind to this woman. Her body and mind had been under constant torment in the past and the present.

He only hoped that, in the future, her life would only have peace and bliss.

Jeremy then contacted the people from the relevant departments and obtained the camera footage back until the point when Fabian had left the hospital.

After following Fabian's travel route, Jeremy finally found the place where Fabian and Lillian had gotten out of the car in the end.

It could be said that this place was within his expectations.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1760

It was the Glendale Airport.

Based on Fabian's words earlier, Jeremy had a feeling that Fabian might leave Glendale with Lillian.

As he predicted, after checking the flight, he found out that Fabian had got on a chartered plane that

flew from Glendale to F Country.

The plane just took off five minutes ago.

It was impossible to stop a plane, so Jeremy could only book the next plane ticket to F Country immediately. In the meantime, he also contacted his colleagues from Interpol, hoping that they would stop Fabian at the airport.

Once Madeline knew about this, she wanted to go to F Country with Jeremy.

Jeremy knew he could not say no to Madeline, so together, they waited for their flight at the airport.

The closest flight was in three hours. There was little else they could do apart from waiting.

However, two hours later, Jeremy received a call from his Interpol colleague in F Country. The person told him that the chartered plane under Fabian's name had just landed in F Country, but Fabian himself was not on the plane.

He did not take this plane to F Country! That was just a ruse!

Madeline and Jeremy were suddenly at a loss on how to go about this. They had not expected Fabian to play this trick on them.

In the next few days, Jeremy went all out to look for Fabian's whereabouts, but Fabian was extremely well hidden. He left not a single trace behind.

Winter was eventually replaced by spring, yet there was still no trace of Fabian and Lillian.

During a quiet afternoon, Madeline watched her youngest son who was learning to walk. She

should be feeling happy, but when she recalled that her little princess was still missing, she felt as if a piece of her heart was missing, leaving her incomplete.

“Why are you staring into space here, Eveline?”
Eloise suddenly appeared behind Madeline.

Madeline returned to her senses and looked at her mother who had not recovered, then felt another wave of heartache.

Even now, Madeline’s mother still could not recognize that Eveline, the precious daughter that Eloise longed for, was Madeline.

Madeline thought silently, then quickly got rid of her melancholic and negative emotions, smiling at Eloise.

“I’m playing with Pudding.”

Eloise looked at Pudding and asked curiously, “Why is Pudding the only one here? Where’s Jack and Lily? Say, it’s been a long time since I saw Lily.”

The mention of Lily at this moment made Madeline feel a tug at her heart, but she could only keep on smiling.

"Lily is playing somewhere with a friend of mine. She'll be back after a while."

"How long a while?" Eloise asked bluntly.

Tears pricked the corners of Madeline's eyes as she could not control her emotions any further. " I... I don't know."

"How could you not know? Aren't you Lily's mother?"

Madeline was momentarily speechless. Her eyes were already red.

Yes, she was Lillian's mother.

She had lost her daughter, and as a mother, she could hardly be free from blame.

Upon seeing Madeline crying, Eloise furrowed her thin eyebrows, her heart suddenly started to feel heavy. "Why are you crying? Here, a tissue for you."

When Madeline saw the tissue Eloise handed her, Madeline further lost control, and tears flowed from her eyes.

"I've failed as a mother, " she blamed herself.
"Back then, I didn't manage to care for Jack properly, causing him to suffer so much when he was so little. Now, it's Lily's turn. Someone abducted her before my eyes, yet I couldn't stop it in time."

Madeline grabbed Eloise's hand as she spoke, losing control of her emotions.

"Mom, tell me. What on earth do I have to do to become a passable, decent mother?"

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1761

"How... to be a passable mother..."

Madeline's question seemed to stumped Eloise.

Eloise stared straight at Madeline's tearful face. As she looked at Madeline, Eloise suddenly started to shake her head repeatedly; her expression also gradually changed.

"I am not a passable mother. I'm not. I've mistaken a bad woman as my precious daughter, and I've caused my Eveline to be vilified and tormented. I'm not a passable mother. I am not worthy to be a mother. I'm not worthy. Not worthy..."

Eloise rejected herself, blaming herself with fierce intensity.

Madeline only then realized that the question she had asked during her emotional breakdown had triggered Eloise.

She rushed to hold Eloise's shoulders to comfort her. "Mom, there's no need to get worked up.

You're a good mother. You are a passable mother in Eveline's heart."

"No, I'm not a good mother, that's why Eveline hates me. She hates me. She doesn't want me as her mother, and she doesn't want Sean as a father as well. Sean and I are not worthy to be Eveline's parents. Ah..."

Eloise yelled as she broke down and suddenly pushed Madeline away as she ran out the main entrance.

"Mom!"

Eveline hurriedly chased after her.

However, she turned back after taking two steps. Coincidentally, a maid was passing by, and

Madeline pointed at Pudding who was chuckling at himself in a silly manner. "Watch Pudding for me.

I'll be back soon! You must keep a close eye on him! "

When the maid saw Madeline's hurried look, she earnestly nodded. "I will watch him closely. Don't worry, Ma'am."

"Pudding, listen to her. I'll be back soon!" Madeline said to her confused son, then dashed in the direction in which Eloise had run toward. As Madeline ran, she called out to Eloise, "Mom!"

However, it did not seem that Eloise heard

Madeline's call. If she did, she might not know that Madeline was calling her.

Eloise ran straight on, passing a few streets.

Due to her nervous breakdown, she ignored the traffic lights. Quite a few cars had to brake urgently just to avoid her.

Madeline's heart leaped when she saw this.

She blamed herself. How could she show such negative emotions to Eloise?

Now, Eloise was triggered into recalling the unhappy, painful memories, and Madeline was not faultless in this.

Eloise continued running a few red lights as she crossed the streets. Madeline, who was chasing behind her, apologized to the drivers, who were cursing at Eloise, as she ran.

Jeremy was on the way home when he noticed that it was slightly congested up ahead on the road.

Oblivious to what had transpired, he subconsciously lifted his eyes and saw Madeline, a hurried look on her face, standing in the road apologizing to everyone.

“Linnie?”

Jeremy found this odd, so he surveyed his surroundings and, with a fair bit of difficulty,

parked the car by the roadside, surrounded by cars.

He urgently called Madeline. While the call went through, the person who picked up the phone was Karen, who sounded quite frantic.

“The maid said that Eveline ran out looking hurried. Eloise is gone too. I don’t know what happened as well.”

Even though Jeremy did not know what exactly had happened, after listening to Karen, he could roughly surmise that Madeline was searching for Eloise.

When he saw that the cars ahead of him were moving, Jeremy paid close attention to the direction in which Madeline had run while he turned the steering wheel, quickly and decisively weaved through the cars on the bustling street, then parked his car by the roadside without obstructing the traffic. He then swiftly ran in Madeline’s direction.

Madeline had never known that Eloise could run with such speed. The trigger might have brought out her latent potential.

Madeline’s only thought was to catch up with Eloise who was recklessly running, causing Madeline to completely miss the rock under her foot.

When she finally noticed it and tried avoiding it, she had already stepped on it.

Madeline fell to the ground. She tried standing back up but realized that there was a debilitating pain in her right ankle. Her bones hurt with every movement; it seemed that her ankle was twisted.

She looked around her and felt lucky that this was not the busy street from earlier. Otherwise, she would have been hit by a car.

Eloise heard Madeline yelping in pain, and she abruptly stopped running.

She turned and saw Madeline sitting in the middle of the road.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1762

Eloise took notice, paying attention to the expression on Madeline's face; her eyebrows on her delicate, graceful face were tightly furrowed.

Eloise felt her heart tightened for some reason.
"Eveline..."

She looked at Madeline and quietly muttered this name.

When Madeline saw that Eloise had finally stopped, she was overjoyed.

“Mom, stop running. I can’t chase you any further.” Madeline, enduring the pain in her twisted ankle, smiled warmly at Eloise.

As she spoke, she supported herself with her arm, trying to stand up.

Jeremy hurriedly ran over from one side, just in time to see Madeline sitting in the middle of the road, trying to get up.

“Linnie.”

Without thinking, he ran toward Madeline’s position.

Coincidentally, at this moment, a huge truck was speeding out from a junction and heading toward them.

The truck driver, not expecting anyone to be sitting in the middle of the road, was driving at a high speed. When he saw the stationary Madeline, the driver honked furiously.

Madeline was doing her best to stand when she heard the truck’s honks. She only then noticed that a huge truck was speeding toward her from her side.

If she did not stand and get out of the way, it would run into her in mere seconds.

In this moment of life or death, Madeline saw Eloise running toward her, and at the same time, an anxious scream followed. "Eveline..."

Although Eloise would also normally call her Eveline, this time, Madeline felt that something was different.

She was distracted, then she finally remembered her current situation.

"Mom, don't come over! " Madeline yelled at Eloise.

However, Eloise seemed to turn a deaf ear and ran even faster toward Madeline.

Madeline looked at the truck that was about to run into her. She used all her might, enduring the pain, using her arm to support herself into standing.

At this moment, she felt a familiar warmth behind her and, at the same time, a pair of strong arms holding her.

Madeline turned her head in disbelief and saw Jeremy's worried face.

“Jeremy.”

“Linnie, are you okay?”

“I...” Madeline was about to explain, but she remembered the truck, and effortfully pushed Jeremy away. “Jeremy, get out of the way! The truck’s about to run into us! ”

As Madeline’s voice fell, Eloise’s powerful voice immediately followed.

“Stop!”

Eloise spoke with a commanding voice.

Madeline then heard the truck breaking urgently. She turned and saw the truck stopping

approximately two meters away from her and Jeremy. Meanwhile, Eloise was standing but centimetres away from the truck; head raised, chest puffed up, and arms wide open as she stopped the truck.

Madeline was shocked by Elois’s actions, and so too was Jeremy.

Madeline surveyed the scene before her, her back covered in a layer of cold sweat. She could not

imagine what would happen if the truck did not stop in time.

She looked at Eloise's unyielding figure, and the corners of her eyes turned hot against her volition.

"Mom."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1763

Eloise was vehemently glaring at the driver when she heard a sudden call from behind.

She was staring blankly ahead, then her gaze instantly softened.

Eloise turned around abruptly and sped toward Madeline.

Eloise, still very emotional, reached out her hand to touch Madeline's cheek. "Eveline, how are you? Are you okay? How's your leg? Let me see."

Eloise squatted as she spoke, reaching out her hand, gently touching Madeline's twisted ankle. It

was clear that Madeline's ankle was red and swollen.

"Are all of you sick in the head? If you want to reminisce, go home! Don't get in the way of my delivery!" snapped the truck driver, his head poking out from the window.

Jeremy lifted his cold, stern eyes. "Do you think you're still in the right when you're the one speeding? Someone had clearly fallen on the road, yet not only did you not stop, but you continued to speed. Do you want your license to get revoked?"

Looking at Jeremy's cold, steadfast, handsome face, the truck driver immediately realized that this was not someone he could afford to offend. After all, he was indeed speeding, and he would be in trouble if they were to investigate this. He then turned his steering wheel and timidly drove away.

Madeline looked at Jeremy, feeling glad that he showed up just in time.

She then noticed that Eloise was still examining her wounds, so Madeline bent down and held Eloise's hand.

"Mom, I'm fine. Get up now, quickly. We'll head home."

"How can you be fine? It's so swollen!" Eloise's expression showed that she was very worried and

very stern. "Jeremy, where is your car? Take Eveline to the hospital now. It's no small issue if she broke her bones."

Jeremy nodded as he heard that. " I'll get Linnie to the nearest hospital now."

As he spoke, he swooped Madeline into a bridal carry.

Eloise followed closely behind.

However, before they could go far, Madeline forcefully tugged Jeremy's collar.

"Jeremy, wait."

She called out to Jeremy.

Jeremy, who was very compliant with Madeline, then stopped.

"What's wrong, Linnie?" he asked hesitantly.

Madeline and Jeremy looked into each other's eyes, and a light shone in her beautiful eyes.

She shifted her gaze toward Eloise who was following closely behind, then her heart started to race.

Jeremy seemed to suddenly understand.

However, Eloise was confused. She quickly walked toward Jeremy and Madeline with a concerned and anxious look on her face.

“Jeremy, why are you stopping? You must quickly take Eveline to the hospital. What are we going to do if we were to miss the best time to treat her and thus leave her with permanent damage with long- lasting effects? Hurry up, go!”

Eloise ordered sternly.

Madeline pressed her lips together as warmth spread around the corners of her eyes.

However, she reined back her emotions and lifted her head to look at Jeremy. “Jeremy, listen to mom. We’ll go to the hospital first.”

“Okay.” Jeremy, who would naturally listen to Madeline, quickly walked toward the location of his parked car, Madeline in his arms.

It just so happened that there was a hospital nearby that specializes in orthopedics.

When they arrived at the hospital, Eloise immediately went to help Madeline with the registration.

Since it was the evening, there were not many people, so Madeline was able to quickly meet with a doctor.

After examining Madeline, the doctor confirmed that it was merely a common ligament tear.

Although it was not serious, they could not be careless about it.

After treating the injury, the doctor then permitted Jeremy to leave with Madeline.

When Jeremy was picking up Madeline to leave, Eloise, still worried, went to the doctor. "Doctor, is my daughter's leg fine? Will there be any permanent effect?"

"Don't worry, madam. If your daughter recuperates properly, she'll definitely recover."

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chapter 1764

With the doctor's confirmation, Eloise was finally more at ease.

Upon seeing this scene, Madeline asked Jeremy to put her down.

Eloise too walked quickly toward Madeline with loving eyes and a smile on her face.

“Thankfully it won’t be much of a problem. I was truly scared just now. Let’s go home now.”

Madeline gave Eloise an earnest look and smiled. “Mom.”

Eloise nodded at that. “Yes, Eveline. Let’s go home now.”

“Mom,” Madeline called out again.

Eloise was about to respond when she suddenly felt that something was not quite right.

The smile on her face froze, and her expression too was dazed.

It seemed that, at this moment, she realized it.

She stared straight at Madeline, tears moistened her eyes without her noticing. Eloise only spoke a while later; her voice was soft, trembling slightly.

“Eveline...”

Madeline's eyes misted over with tears as well.

She looked into Eloise's kind and gentle eyes and nodded slightly. "Mom, I'm Eveline. The Eveline you've been thinking about day and night."

After Madeline's voice fell, Eloise burst into tears.

Unable to hold back her feelings presently, she pulled Madeline into a hug.

Madeline held Eloise, leaning against Eloise's embrace, feeling secure.

"Eveline, my child. I'm so sorry."

Eloise apologized sincerely. Her speech and expression no longer seemed childish and dazed as they had been before.

She had returned to her normal mental state.

It had happened when, just as the truck was about to run into Madeline, Eloise instinctively stepped forward to stop the truck. This meant that her mind had been clear of other thoughts, thereby awakening the long-dormant consciousness.

Madeline felt her heart tightened when she heard Eloise apologizing to her.

"Mom, you didn't wrong me. It's all in the past now."

"No, I'm truly not a good mother. I've caused my precious daughter so many years of suffering without realizing it. During the period when I had been dazed, I'd already understood. That was the reason I was in that state. It's all because I felt remorseful."

Eloise blamed herself, then slowly released her embrace.

When she saw the tears on Madeline's face, Eloise quickly reached out her hand and gently wiped them away.

"Eveline, you've suffered much these days, and you've suffered many grievances. I haven't been able to help or take care of you. It's such a pity.

You're all grown up, yet your father and I have never doted on you. Although you're married now, and you have a family and children, in my heart, you'll always be my little princess."

The more Eloise spoke, the more tears fell from her eyes, the more her voice trembled, and the greater the guilt she felt toward Madeline.

“Eveline, could you truly forgive your mom and dad?”

Madeline smiled in relief and reached out her hand to wipe away the tears on Eloise’s face.

“I’ve already let go of those things, so please forget them as well. I know I’m the most important person in your hearts.”

Eloise had wanted to control her emotions and stop crying, but when she heard Madeline’s words, she wanted to cry even more.

Jeremy stood at a side, feeling touched as well.

He could truly empathize with Eloise completely now.

However, he no longer had those negative feelings for a long time. He knew that she had already forgiven her, but sometimes, when he recalled what had happened, he would still feel ashamed and blame himself.

After comforting Eloise, the three of them went home.

The sky had gradually darkened. Karen, worried about Madeline and Eloise, had been waiting by the

main entrance this whole time. Finally, she saw Jeremy's car and immediately went to meet them.

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chapter 1765

Under the darkness of the night, Karen relied on the streetlights to see the people in the car, the sight of which immediately made her feel much more at ease.

Jeremy was the first to get out of the car after they parked. He then walked toward the backseat and opened the door, then carried Madeline out of the car.

When Karen saw this, she could not help but worry.

She quickly walked toward Madeline who was being held by Jeremy. When she saw Madeline's wet, red, and swollen eyes, she got even more worried. "What happened? Eveline, are you feeling unwell?"

Madeline smiled at that, shaking her head. "Don't worry about me, mom. I'm fine. I've just twisted my ankle. I'll be fine after resting for a few days."

When Karen heard that, she was even more worried. "How did you twist your ankle? How did it happen? Are you sure you'll be fine after a few days?"

"Yes, definitely, " Madeline said with certainty, nodding. "You can ask Jeremy if you don't believe me."

Jeremy chimed in cooperatively when he heard that. "She'll recover if she recuperates properly. No need to be too worried."

"That's good then." Karen was only relieved then. Suddenly, she remembered something. "Where's Eloise? The maid said you were chasing Eloise.

Where is she now? Why did she suddenly run out on her own?"

"I'm here, Karen."

Eloise's voice sounded from the other side of the backseat.

Karen lifted her head to look over. When she saw Eloise walking toward her with a smile, Karen quickly walked over.

"Eloise, why did you run out suddenly? I'd only gone to the toilet and you disobediently ran out to play. Do you know that it's dangerous if there's no one with you? Don't do this again next time."

Karen scolded Eloise as if she was lecturing a child.

She did not know that Eloise's mental state had already recovered just a while ago.

Meanwhile, listening to Karen's earnest scolding,

Eloise nodded and promised seriously and obediently. "I know. I won't make you guys worry about me from now on."

"Good." Satisfied, Karen smiled, then grabbed Eloise's hand. "Let's head into the house then. Sean and the others should be home soon as well. It's nearly dinner time."

Karen held Eloise's hand as she walked toward the house. However, after taking two steps, Karen still felt that something was amiss.

She looked at Eloise with curiosity and seriousness. "Eloise, it seems that you're speaking much more normally than before."

When Eloise heard this, a smile appeared on her graceful face.

“Are you saying that I didn’t sound normal back then, Karen?”

“ ” When Karen heard that, she abruptly stopped in her tracks, and the look in her eyes changed. “ Eloise, you...”

Karen was evidently puzzled, especially when she saw the calm and serious look on Eloise’s face.

This look could only be seen on a normal person who was also a refined and elegant woman.

“Eveline, Eveline, do you think that your mother seems a little odd?” Karen turned her head to ask Madeline. She then asked Jeremy again, “Jeremy, what do you think? Eloise’s tone sounds different from before.”

Jeremy and Madeline shared a look and smile, then he said, “Of course it’s different. She’s already recovered.”

‘Recovered? ‘Recovered!’

Jeremy's words went through Karen's ears, and only after a while, Karen could register the unbelievable news.

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chapter 1766

Karen looked at Eloise who was smiling at her softly in shock. After a while, she grabbed Eloise's hand in surprise once again.

"Really? Eloise, have you really recovered? Do you remember what happened back then? Do you recognize Eveline now?"

If it were back then, Eloise would not believe that a woman who had been so against her would be so concerned about her one day.

However, during the days they spent together, she had truly felt Karen's kindness and friendliness.

Eloise tightly grabbed Karen's hand back and her beautiful eyes were glistening with tears.

"Yeah, I recognize my daughter, Eveline. And I remember what happened back then. I also remember how you didn't mind and cared for me in every possible way when I lost my mind and was so foolish.

"If you hadn't taken care of me during this period, I might not have recovered at all."

"Eloise, I'm so thankful for you and I want to apologize to you. Back then, we were always at each other's throats which led to a lot of conflicts between us. I'm so sorry."

Eloise thanked Karen sincerely and also apologized to her earnestly.

After Karen heard what Eloise said, tears started pricking at the corners of her eyes. She wanted to cry but she waved her hands with a smile. She sobbed and said, "Hey, I was so headstrong back then too. I was so insufferably snobbish because I was relying on the fact that I'm the rich madam of the number one rich family in Glendale.

"Come to think of it, we can't blame each other for this. It's all because of that evil Meredith and her cruel parents. That family caused us so much trouble."

"If it weren't for them, we would've been in-laws even sooner. Eveline and Jeremy would've gotten together way before this."

Eloise did not deny that the main culprit for this was that evil family, but she knew she was at fault as well.

She was at fault for not being able to tell right from wrong. She was at fault for believing everything Meredith told her. Even if the truth was right in front of her, she still chose to believe Meredith.

However, at the end of the day, the reason she trusted Meredith so much back then was because of the love she had for the precious baby daughter whom she lost for so many years.

Sean and Winston came home half an hour later.

After knowing that Eloise had recovered and gone back to her previous mental state, Sean was feeling extremely emotional inside even though he did not show too many emotions on the surface.

Eloise poured him some red wine and said gently and affectionately, "Thank you for all your hard work during this period. I'll try my best not to make you worry about me next time."

Sean looked at the gentleness and tenderness in Eloise's eyes, answering firmly, "You're my

wife, so it's my job to be worried about you and help you carry some of your burdens."

Madeline was listening at one side, and her heart was filled with gladness.

Back then, she felt that Sean and Eloise had a great relationship. At the same time, it was proven that age did not matter when it came to love. It would not fade away with the flow of time either.

The moonlight was tranquil at night.

Madeline sat and leaned against the bed while Jeremy squatted at one side to apply ointment to her ankle.

"Linnie, is it still hurting?"

"No," Madeline smiled and answered.

When Jeremy heard Madeline's answer, he felt even more heartbroken.

She was too eager to be well and act strong. She would not make a sound even if she was in pain.

"Linnie, I know you're worried about Lily. Even though we don't know where our child is, we can at least be assured that Fabian won't do anything

to hurt Lily." "I know." Madeline was sure about this too. " However, Lily's illness... I really don't understand why Fabian wanted to abduct Lily. The people he hates are us but why did he abduct a little girl who he won't hurt or seek revenge on?"

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chapter 1767

Jeremy abruptly stopped applying the ointment.

Actually, it had been so long and he still did not understand Fabian's actions.

However, he was sure that Fabian had gotten some news from somewhere that led to him suddenly resisting them.

Perhaps, that person had given Fabian false news that was detrimental to Jeremy and Madeline.

However, even though Fabian was still young, Jeremy thought that he was not someone who was brainless and would be easily manipulated by others.

"Linnie." Jeremy grabbed Madeline's hands softly and got up to sit next to her. He pulled her into his arms. "Linnie, after we raise the kids, I want to find a suburb that's near the mountain and the

ocean so that we can finally live a life with just the two of us.”

Jeremy voiced the wonderful expectation in his heart. He was planning for this happy and blissful future while sincerely working hard to realize it.

Meanwhile, he also hoped that Madeline would be able to forget her troubles at this moment.

Madeline gently leaned her head against Jeremy’s shoulder and closed her eyes while feeling deeply immersed at this moment. Then, she sighed long and hard in silence.

“That day will come. ” She was hoping for that as well. She was longing for the children to grow up healthily and happily so that they were able to take a step back from their role as parents.

However...

Madeline slowly opened her eyes that had reddened. ‘But Lily, where are you?’

‘Where should I look for you? Are you okay?’

F Country.

Inside a small secluded detached villa.

A young and handsome doctor in a white coat had just finished examining Lillian.

He looked at Fabian who was accompanying her and walked toward the door.

Meanwhile, Fabian walked to the side of the bed and gently caressed Lillian's warm cheek. "Lily, I'm going out for a bit."

He said softly and put a soft toy in Lillian's hand.

Lillian gently held the soft toy and nodded at Fabian obediently while looking at him.

Fabian smiled slightly before turning around to walk out.

Actually, he had gone back to F Country. However, the chartered plane was just a ruse. He purposely spread the information about this so that Jeremy and Madeline would track him.

In reality, he never boarded that plane. Instead, he took Lillian on a normal flight back to F Country.

"Evan, " Fabian called out to the young doctor. " How is she?"

The doctor named Evan furrowed his thick eyebrows. "Her condition doesn't look too good. It's going to be difficult treating her."

Fabian's heart sank and he almost could not control his emotions. "How is that possible? Her condition has always been stable.

"You're a top student who graduated from the best medical university in the world and you specialize in treating leukemia in children. If you think this is difficult, who else can I go to?"

When Evan saw Fabian looking extremely worried and uneasy, he turned his head to look at Lillian who was holding her soft toy in bed.

"Fabian, who is this little girl? Why are you so worried about her?"

When Fabian heard this, his expression changed. However, he changed the topic. "You don't have to worry about who she is. At the end of the day, you have to treat her no matter what."

"You're just forcing me to do something against my will now." Dr. Evan shrugged with a troubled expression on his face.

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chapter 1768

“How is it difficult? Every child that you’ve treated has recovered!”

“Yes, but those children are lucky. I don’t know if she’ll be lucky as well.” Evan softly raised his eyebrow and there was a troubled look on his handsome face.

“Fabian, after my examination, I’m sure that her previous doctor has misdiagnosed this little girl.”

“Misdiagnosis?” Fabian’s heart started racing, and there was an expectant look in his eyes. “You mean that Lily is not sick at all?”

“No. ” Evan’s expression looked more solemn now. “ She’s sick, and it’s even more serious than what was diagnosed before. This is why she hasn’t gotten any better after all this while.”

Fabian did not know what to say to that. He felt as if his heart had been split open and there was a bone- chilling coldness that spread to his limbs.

He felt dazed, but he still remembered what he wanted to ask. However, his tone sounded weak when he spoke.

“What are we going to do now? Is she still curable?”

“Yes,” Evan gave Fabian an affirmative answer. However, he quickly added, “The condition is that you have to find a suitable bone marrow for her to undergo a transplant.”

Bone marrow transplant!

Even though Fabian was not a professional, he knew how difficult it was to find a suitable bone marrow for a transplant.

There was hope, but it was so small.

“Right, it seems that the girl can’t speak?” Evan asked curiously. “After examining her so many times, aside from blinking and smiling, she has never said a single word.”

When Evan mentioned this, aside from feeling sorry for Lillian, Fabian felt even more remorse and uneasiness.

Even though he was not the reason Lillian had become like this, Lana was his sister, after all. He was still somewhat responsible. Plus, he needed to shoulder this responsibility.

“Please arrange for this immediately. I want to find a suitable bone marrow for this child as soon as

possible. However, you can't be too public about this," Fabian requested while feeling helpless.

"You don't want the child's parents to find her after knowing this, do you?" Evan guessed what Fabian was thinking about in his heart.

Fabian did not answer. He reminded Evan once more to do it as soon as possible before turning around to go back to his bedroom.

When he looked at the adorable and pure Lillian who was like an angel, Fabian felt some discomfort.

He walked in front of Lillian and caressed her little head before promising her, "Lily, I promised I'd treat you and I will. Are you willing to trust me?"

Lillian blinked her clear big eyes and nodded.

Even if she could not speak, she was already showing her trust for Fabian through her eyes.

Fabian was glad, but at the same time, his heart was aching for Lillian.

After he asked the maid to watch over Lillian, he came to the study alone.

Even after switching on the lights in the study, Fabian still felt that his vision and heart were extremely dark.

He sat down in front of his desk and turned on his laptop. Then, he opened a folder, and inside the folder were notes that looked like a diary. The one who had written these notes was his brother, Yorick.

Fabian had read these words multiple times and could even recite them from memory now.

However, he would still read them every day to remind himself what he should do.

Later, he searched for Madeline and Jeremy's photos on his laptop. When he saw the photos, the look in his eyes changed.

"I didn't expect that we'd become enemies."

His tone was cold and indifferent, but at the same time, it was laced with some remorse.

After he said that, his phone started vibrating. When he saw who the caller was, he slowly picked up the phone...

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chapter 1769

A cold and deep masculine voice sounded from the other end of the phone.

"You've already had his daughter for a while so why aren't there any updates? Don't you want to seek revenge on behalf of your siblings?"

Fabian frowned after he heard that. A look of indignation appeared on his youthful and handsome face.

"I don't need to tell you whatever I'm doing," Fabian said in dissatisfaction.

"But the only reason you know about the truth of your siblings' deaths is because of me.

"Fabian, even though your sister was not a pitiful person, she was still your sister. As for Yorick, you know very well how he treated you. Do you want the people who caused them to die to continue to live in this world freely?

"Now that this child is with you, it's your best chance to retaliate against them. Don't hesitate. You're just giving Jeremy opportunities if you hesitate."

The man was hinting at something through his words. At the same time, his tone sounded like a spell that was playing with Fabian's emotions.

After the man said that, he hung up the phone decisively.

Fabian threw his phone at the desk, and his eyes went back to the computer screen in front of him.

He read the words Yorick had written and clenched his fists. His expression gradually turned more solemn.

A few minutes later, he suddenly grabbed his phone to call Evan. "You don't have to look for a suitable bone marrow anymore."

"What?" On the other end of the call, Evan was puzzled.

However, he did not get an answer from Fabian even after a long while.

"Fabian, are you there? What do you mean by that? Are you planning to give up on this little girl?"

Evan asked, feeling doubtful.

Ten seconds later, Evan heard Fabian's emotionless answer.

"Let her illness run its course on her. You don't have to deal with this anymore."

After he said this heartless and cold statement, Fabian hurriedly hung up the phone. He was scared that Evan would ask him for the reason.

However, who could he tell the reason to?

After struggling with his thoughts, Fabian went to Lillian's bedroom.

The maid, who just left the room, told Fabian that Lillian had just fallen asleep.

After Fabian asked the maid to leave, he quietly and slowly walked next to Lillian's bed.

He saw her naive and innocent sleeping face. He still remembered the first time he had met her.

What an adorable little girl.

That was the first time he thought that children could be so adorable and delightful.

He still remembered how Lillian had innocently kissed him back then.

People around him had even mocked him, saying that he lost his first kiss.

However, that was not his first kiss.

She was just a naive and innocent little girl. She did not know anything.

Fabian unconsciously tugged the corners of his lips into a smile. However, the next second, he remembered Yorick.

The gentleness in his eyes immediately disappeared. The smile on the corner of his lips was gone as well.

“Lillian Whitman, I’m sorry I have to disappoint you although you’ve shown your trust in me.”

Since Madeline could not find Lillian during this period, she decided to project her worry into her work.

She knew it would be useless for her to be anxious, but as a mother, she could not help herself.

She had locked herself in her lab to blend fragrances. When she felt sleepy in the afternoon, she sat on the sofa to rest her eyes. While she was drifting in and out of sleep, she vaguely heard someone calling her 'Mommy'.

Madeline instinctively reached out her hand to grab the air in front of her. "Lily."

"Mommy, I'm here." The little princess' soft voice sounded from in front of her.

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chapter 1770

Madeline felt the corners of her eyes turning hot from emotions. She had not heard this child talk in so long.

Now, she finally heard her talking again. That sweet voice was so clear and melodic.

Madeline saw a small figure in front of her and it was Lillian's silhouette.

Madeline reached out her hand to grab Lillian and she finally grabbed a hand. However, she suddenly jolted awake and what came into her vision was Jeremy's handsome face that was filled with worry.

"Linnie, did you have a dream about Lily?" Jeremy approached her and asked gently.

Madeline looked at her clenched fist and came back to her senses.

The happiness she felt just earlier immediately turned into endless disappointment.

"Yeah, I had a dream about her. I heard her talking to me too and she wanted me to go look for her."

"Linnie..."

Knock, knock, knock.

When Jeremy was about to ask Madeline more questions, they heard someone knocking on the door of the lab.

The secretary pushed the door open and came in. She reported, "Mr. Whitman, Ms. Montgomery, someone named Carter Gray wants to see you."

'Carter is here?'

Jeremy and Madeline subconsciously started to be more alert.

This person surely had not come in peace.

Madeline recomposed her emotions and arrived at the reception room with Jeremy.

Carter was wearing a high-end limited edition custom-made suit, looking elegant and gentle.

However, when they thought about what he had done back then, the description seemed to have nothing to do with him.

When Carter saw Madeline and Jeremy walking over, he lifted the corners of his lips into a superficial smile before handing them the invitation card in his hand.

“I’m here to give this invitation to you two. I’m going to hold my wedding ceremony in the most luxurious six-star hotel under Whitman Corporation this Saturday.”

Carter had a smile on his face as he continued.

“Since we know each other, it means that we’ve been brought together by fate. I hope you two can come to my wedding. Please ask the staff of the hotel to give me their best service, Mr. Whitman.”

There were a lot of industries under Whitman Corporation. Jeremy did not know why Carter chose his hotel for his wedding ceremony and he also did not expect that Carter was able to find another woman to marry him in such a short period.

However, Jeremy was sure that the woman was not Shirley.

“Thank you for your acknowledgment of the hotel my company is managing, Mr. Gray. The hotel staff will act accordingly. As for your wedding, my wife and I—”

“We’ll be there on time.”

When Jeremy was about to reject Carter, Madeline interrupted him and accepted the invitation from Carter.

Madeline took Carter’s invitation and displayed a fake smile. “If there’s nothing else, you can leave now, Mr. Gray.”

Carter chuckled at Madeline’s perfunctory attitude.

“Yes, I don’t have anything else to say. However, I heard that you’re in some sort of kerfuffle recently. Your daughter has been kidnapped, right?”

After Lillian was kidnapped by Fabian, Jeremy had been using a lot of platforms to get news on Lillian and Fabian. Hence, it was not surprising that Carter would have heard about this.

Even though Madeline was bothered by this, she would not show her weakness in front of someone who was deliberately doing this just to see her embarrass herself.

She curled her pink lips and said calmly.

“Yes, such a thing has happened. However, it’s our issue, so we’ll take care of it. You don’t have to worry, Mr. Gray.”

Carter admired Madeline’s calm demeanor.

He looked at Madeline with a faint smile and knew she was actually very anxious deep down.

“You don’t have to be so against me. Perhaps I can provide you with information about the location of your precious daughter?”

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chapter 1771

Madeline and Jeremy’s expressions changed at the same time.

Additionally, Madeline saw the confident smile on Carter's face, and it seemed that he truly knew Lilian's whereabouts.

Her heart started to race. She wanted to know Lillia's whereabouts. She desperately wanted to know, no matter how insignificant a clue.

However, knowing Carter, how would he reveal to them this information so easily?

Jeremy too shared the same thought.

He looked at Carter, and his seductive lips curved into an intriguing smile.

"I didn't expect you to have such an understanding of my daughter's location, Mr. Gray. In that case, I truly want to seek your counsel. Where is my daughter?"

Carter smiled knowingly in turn. "Mr. Whitman, you're a businessman. You should understand that to get something valuable, you'd need to offer something in exchange."

"What do you want?" Jeremy asked directly.

"I want 50% of the Whitman Corporation's share," Carter said bluntly.

Jeremy remained calm when he heard that.

He was about to speak, but Madeline was one step ahead of him.

She grinned, seemingly gentle and sweet, but her beautiful eyes shone with a rare edge.

"Mr. Gray, you truly know how to crack a joke. My husband and I would not hesitate to agree even if you had asked for 100%, let alone 50%. My daughter is priceless. Do you understand what I mean, Mr. Gray?"

Upon hearing Madeline's words, he gave a low chuckle.

"You're right, Mrs. Whitman. I was indeed joking. How could I measure your precious daughter with physical objects?"

Carter followed Madeline's cue and extricated himself from the situation.

"Since we know each other, I'll then offer this as a gift. Your precious daughter is in F Country, and

she's being controlled by a 20-year-old young man named Fabian Johnson."

Carter's information completely matched Fabian. Madeline's heart skipped a beat.

Lillian was in F Country this whole time?

The chartered plane back then was a ruse. Fabian had wanted to create an illusion of him not returning to F Country when, in reality, he did return.

Jeremy could sense Madeline's anxiety right now. He honestly felt the same way, but he knew he could not panic.

He kept calm and smiled softly.

"My daughter was indeed taken away by a young man named Fabian Johnson. My wife and I already know this. Do you have other more valuable information, Mr. Gray?"

"He has a villa in F Country. While Fabian's brother Yorick was still alive, Yorick had bought it for Fabian under Fabian's name. I've heard that Yorick wanted to give this to Fabian as a present for his 18th birthday, and he even planned to hand the keys of this villa to Fabian personally."

As Carter spoke, he deliberately slowed down and gave Jeremy a meaningful look.

“It’s just that, before the day arrived, Yorick was arrested, and Fabian’s sister Lana died. On Fabian’s 18th birthday, he was all alone.”

Madeline and Jeremy could tell what Carter was insinuating as he spoke.

He was implying that Yorick and Lana’s death were all related to Jeremy.

“Alright, that’s all I know. If you’re worried, Mr. and Mrs. Whitman, you could immediately head over to F Country and bring your precious daughter back. That young man might do something irreversible if you’re too late.”

Carter’s voice slowly fell away as he finished speaking. He chuckled, then turned around to leave.

After Carter had left, Jeremy took Madeline’s hand and walked toward the office.

“Linnie, I’ll book the tickets now. We’ll go to F Country immediately.”

"Jeremy." Madeline abruptly stopped walking, and with a solemn expression, looked into Jeremy's confused eyes.

Jeremy too stopped walking. "Linnie, what's wrong?"

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chapter 1772

"I'll go alone. You should stay in Glendale."

"You want to go to F Country alone?" Jeremy was surprised. "Why?"

Madeline looked in the direction where Carter had left. "Do you seriously think he deliberately came just to give us the invitation and then inform us about Lily?"

"Of course, I don't believe him, but we can't afford to overlook any information."

"All the more reason you should stay here then." Madeline had a firm look in her eyes. "It seemed like he wanted to send us away. He might be up to something in Glendale."

"Even so, it wouldn't be as important as Lily."

“ I know. I know you’re worried about Lily, but you have to listen to me this time, Jeremy,” Madeline insisted still. “I’ll go to F Country and find Lily. If Lily truly is with Fabian, I’ll try to convince Fabian.”

“Do you think Fabian can still be rational?”

Jeremy was worried, and he also remembered Carter’s words just now.

“Carter has looked into our past in detail, and he also seemed to know about the matter with Yorick and Lana very well. He was implying that I had something to do with Yorick and Lana’s death.

Based on this, I think that Fabian would think so too. That is why, Linnie, I can’t let you go find Fabian alone.”

“I won’t be alone.”

Madeline touched the purple crystal necklace on her chest.

It was the DIY present that Lillian and Jackson had made for her.

“I have Lily.” Madeline smiled.

She firmly believed that she would be able to see her little princess by going to F Country.

Jeremy knew he would not be able to change Madeline's mind no matter what he said.

He spoke no more of this. Additionally, he even drove Madeline to the airport himself.

Jeremy handed Madeline the anti-toxoid test reagent he had gotten from Carter. They had thought that the poison's fourth stage would have flared up by now, but it had been a month since the last flare-up, and nothing had yet to happen.

"Linnie, I'm very concerned that you'll get a flare-up after going to F Country."

Worried, Jeremy grabbed Madeline's hand and pleaded humbly.

"Let me go with you, okay?"

Madeline then smiled and tiptoed to kiss Jeremy on the corner of his lips.

"Okay, I'm heading through the security check now. You should quickly head back now. You must take good care of Jack and Pudding. Don't let anything happen to the two of them."

Madeline's urging caused Jeremy to feel a heavier weight on his shoulders.

Yes, he had to stay to take good care of his precious sons.

"Call me if there's anything. We must be in touch at all times."

"Yes, I will," Madeline promised as she nodded obediently, then turned to leave.

However, just as she turned around, Jeremy suddenly held the back of her neck gently and pressed Madeline toward him, then pressed a deep kiss on her lips when she had least expected it.

"Go on now."

This happened and ended too fast. Madeline was momentarily dazed before returning to her senses.

"I'll bring Lily home. Wait for me." "Okay."

Jeremy smiled and watched as Madeline went through the security check. Once she had disappeared from his sight, he turned around, frowning.

He truly was still worried, but he did not have a choice.

He went back to his car, and when he was about to drive away, he glimpsed, out of the corner of his eye, the wedding invitation that he had thrown into the car not long ago.

Carter was about to get married, but who was his new bride?

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1773

Jeremy took the invitation card and opened it to have a look.

The interesting thing about this invitation was that it only indicated the time and location of the wedding, but not the names of the groom and bride.

Jeremy intuitively felt that Carter cared not for the woman who was going to marry him, so the bride's name was not on the card.

In reality, it was just as Jeremy thought.

On the other side, Cathy had been caring for Shirley, who had lost all feeling in her legs, every day.

Although Cathy despised and looked down on Shirley for everything she had done in the past, Shirley was still Adam's sister, and Cathy was sincerely grateful for Adam.

She also knew that, deep down, Adam still cared about his sister too.

Shirley had initially resisted intensely, but now, it seemed that she had grown used to it and started to accept Cathy's care.

Presently, as Cathy finished bathing Shirley, there came a shout from the delivery person downstairs.

Cathy went down to receive the delivery, which she noticed was a folder from an anonymous sender to Shirley.

Since it was a private item, Cathy would certainly not open it to look inside without permission.

When she was about to bring it to Shirley, Adam came back from his morning run.

When he learned about Shirley's delivery, he looked at it, then took it and ripped it open.

Cathy hurriedly intervened. "Adam, isn't this inappropriate?"

Adam slowly provided his analysis. "Who else would know that she's here? I don't think Jeremy or Eveline would be sending her things, so only one person remains."

Cathy immediately understood.

Carter was the one who sent this to Shirley.

Soon after, Adam opened the package and the document inside. He took out the content and saw that it was a wedding invitation.

This invitation, however, was completely different from the one Carter had given Jeremy, and it indicated the names of the bride and groom.

After Adam had read the contents of the invitation, he immediately had a sour look on his face.

"Hmph." He scoffed. "What is he trying to say? Is he trying to show off to my brainless sister who lacks conscience?"

However, Cathy thought differently after reading the card.

"It seems that Carter has feelings for your sister."

“What did you say?” Adam felt as if he had just heard a joke.

“Carter must be displeased with Miss Brown’s cold attitude last time. That’s why he’s retaliating this way. It could be said that he cared about what Miss Brown had said the other day, so he’s acting this way.”

“He took it to heart?” Adam burst out laughing. “If someone truly cared for another, he wouldn’t have asked her to commit so many vile acts.”

He threw the invitation card into the rubbish bin, then turned around to urge Cathy.

“Cathy, don’t tell her about this. If she knows, she might do something crazy again.”

Recalling the way Shirley had lost control back then, Cathy nodded repeatedly.

“Don’t worry, she won’t know about it.”

“Thank you,” Adam thanked her, “thank you for your help during this period. Truly.”

“I’m relieved to be able to share your burden.”

When Adam heard this response, he felt a sudden warmth in his heart.

Back then, he had wanted to give Cathy a home, so that she could let go of Felipe one day, and then accept him.

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chapter 1774

However, he felt that they were getting along quite well right now too.

Loving someone did not necessarily mean getting them.

The best scenario would be that both sides felt comfortable.

"Adam, are you home?" At this moment, Shirley's voice drifted from the room upstairs.

Adam and Cathy shared a look. "I'll go upstairs and take a look at her."

"Okay. I'll prepare some breakfast for her."

"Okay." Adam gently nodded and went upstairs after he saw Cathy turning around.

Shirley had basically accepted the fact that she was now disfigured and crippled. She could not be considered to have fully accepted it, but she had no choice but to face this.

When she saw Adam arriving, her attitude was still cold and disdainful, and it even had a hint of arrogance.

“What were you muttering about with her downstairs? If there’s something to say, why couldn’t you just say it to my face?” Shirley asked in a questioning tone, and her expression was icy.

Adam replied with the same cold attitude, “The person you’re talking about meticulously cares for your daily needs every day, so you’d best change your tone.”

“Hmph. It’s not like I asked her to take care of me. She’s the one who’s been sticking to me.”

Shirley said disdainfully, then shot Adam a mocking look.

“Adam, you’re still capable since you’re able to ask a woman to help you. However, you’d best not forget that you have no place in that woman’s heart. The person she loved is Felipe who was executed.”

Adam was unbothered by Shirley's deliberate mocking. He did not take it to heart as well.

"You've urgently called for me just to tell me this? I'm very busy, and I don't have time to continue listening to your nonsense."

After Adam had finished speaking, he turned and walked away with a cold expression. "Stop!"

Shirley quickly stopped him with a hurried tone as she glared at his back.

"Adam, I've heard that this woman had also been disfigured back then, and she even had plastic surgery, restoring her looks to how it had been before. Is that true?"

When Adam heard this, he knew what Shirley wanted to say.

"Answer me, now!" Shirley urged impatiently.

Adam did not avoid this topic. He turned around and calmly looked into Shirley's anxious gaze.

Neither too fast nor too slow, he said, "That's right, it's as you've said. Cathy had injured her face back then."

"You're the one who operated on her?"

"Yes."

With this affirmative answer, Shirley's eyes immediately lit up.

"In that case, you must have a way to fix my face, right? Adam, perform the surgery on me. I want my face to look how it looked before."

"Hmph." Adam coldly scoffed. "Your heart is already black, so it'll be useless no matter how pretty your face is."

"You..." Shirley was momentarily speechless, but she did not give up. Instead, she questioned in a threatening tone, "Adam, I'm asking you again. Are you going to help perform the surgery on me?"

"Why should I help you? Do you think you could return to that man once your face is fixed? Shirley, wake up! The reason you're like this now is that you gave everything to that man!"

"Adam Brown, shut up!" Shirley was suddenly worked up emotionally. She did not want to hear anything negative about Carter. "A relationship is about consent, and the person who's loved is not at fault!"

Adam laughed even harder when he heard that. His tone sounded even more sarcastic as he spoke. " I didn't expect my vile and devious sister to also be the type to grow infatuated."

"Fine, I can help you fix the wound on your face with surgery, but you must give something in return."

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chapter 1775

When she thought about the possibility of the wound on her face recovering one day, Shirley asked impatiently, "What is it? What do you want in exchange?"

Adam's eyes lit up. "The anti-toxoid test reagent for AXT6g."

As he spoke, an evident change came over Shirley's expression.

The glow and expectation in her eyes disappeared as well.

"There isn't any, " Shirley answered simply.

"There isn't any? You're the one who developed the poison, so how is it possible that you don't have a way to cure the poison?" Adam found this

suspicious. "If you truly want your face to recover, you'd best hand me the anti-toxoid test reagent now."

Shirley put on a bitter and miserable smile on her face. "If I don't have the anti-toxoid test reagent, you won't perform the surgery on me, is that right?"

"Yes."

"Heh." Shirley smirked sarcastically, leaning against the bed. "I guess I'll be ugly for the rest of my life then."

"Even if you were to recover, you'll still be ugly because your heart is black."

"Yes, my heart is black, " Shirley said in self-deprecation. "I want to head downstairs to sunbathe now. My good brother, carry me downstairs."

Shirley requested knowing that Adam would not reject her request.

Adam indeed did not reject her. He stepped forward and carried her.

Shirley leaned against Adam and quietly lifted her eyes to look at Adam's face. For some reason, the corners of her eyes felt warm.

"Do you still remember that time? You had twisted your ankle and cried because you had no way of getting upstairs. I was the one who carried you upstairs.

"Now, it's your turn to carry your crippled sister downstairs.

"Adam, do you think every dog has its day?"

Shirley's self-deprecating words continued to drift into Adam's ears.

Adam did not respond to her. When they were downstairs, he placed Shirley into a wheelchair.

When Cathy, who was making breakfast, saw Shirley downstairs, she decided to go over to help.

"Cathy, you can go about your business. I'll just push her into the courtyard to sunbathe." Adam spoke quickly as he pushed the wheelchair out to the courtyard.

Cathy did not follow them, thinking of letting the siblings have some time alone. It would be good for them to have a heart-to-heart talk.

Their history together had burdened them with emotional baggage. If they could unpack all of that one day, their relationship could return to the way it had been before.

In the courtyard.

Shirley was sitting in the automatic wheelchair as she moved around slowly.

It was a warm spring where the flowers bloomed, yet she felt no warmth.

However, the structure of the courtyard was still the same as it had been back then.

She suddenly looked melancholically at the wall corner by the flower bed. A moment later, she burst out laughing as if she had remembered something. However, she did not speak. Instead, she continued to stroll around the garden in the wheelchair before stopping.

“How did they die?” Shirley suddenly asked.

Adam knew Shirley was referring to their parents, but he did not like her attitude.

"Who's 'they'?" "... " Shirley briefly paused. "You know who."

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chapter 1776

"I truly have no idea who you're talking about."

"..."

Shirley knew that Adam was doing this on purpose. She genuinely wanted to know how both of her parents died back then, but she refused to

utter the two words "mom" and "dad". Feeling displeased, she changed the topic.

"Adam, are you best friends with Jeremy and his wife? Why are you helping them so much? Not only have you been doing whatever it takes to develop the anti-toxoid test reagent for them, you'd even stayed by Ryan's side as a spy."

"Even if they're not my friends, I would still save them because I'm a doctor."

Adam answered, neither humble nor haughty, then questioned.

"Now, it's my turn to ask you. How did you know Ryan? Why were you developing a poison to harm Jeremy? Lana got hold of this poison back then, so does it mean you know Lana too? However, Ryan was the one manipulating Lana and Yorick this

whole time. What on earth is the connection behind all of this?"

Adam's questions came one after another, momentarily startling Shirley.

She had not expected Adam to make such connections between all these many details and come up with this conclusion from them.

However, she knew she absolutely could not tell him the truth behind it all.

She deliberately put up a calm smile, which still looked lively and charming if one were to look at her intact left face.

"Adam, don't think that you're so clever. I can't say what's the connection between them, but the reason I created the poison and sold it to Lana under your name was that she'd ordered this through certain channels. I've merely developed them accordingly."

“ Is that so?” Adam clearly did not believe her. “ In that case, why did you go the extra mile in making Lana think that I was the one who developed the poison? If you hadn’t done that, why would she find me? She’d even said that as long as I worked for her, she’ll help me achieve my dream in the medical field.”

“That’s because I want to see a doctor’s downfall.” Shirley displayed a wicked smile. “Adam, I too had the chance to become a doctor. They were the ones who denied me this chance. They were the ones who gave up on me to fulfill your dreams!”

Shirley shouted out the dissatisfaction inside her heart at Adam.

However, at this moment, she was only hoping to shift Adam’s attention.

She did not want Adam to continue looking into this.

The truth about Lana, Yorick, and Ryan, including Ryan’s death, could only rot inside her stomach.

“Shirley, from the moment you hesitated and stayed silent just now, I’ve already known your answer.”

Adam's statement instantly pulled Shirley's wandering thoughts back.

She lifted her head to look at the solemn-looking Adam, realizing that the man before her was no longer the little boy in her memories, the boy who would follow behind her and call her name.

He had grown up to be an exceptionally talented person.

Shirley averted her gaze and chuckled softly. "Push me back. I'm a little tired."

"You're not tired. You're avoiding my questions."

Adam saw through Shirley. She was worried that Adam would continue questioning her, thereby uncovering some clues. She then pressed the button on the wheelchair and turned around herself.

"Shirley, do you think you can just run away? The truth won't be hidden forever, and just like your heart, I don't believe it'll stay black forever."

When she heard that, Shirley grabbed the handle of the wheelchair tightly and bit her lip. Although

the corners of her eyes had turned red, she did not let the tears fall from her eyes.

She would not allow herself to cry. She looked down on women who cried easily the most. That was why she admired Madeline, so Shirley could not tolerate herself crying.

However, tears were now blurring her vision. She sped up as she headed toward the house and entered. Her thoughts were probably already in a mess as she did not watch where she was going when she got into the living room, crashing into the coffee table and toppling the rubbish bin next to it. The wedding invitation Adam had thrown away not long ago coincidentally fell before the wheelchair. Through her blurry and teary vision, Shirley saw the name that was etched deep inside her heart. She also saw another name that she dared not believe...

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chapter 1777

When Cathy, who was in the open kitchen, saw this, she hastily ran to the living room.

"Are you okay?" Cathy examined Shirley with concern.

When Adam heard the sound, he ran back to the house, quickening his pace, then saw Shirley who sat motionlessly in the wheelchair as if she had lost her mind, and he suddenly felt worried.

As Adam got closer and noticed the wedding invitation that fell out of the rubbish bin, he immediately understood why Shirley was like this.

Without batting an eyelid, he grabbed a broom and swept the trash on the floor, including the wedding invitation, into the dustpan.

“Did you throw this away?” Shirley questioned; her voice was extremely cold.

Adam calmly asked, “Should I not have thrown this kind of trash away, and kept this eyesore instead?”

“Trash? Give it to me,” Shirley ordered, her fists clenched.

Adam ignored her and immediately threw the invitation card into the rubbish bin.

When Shirley saw this, she furiously bit her lip, then, using the only strength left in her upper body, bent down to grab the rubbish bin.

However, Adam, who was faster than her, kicked the bin behind him. He did not want Shirley to grab hold of the invitation even if the trash would dirty the house.

Shirley abruptly froze, her hand still outstretched, then returned to her senses and glared at Adam, baring her teeth. "Adam, I'm giving you one last chance. Give me the invitation card!"

"Shirley, are you still going to be so obstinate even after reaching this stage? This man has been using you this whole time. Don't tell me you still can't understand that?"

When Shirley heard this, she chuckled, laughing at herself. "He's willing to do this to me, and I'm willing to endure it, so it's none of your business, isn't it?" she asked sarcastically; her eyes grew sharp and piercing.

"Adam, don't make me do anything crazy again. I want you to give me the invitation now!"

However, Adam persisted. "Okay, I want to see what other crazy things you can do. How much crazier could it be? The most you could give is your life. You're so stubborn when it comes to this man, and I don't believe you'd be willing to give up on your life for him."

“You...”

Anger surged within Shirley’s heart, but she had to admit that Adam’s words were on point.

How could she be willing to die? How could she be willing to never see that man again?

As the air around them grew tense, Cathy picked up the invitation and walked up to Shirley, handing it to her.

“Cathy?” Adam was puzzled at Cathy’s actions. 1

Meanwhile, Shirley too had not expected Cathy to do this; for a moment, she even forgot to grab it.

“Here you go.”

Cathy nudged Shirley, then turned to smile at Adam.

“I’ve always felt that she has the right to take care of her business. Adam, I know you’re doing this for Miss Brown’s sake, but your methods of conveying that have been a little extreme. At the end of the

day, this is Miss Brown’s private matter, so we don’t have the right to interfere.”

Adam and Shirley momentarily fell silent as Cathy's words.

After being momentarily lost in thought, Shirley immediately reached out her hand to grab the invitation Cathy was holding.

Tears had blurred Shirley's vision earlier, so she was hoping that she saw it wrongly. However, as she held the invitation, the gold-pressed words in front of her were as clear as day.

He was going to get married. Two days from now.

At the most luxurious six-star hotel in Glendale. She also knew the bride.

Shirley gripped the corner of the invitation card; her fingers trembled intensely.

The corners of her eyes started to get wet again, but she never let her tears fall.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1778

Cathy and Adam could not help but sympathize with Shirley as she tried to suppress her pain.

"Two days from now, you'll accompany me to this hotel."

Shirley turned to Cathy and requested.

“I’ll give you a handsome reward. On that day, you must stick with me. You’ll do whatever I ask you to do.”

When Adam heard this, he thought it pathetic. “Shirley, what do you mean? Are you going to attend Carter’s wedding? You’d even want Cathy as your bodyguard?”

Shirley held back her tears. She then lifted her red but beautiful eyes, displaying a meaningful smile, and looked at Cathy, then at Adam.

“She said it, didn’t she? I have the right to choose, and I choose to attend the wedding. Don’t tell me that it’s not allowed?”

“.” Adam was momentarily speechless. However, he quickly snapped back, “Alright, you want to go, huh? You can go alone. Cathy will not be your maid.”

“ She can do whatever she likes. If she won’t go, I can hire other people. There are a lot of money-minded people who are willing to wait on and serve me.” Shirley’s attitude was firm. She then operated her wheelchair to head toward the stairs.

Seeing Shirley's figure as Shirley put on a brave front, Cathy felt as if she had seen her old self.

Back then, she had also been this stubborn for Felipe.

However, in the end... Everything went up in smoke.

"Shirley, have you truly thought it through? Are you sure you want to attend his wedding looking like this?"

Adam asked, looking at Shirley's back. His tone was not as harsh as before, sounding much gentler instead.

"Are you certain that you'd want to torment yourself by witnessing his wonderful wedding ceremony with his beautiful wife, while you're in a wheelchair, wearing a half-disfigured face?"

Shirley pressed the start button on the wheelchair and turned her back at Adam. After a while, she spoke slowly.

"Back then, I loved to fantasize. I'd even longed to wear a wedding dress so much that I'd dreamt about it. I'd wanted to hold my beloved's arm and

walk into the hall of holy matrimony. I'd wanted to let him see me in a wedding dress. Would he be so shocked and moved to tears like those male leads in movies..."

As Shirley spoke, her voice deepened, and suddenly, she burst out laughing, then spoke in a nonchalant tone.

"Now, I won't be able to see myself in a wedding dress, but I don't think it's illegal to go and see him in a suit, right?"

Her voice gently fell, but when Adam heard that, his heart started to feel extraordinarily heavy.

"Adam, why don't I make a deal with you?" Shirley turned her wheelchair around.

"As long as you let me attend this wedding without a hitch, I'll go and surrender myself to the police then. I'll come clean and tell the police all the selfish things I've done.

"In the future, I'll no longer be needing you to care for me as well. I'll be spending the rest of my life in prison."

Shirley smiled and looked at a dazed Adam.

“If you’re not going to speak, I’ll take your silence as consent. It’s a deal then.”

In F Country.

After Madeline had arrived, she did not find a hotel. She instead got into a car and went straight to the small house she had lived in for three years in F Country. She tried to use her fingerprint to unlock the door and realized that the lock had not been changed.

Back then, she had only rented this house, but when she became successful in her career, she bought the place.

She still clearly remembered that she had been pregnant with Lillian here, and she had also lived here for two years with Lillian.

Madeline took out her phone and looked at the screensaver that was their family photo.

“Lily, I’m coming to find you now.”

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife
chapter 1779

After Madeline had finished cleaning the house and rested, she called all the friends she knew in F Country, asking them for information about Fabian.

Madeline had thought that this might be difficult because Fabian kept a much lower profile than Yorick and Lana in F Country.

However, when Madeline mentioned Fabian's name, not only was everyone familiar with the name, nearly all of them spoke with lamentation when talking about Fabian.

"Ah, Fabian has been very active in F Country for the past six months. He seems to come from a family with a powerful background."

"Fabian Johnson? I know him. His brother Yorick could be considered a person of some status in F Country. However, Fabian's not the same as his brother. I like that kid."

"You mean Mr. Johnson? Back then, I worked with him on a project. He's very decisive and capable in his conduct. He doesn't seem like a twenty-year-old young man at all."

Madeline held the phone as she heard the people on the other end of the line commenting on Fabian. Suddenly, she felt as if the Fabian they mentioned was not the man she had known back then.

In the past six months, Fabian seemed to have changed a lot. It could be said that he was now a completely different person.

If he truly had changed, would Lillian be in danger now?

Madeline suddenly was uncertain about Fabian, but in her memory, Fabian's radiant and friendly smile was still in front of her.

Despite all the information Madeline had gathered on Fabian's current situation, no one knew where Fabian stayed.

However, Madeline still got a piece of an important clue.

Madeline went to bed early that night. The following morning, she followed the address that was given to her and arrived at a certain office building in the city center.

It was still early, so Madeline sat in the building's lobby and waited.

Around 8:30 am, staff began streaming through the entrance as they went about their work. Madeline kept her gaze in the direction of the

entrance the whole time, waiting for the familiar figure to appear.

It was nearly 10 am, but the person she wanted to meet had yet to appear, and Madeline could wait no further.

The thought of Lillian's illness upset Madeline's steady heartbeat.

She had heard that Fabian started his new company here. That was why she had to come here and wait for the opportunity to run into him.

Madeline decided to leave, but she was also worried that she might have failed to notice him earlier. It could also be that she missed him because Fabian had gone straight to his office from the basement, so she planned to go upstairs for a look.

However, as she was getting up to walk to the elevator, a familiar figure appeared in her line of sight.

"Fabian."

She shouted at Fabian who came through the entrance.

Upon suddenly hearing this voice here, Fabian, alarmed, turned toward the source of the voice, not expecting that it was truly Madeline's voice.

When he saw Madeline, he slowly stopped walking.

He did not intend to run away but gave Madeline, who was striding toward him, a level look instead.

"Fabian, where is my daughter? Where is she?" Madeline asked directly.

Fabian looked at the impatient look on Madeline's face and calmly said, "She's fine."

He responded with two simple words.

"Fine?" Madeline thought this ridiculous. "Fabian, I want to see my daughter."

"You won't be able to see her," Fabian rejected, and his expression was abnormally cold. "You should go back now, Mrs. Whitman. You're just going to waste your time by staying here. You won't be able to see your daughter."

He walked past Madeline when he was finished speaking. However, before even taking two steps, he heard Madeline's cold voice from behind.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1780

"Fabian, are you forcing me to call the cops?"
Madeline turned around and looked at him. "Do you want me to inform the police of your crimes of kidnapping my daughter and threatening her safety?"

As Madeline walked toward Fabian who had his back against her, her sharp eyes betrayed a look of remorse.

"Fabian, could it be that you want to walk the same path that your brother and sister had taken? Are you going to keep testing the limit that shouldn't be tested?"

As Madeline's voice fell, Fabian turned around abruptly.

He stared straight at Madeline, and at this moment, his eyes no longer showed the friendliness and gentleness from back then. Madeline caught sight of a flash of enmity, rage, and conflict in Fabian's eyes.

Conflict. He was conflicted.

The look in Fabian's eyes only calmed down seconds later.

The corners of his lips curled up slightly into a soft smiley.

"Since you have flown all the way here to find me, I couldn't very well dismiss you, Mrs. Whitman.

There's a decent cafe nearby, would you do me the honour of having a drink together?"

Fabian was Madeline's most direct and only way in finding Lillian, so of course, Madeline agreed.

There were not a lot of people in the café during the work hours.

Fabian ordered a cup of black tea latte for Madeline.

"If I recall correctly, you like black tea, Mrs. Whitman." Fabian addressed Madeline in an unfamiliar and distant manner.

Back then, he always had a frivolous smile and would Madeline's name affectionately and intimately.

However, it seemed that there was no returning to those times.

Madeline did not drink the steaming coffee in front of her. She went straight to the point, resuming the original conversation topic from earlier.

“Fabian, you should know I didn’t come all the way here to F Country to have tea with you. I only want my daughter.”

Resentment appeared on Madeline’s delicate and small face.

“ If you’re unhappy with me or Jeremy, just say it. Lily is just a child, and ever since you knew her, that kid has innocently looked to you as her big brother. A good big brother. Please don’t hurt a five -year- old child’s pure heart.”

Fabian finished listening to Madeline with a calm expression and picked up his cup of coffee for a sip.

“I can’t hurt a five -year-old’s heart, but you can recklessly hurt my heart, tearing it into pieces? Do I still deserve it then?”

Madeline’s furrowed slightly. “Why do you say that? Who hurt you?”

“Someone I used to trust. However, in the end, they were just using me this whole time.”

As Fabian spoke, he gazed knowingly at Madeline.

Madeline felt that the person Fabian was referring to was her.

“Are you saying that I used you? That I lied to you?” Madeline was baffled. She was very curious why Fabian would think that and simultaneously found this pathetic.

“Fabian, I don’t know where you’ve heard this or how you’ve got this weird idea. Could you tell me, when did I, Eveline, have used you? How could I have benefited from using you?”

Madeline looked steadily into Fabian’s cold, questioning eyes.

After a while, Fabian then spoke.

“It’s not you who are benefitting from this, but it’s your husband, Jeremy Whitman.”

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife
chapter 1781

Madeline looked stunned upon hearing Fabian’s answer.

“What do you mean? How would Jeremy benefit?”
Madeline was further confused by Fabian’s words.

Fabian sipped his coffee and suddenly chuckled.

“To be more precise, the person who benefited most, in the end, would be Jeremy’s uncle, Felipe.”

“What? ” Madeline was befuddled. “Fabian, could you make yourself clear?”

Fabian’s lips curled slightly as he spoke mockingly, “Jeremy is a high-level Interpol official. Back then, he only stayed with Lana to spy on her, isn’t that right?”

“You only got half of it right, ” Madeline corrected him; her expression was serious. “Jeremy is an Interpol official, but the reason he stayed with Lana, spying on her, was that Lana had tried to kill me by blowing up the yacht back then. She’d wanted to use Jeremy’s amnesia for some illegal business, so Jeremy merely played along.”

“Played along... Hmph.” Fabian scoffed. “He played along indeed. If Lana had deserved this, then what about my brother Yorick?”

“Yorick had violated the law, and he was punished by the law. He suffered the consequences of his

actions, so why do you blame Jeremy for your siblings' deaths?"

"If my brother suffered the consequences of his actions and only had himself to blame, what about Felipe? His crimes were the same as my brother's crimes in F Country. Felipe even instigated a homicide, so why was he able to escape legal sanction?"

As Fabian questioned, there came a change in his emotions, and he became more worked up.

"Jeremy is from Interpol. He and his colleagues had set a trap to capture my brother. Don't tell me that he doesn't know that Felipe had also committed the same crimes? Of course, he knew.

"I've always thought that my brother had himself to blame for the outcome because of the crimes he had committed, but I know now—Jeremy used you, then used me. In the end, my brother became a trophy he got for working with Interpol.

"The reason Lana was killed by Ryan was also related to Jeremy. You two had planned all of this."

Fabian vented out the dissatisfaction in his heart.

After hearing his words, Madeline could finally understand the reason Fabian had been intensely hostile toward them all this time.

Madeline did not know how to explain it, and she felt that no matter how she explained it now, Fabian would not listen to her.

That was why she did not want to waste her breath. She merely watched on calmly as Fabian was speaking.

"Fabian, I hope you can understand one thing. The reason your brother was executed was not that Jeremy had set a trap and captured him. He was captured because he broke the law.

"As for Lana, getting killed by Ryan was the consequence of her actions. She failed to harm others, so she was the one getting harmed in the end. Jeremy was the victim in this entire thing."

Madeline too voiced the dissatisfaction within her heart.

"Jeremy was manipulated by Lana with the poison. Additionally, because of Lana, he was also accused of murder; because of Lana, he was also unable to

help his daughter when she fell, causing Lily to be traumatized. Do you think my husband had asked for this?"

Recalling these incidents made Madeline feel aggrieved on Jeremy's behalf.

"Fabian, ask yourself, could this truly be anything but the consequences that Yorick and Lana had brought upon themselves?"

As Fabian listened to Madeline, his brows furrowed further, and his grip on the coffee cup tightened further as well.

The air around them suddenly felt abnormally chilly, then there came a ringing from the entrance.

It was just the sound indicating customers entering.

"Fabian, my number has not changed. I hope that I'll receive a call from you as soon as possible, and you'll take me to see Lily. You can hate me, but don't hurt a child that genuinely trusts you this much."

After she had finished speaking, Madeline grabbed her bag to leave.

As she turned around, she almost ran into a young man who was walking in her direction.

Madeline hurriedly avoided him, then apologized and walked to the entrance.

A ringing sound came from the door again.

Meanwhile, this sound brought Fabian's wandering thoughts back.

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He lifted his eyes and looked over. He did not see Madeline but saw Evan sitting before him instead.

"When did you sit here?" Fabian looked confused.

Evan pushed his retro, gold -rimmed glasses and lazily leaned back on the sofa.

"I sat down when you were longingly watching that lady leave. What is it? Do you like older girls?"

After hearing this explanation, Fabian's brows drew together, and he said flatly, " She's Lily's mother."

There was a slight change in Evan's eyes upon hearing that. He then looked in the direction where Madeline had left.

"She's Eveline?" Fabian nodded lightly.

Evan pensively contemplated. "She's different indeed. I almost ran into her just now, and despite the distance, I could still smell the fragrance on her. A perfumer. Special indeed."

When Fabian heard that, his brows furrowed further, and his expression darkened further.

A beautiful waitress brought Evan's coffee over with a smile. He elegantly took a sip and continued, "I heard what she said before she left. She's worried about her daughter's physical condition. Did you not tell her about Lily's condition?"

Fabian looked at the black tea latte, which was left untouched and still steaming hot, then gave a low chuckle.

"There's no need for her to know."

"Tch. 'There's no need'," Even said, smiling while he repeated those four words. "You've saved her daughter's life, and you're saying 'there's no need'. When did you become so generous, Mr. Johnson?"

Even mocked, though the look on his face seemed more serious.

"I'm curious, actually. Back then, didn't you tell me to stop caring about the little girl? You asked me to let her run her course. You also told me that there was no need to find a suitable bone marrow for her.

"Why did you suddenly change your mind then? Is it possible that you're imitating that woman, speaking empty words, Mr. Johnson?"

This piqued Evan's interest. All this while, he had always been confused about this, but every time he asked, Fabian would not speak anything of it. This time, he decided to try his luck again to see whether Fabian would relent.

However, Fabian still did not relent.

He got up, left the café, and drove straight to the villa. Evan drove too, following behind Fabian.

After they had parked, Fabian came straight to Lillian's room.

Lillian would usually be asleep at this hour.

Fabian cautiously walked to the bedside. When he saw the faint blush on Lillian's cheeks, he could not help but smile.

“The way you’re looking at her seems like you’re looking at something precious.”

Fabian averted his gaze and disapprovingly glared at Evan.

“Get out.”

Fabian said and turned around to leave.

Evan looked at Lillian, who was deep in slumber, holding her doll. He smiled knowingly before turning around.

In the study.

Evan sat down on the sofa, then placed his long legs on the coffee table as though this was his home.

“Fabian, is there any relationship between you and the little girl? Don’t you hate her parents? Why did you save her then?”

Fabian took a piece of candy from the candy jar on the desk. He gently opened it, then put it into his mouth.

“You truly want to know?”

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Fabian's knowing gaze fell upon Evan's face.

The candy in his mouth was sour and sweet, but he seemed unable to taste any of the sweetness, and an unknown bitter taste went from his throat straight to his heart.

"I'm quite interested to know. I wonder if Mr. Johnson would be willing to tell me the story behind this."

Evan was full of curiosity. He and Fabian were considered close childhood friends who grew up together.

He was three years older than Fabian, and they had known each other since they were very young. Yorick had just been a teenager then, and he had neither money nor power. Of course, Fabian had just been a poor student, while Evan's family background was among F Country's circle of the rich and famous.

However, this had not stopped them from being good friends and brothers.

They had similar personalities. Both looked like rich and handsome yet frivolous young masters.

On the other hand, Evan had been more well-known for being the playful one in this circle. However, he was sharply different from this name and even turned out to be an exceptional pediatrician.

As for Fabian, he had now transformed into a businessman with some popularity in F Country.

However, he knew this popularity was mostly because of his brother Yorick.

Fabian did not drink much, but now, he would drink occasionally.

Now, he opened a bottle of red wine, poured a cup for Evan, then handed it over. He took a small sip himself too.

The red wine's fine taste danced on his taste buds, mixing with the taste of the candy from just now, creating a subtle taste that Fabian had never tasted before.

This made Fabian recall the first time he met Lillian.

She had been such a young, pure, and adorable child. She would hug him and kiss him so innocently.

Back then, the moonlight shone on the pure, adorable, smiling face. He could still recall that he blushed slightly because his friends had been sniggering behind.

“Fabian, what are you smiling at? Aren’t you telling me the story? Why are you not speaking and smiling to yourself?”

Evan suddenly ridiculed him.

Fabian immediately returned to his senses, realizing that, as he was reminiscing about the first time he had met little Lillian, he was grinning without his volition.

However, he did not feel uneasy at all.

He downed the wine in his glass in a carefree manner, then turned to face Evan, who looked curious.

“Evan, I’ve decided that I’ll take care of her and heal her. I want to watch her grow up healthily by my side day by day.”

Evan thought he had misheard Fabian, staring blankly at Fabian.

“Fabian, what are you doing?”

However, Fabian spoke no further. The smile on his face became brighter.

Knock knock knock.

The knocking sounded from the study room door.

Fabian lifted his eyes and saw the maid standing by the door as she softly knocked on it.

“What is it?” He asked.

“Young Master Fabian, there’s a woman downstairs. She said that she’s here to take her daughter home, ” the maid politely reported.

When Fabian and Evan heard this, Madeline’s face immediately appeared in their minds.

Fabian was surprised, but when he looked down from the door of the study, he indeed saw Madeline standing in the living room.

‘Did she manage to find them? ‘No.

'She must have followed them from the cafe.'

"You keep an eye on Lily. Tell the people in the room to avoid making any sound," Fabian urged the maid.

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The servant nodded continuously and immediately turned around and headed over to Lillian's room.

Fabian momentarily stood in place before making his way downstairs, as though he just thought of the words to use as a response.

Evan, who was following behind Fabian, also reached the hall downstairs.

Madeline was standing in the hall and, when she saw Fabian, who was leisurely walking down the stairs, she then walked up to him.

"Lillian's here, right?"

Upon hearing that, Fabian frowned and intended to express the unpleasant feeling within him.

"You might be unaware, Mrs. Whitman, but this is my personal household. Normally, I'd only

entertain my best friends; everyone else is forbidden from entering here.”

Madeline could make out what Fabian was trying to convey from his statement.

She looked at Evan, who was behind Fabian, and immediately recalled that man was the one who she had nearly knocked into in the coffee shop not too long ago.

Evan, noticing Madeline’s gaze upon him, then put on a carefree smile, stepping forward to offer Madeline his hand.

“Nice to meet you, Miss Montgomery. It’s my first time meeting you in person. I’m Fabian’s friend, Laker.”

Although Evan’s smile looked somewhat frivolous, it still looked rather friendly to Madeline.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Laker.”

Madeline politely shook Evan’s hand, then looked at Fabian.

“Fabian, are you truly not going to allow me to meet with my daughter?”

"Lilian isn't here," Fabian said, flat out denying it despite Lilian was in fact sleeping in the bedroom upstairs.

Madeline lifted her eyes to look at her surroundings. In the corner of the sofa, she saw a doll. She also saw, on the coffee table, a flower vase containing a bouquet of powder blue baby's breath.

'All of these are Lily's favorite.'

"I know Lilian's here, Fabian. Hurry up and bring me to see my daughter. Lillian's my child. I have the right to meet her and to bring her away."

Madeline's attitude suddenly became sterner.

However, Fabian shifted his gaze away and replied coldly, "Mrs. Whitman, I'm going to say this one more time. We don't have the person you're

looking for right here. What evidence do you have to prove that Lilian is in my house?"

Fabian counter-questioned with a straight face, causing a surprised look to show on Evan's face.

'This Fabian brat. When did he start telling lies with a straight face?'

He muttered silently, but deep inside him, he had the urge to tell Madeline that Lilian was currently very healthy so that she could be at ease.

However, he could not afford to expose Fabian's lie. Otherwise, it could affect their friendship.

Hence, he might as well just sit on the sofa and watch Madeline argue with Fabian.

Besides, he had always admired Madeline as a perfumer. This moment could finally be his opportunity to admire such a splendid woman. It was not a bad idea.

In the face of Fabian's denial, Madeline opened the photos and videos on her phone which contained the recordings of the surveillance camera that she had copied.

"These are the recordings taken on the surveillance cameras along the streets on the day you took Lilian away. Fabian, you're the one who took Lilian away. Even without these surveillance cameras, with just the bouquet and candy box, I'd still be sure that you're the culprit."

Madeline had seen through everything.

"Fabian, Lilian is sick. She needs treatment. Could you please return my daughter to me right now?!"

Madeline requested with a stern look. This was her first time dealing with Fabian with such a forceful attitude.

After speaking, however, Madeline, uncertain whether it was because she was too emotionally agitated, felt her breath and heartbeat becoming rapid.

She wanted to recompose herself, yet in the meantime, she heard Fabian denying with a determined tone. "I had indeed gone to visit your daughter that day, but later on, I'd already sent someone to send her back to the hospital."

Madeline frowned. "Fabian, you're lying. You..."

As she spoke, she paused; her palms suddenly started to sweat, and her palpitations started to worsen.

Evan, who had been constantly paying attention to Madeline, immediately noticed that there was something amiss with Madeline's expression.

"Miss Montgomery, are you feeling unwell?"

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Evan got up and asked. He felt that Madeline was indeed not in good shape.

Upon hearing that, Fabian only then noticed that Madeline's complexion seemed ill. Even her forehead was starting to have cold sweat.

Madeline slowly realized that the poison within her body was starting to flare up again.

Shirley had mentioned before that the fourth stage would happen soon.

The thought of it made Madeline try her best to prevent this type of situation from happening because she could not afford to be weak at this moment, but she could not overcome the poison that was already flaring up. Nevertheless, Madeline did not allow herself to drop to her knees.

She clenched her fists and continued to stubbornly look into Fabian's eyes.

"Fabian, I've come all the way here to bring Lilian back home. If you're not willing to hand Lilian over to me, that will only leave me with one last option."

Fabian looked at Madeline's face that was slowly turning pale, feeling puzzled. "Given your current

condition, do you think you have what it takes to take your daughter away?"

Madeline chuckled softly and stubbornness glinted in her gorgeous eyes. "As a mother, I'd do anything to ensure my daughter's safety, no matter the cost."

Madeline's comments briefly stunned Fabian.

As he thought of fighting back, he heard Madeline suddenly letting out a moan.

Fabian returned to his senses and looked at her. He saw Madeline biting on her lips, and her face was as pale as a white sheet, bloodless, and her breathing became rapid.

These symptoms seemed familiar, causing Fabian to suddenly recall something.

"Eveline, do you have some disease as well?"

Fabian asked as he made his way over to Madeline.

Madeline suddenly put up her guard and took a step back. "Don't come near me."

Fabian had initially thought Madeline was rejecting him, but then, he heard Madeline muttering, "Jeremy, it really wasn't me who did it. You must believe me..."

Astonished, Fabian looked at Madeline as she spoke those words.

'Did she think that I'm Jeremy?

'Even if she did think that I'm Jeremy, I don't think she'd speak like this, right?'

Fabian, unable to understand it, noticed Madeline's gaze becoming confused, as though it was losing focus and not focusing on anything.

In the meantime, her pale lips kept moving as she continued to mutter to herself, "It wasn't me, it really wasn't me..."

Fabian immediately reminded Evan, "Hurry and check up on her. What's going on with her?"

Evan immediately stepped forward to hold onto Madeline's hand to check on her pulse. However, Madeline shoved Evan's hand as he reached out to her, and she suddenly turned around and ran outside.

Judging from the reactions from earlier, Madeline knew that she had entered the final stage of the poison.

She noticed she had started to mutter gibberish, and memories of utterly unfriendly scenes surfaced in her mind.

She had to quickly inject herself with the anti-toxoid test reagent, but it was placed in the purse in the car.

Fabian and Evan, neither speaking a word, immediately ran along to catch up to Madeline simultaneously.

"Eveline!" Fabian shouted at Madeline's back.

He saw Madeline running toward a black car that was parked at the main entrance not far away.

Fabian guessed that it was probably the car Madeline had rented here.

She had driven that car and followed them all the way here.

'However, isn't she here to look for Lilian? Why did she just suddenly go off?

'No.

'She said she's going to use her last option. Could it be related to her returning to the car?'

As Fabian chased after Madeline, his mind analyzed a lot of possibilities.

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chapter 1786

However, when they were about to catch up to Madeline, they had not expected Madeline, who was sprinting, to suddenly fall in front of the car. "Eveline?!"

Fabian rushed to Madeline's side. As he supported Madeline up by her shoulders, he realized that Madeline had already lost consciousness and had fainted.

Evan walked over to them and quickly placed his fingers over Madeline's wrist, feeling her pulse, analyzing it. Evan then frowned.

"Fab, Eveline's condition seems very suspicious. Bring her to a room now!"

Fabian too noticed that there was some urgency in Madeline's condition and carried Madeline back to the guest room.

With the space being separated by a wall, Madeline and Lilian were both placed in two rooms.

After carrying Madeline to the bed, Fabian had Evan conduct a checkup on Madeline again.

Even though Evan was a pediatrician, he had still mastered the basic medical checkup procedures.

However, at that moment, he was unable to make out the problem with Madeline.

“Palpitations, cold sweat, and erratic breathing.

I’ve seen such conditions before, but her symptoms seem to be different from ordinary patients.”

Evan felt troubled, and at that moment, he heard Madeline’s semi-consciously talking in her dream. “Jeremy, you must believe me, even if it’s just once, please...”

Despite Madeline’s very weak voice, Fabian and Evan could hear it crystal clear.

“Who’s Jeremy?” Evan asked curiously.

“The number one young master of Glendale. He’s Eveline’s husband, Jeremy Whitman, ” Fabian explained.

Evan was more puzzled when he heard it.

‘Just under what circumstances would Madeline shout for her husband in such a lowly manner, begging him to believe her?’

Evan gave it a thought, then provided a suggestion. “Fab, Eveline’s condition is already beyond my

knowledge. Of course, it might be due to my inadequate medical knowledge. Perhaps she just has a weak body. You could just wait until she

wakes before deciding whether or not to send her to the hospital.”

“I’ll now send her over to the hospital.” Fabian made his decision.

Puzzled, Evan looked at him. “Don’t tell me that you’re worried that, when she wakes, she might realize that you’re actually hiding her daughter, so you’re trying to get rid of her as soon as possible?”

In the face of Evan's suspicion, Fabian did not feel like explaining himself.

He quickly carried Madeline and immediately drove his car to the hospital.

Along the journey, Madeline kept on talking in an incomprehensive manner.

Evan could not understand a thing, but Fabian somehow knew a part of it.

He had known Madeline for two years. He had learned about the past between Madeline and Jeremy.

Jeremy had once hurt Madeline very deeply, and the words she spoke in her dreams were perhaps

memories of the great pain she had felt. The phase in which she had suffered the most.

Fabian lowered his eyes to look at Madeline, who was unconscious, and started to have mixed feelings.

Amidst the silence, he softly spoke two words. "Oh, Eveline."

Evan drove the car straight to the private hospital that he had established. After settling Madeline down, Fabian felt much more relieved for some unknown reason.

Fabian had initially thought of waiting until Madeline woke up and after ensuring that she was alright before he returned home. After giving it a second thought, however, he still decided to leave.

He felt that there was no need for him to get involved with Madeline anymore. He bid farewell to Evan and immediately left.

However, as soon as Fabian had driven to and arrived downstairs of his company building, he received a call from Evan.

On the other end of the line, Evan hurriedly said, "Fab, you better come back here quick. Eveline's awake but she seems a little off."

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chapter 1787

After receiving the call, Fabian turned the steering wheel around without hesitation and drove at full throttle back to the hospital.

Evan had placed Madeline in the best VIP ward, but at that moment, he was standing at the

entrance of the ward, not daring to step in and disturb Madeline.

Upon seeing Fabian rushing from the other end of the corridor, Evan pointed at the ward with a worried look. "You'd better go in and have a look for yourself. She seems really weird."

After hearing what Evan had to say, Fabian then looked through the small transparent window on the door and saw Madeline in the ward.

She was hugging both her legs, curled up at a corner, and her expression looked terrified.

Fabian frowned, then opened the door of the ward to enter.

Madeline, who heard the sound, abruptly lifted her eyes to look at him.

The sunlight shone through the window, falling onto Madeline's back, giving a faint layer of halo on the side of her face.

Her pale and lifeless face displayed a messy yet prestigious type of beauty, yet it made her look so helpless and pitiful.

Upon seeing Fabian making his way toward, Madeline's eyes suddenly glinted with mixed feelings.

The anticipation and anxiety interweaved in her gaze made Fabian feel troubled.

"What's wrong with you, Eveline? Do you have some sort of disease?" Fabian approached the bedside and asked bluntly.

After he asked, Madeline's eyes became red, to his surprise.

Fabian was stunned. He also could not believe that Madeline would immediately rush toward him and grasp his sleeve.

"Help me tell Jeremy that I really didn't do anything to harm Jackson. I saw it with my eyes that it was Meredith who took the fruit knife and slashed Jackson's face. It really wasn't me who did it. Jeremy... Why won't he believe me?"

Fabian was confused at this, realizing that he did not know much about what had occurred between Madeline and Jeremy.

However, he had heard about Meredith.

She was a very cruel lady, and it was because of this lady, Madeline had experienced an extraordinarily dark and painful period. A time she did not wish to recall.

“Hiss.”

Madeline suddenly yelled in pain.

She lifted her hands to hold her head. She painfully struggled as tears fell.

“Why won’t he believe me? Even if it’s just once, just once would do...”

“I want to see Jeremy. I want to see him...”

Madeline laid down and muttered, tears streaming out of the corners of her eyes, wetting the bed sheet.

Fabian could not help but feel troubled. Additionally, seeing Madeline’s current condition, not only was she spouting nonsense that he could not understand, her physical condition was still a mess.

When she had pulled him earlier, he could feel that Madeline’s hands were cold, and her breathing seemed to still be erratic.

Fabian could not comprehend it. How did Madeline end up in this state?

A moment ago, she had still been sharp and tough, determined in requesting Fabian to hand Lilian over to her, then the next instant, it was as if she had suddenly become another person.

“Fab, step out for a moment.”

When he heard Evan’s voice from behind, Fabian then snapped out of it.

However, he did not turn around; his eyes remained fixed upon Madeline.

Seeing that Fabian was not responding, Evan reminded him again.

“Fab, come out for now.”

“Given her current state, wouldn’t something happen if no one is keeping an eye on her?” Fabian asked, feeling uneasy.

“We’ll just be outside. Nothing will happen to her. As of now, we have no idea what’s wrong with her. We can’t even prescribe her any medication, ” Evan said helplessly and tapped Fabian’s shoulder, then turned around.

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Fabian momentarily hesitated before turning around.

The two towering men stood at the entrance of the ward. From time to time, they would look into the ward.

They saw that Madeline was still curled up on the hospital bed, eyes shut, frowning. This worried them.

"Fab, did Eveline and her husband not have a good relationship? Why would she speak like that?"

Evan voiced the doubts he had as he started analyzing.

"Besides, the symptoms that she displayed were odd. A second ago, she was a determined lady, the next second, she became an insecure lady. She doesn't have Dissociative Identity Disorder, does she?"

Evan ended up reaching such a far-fetched conclusion.

Fabian frowned when he heard this.

“Dissociative Identity Disorder?”

Fabian too was deep in his thoughts, but he felt that the possibility of what Evan had said could be high.

That was because when they contrasted the two versions of Madeline, it truly seemed to match the symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder.

However, he found this peculiar. “Would Dissociative Identity Disorder make one have erratic breathing, palpitation, and even cold sweat?”

Evan confidently shook his head. “It won’t. However, if one develops an extreme personality, they might show such symptoms due to their overly agitated emotions. There is still this possibility.”

“Do you think that’s the case for her?”

“...”

Evan was at a loss for words. He then said honestly, “This is not my specialty, but I can refer you to the best psychiatrist in our hospital.”

Fabian lifted his head and looked at Madeline. "I guess the best psychiatrist would only be him."

After waiting in the hospital for the doctor to inject Madeline with a dose of tranquilizer, Fabian then drove back to his villa, his mind heavy with thoughts.

His servants told him that Lilian had just woken up.

He immediately headed upstairs and came to Lillian's room. He saw the little girl had gotten down from the bed, and she was standing on the balcony, sunbathing.

Fabian glanced at that little outline, and his gaze became much gentler.

He sauntered to Lilian and softly called out to her, "Lily."

Lilian turned around when she heard the sound, her fair little face glowed with a faint pink.

Her complexion seemed to have improved a lot.

Lilian, still unable to speak, could only smile when she saw Fabian approaching.

In Fabian's eyes, that naive, gorgeous smile seemed like an angel smiling at him, making him feel as if his heart was suddenly infused with warmth.

He walked up to Lilian, got down to his knees, then gently held Lillian's little hand.

"Lily, do you feel much better today?"

Lilian gently nodded and blinked her clear, big eyes twice, then she moved her little mouth.

"Mommy."

Fabian was stunned. He knew that, currently, Lilian could only call out "daddy" and "mommy".

However, she called out "mommy" at that moment. 'Could it be because she'd sensed Madeline had been here?'

"Lily, your mom isn't here, " Fabian said gently. He raised his hand and softly pinched Lillian's little face. "It's cold outside. You shouldn't catch a cold, Lily. Let's go back into the room."

Lilian obediently nodded her head. Just when she was about to turn around, Fabian immediately carried her.

He cautiously placed Lilian on the bed and had the servant prepare the daily nutritious meal for Lilian.

He meticulously watched Lilian finish her meal by her side, then accompanied her to watch cartoons. Finally, after he saw that she was sleeping soundly, he turned around.

After he had turned around, however, he could not help but sneak another peek at her.

Seeing her sleepy face, he thought of Madeline. After some thought, he came to a decision.
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chapter 1789

In Glendale.

At this moment, Jeremy was accompanying his youngest son, who was learning to walk, when suddenly, he received a call from Fabian.

He did not see it wrongly as his phone screen had clearly displayed Fabian's name.

Fabian had long ago blacklisted his number. The sudden call from Fabian now gave Jeremy an uneasy feeling.

He had this feeling earlier because when he had phoned Madeline, no one picked up his calls.

Currently, Fabian took the initiative to call him. Jeremy was certain that something must have happened to Madeline.

Jeremy picked up the call without hesitation, and immediately heard Fabian's deep voice from the other side of the call.

"Does your wife have any disease?"

Hearing this made Jeremy think of the poison in Madeline's body.

'The fourth stage of the poison must have flared up!

"Fabian, what happened to Linnie? Tell me quickly!"
" Jeremy pressed Fabian with questions. Without him realizing it, his grip became stronger.

Pudding, who was being held by Jeremy, stared at him with his big eyes. His little face put on a look in a grievance, and he seemed about to cry.

"Daddy..."

He called out to Jeremy in a brittle voice, but this moment, Jeremy's attention was focused on the phone, and he had forgotten that he was still holding onto his son's hand.

Fabian's voice came from the other end of the line.

"She'd fainted two hours ago, and when she woke up, she started muttering nonsense.

"She said, 'Jeremy, I really didn't do it.'

"She even said, 'Jeremy, please believe me, even if it's just once.'"

Upon hearing Fabian's explanation, Jeremy felt as if his heart was suddenly being crushed by something unseen, a type of endless, painful sensation that

spread all over him.

He had also confirmed that the poison in Madeline had flared up.

After the poison had flared up, it would bring this type of mental torment to Madeline.

It would make her recall the most painful memories, and he was well aware that Madeline's most painful memories were from him.

The strength in his hand got stronger without him realizing it again.

When he heard a child's cry next to his ear, Jeremy then noticed his youngest son beside him.

However, currently, he was already not in the mood to care for his son.

"Fabian, where is Linnie right now? Hurry up and tell me!"

"In the hospital."

Fabian said, his tone was neither hurried nor slowed.

" I have a friend who is now keeping an eye on her. Her condition doesn't seem too well, and she has erratic breathing, palpitations, and even cold sweat. In terms of her psychological state, she incessantly mentions your name and has ravings where she asks you to forgive her."

Jeremy felt his heart was being pierced by something unseen.

"Fabian, there must be a vial of anti-toxoid test reagent that Linnie always brings with her. Please help me look for it. Once you've found it, take it to a doctor who knows how to inject it and give Linnie the injection! Linnie will return to normal once she has that injection."

Jeremy's voice was already trembling when he finished speaking.

"Fabian, I'm begging you. I'll rush over to F Country as soon as possible."

"She doesn't have the anti-toxoid test reagent that you mentioned with her." Fabian's words extinguished the only hope that Jeremy had.

"Impossible. I've always reminded her to bring that anti-toxoid test reagent along with her. It should be there. Fabian, please, look for it carefully."

"Anti-toxoid test reagent?"

Suddenly, Fabian immediately recalled the time when Lana had Jeremy ingest those slow-acting poison.

"I got it. I'll go search for it again now."

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"Fabian, are you forcing me to call the cops?"
Madeline turned around and looked at him. "Do you want me to inform the police of your crimes of kidnapping my daughter and threatening her safety?"

As Madeline walked toward Fabian who had his back against her, her sharp eyes betrayed a look of remorse.

"Fabian, could it be that you want to walk the same path that your brother and sister had taken? Are you going to keep testing the limit that shouldn't be tested?"

As Madeline's voice fell, Fabian turned around abruptly.

He stared straight at Madeline, and at this moment, his eyes no longer showed the friendliness and gentleness from back then. Madeline caught sight of a flash of enmity, rage, and conflict in Fabian's eyes.

Conflict. He was conflicted.

The look in Fabian's eyes only calmed down seconds later.

The corners of his lips curled up slightly into a soft smiley.

"Since you have flown all the way here to find me, I couldn't very well dismiss you, Mrs. Whitman.

There's a decent cafe nearby, would you do me the honour of having a drink together?"

Fabian was Madeline's most direct and only way in finding Lillian, so of course, Madeline agreed.

There were not a lot of people in the café during the work hours.

Fabian ordered a cup of black tea latte for Madeline.

"If I recall correctly, you like black tea, Mrs. Whitman." Fabian addressed Madeline in an unfamiliar and distant manner.

Back then, he always had a frivolous smile and would Madeline's name affectionately and intimately.

However, it seemed that there was no returning to those times.

Madeline did not drink the steaming coffee in front of her. She went straight to the point, resuming the original conversation topic from earlier.

“Fabian, you should know I didn’t come all the way here to F Country to have tea with you. I only want my daughter.”

Resentment appeared on Madeline’s delicate and small face.

“ If you’re unhappy with me or Jeremy, just say it. Lily is just a child, and ever since you knew her, that kid has innocently looked to you as her big brother. A good big brother. Please don’t hurt a five -year- old child’s pure heart.”

Fabian finished listening to Madeline with a calm expression and picked up his cup of coffee for a sip.

“I can’t hurt a five -year-old’s heart, but you can recklessly hurt my heart, tearing it into pieces? Do I still deserve it then?”

Madeline’s furrowed slightly. “Why do you say that? Who hurt you?”

“Someone I used to trust. However, in the end, they were just using me this whole time.”

As Fabian spoke, he gazed knowingly at Madeline.

Madeline felt that the person Fabian was referring to was her.

“Are you saying that I used you? That I lied to you?” Madeline was baffled. She was very curious why Fabian would think that and simultaneously found this pathetic.

“Fabian, I don’t know where you’ve heard this or how you’ve got this weird idea. Could you tell me, when did I, Eveline, have used you? How could I have benefited from using you?”

Madeline looked steadily into Fabian’s cold, questioning eyes.

After a while, Fabian then spoke.

“It’s not you who are benefitting from this, but it’s your husband, Jeremy Whitman.”

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Madeline looked stunned upon hearing Fabian’s answer.

“What do you mean? How would Jeremy benefit?”
Madeline was further confused by Fabian’s words.

Fabian sipped his coffee and suddenly chuckled.

“To be more precise, the person who benefited most, in the end, would be Jeremy’s uncle, Felipe.”

“What? ” Madeline was befuddled. “Fabian, could you make yourself clear?”

Fabian’s lips curled slightly as he spoke mockingly, “Jeremy is a high-level Interpol official. Back then, he only stayed with Lana to spy on her, isn’t that right?”

“You only got half of it right, ” Madeline corrected him; her expression was serious. “Jeremy is an Interpol official, but the reason he stayed with Lana, spying on her, was that Lana had tried to kill me by blowing up the yacht back then. She’d wanted to use Jeremy’s amnesia for some illegal business, so Jeremy merely played along.”

“Played along... Hmph.” Fabian scoffed. “He played along indeed. If Lana had deserved this, then what about my brother Yorick?”

“Yorick had violated the law, and he was punished by the law. He suffered the consequences of his

actions, so why do you blame Jeremy for your siblings' deaths?"

"If my brother suffered the consequences of his actions and only had himself to blame, what about Felipe? His crimes were the same as my brother's crimes in F Country. Felipe even instigated a homicide, so why was he able to escape legal sanction?"

As Fabian questioned, there came a change in his emotions, and he became more worked up.

"Jeremy is from Interpol. He and his colleagues had set a trap to capture my brother. Don't tell me that he doesn't know that Felipe had also committed the same crimes? Of course, he knew.

"I've always thought that my brother had himself to blame for the outcome because of the crimes he had committed, but I know now—Jeremy used you, then used me. In the end, my brother became a trophy he got for working with Interpol.

"The reason Lana was killed by Ryan was also related to Jeremy. You two had planned all of this."

Fabian vented out the dissatisfaction in his heart.

After hearing his words, Madeline could finally understand the reason Fabian had been intensely hostile toward them all this time.

Madeline did not know how to explain it, and she felt that no matter how she explained it now, Fabian would not listen to her.

That was why she did not want to waste her breath. She merely watched on calmly as Fabian was speaking.

"Fabian, I hope you can understand one thing. The reason your brother was executed was not that Jeremy had set a trap and captured him. He was captured because he broke the law.

"As for Lana, getting killed by Ryan was the consequence of her actions. She failed to harm others, so she was the one getting harmed in the end. Jeremy was the victim in this entire thing."

Madeline too voiced the dissatisfaction within her heart.

"Jeremy was manipulated by Lana with the poison. Additionally, because of Lana, he was also accused of murder; because of Lana, he was also unable to

help his daughter when she fell, causing Lily to be traumatized. Do you think my husband had asked for this?"

Recalling these incidents made Madeline feel aggrieved on Jeremy's behalf.

"Fabian, ask yourself, could this truly be anything but the consequences that Yorick and Lana had brought upon themselves?"

As Fabian listened to Madeline, his brows furrowed further, and his grip on the coffee cup tightened further as well.

The air around them suddenly felt abnormally chilly, then there came a ringing from the entrance.

It was just the sound indicating customers entering.

"Fabian, my number has not changed. I hope that I'll receive a call from you as soon as possible, and you'll take me to see Lily. You can hate me, but don't hurt a child that genuinely trusts you this much."

After she had finished speaking, Madeline grabbed her bag to leave.

As she turned around, she almost ran into a young man who was walking in her direction.

Madeline hurriedly avoided him, then apologized and walked to the entrance.

A ringing sound came from the door again.

Meanwhile, this sound brought Fabian's wandering thoughts back.

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chapter 1782

He lifted his eyes and looked over. He did not see Madeline but saw Evan sitting before him instead.

"When did you sit here?" Fabian looked confused.

Evan pushed his retro, gold -rimmed glasses and lazily leaned back on the sofa.

"I sat down when you were longingly watching that lady leave. What is it? Do you like older girls?"

After hearing this explanation, Fabian's brows drew together, and he said flatly, " She's Lily's mother."

There was a slight change in Evan's eyes upon hearing that. He then looked in the direction where Madeline had left.

"She's Eveline?" Fabian nodded lightly.

Evan pensively contemplated. "She's different indeed. I almost ran into her just now, and despite the distance, I could still smell the fragrance on her. A perfumer. Special indeed."

When Fabian heard that, his brows furrowed further, and his expression darkened further.

A beautiful waitress brought Evan's coffee over with a smile. He elegantly took a sip and continued, "I heard what she said before she left. She's worried about her daughter's physical condition. Did you not tell her about Lily's condition?"

Fabian looked at the black tea latte, which was left untouched and still steaming hot, then gave a low chuckle.

"There's no need for her to know."

"Tch. 'There's no need'," Even said, smiling while he repeated those four words. "You've saved her daughter's life, and you're saying 'there's no need'. When did you become so generous, Mr. Johnson?"

Even mocked, though the look on his face seemed more serious.

"I'm curious, actually. Back then, didn't you tell me to stop caring about the little girl? You asked me to let her run her course. You also told me that there was no need to find a suitable bone marrow for her.

"Why did you suddenly change your mind then? Is it possible that you're imitating that woman, speaking empty words, Mr. Johnson?"

This piqued Evan's interest. All this while, he had always been confused about this, but every time he asked, Fabian would not speak anything of it. This time, he decided to try his luck again to see whether Fabian would relent.

However, Fabian still did not relent.

He got up, left the café, and drove straight to the villa. Evan drove too, following behind Fabian.

After they had parked, Fabian came straight to Lillian's room.

Lillian would usually be asleep at this hour.

Fabian cautiously walked to the bedside. When he saw the faint blush on Lillian's cheeks, he could not help but smile.

“The way you’re looking at her seems like you’re looking at something precious.”

Fabian averted his gaze and disapprovingly glared at Evan.

“Get out.”

Fabian said and turned around to leave.

Evan looked at Lillian, who was deep in slumber, holding her doll. He smiled knowingly before turning around.

In the study.

Evan sat down on the sofa, then placed his long legs on the coffee table as though this was his home.

“Fabian, is there any relationship between you and the little girl? Don’t you hate her parents? Why did you save her then?”

Fabian took a piece of candy from the candy jar on the desk. He gently opened it, then put it into his mouth.

“You truly want to know?”

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Fabian's knowing gaze fell upon Evan's face.

The candy in his mouth was sour and sweet, but he seemed unable to taste any of the sweetness, and an unknown bitter taste went from his throat straight to his heart.

"I'm quite interested to know. I wonder if Mr. Johnson would be willing to tell me the story behind this."

Evan was full of curiosity. He and Fabian were considered close childhood friends who grew up together.

He was three years older than Fabian, and they had known each other since they were very young. Yorick had just been a teenager then, and he had neither money nor power. Of course, Fabian had just been a poor student, while Evan's family background was among F Country's circle of the rich and famous.

However, this had not stopped them from being good friends and brothers.

They had similar personalities. Both looked like rich and handsome yet frivolous young masters.

On the other hand, Evan had been more well-known for being the playful one in this circle. However, he was sharply different from this name and even turned out to be an exceptional pediatrician.

As for Fabian, he had now transformed into a businessman with some popularity in F Country.

However, he knew this popularity was mostly because of his brother Yorick.

Fabian did not drink much, but now, he would drink occasionally.

Now, he opened a bottle of red wine, poured a cup for Evan, then handed it over. He took a small sip himself too.

The red wine's fine taste danced on his taste buds, mixing with the taste of the candy from just now, creating a subtle taste that Fabian had never tasted before.

This made Fabian recall the first time he met Lillian.

She had been such a young, pure, and adorable child. She would hug him and kiss him so innocently.

Back then, the moonlight shone on the pure, adorable, smiling face. He could still recall that he blushed slightly because his friends had been sniggering behind.

“Fabian, what are you smiling at? Aren’t you telling me the story? Why are you not speaking and smiling to yourself?”

Evan suddenly ridiculed him.

Fabian immediately returned to his senses, realizing that, as he was reminiscing about the first time he had met little Lillian, he was grinning without his volition.

However, he did not feel uneasy at all.

He downed the wine in his glass in a carefree manner, then turned to face Evan, who looked curious.

“Evan, I’ve decided that I’ll take care of her and heal her. I want to watch her grow up healthily by my side day by day.”

Evan thought he had misheard Fabian, staring blankly at Fabian.

“Fabian, what are you doing?”

However, Fabian spoke no further. The smile on his face became brighter.

Knock knock knock.

The knocking sounded from the study room door.

Fabian lifted his eyes and saw the maid standing by the door as she softly knocked on it.

“What is it?” He asked.

“Young Master Fabian, there’s a woman downstairs. She said that she’s here to take her daughter home, ” the maid politely reported.

When Fabian and Evan heard this, Madeline’s face immediately appeared in their minds.

Fabian was surprised, but when he looked down from the door of the study, he indeed saw Madeline standing in the living room.

‘Did she manage to find them? ‘No.

'She must have followed them from the cafe.'

"You keep an eye on Lily. Tell the people in the room to avoid making any sound," Fabian urged the maid.

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The servant nodded continuously and immediately turned around and headed over to Lillian's room.

Fabian momentarily stood in place before making his way downstairs, as though he just thought of the words to use as a response.

Evan, who was following behind Fabian, also reached the hall downstairs.

Madeline was standing in the hall and, when she saw Fabian, who was leisurely walking down the stairs, she then walked up to him.

"Lillian's here, right?"

Upon hearing that, Fabian frowned and intended to express the unpleasant feeling within him.

"You might be unaware, Mrs. Whitman, but this is my personal household. Normally, I'd only

entertain my best friends; everyone else is forbidden from entering here.”

Madeline could make out what Fabian was trying to convey from his statement.

She looked at Evan, who was behind Fabian, and immediately recalled that man was the one who she had nearly knocked into in the coffee shop not too long ago.

Evan, noticing Madeline’s gaze upon him, then put on a carefree smile, stepping forward to offer Madeline his hand.

“Nice to meet you, Miss Montgomery. It’s my first time meeting you in person. I’m Fabian’s friend, Laker.”

Although Evan’s smile looked somewhat frivolous, it still looked rather friendly to Madeline.

“Nice to meet you, Mr. Laker.”

Madeline politely shook Evan’s hand, then looked at Fabian.

“Fabian, are you truly not going to allow me to meet with my daughter?”

"Lilian isn't here," Fabian said, flat out denying it despite Lilian was in fact sleeping in the bedroom upstairs.

Madeline lifted her eyes to look at her surroundings. In the corner of the sofa, she saw a doll. She also saw, on the coffee table, a flower vase containing a bouquet of powder blue baby's breath.

'All of these are Lily's favorite.'

"I know Lilian's here, Fabian. Hurry up and bring me to see my daughter. Lillian's my child. I have the right to meet her and to bring her away."

Madeline's attitude suddenly became sterner.

However, Fabian shifted his gaze away and replied coldly, "Mrs. Whitman, I'm going to say this one more time. We don't have the person you're

looking for right here. What evidence do you have to prove that Lilian is in my house?"

Fabian counter-questioned with a straight face, causing a surprised look to show on Evan's face.

'This Fabian brat. When did he start telling lies with a straight face?'

He muttered silently, but deep inside him, he had the urge to tell Madeline that Lilian was currently very healthy so that she could be at ease.

However, he could not afford to expose Fabian's lie. Otherwise, it could affect their friendship.

Hence, he might as well just sit on the sofa and watch Madeline argue with Fabian.

Besides, he had always admired Madeline as a perfumer. This moment could finally be his opportunity to admire such a splendid woman. It was not a bad idea.

In the face of Fabian's denial, Madeline opened the photos and videos on her phone which contained the recordings of the surveillance camera that she had copied.

"These are the recordings taken on the surveillance cameras along the streets on the day you took Lilian away. Fabian, you're the one who took Lilian away. Even without these surveillance cameras, with just the bouquet and candy box, I'd still be sure that you're the culprit."

Madeline had seen through everything.

“Fabian, Lilian is sick. She needs treatment. Could you please return my daughter to me right now?! “

Madeline requested with a stern look. This was her first time dealing with Fabian with such a forceful attitude.

After speaking, however, Madeline, uncertain whether it was because she was too emotionally agitated, felt her breath and heartbeat becoming rapid.

She wanted to recompose herself, yet in the meantime, she heard Fabian denying with a determined tone. “I had indeed gone to visit your daughter that day, but later on, I’d already sent someone to send her back to the hospital.”
Madeline frowned. “Fabian, you’re lying. You...”

As she spoke, she paused; her palms suddenly started to sweat, and her palpitations started to worsen.

Evan, who had been constantly paying attention to Madeline, immediately noticed that there was something amiss with Madeline’s expression.

“Miss Montgomery, are you feeling unwell?”
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Evan got up and asked. He felt that Madeline was indeed not in good shape.

Upon hearing that, Fabian only then noticed that Madeline's complexion seemed ill. Even her forehead was starting to have cold sweat.

Madeline slowly realized that the poison within her body was starting to flare up again.

Shirley had mentioned before that the fourth stage would happen soon.

The thought of it made Madeline try her best to prevent this type of situation from happening because she could not afford to be weak at this moment, but she could not overcome the poison that was already flaring up. Nevertheless, Madeline did not allow herself to drop to her knees.

She clenched her fists and continued to stubbornly look into Fabian's eyes.

"Fabian, I've come all the way here to bring Lilian back home. If you're not willing to hand Lilian over to me, that will only leave me with one last option."

Fabian looked at Madeline's face that was slowly turning pale, feeling puzzled. "Given your current

condition, do you think you have what it takes to take your daughter away?"

Madeline chuckled softly and stubbornness glinted in her gorgeous eyes. "As a mother, I'd do anything to ensure my daughter's safety, no matter the cost."

Madeline's comments briefly stunned Fabian.

As he thought of fighting back, he heard Madeline suddenly letting out a moan.

Fabian returned to his senses and looked at her. He saw Madeline biting on her lips, and her face was as pale as a white sheet, bloodless, and her breathing became rapid.

These symptoms seemed familiar, causing Fabian to suddenly recall something.

"Eveline, do you have some disease as well?"

Fabian asked as he made his way over to Madeline.

Madeline suddenly put up her guard and took a step back. "Don't come near me."

Fabian had initially thought Madeline was rejecting him, but then, he heard Madeline muttering, "Jeremy, it really wasn't me who did it. You must believe me..."

Astonished, Fabian looked at Madeline as she spoke those words.

'Did she think that I'm Jeremy?

'Even if she did think that I'm Jeremy, I don't think she'd speak like this, right?'

Fabian, unable to understand it, noticed Madeline's gaze becoming confused, as though it was losing focus and not focusing on anything.

In the meantime, her pale lips kept moving as she continued to mutter to herself, "It wasn't me, it really wasn't me..."

Fabian immediately reminded Evan, "Hurry and check up on her. What's going on with her?"

Evan immediately stepped forward to hold onto Madeline's hand to check on her pulse. However, Madeline shoved Evan's hand as he reached out to her, and she suddenly turned around and ran outside.

Judging from the reactions from earlier, Madeline knew that she had entered the final stage of the poison.

She noticed she had started to mutter gibberish, and memories of utterly unfriendly scenes surfaced in her mind.

She had to quickly inject herself with the anti-toxoid test reagent, but it was placed in the purse in the car.

Fabian and Evan, neither speaking a word, immediately ran along to catch up to Madeline simultaneously.

"Eveline!" Fabian shouted at Madeline's back.

He saw Madeline running toward a black car that was parked at the main entrance not far away.

Fabian guessed that it was probably the car Madeline had rented here.

She had driven that car and followed them all the way here.

'However, isn't she here to look for Lilian? Why did she just suddenly go off?

'No.

'She said she's going to use her last option. Could it be related to her returning to the car?'

As Fabian chased after Madeline, his mind analyzed a lot of possibilities.

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chapter 1786

However, when they were about to catch up to Madeline, they had not expected Madeline, who was sprinting, to suddenly fall in front of the car. "Eveline?!"

Fabian rushed to Madeline's side. As he supported Madeline up by her shoulders, he realized that Madeline had already lost consciousness and had fainted.

Evan walked over to them and quickly placed his fingers over Madeline's wrist, feeling her pulse, analyzing it. Evan then frowned.

"Fab, Eveline's condition seems very suspicious. Bring her to a room now!"

Fabian too noticed that there was some urgency in Madeline's condition and carried Madeline back to the guest room.

With the space being separated by a wall, Madeline and Lilian were both placed in two rooms.

After carrying Madeline to the bed, Fabian had Evan conduct a checkup on Madeline again.

Even though Evan was a pediatrician, he had still mastered the basic medical checkup procedures.

However, at that moment, he was unable to make out the problem with Madeline.

“Palpitations, cold sweat, and erratic breathing.

I’ve seen such conditions before, but her symptoms seem to be different from ordinary patients.”

Evan felt troubled, and at that moment, he heard Madeline’s semi-consciously talking in her dream. “Jeremy, you must believe me, even if it’s just once, please...”

Despite Madeline’s very weak voice, Fabian and Evan could hear it crystal clear.

“Who’s Jeremy?” Evan asked curiously.

“The number one young master of Glendale. He’s Eveline’s husband, Jeremy Whitman, ” Fabian explained.

Evan was more puzzled when he heard it.

‘Just under what circumstances would Madeline shout for her husband in such a lowly manner, begging him to believe her?’

Evan gave it a thought, then provided a suggestion. “Fab, Eveline’s condition is already beyond my

knowledge. Of course, it might be due to my inadequate medical knowledge. Perhaps she just has a weak body. You could just wait until she

wakes before deciding whether or not to send her to the hospital.”

“I’ll now send her over to the hospital.” Fabian made his decision.

Puzzled, Evan looked at him. “Don’t tell me that you’re worried that, when she wakes, she might realize that you’re actually hiding her daughter, so you’re trying to get rid of her as soon as possible?”

In the face of Evan's suspicion, Fabian did not feel like explaining himself.

He quickly carried Madeline and immediately drove his car to the hospital.

Along the journey, Madeline kept on talking in an incomprehensive manner.

Evan could not understand a thing, but Fabian somehow knew a part of it.

He had known Madeline for two years. He had learned about the past between Madeline and Jeremy.

Jeremy had once hurt Madeline very deeply, and the words she spoke in her dreams were perhaps

memories of the great pain she had felt. The phase in which she had suffered the most.

Fabian lowered his eyes to look at Madeline, who was unconscious, and started to have mixed feelings.

Amidst the silence, he softly spoke two words. "Oh, Eveline."

Evan drove the car straight to the private hospital that he had established. After settling Madeline down, Fabian felt much more relieved for some unknown reason.

Fabian had initially thought of waiting until Madeline woke up and after ensuring that she was alright before he returned home. After giving it a second thought, however, he still decided to leave.

He felt that there was no need for him to get involved with Madeline anymore. He bid farewell to Evan and immediately left.

However, as soon as Fabian had driven to and arrived downstairs of his company building, he received a call from Evan.

On the other end of the line, Evan hurriedly said, "Fab, you better come back here quick. Eveline's awake but she seems a little off."

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chapter 1787

After receiving the call, Fabian turned the steering wheel around without hesitation and drove at full throttle back to the hospital.

Evan had placed Madeline in the best VIP ward, but at that moment, he was standing at the

entrance of the ward, not daring to step in and disturb Madeline.

Upon seeing Fabian rushing from the other end of the corridor, Evan pointed at the ward with a worried look. "You'd better go in and have a look for yourself. She seems really weird."

After hearing what Evan had to say, Fabian then looked through the small transparent window on the door and saw Madeline in the ward.

She was hugging both her legs, curled up at a corner, and her expression looked terrified.

Fabian frowned, then opened the door of the ward to enter.

Madeline, who heard the sound, abruptly lifted her eyes to look at him.

The sunlight shone through the window, falling onto Madeline's back, giving a faint layer of halo on the side of her face.

Her pale and lifeless face displayed a messy yet prestigious type of beauty, yet it made her look so helpless and pitiful.

Upon seeing Fabian making his way toward, Madeline's eyes suddenly glinted with mixed feelings.

The anticipation and anxiety interweaved in her gaze made Fabian feel troubled.

"What's wrong with you, Eveline? Do you have some sort of disease?" Fabian approached the bedside and asked bluntly.

After he asked, Madeline's eyes became red, to his surprise.

Fabian was stunned. He also could not believe that Madeline would immediately rush toward him and grasp his sleeve.

"Help me tell Jeremy that I really didn't do anything to harm Jackson. I saw it with my eyes that it was Meredith who took the fruit knife and slashed Jackson's face. It really wasn't me who did it. Jeremy... Why won't he believe me?"

Fabian was confused at this, realizing that he did not know much about what had occurred between Madeline and Jeremy.

However, he had heard about Meredith.

She was a very cruel lady, and it was because of this lady, Madeline had experienced an extraordinarily dark and painful period. A time she did not wish to recall.

“Hiss.”

Madeline suddenly yelled in pain.

She lifted her hands to hold her head. She painfully struggled as tears fell.

“Why won’t he believe me? Even if it’s just once, just once would do...”

“I want to see Jeremy. I want to see him...”

Madeline laid down and muttered, tears streaming out of the corners of her eyes, wetting the bed sheet.

Fabian could not help but feel troubled. Additionally, seeing Madeline’s current condition, not only was she spouting nonsense that he could not understand, her physical condition was still a mess.

When she had pulled him earlier, he could feel that Madeline’s hands were cold, and her breathing seemed to still be erratic.

Fabian could not comprehend it. How did Madeline end up in this state?

A moment ago, she had still been sharp and tough, determined in requesting Fabian to hand Lilian over to her, then the next instant, it was as if she had suddenly become another person.

“Fab, step out for a moment.”

When he heard Evan’s voice from behind, Fabian then snapped out of it.

However, he did not turn around; his eyes remained fixed upon Madeline.

Seeing that Fabian was not responding, Evan reminded him again.

“Fab, come out for now.”

“Given her current state, wouldn’t something happen if no one is keeping an eye on her?” Fabian asked, feeling uneasy.

“We’ll just be outside. Nothing will happen to her. As of now, we have no idea what’s wrong with her. We can’t even prescribe her any medication, ” Evan said helplessly and tapped Fabian’s shoulder, then turned around.

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Fabian momentarily hesitated before turning around.

The two towering men stood at the entrance of the ward. From time to time, they would look into the ward.

They saw that Madeline was still curled up on the hospital bed, eyes shut, frowning. This worried them.

"Fab, did Eveline and her husband not have a good relationship? Why would she speak like that?"

Evan voiced the doubts he had as he started analyzing.

"Besides, the symptoms that she displayed were odd. A second ago, she was a determined lady, the next second, she became an insecure lady. She doesn't have Dissociative Identity Disorder, does she?"

Evan ended up reaching such a far-fetched conclusion.

Fabian frowned when he heard this.

“Dissociative Identity Disorder?”

Fabian too was deep in his thoughts, but he felt that the possibility of what Evan had said could be high.

That was because when they contrasted the two versions of Madeline, it truly seemed to match the symptoms of Dissociative Identity Disorder.

However, he found this peculiar. “Would Dissociative Identity Disorder make one have erratic breathing, palpitation, and even cold sweat?”

Evan confidently shook his head. “It won’t. However, if one develops an extreme personality, they might show such symptoms due to their overly agitated emotions. There is still this possibility.”

“Do you think that’s the case for her?”

“...”

Evan was at a loss for words. He then said honestly, “This is not my specialty, but I can refer you to the best psychiatrist in our hospital.”

Fabian lifted his head and looked at Madeline. "I guess the best psychiatrist would only be him."

After waiting in the hospital for the doctor to inject Madeline with a dose of tranquilizer, Fabian then drove back to his villa, his mind heavy with thoughts.

His servants told him that Lilian had just woken up.

He immediately headed upstairs and came to Lillian's room. He saw the little girl had gotten down from the bed, and she was standing on the balcony, sunbathing.

Fabian glanced at that little outline, and his gaze became much gentler.

He sauntered to Lilian and softly called out to her, "Lily."

Lilian turned around when she heard the sound, her fair little face glowed with a faint pink.

Her complexion seemed to have improved a lot.

Lilian, still unable to speak, could only smile when she saw Fabian approaching.

In Fabian's eyes, that naive, gorgeous smile seemed like an angel smiling at him, making him feel as if his heart was suddenly infused with warmth.

He walked up to Lilian, got down to his knees, then gently held Lillian's little hand.

"Lily, do you feel much better today?"

Lilian gently nodded and blinked her clear, big eyes twice, then she moved her little mouth.

"Mommy."

Fabian was stunned. He knew that, currently, Lilian could only call out "daddy" and "mommy".

However, she called out "mommy" at that moment. 'Could it be because she'd sensed Madeline had been here?'

"Lily, your mom isn't here, " Fabian said gently. He raised his hand and softly pinched Lillian's little face. "It's cold outside. You shouldn't catch a cold, Lily. Let's go back into the room."

Lilian obediently nodded her head. Just when she was about to turn around, Fabian immediately carried her.

He cautiously placed Lilian on the bed and had the servant prepare the daily nutritious meal for Lilian.

He meticulously watched Lilian finish her meal by her side, then accompanied her to watch cartoons. Finally, after he saw that she was sleeping soundly, he turned around.

After he had turned around, however, he could not help but sneak another peek at her.

Seeing her sleepy face, he thought of Madeline. After some thought, he came to a decision.
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chapter 1789

In Glendale.

At this moment, Jeremy was accompanying his youngest son, who was learning to walk, when suddenly, he received a call from Fabian.

He did not see it wrongly as his phone screen had clearly displayed Fabian's name.

Fabian had long ago blacklisted his number. The sudden call from Fabian now gave Jeremy an uneasy feeling.

He had this feeling earlier because when he had phoned Madeline, no one picked up his calls.

Currently, Fabian took the initiative to call him. Jeremy was certain that something must have happened to Madeline.

Jeremy picked up the call without hesitation, and immediately heard Fabian's deep voice from the other side of the call.

"Does your wife have any disease?"

Hearing this made Jeremy think of the poison in Madeline's body.

'The fourth stage of the poison must have flared up!

"Fabian, what happened to Linnie? Tell me quickly!"
" Jeremy pressed Fabian with questions. Without him realizing it, his grip became stronger.

Pudding, who was being held by Jeremy, stared at him with his big eyes. His little face put on a look in a grievance, and he seemed about to cry.

"Daddy..."

He called out to Jeremy in a brittle voice, but this moment, Jeremy's attention was focused on the phone, and he had forgotten that he was still holding onto his son's hand.

Fabian's voice came from the other end of the line.

"She'd fainted two hours ago, and when she woke up, she started muttering nonsense.

"She said, 'Jeremy, I really didn't do it.'

"She even said, 'Jeremy, please believe me, even if it's just once.'"

Upon hearing Fabian's explanation, Jeremy felt as if his heart was suddenly being crushed by something unseen, a type of endless, painful sensation that

spread all over him.

He had also confirmed that the poison in Madeline had flared up.

After the poison had flared up, it would bring this type of mental torment to Madeline.

It would make her recall the most painful memories, and he was well aware that Madeline's most painful memories were from him.

The strength in his hand got stronger without him realizing it again.

When he heard a child's cry next to his ear, Jeremy then noticed his youngest son beside him.

However, currently, he was already not in the mood to care for his son.

"Fabian, where is Linnie right now? Hurry up and tell me!"

"In the hospital."

Fabian said, his tone was neither hurried nor slowed.

" I have a friend who is now keeping an eye on her. Her condition doesn't seem too well, and she has erratic breathing, palpitations, and even cold sweat. In terms of her psychological state, she incessantly mentions your name and has ravings where she asks you to forgive her."

Jeremy felt his heart was being pierced by something unseen.

"Fabian, there must be a vial of anti-toxoid test reagent that Linnie always brings with her. Please help me look for it. Once you've found it, take it to a doctor who knows how to inject it and give Linnie the injection! Linnie will return to normal once she has that injection."

Jeremy's voice was already trembling when he finished speaking.

"Fabian, I'm begging you. I'll rush over to F Country as soon as possible."

"She doesn't have the anti-toxoid test reagent that you mentioned with her." Fabian's words extinguished the only hope that Jeremy had.

"Impossible. I've always reminded her to bring that anti-toxoid test reagent along with her. It should be there. Fabian, please, look for it carefully."

"Anti-toxoid test reagent?"

Suddenly, Fabian immediately recalled the time when Lana had Jeremy ingest those slow-acting poison.

"I got it. I'll go search for it again now."

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Fabian hung up the call and immediately called Evan.

"Do me a favor and see whether there's a vial of anti-toxoid test reagent on Madeline. If there is one, immediately inject her with it. You're a doctor so the injection should be a small matter to you. Hurry.

Fabian immediately hung up, not giving Evan any opportunity to reject him.

Naturally, as a doctor, Evan would not reject such a request.

However, he glanced at Madeline, who had been injected with a tranquilizer, and could not help but find this suspicious.

'Would this be inappropriate?'

However, it was a doctor's job to save lives. Be it a pediatrician or some other specialist, they share the same responsibility.

He pulled the blanket away and searched through Madeline's clothing, but he did not manage to find the anti-toxoid test reagent that Fabian mentioned.

He then quickly called Fabian, who was already rushing to the hospital.

After arriving at the hospital, Fabian meticulously searched through all the pockets on Madeline's clothing. Indeed, there was no anti-toxoid test reagent that Jeremy mentioned.

"Fab, you mentioned looking for an anti-toxoid test reagent to cure the poison? Has Madeline been poisoned?"

Fabian remained silent, belying what he knew in his heart.

'This must be similar to the poison that Lana gave to Jeremy a long time ago.'

He found this odd. 'How did Eveline get poisoned as well?'

"Why don't we wait until she's awake, then have her tell us where she put the anti-toxoid test reagent?"

"I'm afraid she'll be worse than before after she wakes up," Fabian guessed.

The truth was indeed exactly as he imagined. After the effect of the tranquilizer wore off, Madeline woke up.

However, after Madeline had woken up, it was just like what Fabian had predicted. Her mental state worsened.

She looked like she was in much more anguish than before. Her eyes were unfocused, and she kept on muttering Jeremy's name and saying things like asking Jeremy to believe in her.

Fabian looked at her and felt a sudden heartache.

"You claimed to want to seek revenge on his wife, but I see that you're quite concerned for her," Evan said playfully and casually as he stood beside Fabian, yet he saw Fabian's expression suddenly become serious.

"Back when I first met her, I was truly captivated by her beauty. She's the most stunning lady I've ever seen."

Fabian praised Madeline's appearance from the bottom of his heart.

“From the very beginning when I first got to know her, however, she already had eyes for someone else. Hence, I didn’t develop any feelings for her. That was also the reason that I called her Eveline when I first met her.

” She’s smart, extremely brave, and talented. She has encountered many unfortunate events, yet she still managed to overcome them.

“This time, I believe she will overcome it as well.”

Fabian’s comment was suffused with wonderful hope and blessing.

After he spoke, Fabian frowned and turned around to leave, a conflicting expression playing on his countenance.

Evan shrugged his. He had a general understanding of Fabian’s reason for behaving this way.

Fabian had thought of seeking revenge, but he could not resist befriending Madeline, caring for her as a brother would a sister.

Indeed, Fabian was having contradicting thoughts just as Evan thought.

Despite that, he still decided to call Jeremy to inform him of the situation, but Jeremy had his phone switched off.

'He switched off his phone at such a moment.'

Fabian could only think of one possibility. Jeremy, with a speed that was beyond imagination, was boarding the plane for the sake of Madeline.

A few hours later, Fabian indeed received the call from Jeremy when Jeremy had arrived at F Country.

He was not evasive, and he immediately told him the location of the hospital.

Jeremy immediately took a cab and rushed to the hospital, and saw Fabian, who he had not seen after so long, in front of the entrance of the ward.

Fabian saw Jeremy, and without a second's delay, Fabian looked in the direction of the ward. "She's inside. Go in and see it for yourself."

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chapter 1791

Jeremy's gaze then fell upon the little window on the door of the ward.

He looked into the ward and saw Madeline's thin back.

Jeremy felt a pinch in his heart and immediately opened the door of the ward.

"A word of advice."

Fabian's voice came from behind Jeremy.

"She might be agitated, and she also might not be able to recognize you. Best be mentally prepared."

After hearing Fabian's so-called advice, Jeremy gently closed the door.

He looked at Madeline, who was hugging her legs, curled up at the edge of the bed, as he slowly made his way toward her.

"It's not me. I really didn't do such a thing. Jeremy, why won't you believe me..."

When Jeremy was halfway toward her, he suddenly heard Madeline muttering such a comment.

The words Madeline had spoken were like a sharp sword piercing straight into his heart.

His footsteps that were getting closer to her suddenly stopped on their own accord as he kept hearing Madeline muttering to herself continuously.

“You’re the one who said that you’ll marry me when I grow up. Why did you have to be so disgusted with me even when you’re not willing to marry me?”

“Why don’t you believe me even once? Just only once will do.”

“I only love you, Jeremy. Why do I have to pay such a price for loving you? Why do you believe anything Meredith says? Jeremy, why...”

Jeremy felt even more heartbroken when he heard it.

At that moment, he felt that he did not even have the right to approach Madeline.

The past he wished not to see slowly surged into his mind. Those were the scenes of him causing her harm.

‘How could you be so cruel, Jeremy Whitman. You truly were one cruel person back then. How cold-

hearted could you be to cruelly harm a lady who loved you this much?’

“Linnie...”

Jeremy choked and his eyes reddened. Without him realizing it, he softly blurted Madeline’s name.

However, even though he said it softly, it was as if Madeline had heard it.

She stopped muttering and slowly turned around to look behind her.

The moment she locked eyes with Jeremy, Madeline’s eyes suddenly glowed.

“It really wasn’t me.”

She said softly, emphasizing that statement to Jeremy.

The moment Jeremy looked into Madeline’s helpless and hurtful eyes, Jeremy was at a loss for words.

He choked and his Adam’s apple moved as he made his way to Madeline again.

Her pale and devastated face seemed entirely different from back when they had separated at the airport.

Jeremy walked to the bedside and raised his hand toward Madeline's face. "Linnie."

Madeline paused when she heard it. She quickly tilted her head away, her eyes glinting in a way that she was putting up her guard.

"Who are you? I want to see Jeremy. Where's Jeremy? I want to see him."

Jeremy's outstretched hand suddenly froze in mid-air.

"Linnie, I'm Jeremy. Don't you recognize me anymore?"

Madeline examined Jeremy's appearance, then shook her head with a straight face. "You're not Jeremy. Jeremy won't greet me that way. He'd even feel disgusted with my name. How would he even call me Linnie? Who the hell are you? Why are you impersonating Jeremy? Did Meredith sent you here? What do you want?!"

Madeline's attitude became more alert.

She staggered as she got up and tried to evade Jeremy, who was approaching her.

“Who the hell are you guys? Why won’t you guys let me out, preventing me from seeing Jeremy? It must be Meredith. She sent you guys here to keep an eye on me!”

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chapter 1792

“You get the hell out of here now. Go back and tell Meredith that no matter what happens, I’ll not let her have her way!”

Madeline rejected stubbornly and forcefully.

She reached out her hands again to chase Jeremy away. “Get lost.”

Naturally, Jeremy would not leave. He made his way up to Madeline and grabbed her hand that was pointing at the entrance. In the next second, he held onto her in his arms tightly.

“Linnie, I’m not going anywhere. I want to keep you company.”

Madeline’s expression abruptly changed at the sudden hug.

She used all her strength to free herself from Jeremy's arms but failed.

"You're still trying to impersonate Jeremy! Let go of me now! Let go!"

In the face of Madeline's struggle, Jeremy silently endured the pain and continued comforting her gently.

"Linnie, I'm Jeremy. I really am Jeremy. It's my fault. I know what I did was wrong."

Jeremy kept apologizing but Madeline was still emotionally agitated.

When Madeline realized that Jeremy did not intend to release her, her eyes turned red, and she just lowered her head. Next, she opened her mouth and ruthlessly bit Jeremy's shoulder.

Hiss.

A sharp pain began emanating from his shoulder. Jeremy frowned but did not make a sound.

If that would make Madeline feel slightly better, he would be willing to endure it, even at the expense of losing his skin.

However, the reason Madeline was biting him was to make Jeremy release her. Madeline's emotions further lost control when she noticed Jeremy still hugging onto her.

"Let go of me. I want to see Jeremy. How could he be so cruel that he won't even want to see me? He'd rather believe in the lies Meredith spouted than to listen to a single thing that I said."

"Why, Jeremy? Why are you being so cruel to me?! You're the one who said that you'll be with me for the rest of our lives!"

Madeline helplessly blurted those accusations, and each word drifted into Jeremy's ears, making Jeremy feel as if his body was completely torn apart, and his eyes turned red and teary.

I'm sorry, Linnie. I'm truly sorry.

Jeremy hugged Madeline, and his lips were beside her ears as he kept apologizing.

Madeline, however, struggled even more forcefully.

"Go, get lost! I want to see Jeremy!"

Madeline was completely unable to recognize that the person before her was the man that she wanted to meet.

Her emotions and her thoughts were completely under the influence of the poison. The same goes for her self-control.

Click.

Suddenly, the door of the ward was pushed open.

Jeremy lifted his head and saw Fabian coming in with a man who he did not know.

Evan quickly walked to Madeline's side and took out a tranquilizer needle, injecting it into Madeline's arm.

"Who are you? What did you inject Madeline with?"
Jeremy wanted to stop him.

"He's a friend of mine. He's a doctor. He injected your wife with a tranquilizer."

Following Fabian's explanation, Madeline slowly stopped talking and struggled no further. Her body, becoming weak, leaned onto Jeremy.

Jeremy firmly held Madeline, who was in deep sleep, and caressed her head, feeling heartbroken. He then placed her back on the hospital bed.

“Initially, I thought you’re the best psychiatrist who could treat her, but now, it seems that you too are not up for the task.”

Fabian said thoughtfully, then walked out with Evan.

After tucking Madeline in with a blanket, Jeremy followed them to the entrance, then called out to Fabian when he noticed Fabian was about to leave. “Fabian.”

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chapter 1793

Fabian’s footsteps came to a halt, but he did not turn around.

As he heard Jeremy’s footsteps close in, he calmly stood in place.

“Fabian, did you really not find the anti-toxoid test reagent on Linnie?”

“What are you implying, Mr. Whitman? Are you accusing me of intentionally choosing not to save your wife?” Fabian asked with a faint smile.

"I just want to know if you've looked in detail."

Jeremy did not intend to argue with Fabian. All he wanted now was to find the anti-toxoid test reagent that could help ease Madeline's condition.

It had taken a lot of effort to 'steal' the vial anti-toxoid test reagent from Carter. In this current situation, that vial was the only thing that could help Madeline.

"My friend and I have rifled through all her pockets and places where she could hide things, but we didn't find the anti-toxoid test reagent that you mentioned," Fabian replied considerably patiently.

"How could that be?" Jeremy could not get his head around the idea. "Linnie promised me that she would bring it wherever she went."

"What kind of poison is it? The same one you have in your body?" Fabian pressed on with his questions; his expression was slightly more solemn.

Jeremy met Fabian's inquisitive gaze and parted his thin lips, "It's a kind of poison that could completely destroy the heart and body in the end. It won't kill, only torment endlessly."

Both Fabian and Evan, who were standing side by side, were shocked when they heard Jeremy's explanation.

"How could there be such things? Why would someone develop such a terrifying poison?" Evan could not understand.

Be it from a doctor's or an ordinary person's point of view, Evan could not accept the fact that there was something so terrifying and harmful in this world.

"This is all I can do. From here on, we go our separate ways," Fabian said icily before he continued to walk away.

"Fabian, do you think you can just leave like this? You can choose not to care about Linnie, but what about my daughter? Where did you take her?"

Jeremy's expression turned much sterner.

He walked up to Fabian. With such a tall and broad frame, Jeremy resembled a wall as he blocked Fabian's path.

Jeremy stared forward with his deep gaze, releasing a domineering and frightening aura.

"Fabian, I'll ask you one last time. Where did you hide my daughter Lilian?"

Jeremy's gaze held a look of unchallengeable dominance.

Fabian and Jeremy locked gazes for a few seconds, then Fabian suddenly laughed. "You're truly an interesting man, Mr. Whitman. Why are you asking me about your missing daughter?"

"Fabian."

Jeremy slowly lost patience.

"If you think that I have something to do with Yorick and Lana's deaths, then pick on me."

"No, your wife was right. They had no one to blame but themselves for their deaths."

Fabian denied, the same casual smile graced his handsome expression again, but there was a sudden change in his gaze.

"I've merely got a better understanding of things and people, Jeremy. We're not friends anymore, or perhaps you've never seen me as a friend since the beginning. I've even stupidly helped you

investigate Lana's death once, ridding you of your murder charge."

Fabian chuckled self-deprecatingly.

"Hmph. Absolutely ridiculous."

He chuckled and walked around Jeremy, then walked onward.

Evan glanced at Jeremy, saying nothing, and quickly followed after Fabian.

Jeremy shifted his body sideways and watched Fabian, who had a subtle air of sadness and loneliness about him as he left.

Amidst that, there also seemed to be something Fabian had wanted to say but could not.

Jeremy did not know where Lilian was now, but he was still certain that Fabian would not hurt Lilian.

It was just that he was very worried about his daughter's sickness.

Moreover, there was something about Evan, who was walking beside Fabian, that felt familiar to Jeremy.

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He felt like he had seen this man somewhere before. 'Could this man be a doctor too?'

Jeremy returned to the hospital room in which Madeline was still in deep sleep.

When he saw how haggard her complexion was, Jeremy sighed softly, feeling guilty.

'Linnie, if I hadn't brought you this nightmare, then perhaps you wouldn't have to suffer so painfully at the poison's flare-up.

'I'm the cause of your pain.'

Jeremy leaned over to kiss between Madeline's brows, then rifled through her pockets and jacket. There was indeed no anti-toxoid test reagent.

From Fabian's reaction, the man did not seem like he was lying.

'Where could the anti-toxoid test reagent be?'

Jeremy gave it some thought, then suddenly looked around the room.

'Her purse.'

Madeline's purse and phone were nowhere to be found.

He immediately turned around and pulled out his phone to call Fabian as he went in the direction Fabian had left, chasing after him.

However, Fabian did not pick up his call. After declining the call, Fabian blacklisted Jeremy's number once again.

Jeremy truly found this blacklisting behavior extremely immature, and he wondered where Fabian had learned it.

Jeremy did not give up and continued to run towards the entrance, where he saw Fabian's car streak past before his eyes.

"Fabian!"

Jeremy shouted as he rushed toward the car.

Fabian heard him but merely looked at the man through the rearview mirror calmly, then stepped on the accelerator and sped away.

Jeremy felt exasperated, but he was afraid that something would happen to Madeline if he left her for too long.

He quickly returned to the hospital room. Jeremy let out a sigh of relief when he saw Madeline lying on the bed, sleeping calmly. He had no other choice but to stay by her bed.

On the road, Fabian unconsciously accelerated, and Evan, who was in the passenger seat, tightened his grip on the handle.

“Seriously, Fabian. Is this Jeremy that terrifying? To the point that you have to run from him like this?”

Fabian frowned and, with extreme distaste, replied, “Who said I was terrified of him? I just don’t want to see or be in any form of contact with him.”

“You don’t want to see him? How do you plan to take revenge then? Could it be that your so-called revenge is to meticulously care for his sick daughter daily, spend a great amount of money to look for suitable bone marrow for a transplant, then find out, to your surprise, that your bone marrow was suitable and immediately donate yours?”

“Finally, to prevent the parents from worrying about their child’s illness relapsing, you even made yourself into this ruthless villain?”

“Ha. What a unique revenge plan you’ve got here, Fabian.”

Fabian frowned deeper when he heard Evan mock him.

“Can you shut up?”

“Why? Did I get it right?” Evan chuckled and asked. “You truly have changed, Fabian.”

As Evan’s voice fell, Fabian suddenly stopped the car.

“Get out.” Fabian said in annoyance, chasing Evan away.

Evan, who had already gotten used to Fabian’s occasional immature behavior, got out of the car cooperatively.

“You’re chasing me out now, but you’re going to have to fetch me yourself if anything happens to that little girl,” Evan said pridefully.

Ignoring Evan, Fabian stepped on the accelerator to leave.

His mind was in a mess on his journey back.

As soon as he returned to the villa, a maid then nervously reported to him, "Young Master Fabian, you're finally back. Young Lady Lillian started crying for some reason and she hasn't stopped."

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chapter 1795

When he heard, Fabian's expression immediately changed.

His long legs strode forth and, as quick as lightning, arrived at Lillian's bedroom.

"Lily."

He called her name out nervously.

As he entered the room, he realized that the atmosphere inside was not as he expected.

Lillian was not crying, and the room was decorated to look like the venue of a birthday party.

A maid in the room saw Fabian return and smiled brightly as she wished, "Happy birthday, Young Master Fabian."

'Birthday?'

Fabian was dazed. 'Is it my birthday today?'

The last time he celebrated his birthday was before Yorick died.

He had long forgotten what it felt like to celebrate his birthday.

Now, he watched as Lillian walked over to him with a smile, holding a small four-inch shortcake in her hands.

She looked like an innocent angel who was now returning him the happiness he had lost a long time ago.

Lillian smiled softly. Despite her inability to speak, her eyes already conveyed a very clear message.

Fabian cooperatively squatted down and reached out to take the cake.

"Make a wish, Young Master Fabian."

“Young Master Fabian, Young Lady Lillian may not have made this cake, but she helped. She placed the fruits on top and wrote the words ‘Happy Birthday, Fab’.”

A maid next to them explained.

Fabian’s gaze shifted from Lillian’s smile to the small cake she held in her hands.

The candle flickered in his vision, and it seemed to have burned the corner of his eyes.

His eyes reddened, and their corners grew wet. The words “Happy Birthday, Fab” could not be considered aligned, but in his eyes, they looked like the prettiest letters he had ever seen.

“Thank you, Lily.”

Fabian apologized with a sob.

He had celebrated so many birthdays since he was young, but this was the only one that made him cry.

Fabian closed his eyes and made a quick wish. It was a simple wish...

Fabian opened his eyes. As he gazed into Lillian's clear, huge eyes, he was even more certain about the wish in his heart.

After blowing out the candles, Fabian immediately took the cake from Lillian's hands in fear that her hands would get tired from holding it.

She was still sick. Despite having her bone marrow transplant surgery, it was still a long while before she truly recovered.

Fabian was about to cut the cake and share it with Lillian when he looked up to see her cute little hand passing a sky-blue card to him.

Fabian was slightly stunned but he understood her intention from her beautiful, huge eyes.

"Is this for me?" Fabian asked gently.

Lillian blinked her huge eyes and nodded gently. Fabian took the card happily and carefully opened it. Within it was a drawing.

The drawing depicted a tall boy and a small girl, clearly him and Lillian. Lillian's drawing was very childlike; the contour of the persons was also childishly drawn, and even the colors used were not anything refined.

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However, in Fabian's eyes, this drawing was priceless.

The cake even had the three words, "Happy Birthday, Fab."

What beautiful lettering.

Fabian felt a delicate flower gradually blooming in his heart, and he looked at Lillian's eyes, which shone brightly like a starry night.

"Lily, how about we eat the cake together?" Fabian invited with a smile. "You can only eat a little, though."

Lillian pursed her lips into a soft smile then nodded.

In the quiet night, Fabian held the plate in one hand as he fed Lillian bite by bite.

Lillian smiled gleefully. Under the warm lighting of the room, she resembled a little fairy whose smile revealed sweet dimples that seemed to be able to heal Fabian.

“I’ll take care of you until you’ve completely recovered, Lily. If you’re still willing when the time comes, I can continue taking care of you after that.”

Fabian promised and reached out to ruffle the top of Lillian’s head, but at the thought of her not having a strand of hair on her head, he could only pull his hand back and caressed her cheek instead.

“Will you let me take care of you, Lily?” Lillian blinked and gave Fabian a serious stare.

She could not speak, but her gaze already expressed her intentions.

Fabian then saw Lillian reach out with her hand out, gently holding his hand before placing her small hand in Fabian’s palm.

Fabian’s heart quickened inexplicably. When he was about to tightly hold onto the small hand, Lillian pulled her hand back, revealing a single piece of candy lying quietly on his palm.

Candy. It had a unique meaning between them.

Fabian suddenly smiled in relief at the sight of the candy.

'What am I thinking?

'She's just a five-year-old girl. There's no way she'd have such complex thoughts.

'She just wants to give me what she believes to be the best.

'That's all there is to it.'

Fabian thought silently, suddenly closing his fist, the piece of candy being held tightly in his fist as if it was a valuable treasure.

As the night darkened, Fabian stood on his room's balcony after putting Lillian to sleep, staring into the dark blue sky outside. He then looked back to see Lillian who was peacefully asleep, and the feeling of loneliness within him was no longer as intense.

'I swear, Lily. I'll make true my promise to you and help you get better and look normal again.'

Fabian swore silently as he looked at Lillian.

Fabian woke up early the next day. As usual, he first went to check on Lillian. After confirming that her condition did not worsen, he left the house.

On his way back last night, Fabian had been plagued with thoughts, and it had been dark, so he did not notice the situation near the entrance.

Now, he finally realized that the car Madeline rented was parked not far away.

Suddenly, he remembered Jeremy saying that Madeline had definitely brought the anti-toxoid test reagent with her, so Fabian quickly strode over to the car.

He tried to open the car doors and realized that they were unlocked. After opening the car doors, he immediately saw Madeline's phone and purse on the passenger's seat.

The phone was already out of battery by now. Fabian took the purse and opened it. Inside, he saw the tightly sealed syringe containing the anti-toxoid test reagent.

He was certain that this was the anti -toxoid test reagent Jeremy mentioned.

Without much thought, Fabian took Madeline's purse and phone and got into his car, then immediately rushed to the hospital.

Jeremy had stayed by Madeline's side the entire night. He prayed for her to wake soon, but he was also worried that Madeline would wake up with a condition that was worse than last night's.

He still hoped that Madeline would wake up. The person he wanted to contact most now was Fabian. Jeremy was certain that Madeline had placed the anti-toxoid test reagent in her purse that she brought with her wherever she went, but the purse was nowhere to be seen. If that purse could be found, then they could relieve Madeline's condition.

At that moment, the hospital room door was suddenly pushed open.

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chapter 1797

Jeremy swiftly looked up and saw Evan walking in.

"You're Fabian's friend? Are you a doctor?" Jeremy slowly got up. "You must have a way to contact Fabian. Where is he?"

Without answering Jeremy's question, Evan walked up to Jeremy, turned on his phone, and pointed at the screen.

"Is this the anti-toxoid test reagent you mentioned?" Evan showed Jeremy the picture.

Jeremy's gaze immediately flitted over, and his eyes instantly lit up once he saw the picture.

"That's it. Where did the picture come from?" "Fab just sent the picture to me."

"Fabian?"

Evan nodded. "He just found the anti-toxoid test reagent in your wife's bag, and he's driving over here with it now."

When Jeremy heard that, his heart, which had been suspended in mid-air, partially settled.

"How long until Fabian arrives?" Jeremy felt impatient. He was worried that Madeline would wake up before Fabian arrived. He was even more worried that her agony would be as bad as it had been last night.

Evan glanced at the time and frowned. "It's rush hour now, so there'll be traffic. It'll take at least twenty minutes."

Twenty minutes.

Right now, every minute was torture to Jeremy.

However, there was nothing Jeremy could do now but wait.

“Thank you, ” Jeremy thanked him politely.

Evan waved him off. There was more he had wanted to say, but when he saw Jeremy’s anxious expression, he gave it some thought, then turned around instead.

“Oh, right, ” Jeremy suddenly called out to stop Evan, “you and Fabian are great friends, aren’t you? You must know about my daughter’s whereabouts, right?”

Evan had already guessed that Jeremy would ask such a question. This was the simplest deduction, after all.

He also remembered Fabian mentioning that Jeremy was an especially smart and observant man, thus he recollected his expression and emotions before he turned to meet Jeremy’s gaze.

“While Fab and I are good friends, I’ve never heard him say anything about your daughter. I believe there’s some misunderstanding between you two. Even if Fab truly does hate you and your wife, he wouldn’t vent his displeasure on a young child.”

Evan explained calmly despite his lie.

A hint of suspicion flashed through Jeremy's deep gaze hearing Evan's words.

He had caught onto something subtle that flickered in Evan's expression. Jeremy was about to press further when he heard a small sound from behind.

Evan too noticed the sound. "She's awake," he said, calling attention to the sound.

Jeremy's focus was immediately returned to Madeline.

He turned back to see Madeline, who was frowning and shaking her head slightly, seemingly in pain.

"Linnie? Are you awake, Linnie?" Jeremy asked gently, leaning over to hold Madeline's hand.

Madeline's eyelids twitched, then she slowly opened her eyes.

The sight of Jeremy's features which suddenly appeared in her still bleary vision immediately awakened Madeline.

Although her emotions did not seem as strong as they had been last night, she just quietly looked at Jeremy and smiled.

“You’re finally here, I see.”

Madeline’s tone was sarcastic, and her gaze was chilling.

“Here I thought that you’d never come and see me even if I died. What a cruel man you are, Jeremy Whitman.”

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife
chapter 1798

Jeremy stuttered; his words stuck in his throat.

Jeremy trembled before the look in Madeline’s eyes which were staring upon him.

“Linnie, I...”

“Linnie?” Madeline repeated the word and suddenly let out a soft but cold chuckle. “What’s wrong with you? The man who I love most but hates me most is now calling me Linnie.”

Madeline giggled and slowly got up.

Jeremy wanted to head over to support her but was rejected disdainfully by Madeline.

He could tell that Madeline was not in her right mind now as her reddened eyes sparkled, contrasting her unusually pale face.

Madeline, supporting herself with one hand, sat up on the bed, and her other hand suddenly went to her chest.

She closed her eyes and breathed strenuously.

The normal rhythm of her breathing and heartbeat were disrupted.

“Linnie, would you please give me some time and hear me out?” Jeremy pleaded with a meek tone.

Madeline’s cool and composed attitude before him made him recall her vengeful look back then.

He was terrified of the feeling he had experienced back then. The feeling of being stared upon by her cold eyes. Even now, he could still vividly recall it.

Evan, seeing the scene played out from the side, tactfully turned around to leave.

After leaving the scene, he called Fabian and asked how much longer before Fabian could reach.

In the ward.

Madeline slowly made her way to the side of the window, distancing herself from Jeremy.

Madeline could not comprehend the reason behind her pain right now, but her mind was filled with images of Jeremy giving in to Meredith and harming Madeline. Regardless of whether Madeline closed or opened her eyes, Madeline could only see herself drenched in blood, images of her being covered in injuries, and a scene in which Madeline

stood before Jeremy's grave, hating him to his core.

"Jeremy, back then, you told me that when I'm older, you'll marry me and make me your wife. Such a beautiful promise you've made, yet it merely turns out to be a lie."

As Madeline spoke, she lifted her teary, gorgeous eyes and coldly looked at Jeremy.

"That demon, Meredith, has done so many bad deeds, yet you still pamper her. You have eyes but no heart.

“Jeremy, the biggest mistake I’ve ever made in my entire life was heeding your lie back then. In the end, my eyes were blinded by my love for a man like you. If I could turn back the clock, I’d still choose to meet you, but I wouldn’t fall in love with you the way I did in the past because a scumbag like you is not worth it.”

Despite knowing that it was the poison’s influence on Madeline’s thoughts and emotions, and even knowing that she was not saying how she truly felt, the words were like fragments of glass pouring suddenly over Jeremy’s heart when he heard it.

It was something that instantly drenched him in blood.

When he thought of the harm he had caused her back then, he wondered, ‘How could I have any grievance?’

“Please hear me out, Linnie. ” Jeremy attempted to approach her.

Madeline tilted her face coldly toward him. “I don’t want to hear another word from you. I won’t beg for your trust. Jeremy, you can just go and find your beloved. From now on, I don’t want to see you again.”

Jeremy's throat moved slightly as he swallowed his pain. "Linnie, I, Jeremy Whitman, will only love you in my entire life."

"Hmph." Madeline laughed softly, and her gorgeous eyes fell upon Jeremy's pleading, meek-looking face.

Madeline felt as if she had never seen such an expression, and she was briefly stunned.

Upon noticing the slight reaction in Madeline, Jeremy attempted to approach her again, then suddenly grabbed her hand.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife
chapter 1799

Madeline was surprised by Jeremy's sudden reaction.

She had intuitively wanted to evade him this moment, but Jeremy suddenly spread open his arms and locked Madeline in a tight embrace.

Madeline was astonished. Currently, in her mind, Jeremy hated her. He loathed her. He would never hug her the way he did now.

Thus, she thought this was a setup.

When she attempted to free herself from Jeremy's hug, he softly spoke into her ear.

"You're sick, Linnie. You've forgotten that you already forgave me. You've also forgotten that we're now in love with each other."

'I'm sick?'

Madeline thought that Jeremy was lying to her.

When she looked at the room again, however, it certainly did look like a ward.

She also felt that her body was quite uncomfortable

and her breathing was erratic; each of her heartbeats was accompanied by a slight ache.

Regardless, to Madeline, everything that was happening now still seemed like Jeremy was lying.

Suddenly, Madeline burst into laughter.

"Jeremy, you're here because of Meredith, right? You don't have to trouble yourself, begging a lady who you hate so much. Whatever is your intention, you can just spit it out."

Jeremy was heartbroken hearing the suspicion and rejection permeating Madeline's words.

He did not let go of her but hugged her even tighter instead.

"Linnie, every word I said was true. I'm sorry. It's my fault that I made you recall those unpleasant memories. I'm sorry."

"I'm sorry..." Madeline repeated the three words, then lifted her gorgeous eyes, devoid of warmth, and coldly glanced at Jeremy as the tears in her reddened eyes silently flowed down.

"This is truly the best joke I've ever heard."
"Linnie..."

"Get lost, Jeremy."

Jeremy was stunned. He had not expected to hear Madeline telling him off in such a straightforward manner.

It was in this brief moment of inattentiveness that Madeline suddenly pushed him away forcefully.

Jeremy, who did not expect Madeline to use such strength, staggered back two steps. When he had

stabilized his footing, he saw Madeline making her way toward the door of the ward and opening it.

“Get out.”

She still spoke in a straightforward tone, demanding him to leave.

Jeremy truly had no idea how to explain it since the current Madeline was not willing to listen to him.

Her mind was filled with memories of the cruel things he had done to her; all her thoughts were negative.

She was completely unable to recall how great their current relationship was and how much in love they were.

“Linnie, I’ll head out and wait for the time being. I’ll not disturb you, so don’t be mad,” Jeremy said meekly, trying to get on her good terms.

However, Madeline coldly looked at him, unbothered.

Jeremy felt chilly within him. Even if Madeline was behaving this way due to the poison's influence, he was still heartbroken.

He stepped out of the ward, and Madeline immediately closed the door.

She even attempted to lock it but there was no padlock.

Jeremy was outside, cut off from Madeline, and could only peep through the small window.

He saw Madeline returning to the bed and curling up at the corner of the bed, hugging both her legs, her expression was no longer confident as before.

Jeremy knew that Madeline was upset and in pain as she thought about why she fell in love with a man like him.

'But Linnie, I've really realized my mistakes. We're now in love with each other. I believe you'll be able to regain your memories soon.'

Jeremy's eyes reddened as he glanced at Madeline.

He was feeling sorry for Madeline, yet there was nothing that he could do.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 1800

Jeremy looked at the clock. While waiting for Fabian's arrival, Jeremy observed Madeline. He noticed Madeline gradually lay on the bed on her side, half curling her body with her back facing him.

Jeremy, noticing Madeline's discomfort, truly wanted to rush in, but was afraid he might set her off again.

Besides, Evan came in earlier to notify him that Fabian would be arriving soon.

In no time, Fabian indeed arrived.

With a cool expression, Fabian briefly met Jeremy's eyes, then lifted his hand and handed the anti-toxoid test reagent to Jeremy.

"Take it."

Jeremy felt relieved the moment he saw the anti-toxoid test reagent.

Although it would not be able to completely eliminate the poison in Madeline's body, at the very least, it could help stabilize her condition.

Jeremy took it, then looked at Fabian and conveyed his gratitude, "Thanks."

Fabian did not speak. It was Evan who kindly asked, "Do you need my help?"

"Mr. Whitman is already very used to carrying out injection procedures. He doesn't need your help," Fabian answered on Jeremy's behalf.

Evan could not make out the implicit meaning behind Fabian's words, but Fabian and Jeremy understood.

Without another word, Jeremy pushed open the door of the ward, holding the anti-toxoid test reagent, and with a smile on his stunning face, he walked to the side of the bed.

"Linnie, you'll recover soon..."

As his voice fell, Jeremy was shocked when he saw Madeline's expression.

"Linnie!"

Jeremy anxiously held Madeline's shoulders, trying to support her into sitting.

He noticed that Madeline's face was pale, her forehead was drenched with cold sweat, and her body was trembling vigorously.

However, despite her discomfort, she was still conscious, and she rejected Jeremy from nearing her.

"Jeremy, I've said... that I don't... I don't want to see you. Go away. The further the better..."

Madeline spoke with a weak, shaky, yet stubborn voice.

"I hate you. I really hate you..."

Jeremy's heart ached when he saw her rejecting him with such a cold gaze.

Despite the anxiety burning within him, he still patiently and gently comforted Madeline's emotions.

"Linnie, stop rejecting me. You're just sick. I'll now give you an injection. You'll get well soon."

"Injection?"

Madeline frowned. Through her blurry vision, she saw Jeremy taking out a transparent vial of anti-

toxoid test reagent and pierced it with a syringe, sucking out the transparent liquid from the vial.

Madeline's eyes suddenly flashed, and she used all her strength to move backward. "What are you trying to do, Jeremy?"

Jeremy knew Madeline was scared, so he immediately explained, "Don't be afraid, Linnie. Once you've taken the injection, you'll no longer be in so much suffering."

"No, you're lying to me."

Madeline gently shook her head; despair surfaced in her eyes.

"It must be Meredith. Meredith asked you to come here."

Madeline, suspicious of Jeremy's kindness, summoned all her strength to shift her pained body and got off the bed.

"Linnie!" Jeremy hurriedly chased after her.

Once the anti-toxoid test reagent was unsealed, it must be used within five minutes, otherwise, it would lose its effectiveness.

Jeremy dared not waste any time, but Madeline's struggle and attempt to escape made him nervous.

Madeline, who kept thinking that Jeremy, under Meredith's instruction, was here to torture her, staggered toward the door.

She wanted to open the door and escape, but the door was pushed open from the outside.

Fabian's towering body blocked her path.

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