

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 421-500

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Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 421

"Look over there." Eloise pointed not far away, her eyes suddenly looking sad. "My daughter is dead and I know that I can't make up for this regret in my life. Only by doing this can I remedy a bit of this regret."

"We know that this request is very selfish and a bit overwhelming. If you're unwilling, Miss Vera, we won't force it." Sean's tone was gentle while his eyes were filled with pleading.

Madeline looked at the photo studio not far away and smiled.

It turned out that they wanted to borrow her face for a family portrait.

Felipe was right. Sometimes the apology may not be done out of sincerity. They just hoped that they would feel better in their hearts, nothing more.

They would be better off after taking a family portrait, but what about her?

Madeline chuckled. She closed her eyes and could still clearly see the scenes of Eloise and Sean treating her coldly back then.

She had given enough during this time.

"I'm sorry, I don't think I can agree." Madeline refused. "I don't want to be regarded as Madeline's substitute. She had such a sad life and I don't want to repeat it at all, nor do I want to have anything to do with her."

Eloise and Sean's hearts sank as feelings of emptiness invaded their atria.

"Miss Vera, don't get us wrong. We're not treating you as a substitute for Madeline. It's alright if you don't agree. We did ask for too much." Eloise hurriedly apologized. Although her eyes were filled with loneliness and sadness, she worked hard to give Madeline a smile.

"Miss Vera, you've helped us a lot during this time. It's Sean and me who were too reckless."

"Apologies, Miss Vera." Sean also apologized.

"Miss Vera, you're beautiful and outstanding. Mr. Whitman also values you very much. I believe you won't repeat the tragedy of my daughter. I sincerely wish you the best."

Eloise looked at Madeline with gentle eyes. After saying this, her eyes became wet. She wiped the corners of her eyes and smiled again. "Let's not delay Miss Vera. Sean, why don't you send Miss Vera back?"

"No need to send me back. I'll head back myself." Madeline smiled and turned around decisively.

'It turns out that I'm still unable to be completely hard-hearted. Just looking at their lonely and sad appearance makes my heart hurt.'

"Sean, let's go. Let's go to the detention center first. I have to ask Meredith about the whereabouts of Madeline's ashes."

Madeline had not gone far, so she could clearly hear Eloise's words from behind her.

'My ashes are gone?'

“Meredith Crawford! That woman is so vicious that she destroyed Madeline’s grave and stole her ashes. How could there be such a perverted person in this world?!”

Madeline’s pace slowed down involuntarily as her thoughts became a little messed up all of a sudden.

‘My grave was destroyed by Meredith? My ‘ashes’ were also stolen by her?’

As she pondered, the scene of Jeremy taking her to the cemetery suddenly popped up in her mind.

He had brought her to a particular grave, only to find that the grave was destroyed. Jeremy’s eyes had been red then as he looked for something amongst the shattered ruins almost devilishly.

‘Could it be that he was looking for my ashes?’

‘Could it be that it was actually my grave?’

When she came to this conclusion, Madeline’s heart was torn violently.

Honk, honk!

The piercing sound of brakes whizzed to her ears.

Only then did Madeline regain her senses and found that she had somehow walked into the middle of the road in a daze.

In the moment of life and death, a pair of strong arms had hugged her tightly and brought her to safety.

“Miss Vera, are you okay?” Sean’s worried voice sounded above her head.

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Eloise had also hurried over, her eyes filled with anxiety. “Miss Vera, why did you suddenly run out onto the road? It’s so dangerous! Are you okay?”

Hearing this, Madeline finally came back to her senses completely. She shook her head and said, “I was thinking about something just now. Thank you, I’ll be leaving now.”

Eloise and Sean felt that Madeline was behaving a bit weirdly and were a little worried, but Madeline had quickly gotten on a taxi by the side of the road.

She got off when the car arrived at the building of Whitman Corporation. While on the way, Madeline had still been thinking about what she heard before.

Could it be?

‘The grave that Jeremy brought me to the last time definitely has nothing to do with me.

‘He hates me so much. Why would he give me a grave, let alone be so anxious as to have gone crazy when he couldn’t find my ashes?’ Madeline thought to herself silently while walking toward the doors.

As soon as she was about to step in, a strong smell of perfume suddenly wafted over. Madeline’s shoulder was then hit hard.

“What’s the matter with you? Do you walk without looking at what’s in front of you?” A woman’s dissatisfied voice sounded domineering.

Madeline raised her eyes and saw a bright, enthralling face.

The woman in front of her was dressed sexily and had delicate makeup on. Her taro purple hair reached to her waist in waves.

From a distance, she had superb manners and was a beautiful person.

However, after taking a closer look, she was a bit tackier while the perfume on her body was too strong.

Moreover, her eyes were filled with unparalleled arrogance and were extremely unfriendly.

Madeline calmly opened her mouth. "Lady, you ran into me."

"If you hadn't stood in front of me, why would I have bumped into you?" The woman looked at Madeline arrogantly, then folded her arms before smiling. "Are you an employee of Whitman Corporation? Do you know who I am? I'm one of the most important women in Mr. Whitman's life. Can you afford to offend me? Hmph!"

The woman glared at Madeline pretentiously and turned around roughly as soon as she was done talking.

One of the most important women in Jeremy's life...?

Madeline smiled at that arrogant view of her back. She was too lazy to argue and went toward the VIP elevator on the side.

After exiting the elevator, she walked straight to Jeremy's office. As soon as she reached the door, she saw Jeremy sitting against the light at his desk while reviewing documents.

The corners of his eyebrows were softened by the warm sun. It took off the cold and sharp edge he usually had in front of others, giving him a little more of the rare warmth. The rarely worn white shirt also added a little sunshine to his cold temperament.

Thinking of her plan, Madeline turned around and entered the pantry to make a cup of coffee for Jeremy.

However, as soon as she stepped out of the door of the pantry, she smelled the pungent perfume again. In the next second, the arrogant woman ran into her once more.

Plop!

The coffee cup in Madeline's hand was knocked off.

"Ah! My limited-edition cashmere jacket!" The woman screamed angrily. Raising her eyes to see Madeline, she got even angrier. "It's you again!"

She glanced at the overturned coffee cup angrily. "Just you wait. I'll have Mr. Whitman fire you, you blind secretary!"

Secretary?

Madeline took a look at what she was wearing. Had she worn too professional-looking clothes today?

Jeremy seemed to have heard the noise just then. He went over, his worldly temperament stringing along his strong aura.

When the woman turned around and saw Jeremy, she greeted him happily like a bee that had seen a flower. "Cousin Jeremy!" she called out in a soft tone. "Cousin Jeremy, I missed you so much, did you know? As soon as I was done with my thesis, I flew over to come look for you!"

The woman finished her words delicately, then stared at Madeline who was not far away.

“But I didn’t expect to meet such a blind employee as soon as I got here. She not only ran into me twice, but she also dirtied my clothes. She didn’t even apologize to me. It makes me so annoyed to look at her. You should fire her immediately!”

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She pointed at Madeline arrogantly, and after saying that, she wanted to hug him.

However, as soon as she stretched out her hand, Jeremy walked around her indifferently and went toward Madeline instead.

“Cousin Jeremy?” Yvonne Yalmen stared at Jeremy who had not even spared her a glance.

Jeremy glanced at the coffee that was knocked over to the floor and looked at Madeline with concern. “Are you alright? Were you burned?”

Madeline curled her lips. “It wasn’t hot enough for that, but...” She paused, looking at the woman whose expression had slightly changed. “This lady bumped into me twice. My shoulder hurts a bit.”

“...” Yvonne probably did not expect that Madeline would say this to Jeremy. She looked embarrassed and hurriedly retorted, “Cousin Jeremy, I didn’t bump into her. She bumped into me! “

While saying this, she stared at Madeline angrily.

“I had wanted to spare your dignity in front of my cousin, but it seems that you really don’t want to work here anymore. Cousin Jeremy, you should fire her and teach her a lesson!”

Jeremy's handsome face sank as annoyance spread to the corners of his eyes and brows.

"I'll teach you a lesson instead if you still won't shut your mouth."

"..." Yvonne closed her mouth, dumbfounded. She then saw Jeremy holding Madeline's hand,

"Cousin, you... What are you doing? Why are you holding this woman's hand?"

"Do I still need to report to you just to hold my wife's hand?" Yvonne was dumbfounded. "Wife? Didn't that b*tch Madeline die long ago? When did you get married again? Why don't I know of it? "

Madeline's eyes were cold when she heard Yvonne's description of herself.

It seemed that Mrs. Whitman really did not hesitate to publicize her.

She was obviously a victim after being framed, but over the years, she had been burdened with all kinds of unbearable names.

These people did not know the truth but still opened their mouths and vilified her as a sl*t.

Really, it was hateful.

Jeremy glanced at Yvonne coldly before bringing Madeline into his office.

"Vixen!" Yvonne cursed in a low voice, feeling unconvinced. Then, she started following them.

Just as she was about to follow them through the office door, the glass door closed automatically.

Yvonne bumped her head on the glass and touched her forehead that was hurting. "Cousin Jeremy, open the door. I'm still outside."

However, Jeremy ignored her and just kept talking to Madeline.

"I'm so angry!" Yvonne stamped her foot and turned away unwillingly.

Seeing that the uninvited guest had left, Madeline said casually, "Jeremy, is that really your cousin? When she was downstairs, she told me unhesitatingly that she's one of the most important women in your life."

When Jeremy heard these words, his eyes locked with Madeline's. "The one and only important woman in my life is right in front of me now."

"Really?" Madeline seemed to smile.

"She's the daughter of my mother's brother." Jeremy explained.

Madeline nodded. That woman turned out to be his cousin.

However, did female cousins usually treat their male cousins in some kind of way?

It was not difficult to see that this Yvonne had a good impression of Jeremy.

Madeline pondered silently. She would not allow this person's appearance to disrupt her plan.

"Jeremy, I plan to stay with you during this time to learn more about business management, can I?"

Madeline took the initiative and said, "Although I founded Miss L.ady, my ability in this area is obviously insufficient, so I want to add value to myself."

"As long as you want to, nothing is impossible." Jeremy agreed simply.

Madeline smiled, leaning on his shoulder. "Jeremy, you're so kind to me."

She pretended to be happy and sweet, but this false happiness could not heal the wounds in her heart, let alone extinguish the spark of hatred.

Madeline followed Jeremy as his personal secretary that day.

Of course, her purpose was not to learn but the 70 percent worth of shares he held.

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Jeremy received a call from Mrs. Whitman the moment his regular afternoon meeting was over.
"Jeremy, Yvonne is back. Do come back to the family home for the welcome reception. You must come. She's your one and only cousin! "

Without giving Jeremy a chance to refuse, Mrs. Whitman hung up the phone.

Jeremy did not want to waste this time socializing with meaningless people, but Madeline had offered to go with Jeremy.

At the moment, Jeremy was parking the car while Madeline had walked to the gate to wait for Jeremy there. It was then when she suddenly heard Mrs. Whitman's disdainful sneer from the house.

“Don’t think she’s like Madeline just because she looks like the scum. This woman is actually more difficult to deal with. I don’t know what has gotten into Jeremy, but he’s enamored and listens to that b*tch for everything!”

“I knew this woman was nothing good at first sight. Aunty, she deliberately ran into me twice today but complained to Cousin Jeremy that I bumped into her on purpose. How could Cousin Jeremy take a fancy to this vixen?” Yvonne opened her mouth to confuse the truth, her tone sounding contemptuous, “Aunty, this woman is not worthy of Cousin Jeremy. Let’s think of a way to separate them!”

“How do we split them? She’s already pregnant and Jeremy is so worried about her.”

“Pregnant?” Yvonne was taken aback. She was about to say something when her gaze changed all of a sudden. “Cousin Jeremy, you’re back!”

She stood up quickly, her smile appearing welcoming. Even her voice had become delicate, but when she saw Madeline who appeared next to Jeremy, the smile on Yvonne’s face became stiff. Then, she forced out a smile. “Sister-in-law, I’m so sorry for this morning. I hope you won’t take offense to today’s incident. I’ll walk carefully next time.”

She had changed her attitude probably because of Jeremy’s presence here.

Madeline smiled faintly. “It seems that you not only have to be careful when you walk but also when you speak. Otherwise, a no-good woman like me will hold a grudge.”

“...” Yvonne’s mouth twitched. She was extremely embarrassed.

She did not expect that the conversation she just had with Karen would be heard by Madeline.

Jeremy also understood the situation and glanced at Yvonne with a displeased look. He held Madeline’s shoulders and walked in.

F*ck!

Yvonne cursed secretly. She did not dare say the words aloud to Madeline's face in front of Jeremy.

Mr. Whitman was not there and Old Master Whitman did not come downstairs as he was not feeling well.

Madeline could not help but worry. She had consistently heard that the old man was in poor health these days and was inevitably worried. She had wanted to take advantage of the night to meet Old Master Whitman.

Back then during those unwelcoming days, she knew that only Old Master Whitman had sincerely treated her well. She also sincerely hoped that Old Master Whitman would be healthy and safe.

"I'm going to see Grandpa." Madeline grabbed the food that had been prepared by the servant and was about to head upstairs when Yvonne took advantage of Jeremy having turned around to answer the phone to take the food from Madeline's hand.

"Vera, let me go. Grandpa Whitman has watched me grow up and loves me very much! He will be very happy if he knows that I'm here. If you go, Grandpa Whitman might not even open the door for you." Yvonne looked innocent, but her eyes clearly revealed provocation and arrogance.

Madeline did not argue and went upstairs with her to the door of Old Master Whitman's room.

Yvonne knocked hard on the door, her soft voice calling out, "Grandpa Whitman, it's Yvonne. Surely you remember me? I came to see you. Please open the door."

There was a long silence after her voice sounded.

“Grandpa Whitman must be asleep.” Yvonne turned around and raised her eyebrows confidently at Madeline. “Vera, let’s not disturb Grandpa Whitman’s rest...”

“My granddaughter-in-law is here, is she?” Old Master Whitman’s voice came from inside the room just then.

Yvonne was awkwardly surprised, then she saw the door open.

“Grandpa Whitman! I’m—”

“Come in.”

“Okay!” Yvonne eagerly agreed, not forgetting to cast triumphant eyes at Madeline. However, as soon as she took a step in, Old Master Whitman knocked her with a cane. “I didn’t let you in.”

“...” Yvonne was stunned and saw Old Master Whitman looking at Madeline kindly.

“Come in, Grandpa has something to tell you.”

Madeline nodded and smiled, her arrogant gaze passing over Yvonne’s flushed and awkward face as she walked into the room.

Yvonne gritted her teeth, turned around, and cursed while feeling dissatisfied.

After Madeline entered, she wanted to know of Old Master Whitman’s condition, but before she could even speak, she heard the old man’s long sigh. It was followed by, “Madeline, I know it’s you. My body is getting worse and worse recently, but I’m happy that I can see you come back safe and sound before I die. There’s one thing that I hope you will consider carefully.”

Old Master Whitman's tone was calm. He had undoubtedly determined that the person in front of him was Madeline. He was obviously confident.

Madeline was a little surprised, but she stayed composed. "Grandpa, you'll live a long life. Also, I really am not Madeline."

Old Master Whitman smiled meaningfully, but his gray eyebrows were furrowed helplessly in a frown. "Madeline, are you asking me, this old man, to not die in peace?"

"..." Madeline was speechless for a moment.

"They told me that you died at Jeremy and Meredith's engagement ceremony. This matter has always been in my mind, brooding."

Old Master Whitman sighed.

"You're a good child that's hard to come by. It was Jeremy who didn't know how to cherish you. I won't fault you at all now that you chose to come back this way, but I hope you can stay away from Felipe."

Old Master Whitman's words of advice reminded Madeline of the past that Felipe had told her.

She looked at the old man in front of her seriously. Although his face was old and his temples were white, his time-beaten eyes still flowed with clarity and wisdom.

Madeline pursed her lips and smiled faintly. "I'm now Jeremy's wife, so how can I have anything to do with Felipe anymore? Grandpa, I'm really not Madeline. Although I look a lot like her, I'm completely different from her in other aspects. I won't walk the path she once walked."

Seeing the confidence and determination in Madeline's eyes, Old Master Whitman turned around and walked to the bedside cabinet. He then took out a stack of papers from the drawer and handed it to Madeline.

"What's this?" Madeline accepted it quizzically. She looked down and found that a word was written on the first sheet of white paper that had been crumpled—Maddie.

She looked at the second and third sheets. All the sheets below were written with her name.

This familiar handwriting made Madeline's heart beat faster.

"This was found by the servants who cleaned up Jeremy's room here after your accident three years ago."

Old Master Whitman's answer made Madeline laugh involuntarily. "Grandpa, are you trying to tell me that Jeremy has been concerned about his ex-wife Madeline for the past three years?"

Madeline felt ridiculous as she said it.

She had died, and the only person in the Whitman family who felt sad for her was Old Master Whitman. Had the others not been very happy?

Even if there were strangers in the world who would feel sad or a little sorry about her death, it definitely would not be Jeremy!

"Madeline, do you still remember what I asked you when you said you were going to divorce Jeremy back then?" Old Master Whitman ignored Madeline's repeated denials. He had already determined that she was Madeline.

Madeline looked at Old Master Whitman unknowingly. "Grandpa, I'm not Madeline, so I won't remember what you told her back then."

"It doesn't matter if you've forgotten. Grandpa will tell you again now." Old Master Whitman's gaze was loving and patient. "At the time, I asked you whether Jeremy ever had sex with you after he was forced to marry you."

"..."

"You know this answer very well, Madeline." Old Master Whitman smiled kindly. "I don't know about other people, but I know my grandson very well. If he didn't like you, he'd never have any physical intimacy with you."

"..."

Madeline suddenly felt as if she had heard a big joke.

A ridiculous joke that said Jeremy liked Madeline!

She laughed mockingly and put down the stack of papers in her hands onto the coffee table. "Grandpa, stop joking around. If Jeremy had liked Madeline even a little bit back then, then she wouldn't have died so miserably."

'Yes, if he had felt any trace of love for me, he wouldn't have let me bleed in the wind and snow. He wouldn't have disregarded me!'

"Grandpa, I'm Jeremy's current wife. I hope you won't bring up Jeremy liking Madeline anymore because not only does it make me feel ridiculous, it also makes me uncomfortable."

She took a deep breath, working hard to maintain her smile until the end.

“Grandpa, please rest well. You must go to the hospital if you feel unwell. Don’t worry the people who care for you. I’ll leave first.”

Madeline turned around after speaking. When she looked down, her gaze swept across the stack of papers on the coffee table. The mocking smile in her eyes became deeper.

She opened the door and saw Jeremy standing outside with an indifferent expression. He had a hand raised as if he was about to knock on the door.

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Madeline adjusted her emotions quickly and smiled. “Jeremy, Grandpa wants to rest. Let’s head back.”

Jeremy’s gaze focused closely on the fleeting mockery in Madeline’s eyes. He nodded lightly. “Okay.”

After they went back, Madeline took a cold shower to keep herself calm.

‘Grandpa really seems to have discovered my true identity and deliberately reminded me to stay away from Felipe.

‘Could it be that Grandpa has already investigated something in secret?

‘I have to speed things up.

‘If I drag on, Jeremy will see through me sooner or later.

‘After all, his IQ is not low.’

At midnight, Madeline slowly opened her eyes after Jeremy had fallen asleep.

Gently removing herself from Jeremy's embrace, she went to his study using the moonlight.

After observing these few days, Madeline was certain that Jeremy's study was not equipped with a security system.

She turned on the lights and looked through the documents on his study desk. Most of them were company documents, but they were all unimportant.

Madeline then turned on the computer and it showed the page of which a password was needed to enter after the screen lit up.

Password.

What password did he set?

Madeline tried to enter Jeremy and Meredith's birthdates, but they both failed.

When she was about to leave it aside, a small figure appeared at the entrance of the study. "Mom."

"Jack?" Madeline was surprised to see the sleepy little guy.

"Mom, do you still need to work this late at night?" the little guy asked softly as he slowly walked in.

Madeline could only nod. It felt exceptionally good to hear Jackson call her 'Mom'. "Yes, I suddenly recalled that something hasn't been done."

"I'll accompany you." Jackson smiled slightly, his snaggleteeth showing.

Madeline wanted to reject him, but the little guy had already walked to her side.

"Jack, Mom's very forgetful. I've forgotten the start-up password all of a sudden, so let's just go to bed first."

"You've forgotten the password? Don't worry, Jack knows."

What?

Madeline looked at Jackson who said these words in surprise.

"Mom, wait for me." Jackson turned around and walked out after he said this. When he came back again, he was holding a phone in his hand.

Madeline initially thought that Jackson had jotted down Jeremy's password in his phone, but she saw him opening a software that she did not know of. Then, he connected the phone to the computer. After that, it processed for a while, and it did not take long for the eight numbers to continuously pop up on the phone screen.

Seeing the numbers that had appeared, Madeline was dumbfounded.

'This is... the start-up password that Jeremy set?

'How could it be?!'

She looked at the familiar, eight-digit number in disbelief and immediately saw Jackson inputting the numbers into the computer. After pressing the enter key, the computer unlocked in the next second.

At the same time, a notification sounded from Jeremy's phone.

He opened his deep, black orbs and saw his empty arms. Then, he glanced at his phone before getting up and walking to the study...

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Jeremy made a beeline to the study and saw light streaming out of the room from afar.

His gaze sunk a little as his footsteps unconsciously slowed down.

Just when he reached the door of the study and was about to enter, Madeline walked out while holding Jackson.

Madeline was surprised when she saw Jeremy. "Jeremy, why are you also awake?" She smiled a little. "I'll send Jack back to his room to sleep first."

Jeremy did not ask anything and just nodded.

Seeing Madeline turning around and leading Jackson back, his gaze lingered for a while before he turned around and walked into the study.

After Madeline had sent Jackson back to his room, she whispered, "Jack, can you promise Mommy not to tell your dad what happened just now?"

Jackson blinked his clear, big eyes twice, then nodded his head. "Jack will listen to Mommy and not tell Dad."

"Thanks, Jack." Madeline caressed the little guy's head and lovingly kissed his pink and tender cheek. "It's very late, go to sleep."

After Jackson lay down on the bed obediently, his small, fair hand gently pulled at Madeline's skirt.

"Can Mommy put me to sleep?"

There was a hint of pleading in his infantile voice, and his expectant look made Madeline feel even more touched.

She could not refuse the little guy's request at all.

She smiled gently. "Of course."

Jackson showed his cute little white snaggletooth as he smiled happily, then he closed his eyes.

Madeline covered him with a blanket, then hummed softly. "Rock-a-bye baby, in the treetop..."

She sang and sang, but suddenly, the corners of her eyes were wet with tears.

She could not help but think of the missing child.

She had already looked through the people related to Meredith and the Crawfords, but there was nothing suspicious.

Where would Meredith have hidden her child?

After Jeremy left the study, he walked to the entrance of Jackson's room.

Seeing Madeline singing a lullaby to coax Jackson to sleep, an imperceptible gentleness gradually emerged in his cold, deep gaze...

After a while, Madeline went back to the room and saw that Jeremy was already lying on the bed.

Madeline walked over calmly and explained. "I couldn't sleep tonight, so I went to the study to look for a book. I unexpectedly ran into Jack who was also an insomniac."

Jeremy looked at Madeline with a faint smile. "Why are you suddenly an insomniac? Do you have any worries?"

"Perhaps many things have happened during this time and it has affected my sleep a bit." Madeline casually presented an excuse.

She lay back down, trying not to make contact with Jeremy's body after turning off the table lamp.

"Go to sleep. You need to get up early to work tomorrow."

However, as soon as Madeline lay down, Jeremy approached her. He reached out to hold her in his arms.

The fragrance and warmth on Jeremy's body lingered around Madeline, surrounding her.

Although Madeline let herself be indifferent, she still could not ignore the scorching warmth coming from behind her. It was pressed against her skin.

She suddenly recalled the eight-digit number of the start-up password.

The password to Jeremy's computer turned out to be her birthdate.

This was outrageous.

Old Master Whitman's words involuntarily repeated in her head. 'If Jeremy didn't like you, he'd have never had any physical intimacy with you.'

Madeline wanted to laugh. 'He likes me?

'Grandpa, if he really likes me, he wouldn't have hurt me to that extent. He wouldn't have been so inhumane to tear my love for him into pieces over and over again until I became disheartened.'

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"What's wrong? Why are you so nervous?" The man's low and deep voice slid into her ears like thick red wine.

Madeline suddenly withdrew her thoughts. In the dark, a sneer appeared on the corner of her lips.

"It's nothing. I just thought of a funny joke all of a sudden," she said indifferently, but her eyes were burning.

'That's right, it's a joke. A very big joke.

'He may love any woman in this world, but he'll never love me.'

The next day after Madeline got up early to prepare a hearty breakfast for Jackson, she then sent him to kindergarten with Jeremy.

It was obvious that Jackson's current state was much better than before.

Madeline had never seen a child who became happier and more at ease after being without their biological mother.

What kind of a devil was Meredith to be able to destroy her own flesh and blood to the point of depression and mental damage?

Whitman Corporation.

After the morning meeting was over, Jeremy took Madeline to the department specializing in jewelry under Whitman Corporation.

"It just so happens that the department manager here went abroad to study some time ago, so I'll leave this to you now," Jeremy announced in front of all the employees in the department.

Those who made jewelry were familiar with the brand Miss L.ady, and they were also familiar with the name Vera Quinn. Most importantly, Vera was their president's wife.

Madeline readily accepted this new role. She was now going to penetrate Whitman Corporation.

After familiarizing herself with the department all morning, Madeline then planned to look for Jeremy. Just as she got out of the elevator, she saw Yvonne holding an exquisite lunchbox while running directly into Jeremy's office with a bright smile on her face.

It did not take long for Madeline to hear Yvonne's coquettish voice saying, "Jez, I spent all morning making this. Quickly try it."

"Jez you don't know how much I missed you when I was studying at F Nation..."

She had poured her heart out, but Jeremy seemed to be unresponsive to her. Not long after, Yvonne came out holding the lunchbox.

Madeline calmly walked over and Yvonne's face darkened as soon as she saw Madeline.

Yvonne could not be bothered to put on a show and fake a friendly look in front of Madeline when Jeremy was not around to witness it.

Madeline ignored her. It was just that Madeline noticed how the other woman had curled her lips maliciously when she passed by. This was followed by Madeline feeling an obstacle under her feet.

She saw Yvonne intentionally stretching out her leg in an attempt to trip her.

Yvonne would actually do such a thing even with the knowledge that she was pregnant, but Madeline did not let herself fall.

Yvonne looked at Madeline, who was stable, in surprise. Then, she happened to meet her sharp and beautiful eyes.

Madeline curled her lips and smiled. "It's better to steady your own footsteps before wanting to trip me."

"..." In the midst of her shock and confusion, Yvonne suddenly tripped on her own foot. She immediately lost her balance, falling to the ground with a plop.

“Ah!” Yvonne exclaimed. Her lunchbox fell to the ground and the food inside was scattered all over. Her face, which had makeup on, also planted itself into a large area of the scattered meal.

Not only did she fall flat on her face, but even her makeup was ruined now.

“You! Vera Quinn, you dare trip me with your foot?!” Yvonne was outraged. She got up aggressively.

She was so loud that several staff members were now looking over.

Jeremy immediately walked out when he heard the words ‘Vera Quinn’ mentioned.

Yvonne cried and ran over to complain as soon as she saw Jeremy. “Jez, this woman is so vicious. She tripped me with her foot and now my lunchbox was overturned. Even my makeup is smudged!”

Madeline laughed. “Jeremy, she didn’t lie. I did intentionally trip her—”

“Jez, you heard her. She admitted it! Vera Quinn, you’re so vicious!”

“I admitted it, but do you dare to admit it as well? You wanted to trip me with your foot first just now. I was just returning the favor.”

Yvonne quickly shook her head and squeezed out two drops of tears. “Jez, I didn’t... She’s framing me. You know I’ve been kind since I was young. I would never do such a thing...”

“Look behind you before you lie.” Madeline smiled slightly and pointed at a spot behind Yvonne.

Yvonne turned her head abruptly when she heard Madeline's words, only to see a surveillance camera.

Yvonne's confidence deflated instantly. She looked extremely embarrassed.

Jeremy's icy cold eyes swept over Yvonne's face. "Don't let me see you get any closer to Vera."

Yvonne trembled with fright. "Jez, I..."

"Get lost."

"..."

Yvonne was not happy about it, but she saw the employees whispering on the side while looking at her. She suddenly felt her cheeks heating up immensely. She glared at Madeline angrily before running off.

Jeremy walked toward Madeline, the coldness in his eyes dispersing immediately. "Did she hurt you?"

Madeline shook her head and smiled calmly. "I'm okay."

Jeremy seemed to be more relieved after hearing this. He gently held her hand and walked to the elevator. "Are you tired after working all morning?"

"All my fatigue went away when I saw you." Madeline smiled with curved eyes.

Jeremy looked at her bright, smiling face, and a warm shade covered his cold face.

He even hoped that he could see this smile in front of him for a little longer.

The employees who had not yet dispersed could not help but feel surprised upon seeing this scene before them.

“It turns out that Mr. Whitman can smile.”

“Nonsense. Of course, he can. It just depends on who he’s with.”

“This Vera actually looks almost exactly like Mr. Whitman’s ex-wife, but why did Mr. Whitman hate Madeline so much yet pampers Vera?”

As the voices sounded, nobody could solve this puzzle.

...

Jeremy took Madeline to a nearby restaurant for lunch, but as soon as they sat down, he received a call.

The tone of the person on the other end of the call was a little pressing. Madeline could vaguely hear their conversation. It seemed to be work-related.

“Vera, I can’t accompany you for lunch anymore. There’s something I have to deal with immediately.”

“Work is important. You should go.”

“See you later,” Jeremy said and left a black card before leaving.

Madeline looked at Jeremy's figure indifferently, her lips curling up.

Compared to having lunch with him and being forced to smile, she enjoyed her time alone more.

She ordered a bottle of red wine, and as the waiter poured the wine for her thoughtfully, she looked at the burgundy liquid. Her thoughts wandered away once again.

She thought of Jeremy's start-up password as well as the graveyard and ashes. Madeline suddenly got up, left the restaurant hurriedly without taking a bite nor a sip, and went back to Whitman Corporation.

As expected, Jeremy had left due to an emergency, so he was not in the office.

Madeline entered his office freely. As there was a surveillance camera, she walked toward Jeremy's office desk calmly and naturally.

Madeline then pretended to accidentally knock over a glass of water. She hurriedly took some tissues to wipe the desktop, then picked up the wet laptop and walked to the side. It looked like she wanted to wipe it down, but she had just taken the laptop to a place where the surveillance camera could not see.

Madeline wasted no time to turn on the laptop and enter the password that Jackson cracked last night. After keying in the familiar eight-digit number, the laptop easily switched on.

The password once again disoriented her for a few seconds.

Last night, she had heard Jeremy's footsteps and immediately switched off the computer. She left the study without seeing anything. Now, she had plenty of time.

Madeline took out a USB flash drive from her bag decisively and began to copy the data.

It took about 20 minutes.

Madeline erased all her traces, then put the laptop back in place.

She held the light USB flash drive in her hand, but it felt heavy for some reason.

Although she had not been educated by her parents since she was a child, her grandpa always taught her to be a kind-hearted and honest person.

She always had a clear conscience and never did anything that caused harm.

However, at this moment, she actually felt hesitant.

'Is this considered dishonest?

'No, it's not.

'Jeremy Whitman, back then, you worked with Meredith to ruin me completely. Even on the day of my 'death', I still had to bear the cruel, critical attacks from you two.

'Those non-existent sins, the harm from your tyrannical methods, the pain from three years of unjust charges, and the separation of flesh and blood are all vivid to me.

'You've bestowed me such misfortune, so don't blame me for fighting back now.

'Jeremy, you owe me.'

Madeline held the USB flash drive tightly. She then turned around and left the office.

Felipe's company was on the other side of the street, so Madeline reached there in no time.

It was lunch break, and Felipe had happened to come out. He was surprised and delighted upon seeing Madeline. "Are you looking for me?"

Madeline nodded. "I have something important to tell you."

Felipe smiled faintly. "Let's go to a restaurant. We'll eat while we talk."

"Okay." Madeline nodded and followed Felipe to a Western restaurant nearby.

Not far behind, someone saw this scene and quietly followed.

In the restaurant, Felipe ordered Madeline's favorite dishes and a bottle of red wine.

He poured the wine for her, his graceful, handsome face carrying a gentleman's smile. "What's the matter that you were looking for me in such a hurry? Shouldn't you be accompanying Jeremy to lunch at this time?"

"He left to take care of an emergency."

Felipe's obsidian eyes sparkled with a golden light upon hearing this. "I'm happy that you came looking for me as soon as he left."

Madeline froze a little. "Felipe, I really have an urgent matter."

“Okay, go on.” Felipe smiled slightly and nodded. There was always an elegant demeanor in his gestures.

“I know the start-up password to Jeremy’s computer,” Madeline said softly.

Felipe’s eyes looked up. “How do you suddenly know his password?”

She thought of how Jackson had cracked the password last night and changed the topic. “How I know is not important. What’s important is this.”

She took out the USB flash drive from her bag. “I’ve copied all the information on his computer.”

Looking at the USB flash drive in Madeline’s hand, Felipe’s eyes seemed to have sunk. A strong sense of aggression suddenly appeared in his usually calm and gentle eyes.

He stretched out his hand slowly. “Give it to me.”

Madeline glanced at the USB flash drive, and suddenly, there was a trace of hesitation. At the same time, she also thought of Jeremy’s cruel and tyrannical treatment toward her in the past. In the wind and snow, he had used the ashes of her grandfather and her child as threats to torture her to the brink of death.

He then let Meredith destroy her face and take her corneas. He denied their vows and even disregarded her life until her very last moment.

‘Eveline Montgomery, if he can be so cruel to you, why do you still need to be merciful?’ Madeline asked herself. Her gaze narrowed and she passed the USB flash drive over without hesitation.

Felipe noticed Madeline’s struggle and hesitation, but he was happy when she finally handed the USB

flash drive to him.

It was just that during the handover, someone suddenly rushed over and grabbed Madeline's wrist.

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July 27, 2021 by superadmin

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 431

Madeline's outstretched hand was suddenly hauled up and Felipe was immediately interrupted right when he touched the corner of the thumb drive.

He looked up unhappily with his cold eyes and saw an angry face.

"Vera Quinn, how could you be so shameless?!"

Yvonne yelled, "As soon as Cousin Jeremy walked away, you immediately came to have a sweet lunch with another man. Both of you are even holding hands publicly. You're so cheap, you don't deserve to be my cousin-in-law! I'm going to tell Cousin Jeremy about this right away!"

Madeline really did not expect Yvonne to have tailed her. As she was listening to Yvonne's slanderous words, she withdrew her hand unhappily and said, "Speak with your respect. This 'other man' you're talking about is Jeremy's uncle."

"What?" Shocked, Yvonne looked at Felipe who had a cold facial expression. It was only then she noticed that this man not only looked handsome and extraordinary, but his facial features were indeed somewhat similar looking to Jeremy's.

She knew that Jeremy had an uncle, but she never saw him before. Now that she had seen him, it was unexpected to her that he would be such a rare handsome man.

"Apologize to Vera," Felipe demanded unhappily.

Yvonne pointed to Madeline. "You want me to apologize to her? Why?"

"I could sue you just based on the few words you've said," Felipe replied indifferently.

"..."

Madeline smiled and glanced at Yvonne. "Felipe, forget it. False apologies are never needed for me."

"You..." Yvonne's face was flushed in anger.

At this moment, a reminder tone rang from Felipe's mobile phone. He glanced at the screen and his brows slightly furrowed. "Vera, I have to go back to the company to attend to some important things."

Madeline smiled. "Go ahead."

Felipe nodded. He glared at Yvonne, then turned around dissatisfied.

"Tsk!" Yvonne sneered contemptuously. She rolled her eyes irritably at Madeline before leaving as well.

Only Madeline was left alone again now.

She looked at the sumptuous lunch and freshly unbottled red wine on the table, then sat back down slowly.

Holding the thumb drive in her hand, she simmered in her thoughts for a moment before immediately returning to the office at First Crystal Street.

She copied all the contents of the thumb drive to her personal computer, then clicked on a folder to open it.

Madeline scanned through it roughly and found that most of them were the plans of various projects, contracts, and some related materials of Whitman Corporation.

These were all highly confidential documents. The corporation would inevitably suffer serious damage once they get leaked out.

Madeline also discovered that a recent project plan that Whitman Corporation was secretly working on

was also amongst the files.

It was a cooperative project with ZF, and no mistakes could be made. Otherwise, the consequences would be more than the mere loss of money.

With this data now in her hands, Madeline's lips gradually curved upward.

It turned out that destroying one person was really this easy.

'Jeremy, you must have never thought that the woman you hate the most isn't only alive, but she's also even about to make you experience the feeling of being ruined.'

She chuckled, her mind filled with his cold and merciless eyes from that time.

However, just as Madeline was about to shut down the computer, she suddenly found a folder with no name.

She clicked on it easily and found that there were thousands of txt files in it. Madeline clicked on one at random and found that there was only one line inside, 'It's nice to see you again. I mean it.'

Madeline immediately withdrew her fingers that were holding the mouse.

"I love you. I really do."

The six words that Jeremy uttered to her while hugging her on the seashore of April Hill before they were married resonated clearly in her ears now.

'I really do.'

'Is he emphasizing something?'

Ring, ring, ring... Suddenly, her phone rang.

Madeline was pulled back from her thoughts and saw Jeremy's name displayed on the screen.

She paused for a few seconds before picking it up.

A man's deep and hoarse voice sounded softly, "Have you returned to the company?"

"No, I returned to my store," Madeline said calmly, "Aren't you busy? Why do you have the time to call me?"

"I suddenly missed you," he said softly. After saying this, he added, "For real."

These two words made Madeline's heartbeat skip all of a sudden. Her gaze shifted to the computer screen, her heart feeling disturbed.

"Vera, I might not be able to go back tonight. Will you miss me like how I miss you?"

Madeline was silent for a while as she listened to his words.

Not knowing how much time had passed, she then replied softly, "Of course, of course I'll miss you."

After obtaining her answer, Jeremy chuckled softly and said with a sweet tone, "Don't worry, everything will be resolved soon. We'll never be separated again after this."

Madeline listened to Jeremy's words blankly. By the time she had come back to her senses, it was unknown to her when the call ended.

She vaguely felt that something was off, and after switching off the computer, she immediately went to the detention center.

Meredith was very happy to know that someone had come to visit her, but when she saw that it was Madeline who was sitting in the interview room, her face turned gloomy.

Meredith had dark circles under her eyes. She glared at the noble and elegant-looking Madeline with hatred as she dragged her handcuffs and shackles.

She saw on the news a few days ago that the Montgomery family already knew that Madeline was their biological daughter and had announced it publicly. Yet, they did not seem to know that Madeline was now Vera Quinn.

Meredith glared at Madeline with ferocious eyes, suddenly sneering, "Want to know the whereabouts of the mix breed you gave birth to back then?"

"I indeed want to know, but I don't think you'd tell me."

Madeline was very clear in her heart. "Meredith, let me ask you, why did you destroy my grave and even stole my ashes?"

"Ashes?" Meredith laughed loudly the moment she heard it.

"Madeline, I really wish you were just a handful of ashes! You damn b*tch! If I knew you weren't dead, I wouldn't have wasted time in that kind of unlucky place!"

Madeline's eyes lit up when she heard the words. "So you admit that you really did destroy my grave?"

"Yes, so what?! I even found someone to curse you, to make you not have an easy life even as a ghost!"

Listening to Meredith's spiteful cursings, Madeline was shocked into a daze.

It was not because of Meredith's evil curse but the fact that she had confirmed through Meredith's answer that the destroyed grave was really made for her.

"Madeline, don't be happy just yet. I'll definitely get out! When that happens, I'll kill the little one first and leave you with regrets for the rest of your life!"

Madeline got up slowly and looked over Meredith condescendingly.

"There'll be no such day. Once the truth behind the death of Brittany and my grandfather is revealed, what awaits you will be the death penalty. That day is about to come very soon."

"Madeline! Don't leave, Madeline! Don't think you'll ever find that mixed breed of yours!"

Madeline ignored Meredith's roaring curses behind her and proceeded to leave the visitor room.

That night, Madeline stood on the balcony without feeling sleepy. She faced the evening breeze of early winter.

'That destroyed grave was really mine?

'Why would he set up a grave for me? And why did he look so crazy when it was discovered that my grave was destroyed?'

Madeline could not fathom it and decided to stop thinking about it.

Early the next morning, after Madeline had sent Jackson to kindergarten, she went to Whitman Corporation.

As soon as she reached the doors, she heard someone calling her. "Vera."

Madeline looked back and saw Felipe walking toward her. She quickly recalled the thumb drive.

Felipe then said immediately, "Vera, is the thumb drive with you?"

Madeline no longer let herself think about anything else. She took out the thumb drive decisively from her bag and handed it over, "Here you go."

At this moment, Madeline's wrist was grabbed again.

The familiar heat and breath made her heart tighten. She raised her eyes and locked them with Jeremy's deep gaze.

Jeremy looked at Madeline, his thin lips parting slightly as he said, "You can't give it to him."

Madeline did not expect Jeremy to appear so suddenly at this time. Not only did he stop her, but he had even said something like this.

Felipe's gaze turned cold. "Jeremy, aren't you on a business trip?"

"Am I not allowed to come back after my business trip? How would I be able to witness you pestering my wife if I hadn't come back just in time?" Jeremy said in a cold tone, then he held Madeline's hand in his palm. "Let's go in."

He ignored Felipe and turned away while bringing Madeline to the door.

Madeline looked back at Felipe, then followed Jeremy into the corporation silently.

Upon returning to the office, Madeline thought that Jeremy would question her, but he did not ask anything.

"Don't you have something to ask me?" Madeline inquiringly looked at the man who had a calm expression.

Jeremy took off his coat and replied in a soft tone, "Do I have something to ask?"

"Won't you ask me what is in this thumb drive and why I was giving it to Felipe?"

"If you wanted to tell me, you would have naturally done so." Jeremy smiled with his lips parted. Listening to his words, it seemed that he did not have the intention to pursue it.

"You don't want to question me, but you did stop me just now. It's because you know what's inside, right?" Madeline asked with a slight smile.

"How would I know what's in the thumb drive? I just don't like seeing you and him having any interaction." Jeremy explained patiently. Seeing Madeline frowning and looking unhappy, he walked toward her.

His tone was pampering and coaxing, something she had never experienced before.

"Vera, I don't want to see you get too close to any one of the opposite sex, especially Felipe."

His soft gaze fell onto her like the warm sun in winter, then he hugged Madeline.

"Promise me, never meet him alone again, okay?"

His humble words bloomed beside Madeline's ears in a begging tone.

"I don't want to lose you. I really don't want to..."

"..."

He whispered, his embrace tightening even more.

Madeline raised her hand slowly and gently hugged them around Jeremy's waist. "I promise."

As if having received a joyful promise, Madeline heard Jeremy chuckle relaxedly. "That's good."

After a while, Madeline followed Jeremy to the regular meeting.

She was not in the mood to listen to the content of the meeting, however, as Jeremy's behavior had planted a certain speculation in her heart.

When the meeting ended, Madeline received a call from Eloise all of a sudden saying that Diana's case was going on trial this afternoon. She called to thank Madeline for her help back then.

They would never know that Vera was precisely the party involved in this matter.

At 1:30 PM in the afternoon, Madeline appeared in the audience.

Diana stood in the area of the defendant and admitted that she had switched the babies back then, but she still did not think it was a big deal.

"It's not that I've done anything bad to the child.

All I did was switch them around. My sister can prove that I gave her that child back then. She was still alive at that time! Then she died, and that means her death was well deserved.

Who asked her to kill my daughter? My daughter is the most innocent and most pitiful in this case! Your Honor, you must seek justice for my daughter!"

Hearing this, Eloise and Sean were angered while wishing they could go up and teach Diana a lesson.

This ridiculous remark made Madeline feel that Diana was indeed hateable and pitiful.

Diana sounded like she loved Brit very much, but in fact, she was only immersed in her own self-righteous, motherly love.

The judge was also shocked by Diana's remarks. Was this what a humane person would say?

Making it look reasonable even after she had destroyed another family that could have been warm and complete.

Immediately right after, Diana's sister appeared as a witness.

Diana was very excited the moment she saw her. "Your Honor, this is my sister! Ask her whether I gave her the child back then! I really didn't do anything to that child."

"Silence," the judge said solemnly before asking, "Witness, please answer the prosecution lawyer's question."

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Diana's sister looked like an honest person. However, her tone was extremely disdainful when she spoke, "About 28 years ago, my sister Diana handed me a child. She said it's a child who someone had abandoned. As she pitied the child, she asked me to adopt her.

"Back then, she gave me a huge sum of money to keep the child, so I took care of the baby for a few days because I needed the cash. However, that child would cry non-stop every night. I thought she was too

annoying and gave her to my father.”

When Eloise and Sean heard about the truth, they were so heartbroken that they could not breathe.

Their daughter had cried every night because she wanted her parents’ cuddles and comfort. However, no one was giving that to her. On the contrary, she was even abandoned.

At that same moment, they were doting on Diana’s biological daughter.

Diana even had the nerve to say that she was a child who was abandoned by her parents and only kept her around because she felt sorry for her.

What she said was so horrifying.

Diana always looked so dumb and innocent, but she actually knew everything. If not, how would she know to let her own daughter enjoy such a luxurious and extravagant lifestyle?

Then, Diana’s sister said, “My dad isn’t right in the head. However, he seemed to like that child. After I gave him the child, I didn’t ask about her anymore. Then, I heard that my father moved just so he could send her to school. I don’t know where he went. It’s been 30 years since I last saw him. I didn’t see that child anymore as well.”

When she heard about this, Madeline understood.

Her grandfather was Diana’s father.

His children ignored him for more than 30 years. They did not even know that he had died.

Madeline felt debilitating pain in her heart. It was for her and for her grandfather who raised her ever since she was small.

At this moment, Eloise got up all of a sudden and pointed at Diana angrily with red eyes.

“Diana! Is this the amazing sister that you mentioned? Did you hear that? Not only did your ‘good sister’ didn’t take good care of my daughter, but she even left her with your father. How can you say that this is just a minor matter with such righteousness?”

“You caused my daughter to have no parents since she was young and she died without her parents by her side. On the other hand, you let your daughter enjoy all the luxurious things in the world since she was young. You’re not human! You’re heartless!”

Even though what Eloise did was not right, the judge did not look into it. Perhaps he felt that it was understandable.

Diana lowered her head as she could not say anything more.

The hearing ended, and the court would sentence Diana in an hour.

After they got out, Eloise looked at Madeline through her tears. Her face stunned Eloise.

She ran toward Madeline and held her without saying anything.

“Eveline... My Eveline...”

Madeline was touched. She lifted her hand to pat Eloise’s shoulder and comforted, saying, “Mrs. Montgomery, stop crying. It’s all in the past now.”

'Yeah, it's all in the past. Soon, everything will be over...'

When it was time to go back, Jeremy arrived. His face looked gentle when he said he was here to pick Madeline up.

"How did you know I was here to watch?" On the way, Madeline asked curiously.

Jeremy smiled. "How could I be your husband if I don't know what you're thinking about?"

His answer sounded sweet, but Madeline did not think so.

On the other hand, she realized that they were not heading home. They were heading to the cemetery.

After they got out of the car, Jeremy held her hand and led her into the cemetery.

"I didn't expect that to happen the last time I brought you here. However, you must be curious about something, right?"

After he said that, they got to their destination.

This was the grave that was destroyed last time, but now, it had been cleaned up.

Madeline looked at the empty grave. She smiled softly and asked, "Who was buried here before?"

"My ex-wife, Madeline."

Even though Madeline could guess this from Meredith's replies, when Jeremy gave her an affirmative answer, she was still stunned all the same.

The cold wind from the early winter caressed her face. That bone-chilling coldness made Madeline recall the man's cruelty back then.

She could never forget about his cruel and cold-blooded actions as well as his gaze.

After a while, Madeline curled her lips superficially. "You hate Madeline so much, so why did you even erect a tombstone for her? You're even giving her roses. I don't understand this," she smiled as she said. She could not accept this reality.

He hated her so much that he wanted to crush her into dust, so why was he commemorating her passing?

Jeremy smiled when he heard that. His gentle gaze landed on Madeline's face. "I know you won't believe me because even I've lied to myself a few times."

Madeline turned her head. "Lied to yourself?"

Jeremy smiled and looked at Madeline. "I lied to myself that her passing is just a lie and I lied to myself that... I didn't love her."

"..."

After he said that, Madeline felt as if her heart had been ripped out from her chest. A sarcastic smile spread across her face.

What an emotional speech. However, she could not feel any arousal of emotions or sweetness from his words. There was only pathetic hypocrisy.

She laughed as she turned around. She said slowly, "You brought me all the way here just to tell me you love Madeline?"

After she asked this question, Madeline chuckled lowly.

"I don't know what happened between you two, but I know if a man truly loves a woman, he wouldn't let her cry. If you really cared and was concerned about her, she wouldn't have died just like that."

Madeline clenched her fists that were hiding in her sleeves. She controlled the hatred in her heart as she looked at Jeremy coldly.

"Jeremy, you don't love Madeline. You love Meredith. Everyone in Glendale knows that."

She denied everything. The man in front of her looked straight at her without arguing.

"I got it. After Madeline died and you learned about the truth during this period, you've started feeling that you're indebted to Madeline, so that's why you erected a tombstone for her. You also give her flowers as an apology, right?"

Madeline explained why Jeremy was doing that. This was also the most reasonable reason she could think of.

However, Jeremy only smiled at Madeline while keeping silent.

...

After they went home, Madeline went to the kitchen to make dinner.

Of course, she did not have the mood to make dinner for Jeremy anymore. However, she was more than happy to make a delicious meal for Jackson.

Madeline made three different kinds of dishes and some soup. It was a simple family meal.

Back then, she had spent so many evenings making dinner for Jeremy and yet, he never even tried her food before.

Now, looking at him devouring her food, a hint of sarcasm appeared in Madeline's eyes.

'Jeremy, if you weren't blind back then and did not believe everything Meredith said, this would've been a harmonious moment for the four of us as a family.

'However, you've destroyed everything.

'We made a promise when we were young and also made a vow on our wedding day, but in the end, it became my one-sided wishful thinking. Eventually, you even destroyed my last ounce of yearning.

'It was the best moment of my life and yet you gave me the darkest and most painful memories.

'Back then on that snowy day, I told you that if you didn't kill me, I'd definitely seek revenge.'

Ding!

At this moment, Madeline's phone chimed with the notification sound.

Madeline gathered her thoughts and looked at the screen. It was from Felipe.

Felipe was hoping that Madeline would send him the documents on the USB drive.

"Daddy, is Vera going to be my mommy from now on? Can I tell the other kids that my mommy is Vera Quinn when they ask me?" Jackson asked in a childish and innocent voice.

Madeline looked over and saw Jeremy spooning some food into Jackson's plate. Then, he smiled warmly and nodded. "Jack, no matter in the past or the future, you only have one mommy and she's sitting in front of you."

After he said that, Jackson smiled naively at Madeline.

There was a glint in Jackson's eyes that instantly healed Madeline's wounded heart.

Suddenly, she felt an ache in her heart. Then, she felt reluctant.

She was reluctant to make Jackson's smile disappear in the future.

The moment Jeremy's reputation was ruined and the Whitmans fell from grace, Jackson would not be happy again.

...

The next morning, Madeline went to the shop. She organized the files on the USB drive and deliberately deleted some important documents before sending them to Felipe.

However, when Felipe saw the documents, he immediately went to look for Madeline.

Madeline was about to go to Whitman Corporation. When she saw Felipe, she could predict the reason why he had come over in such a hurry.

Felipe was a smart man, so he was able to tell that the documents that were sent over were of no use to him.

The inside of the office was quiet.

Not only did Felipe not question her or feel dissatisfied with her, he only looked at her with a disappointed look on his face.

“Vera, are you regretting this?” His tone was calm. “You don’t want to see him fall from grace. You still love him.”

“I stopped loving him a long time ago.” Madeline denied without hesitating, and there was sarcasm in her eyes. “I just don’t want to go all out. After all, Jackson is innocent.”

“I don’t think you’re going all out. Just think about how he treated you back then.”

Felipe walked in front of Madeline, his eyes as bright as onyxes. Yet, they were looking at her with pity.

“Maddie, please allow me to call you this. I think you won’t forget about how he abandoned and ignored you in the rain so cruelly. And remember how he allowed Meredith to frame you, causing you to be wrongfully imprisoned for three years?

“Remember how they tortured you during the three years of your imprisonment and how they stole

your child? What did he do to force you to divorce him? He asked Meredith to remove your corneas and even treated your life with contempt. You're already very benevolent to him by doing this."

There was a hint of rage in Felipe's usually calm and warm eyes.

"Stop hesitating. He has already committed so many crimes. You don't have to go easy on him."

After Madeline heard those words, tears welled up in her eyes.

What happened in the past had built up into a mountain of indestructible hatred. Her gaze was determined.

'Yes, I can't hesitate anymore. I can't continue being so soft-hearted."

Madeline made her final decision, but she still could not hand all of the documents in the USB drive to Felipe. It was because she remembered the old master's reminder all of a sudden.

Monday morning, Madeline and Jeremy walked into Whitman Corporation's door and saw the employees in bad moods. However, the employees still smiled and greeted them because of Jeremy's aura.

Even though Jeremy did not show any emotions, Madeline could detect that he felt that something was amiss. She knew clearly what was the reason behind his strange expression.

When they got to the office, Jeremy's assistant, Ken, walked in with a solemn expression. "Mr. Whitman, something's wrong."

Madeline looked at Jeremy indifferently when she heard that. The man flipped through a stack of documents in his hand slowly without raising his head. "What's going on?"

Ken looked at Madeline hesitantly.

Madeline understood what he meant and smiled before getting up. "You guys should talk. I'll go back to the jewelry department."

"Vera is my wife. There's nothing she's not allowed to know." Jeremy stopped Madeline from leaving.

Ken nodded and said, "Mr. Whitman, the project in Cielo Aqua Bay with ZF is met with a bit of a hiccup."

Jeremy took care of the work in front of him and asked slowly, "The project has not started yet, so what can happen?"

"Since it hasn't started yet, someone snatched it away from us."

After Ken said that, Jeremy stopped flipping through his documents.

He lifted his eyes that were as deep as the ocean. "Someone snatched it from us?"

Ken nodded. "It's a company named Simis. They signed the contract with the relevant department of ZF yesterday."

"Simis?" Jeremy muttered to himself quietly.

"Mr. Whitman, our company will suffer a huge loss if the collaboration stops so abruptly. The preparation we did back then would all go to waste."

After Ken said that, the sound of knocking came from the glass door of the office.

A few heads of departments stood outside the door with grim expressions on their faces. Jeremy's eyes darkened. His bottomless eyes had already detected some clues.

The heads walked in. After they were all in the room, they started talking frantically all at once.

"Mr. Whitman, the shipping to South America was put to a stop all of a sudden. The products are all left at the dock. The customers in South America are livid."

"Mr. Whitman, the clients from RS want to reexamine the collaboration with us all of a sudden for no reason. All of the relevant businesses are forced to come to a stop."

"Mr. Whitman, something went wrong with the project in Cielo Aqua Bay. The shareholders from the board want to have an emergency meeting. They're already on the way."

"..."

Ken was stunned for a few seconds after he heard these.

Why were they all happening at once?

It seemed as if they had been targeted.

Madeline listened to all these quietly. She turned around and saw Jeremy getting up slowly. "Prepare for the meeting." He ordered flatly. He walked in front of Madeline and smiled gently before saying, "I'm going to take care of something. You should go do your work."

Madeline nodded. "Okay."

She did not intend to follow him since the content of the meeting was not important to her anymore.

Madeline stood where she was as she watched Jeremy turn around.

He still looked elegant and poised. It was as if he was just facing something minor.

Madeline lifted her gaze to look at the winter scene outside the window as her eyes darkened.

'Jeremy Whitman, your winter is coming.'

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'I will leave a ray of light for you in the winter for the sake of Grandpa and Jack.

'This is my last act of kindness to you.'

Two days later, not only was the crisis not solved, but the shares of Whitman Corporation were also greatly affected. There were also a lot of rumors about the possibility of them closing transactions.

However, Jeremy did not look worried. On the other hand, he brought Madeline back to have dinner in Whitman Manor.

During dinner, Jeremy's phone rang non-stop. This time, he received a call and walked away. His mother placed down her fork in worry.

"Aunt Karen, what's wrong?" Yvonne looked concerned.

"What else can be wrong? So many things have been happening to the company recently. I have no idea what's going on. They all happened at the same time."

"Aunt Karen, don't worry. With Jeremy's abilities, he'll be able to settle anything." Yvonne had a look of admiration on her face as she flattered.

"What do you know? This is related to ZF as well. I think there'll be some trouble coming," Jeremy's mother said in dissatisfaction. When she saw Madeline holding her fork and eating carefreely, her face darkened even more.

"Hmph, Vera, what kind of wife are you? Your husband is so busy that he doesn't even have time to eat and you're having the time of your life wolfing down your meal. If anything happens to Whitman Corporation, you'll have to suffer as well!"

Madeline chuckled lowly when she heard that. "I won't be affected even if something were to happen to Whitman Corporation. I have my own company and business. I don't need to depend on a man."

"You..." Jeremy's mother glared at Madeline angrily.

Yvonne quickly comforted her before starting to attack Madeline. "Vera, how can you say that? Are you even Jeremy's wife? If you don't know how to be Jeremy's wife, then you should divorce him soon."

"Why? Do you want me to divorce him so much?" Madeline lifted her gaze. "Even if I divorce him, you'll never have the chance to have a relationship with him."

"..." Yvonne's face turned red as her thoughts had been exposed. "W-What are you talking about? I only have respect and admiration for Jeremy. I'm not as filthy as you imagine!"

"You should know yourself whether you're filthy or not." Madeline smiled and reached out her fork nonchalantly.

Jeremy's mother reached out and swatted away Madeline's hand that was reaching out to the food.

"Why are you still eating? As Jeremy's wife, not only are you refusing to share his burden but you're also carrying on with your life so carefreely. Vera Quinn, let me tell you, you should know your place. If not, I'll make sure you end up like that b*tch Madeline Crawford!"

Slam!

Madeline slammed her fork on the table. Her actions had scared Jeremy's mother and Yvonne. They looked at Madeline with shocked looks on their faces.

Madeline lifted her gaze and there was a powerful aura coming from her eyes. "You keep calling Madeline a b*tch, but what has she ever done to you? Is that how you should behave as a mother-in-law?"

"How much did your son torture Madeline because of that vile woman, Meredith? Now that the truth has come out, not only do you not feel remorseful for what you've done, but you even want to treat an innocent person like this. Why? Did Madeline owe you anything? Or do you think that you're better than her because you're her mother-in-law?"

Jeremy's mother's jaw dropped. "H-How dare you talk to me that way?"

Madeline curled the corners of her lips in arrogance. "I'm not your maid, so why can't I talk to you that way? On the other hand, I don't think you're able to talk to me in that tone soon enough."

"..." Jeremy's mother looked at the domineering Madeline with a look of loss on her face.

After Jeremy ended his call, he realized that the atmosphere in the room was weird.

His mother stood up and pointed at Madeline furiously. "Jeremy, this woman is utterly undisciplined and out of control! She yelled at me while pointing at me. She doesn't even respect me at all!"

"Yeah, Jeremy. I saw and heard everything! Not only did Vera scream at Aunt Karen, but she also scolded you. She said you made Madeline suffer a lot, but Madeline was a bad woman! She deserved to die!"

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"Shut up!" Jeremy roared angrily.

Yvonne immediately kept quiet out of fear. She saw a coldness in Jeremy's eyes and did not even dare to breathe too loudly.

Jeremy walked past Yvonne and his mother as he approached Madeline. When he saw Madeline's displeased expression, he asked gently, "Are you full? If you are, then let's go home."

Madeline got up slowly, her arrogant eyes scanning across Yvonne and Jeremy's mother. She said slowly, "I don't want to eat anymore. How can I have an appetite when I'm facing those people?"

"..."

Jeremy's mother exploded immediately. "Jeremy, did you hear that? She's talking about me with that kind of attitude!"

Madeline smiled coldly. "So what if I'm talking to you that way? Do you think I'll let you bully me like Madeline?"

"Y-You..." Jeremy's mother was at a loss for words. "Vera Quinn, what do you mean? Are you outraged by the injustice Madeline suffered? How interesting. But you can't stop me from scolding her when she is a b*tch! She said Meredith was framing her, but if she had behaved well, who would have wanted to harm her?"

"That heartless b*tch slashed my grandson's face and I still haven't avenged my grandson for that. Thankfully, she's dead now. If not, I will never forgive her!"

"I told you to shut up! Didn't you hear? Do you want me to get angry?" Jeremy was livid now, and his eyes were filled with ice. "Madeline was proven to be Miss Montgomery. Do you dare to say all these to Eloise and Sean?"

"..." His mother pressed her lips together in awkwardness.

When she found out that Madeline was the Montgomeries' daughter, she was completely stunned.

Madeline was a feral child who was brought up by a mentally ill old man but she turned out to be the young lady from the influential Montgomery family. She refused to accept this.

Back then, she even curried favor with Eloise. She said it would be amazing if they could be in-laws. In the end, Madeline's true identity came back and slapped her across the face.

The room plunged into silence as Jeremy's gaze softened. "Vera, let's go back."

Madeline released her tightly clenched fists as she glared at Jeremy's mother with an icy gaze that was filled with flames of anger.

When Jeremy's mother saw Jeremy holding Madeline's hand considerately, she started muttering to herself angrily, "Hmph, so what if she was the Montgomeries' daughter? I'm just telling the truth. That

b*tch really almost disfigured Jack and she must have been involved in Brittany Montgomery's death too!"

Madeline stopped in her tracks. She turned her face, her piercing gaze landing on Jeremy's mother's face. "You didn't see it with your own eyes or have any evidence, but you're accusing someone of a crime. If the truth came out one day proving that Madeline was innocent, will you apologize? You won't. You'll just bully the weak and kneel to the strong."

"..." Jeremy's mother looked at Madeline's mocking gaze with awkwardness on her face.

Of course, she was unconvinced and unsatisfied. However, she did not dare to say anything when she saw how much Jeremy protected Madeline. She could only endure her anger.

Madeline was right. She would only bully the weak and kneel to the strong. She would also take unfair advantage of the weak and fear the strong.

This time, she knew she was faced with a rival.

Vera was indeed something else. Madeline was not able to compare to her.

...

On the way home, the inside of the car was oddly quiet.

Madeline looked out of the window and saw the changing scenery outside. Her gaze looked desolate.

She would always remember this road. She remembered how he had choked her so cruelly just to protect Meredith. He also warned her and was suspicious of her.

Despite her using her life to plead for an ounce of trust from him, in the end, she was still kicked out of the car in disdain.

On that day, it had been very windy and was also raining cats and dogs.

She endured the pain in her body and collapsed to the icy ground.

If it was not for Felipe, she might have gotten run over by a car and would have died in the middle of the road. Perhaps, she would have died from pain.

‘Heh.

‘In my memories, you’ve only ever brought me pain.’

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‘However, now you’re ridiculously exploiting my death and saying that you love me?

‘Jeremy, you’re pathetic.’

“I need to go to F Country three hours later. I’ll be gone for about two days.” The man’s deep voice sounded.

F Country?

Madeline’s eyes twinkled. Then, she replied flatly, “Okay.”

When Jeremy heard her emotionless answer, he lifted his eyes and saw Madeline's cold expression from the rearview mirror.

After the car stopped, Madeline got out of the car and went into the house herself. When she wanted to go see Jackson, she remembered that Eloise had picked him up this morning.

Although Jackson was not their biological grandson, he was still Eloise and Sean's grandson in their hearts. They genuinely loved this child as well.

Madeline went back to her room and grabbed her pajamas. She was about to go take a shower.

However, when she turned around, she saw Jeremy looking at her with a complicated look in his eyes.

"What's wrong? Are you going to berate me for talking to your mother that way, or are you agreeing that your ex-wife Madeline was a despicable b*tch so I have no right to defend her?"

She smiled sarcastically in a nonchalant manner. She then walked in front of the silent man.

"If you want to lecture me, you can save it. I won't change my attitude."

However, the moment she finished talking, Jeremy lifted his hand and placed it behind her head gently.

He bent down and closed his eyes. Then, his thin lips were pressed against hers as he kissed her deeply.

Madeline was caught off guard. She did not expect that Jeremy would be quiet and not mad at her, but instead, he would just kiss her.

She was taken aback for a few seconds. When she came back to her senses, Jeremy had already

detached himself from her.

He looked straight at her, his eyes filled with gentleness and tender sentiments.

“No matter what you say or do, I won’t blame you.”

After Jeremy said that, he spread out his arms and pulled Madeline into a hug.

His force was gentle yet passionate. It was as if he would hurt her if he held her too tightly or too gently.

“Wait for me to come back. I’ll take care of everything. Trust me.”

His gentle voice lingered in her ear.

Madeline sighed deeply and did not move. She allowed Jeremy to hold her, letting the two of them get entangled with each other.

Suddenly, she smiled.

‘Jeremy, this will be our last embrace.

‘When you come back from F Country, Vera Quinn will disappear from the face of the earth.

‘I won’t smile at you anymore. I won’t even give you a fake smile.’

Three hours later, Jeremy boarded the plane to F Country.

Large white birds soared in the deep blue sky. They left undetectable traces in the night sky.

The next day, Madeline attended the meeting as the president's wife. However, before she could sit down, Yvonne and Jeremy's mother, Karen, barged into the meeting room aggressively before cornering her to one side.

"Vera, don't think that you're the person with the most power in this company just because my son isn't here."

Karen glared at Madeline. Then, she walked to Jeremy's usual seat in the room and sat down in front of all of the heads of departments. "Everyone, the affairs of the company will be handled by me and Miss Yvonne Yalaman who's beside me during the absence of my son. If there are any documents to sign or examine, you should pass all of them to me."

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July 27, 2021 by superadmin

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 441

After Karen finished barking her orders in an imposing manner, the entire room went quiet. They were all staring blankly at her and Yvonne.

Yvonne was beaming as she loved the feeling of being in the center of attention.

Madeline burst out laughing when she saw the aunt and niece duo in front of her. "You're taking over? What are you going to be responsible for? Being the clown?"

Karen's face fell. "Vera, who do you think you are? How dare you talk to me like that? You're just Jeremy's wife, so what qualifications do you have to manage Whitman Corporation?"

She said before looking at Yvonne, "Yvonne, from this day on, you'll sit here. When Jeremy comes back,

I'll tell him that you're his secretary now."

Yvonne was elated after she heard that. "Thank you, Aunt Karen!" She smiled and sat down on Madeline's seat.

"What are you still doing here? Get out! Go manage your Miss L.ady. You have no business being in Whitman Corporation." Karen chased Madeline away. Then, she sat upright and pretentiously said, "Aren't we going to have a meeting? Let's start."

The heads of departments looked at each other, none of them listening to Karen's orders.

Madeline chuckled softly and watched Karen's performance. Then, she tossed her notebook on the table.

The heads of departments inhaled sharply after the notebook landed on the table with a loud thud. They saw an imposing aura oozing off Madeline.

"What's this? My dear mother-in-law is trying to display power by taking office when my husband isn't around, huh?"

Madeline lifted her eyebrow and watched as Karen's expression gradually changed.

"Meeting? Do you know what meeting this is for? Do you know the shipping date to South America, the contract with RS, and the project in Cielo Aqua Bay? I think you don't even know what the client's RQR is and you're boasting about taking charge? My dear mother-in-law, you're here for comedic relief indeed."

"..." Karen was speechless after Madeline said that. She looked like she was constipated as her face was bright red.

“Vera, how can you talk to Aunt Karen like that, you—”

“And you.” Madeline interrupted coldly. “Are you really so naive to think that you can get my position just like this? It’s still too early for you to be happy.”

“ ...”

Slam! Karen slammed her hand down on the table angrily. “Vera Quinn! You—”

“Mrs. Whitman!” An experienced head of department got up and stopped Karen when she saw the chaos happening in front of her. “Mrs. Whitman, you should go. Mr. Whitman told us yesterday that his wife will be the one responsible for all company affairs when he’s not around. No one else is allowed to interfere.”

“ ...”

Karen and Yvonne were stunned when they heard that.

They did not expect Jeremy to have given out such an order.

“Mr. Whitman also said that if anyone dares to disobey his wife, they’ll be fired immediately. If there’s anyone who dares to make a fuss, they’ll be kicked out by security. Mrs. Whitman, you won’t make things difficult for us, right?”

After Karen heard this, her expression darkened even more.

She did not expect Jeremy to defend that woman to this extent.

Madeline curled the corners of her lips nonchalantly. "Did you hear that, my dear mother-in-law? Did all of you hear that? I don't think you want me to call the security on you, right?"

"..." Karen was so mad that her eyes almost fell out from their sockets. However, the only thing she could do now was glare at Madeline.

"Since you have nothing to say anymore, please leave. Stop hindering our meeting. If you delay this for one more second, it might cause Whitman Corporation to lose out a hundred million dollars. Do you think you can bear that loss?"

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How would Karen be satisfied with that? However, she did not have a choice, so she could only leave while fuming.

Yvonne puffed up her cheeks and gritted her teeth in anger. However, she could only follow Karen out of the meeting room.

"Aunt Karen, Vera is so despicable! It's fine that she doesn't respect me, but she doesn't even want to respect you in front of all those heads of departments!"

Yvonne felt indignant and she started egging Karen on.

"Aunt Karen, since Jeremy isn't around, you should crack down on Vera's spirits and teach her a lesson! If not, she'll think that she's the boss."

Karen scoffed. "You're right. Tonight, I'll let her know who's the real boss."

A few moments after the meeting, Madeline got a call from Whitman Manor. The caller told her that Old Master Whitman wanted her to drop by tonight.

If it was six years ago, Madeline would believe that it was the old master who wanted to see her. However, after her death, she would not be so naive anymore.

Yet, Madeline still went.

She grabbed her bag and clicked her heels as she sashayed into the living room.

Karen and Yvonne had already prepared a trap for Madeline. When they saw her, Karen displayed a fake smile on her face.

“My dear daughter-in-law is here. Let’s start dinner then,” she said weirdly. Then, she looked at Madeline’s shoes. “Say, you’re pregnant and you’re still wearing high heels. What if you fall, Vera?”

Yvonne smirked and chimed in, saying, “Yeah, Vera. How can you wear such tall heels? What if you fall and have a miscarriage? You would want to give birth to this child with no complications, tight? The mother’s honor increases as her child’s position rises. Your child will inherit such a huge business in the future.”

“The mother’s honor increases as her child’s position rises? You’re a woman from the 21st century and you’re saying dumb things like that? How pathetic.” Madeline peered at her. “I can wear whatever I want. You don’t have the right to comment on them.”

“...” Yvonne was speechless as she widened her eyes.

Karen endured this even though she was not happy about it. “Yvonne, you’re at fault. Vera is exceptional. She has her own company and business, so she doesn’t need to bask in the glory of her son’s success.”

It sounded like she was siding with Madeline, but to be frank, she was berating her with her words.

"Come, let's eat. My dear Vera has been working in the office for the entire day. She must be exhausted," Karen said while eyeing Yvonne.

Madeline sat down, but after a while, no one was bringing the food over.

"My dear, according to the rules of the Whitman family, before dinner, the younger people have to bring the food to the elders. They also have to greet the elders as a sign of respect. If there are other elders at the scene, then you should also greet them as well."

Madeline laughed when she heard that. She said slowly, "The rules of the Whitman family? I'm sorry, but I'm not a Whitman."

"You..."

"You did so many things to get me to come back so that you can make me listen to you and respect you?"

"Isn't it right and proper for the daughter-in-law to serve the mother-in-law?" Karen asked arrogantly.

Madeline smirked with contempt in her eyes. "Yes, it is, but are you worthy of it?"

"..." The corners of Karen's lips twitched. "Vera, don't be ungrateful for the respect I'm giving you! If you continue to do this, don't blame me for not respecting you in front of outsiders!"

"Respect? Since when have you ever respected me, huh?" Madeline laughed sarcastically. Then, she lifted her gaze arrogantly. "What were you doing as a mother-in-law when Meredith slandered me for stealing someone's bracelet? You didn't even want to admit that I was your daughter-in-law! You told your friends and family in disgust that I was just a maid in the Whitman family. Is that the kind of respect you talk about having given me?"

After Madeline said that, Karen's face was flushed white. She widened her eyes in shock as she looked at the beautiful yet icy face in front of her in disbelief.

When Yvonne saw Karen's pale and dumbfounded face, she was confused. She was even more confused with what Madeline had said just now.

"Aunt Karen, you..."

"W-What did you just say?" Karen ignored Yvonne. She reached out her finger and pointed to Madeline, saying, "Say that again. W-Who are you?"

Madeline leaned back on her chair nonchalantly when she saw Karen stammering in terror.

She lifted her eyebrow and stared straight at her.

"It happened here on that day. You said I could only become one of the Whitmans and marry Jeremy if the dead could come back to life. Now, as a 'dead person', I'm standing in front of you. How is it? Are you surprised?"

"..."

Karen felt her heart skip a beat. She stood up from the chair in terror. "Y-Y-You're not Vera Quinn!"

Madeline smiled nonchalantly. "It's only been three years. Did you forget me so quickly, my darling mother-in-law?"

“...” Karen stammered as she stared at Madeline.

Vera swayed her glamorous body and approached Karen slowly but with a powerful imposing manner emitting from her being.

Karen took a step back when Madeline took a step closer. Karen only stopped walking when her back hit the decorative shelf behind her.

“Stop getting closer to me!” Karen increased the octave of her voice, and her trembling tone was mixed with fear. “Get away from me!”

Madeline chuckled softly. “How are you going to see me clearly if I don’t get closer to you?”

“...” Karen peered at Madeline with the corner of her eyes in fear before averting her gaze quickly.

Madeline reached out her hand and grabbed Karen’s wrist. Then, she pulled Karen roughly over to her, forcing the woman to face her. “My dear mother-in-law, look closely at my face. Is it the same as the one you despise in your memory, huh?”

“...”

“Are you seeing me clearly? I’m the daughter-in-law you look down on, Madeline Crawford!”

!!!

Karen’s heartbeat accelerated. At this moment, she was completely petrified. She could not accept this. However, that face in front of her and those eyes that were covered with a layer of frost and dyed with flames of hatred were enough to prove that Vera Quinn was indeed Madeline Crawford!

When Yvonne heard that, her eyes widened in shock as well.

'Madeline Crawford?

'Jeremy's ex-wife Madeline Crawford?

'Didn't she divorce Jeremy three years ago? Plus, Aunt Karen said that she has died.

'If she's dead, how could she stand here alive and well?'

"M-Madeline... You're really Madeline..." Karen asked lifelessly, her eyes filled with fear.

"I'm so sorry for making you feel happy for nothing." Madeline released Karen's wrist.

After her wrist was released, Karen scurried to hide behind Yvonne. She did not dare to look Madeline in the eye.

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Madeline smiled happily when she saw Karen avoiding her.

"If I remember correctly, you said that everyone would be happy if I died. However, from the looks of it now, it seems pretty difficult for you to be happy now."

"..." Karen was speechless. She looked more and more defeated.

Yvonne looked at Karen behind her, then yelled at Madeline with an arrogant look on her face, “So you’re Jeremy’s dead ex-wife Madeline. If you’re not dead, why did you pretend to be dead to scare my aunt? I’m warning you, if you dare to be so unrestrained, I’ll—”

“This is between me and them. It’s best if you mind your own business.” Madeline interrupted domineeringly with a cold gaze. “Don’t say that I didn’t warn you. If you don’t want to get burnt, you’d better step aside.”

“...” Yvonne wanted to stand up for Karen, but she was stunned when she saw Madeline’s imposing manner.

When she saw Madeline walking over, Yvonne shut up in fear and stepped aside.

With nothing in front of her, Karen lifted her head to look at Madeline while shaking furiously.

“M-Madeline, what do you want? What are you trying to do?”

“What do I want? Shouldn’t I be the one asking you this question?” Madeline asked. The smile on her face was filled with flames of revenge. “I searched in my heart and I can say that I’ve never done anything that has harmed the Whitman family. Meredith was the one behind my marriage to Jeremy. However, how did you people treat me? You were convinced that I climbed into Jeremy’s bed shamelessly. When you were unhappy, you let out your anger on me. You believed everything Meredith said! You never once treated me like I was human!

“I was your daughter-in-law but you never recognized me. You even said that I’m the Whitmans’ maid. You kept forcing me, the lawfully wedded wife, to divorce Jeremy so that Meredith could get my position. What did I owe you? Why did I have to endure all the insults and torture you gave me?

“I was innocent when I was married into this family. However, Meredith forced the title of a fickle woman on me. When she was slandering me and claiming that I was having an affair with another man, all of you chose to believe her. You supported her and yelled profanities at me. I was battered and bruised. You even believed that I was the one who worked with that thug, Tanner, to kidnap Jackson. Did

I deserve to get bullied by you all just because I was poor and had a petty status?"

Madeline complained. Karen lowered her head in fear. She turned her face and stammered, "T-That's between you and Meredith. She's the one who harmed you. What does it have to do with me? If you want revenge, you should go to her!"

"Nothing to do with you?" Madeline asked with a laugh. "Did you forget how you had slapped me again and again, calling me a b*tch? You might have forgotten about it, but I never will!"

"..."

"I came back for dinner that day to act in concert with Jeremy. I was very sick and in a lot of pain. However, you believed Meredith's instigations and forced me to eat your curry. I threw up that day, but I didn't do it on purpose. I was in severe pain! You were so sure that I was purposely going against you but you didn't see that I was vomiting blood!"

"..." Karen's breath hitched. She did not dare to say another word.

She really did not know that Madeline had vomited blood that time.

She thought that Madeline was just going against her.

After she finished talking, there was an icy breeze in the room.

Madeline took a deep breath. There was a small and calm smile on her stunning face. "I really liked Jeremy back then, but I kept the fondness I had for him in my heart. I never even fantasized about marrying him, but God decided to play that joke on me."

She smirked in self-mockery.

"I thought I was the luckiest woman on earth. However, after I married him, I realized that I was the unluckiest woman on earth."

"..."

Madeline put on her coat nonchalantly as she looked at Karen's complicated expression. She then took her bag and lifted her spirited eyes.

"My dear mother-in-law, if you had gone just a little easier on me, this would not have happened. I'll give all of you a huge gift to repay for what you've done to me back then." Madeline smiled before she stopped. "Remember to enjoy it."

"..."

Madeline laughed as she looked at Karen who was stuck in a daze. Then, she turned around elegantly.

However, the moment she turned around and saw the person who was standing behind her, she was taken aback.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 445

Before this, Madeline already knew how to face everyone.

However, when she looked at the white-haired Old Master Whitman in front of her, she felt an ache in her heart. However, she still looked into his eyes calmly.

"Grandpa, you're right. I am Maddie."

She finally admitted this to the old master. She could feel tears stinging the corners of her eyes.

“Grandpa, thank you for trusting and supporting me in all those years. You were the only person who’s good to me in this family. I will remember this forever.”

Old Master Whitman walked in front of Madeline slowly with the support of his cane. His aged and murky eyes looked at her dotingly and understandingly.

“Child, you’re finally admitting it. I’m happy.”

Looking at the old master’s loving gaze, Madeline felt apologetic all of a sudden. “I’m sorry, Grandpa. I’m afraid that I’m going to disappoint you.”

“No. I’m happy to see the new you.” The old master lifted his hand and grabbed Madeline’s hand. His palm was cold, but he was still trying to warm Madeline up. “Jeremy wronged you. Wealth and power are nothing in front of human life. However, thank God you’re still alive.”

“Grandpa...”

“I will always support you just like how I used to.”

The old master’s answer touched Madeline.

At this moment, Madeline received Felipe’s call. She did not stay. She left after she bid farewell to the old master.

Karen went limp after Madeline left. She collapsed on the chair lifelessly and was petrified. “I didn’t expect her to be alive. I didn’t expect... She used a fake identity to get close to us. She must be here for

revenge! She must have wanted retaliation against me!” Karen muttered. She called Jeremy immediately but could not get to him no matter how many times she called.

Since she did not know what Madeline’s next move would be, she was as frantic as a cat on hot bricks.

“No! I can’t just sit around and do nothing!”

“What else do you want to do?” Old Master Whitman frowned. His white eyebrows were knitted together as he looked at Karen in dissatisfaction.

“Dad! You heard her. She’s Madeline Crawford! She’s not dead! This woman must have a lot of dissatisfaction and hatred in her heart. She must be trying to get back at the Whitmans now that she has made a comeback!

“Back then, she was just a wretched country bumpkin with no money or reputation, but now, not only does she have her own business, but she has also made a name and reputation for herself. Plus, she’s also Miss Montgomery! She’s not as easy to defeat as before now!”

“So, you’re allowed to bully Maddie however you wanted when she had no money or reputation, but now that she’s more powerful, you’re finally scared of her? Why don’t you think about what you did to her in the past? Are you even an eligible mother-in-law?”

“Dad, I...”

“I told you Meredith was not a good person and you didn’t want to believe me. You kept trying to get Maddie to divorce Jeremy. Couldn’t you tell that your son has been in love with Maddie all along?”

“W-What?” When Karen finally knew the truth, she was tongue-tied.

Jeremy liked Madeline?

What kind of fantasy was that?

After Madeline left Whitman Manor, she drove Jeremy's car to a high-end restaurant.

The french window was able to display the night view of the bustling city. Everything looked peaceful and great.

Madeline lifted her wine glass. The cold liquid glided into her throat as the sweetness of the wine invaded her mouth. She could vaguely taste a hint of bitterness.

"Aren't you happy?"

Madeline shook her head. "I'm very happy. However, I just feel like I've wronged Grandpa."

She finished talking and saw Felipe's eyes darkening.

She did not forget the past that Felipe told her. He did not like the Whitmans, especially the old master.

When Madeline tried to break the silence, her phone rang.

When she saw the name on the caller ID, she was stunned.

It was Eloise.

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Did Karen tell Eloise about her true identity?

Perhaps not.

Karen would not cause more trouble for herself at this time.

As Madeline pondered, she picked up the phone.

“Miss Vera, this is Eloise Montgomery. I was wondering if you can come over to my place now. Jack can’t sleep and he said he wants to see you.”

When Madeline knew that it was because of this, she agreed. “I’ll go over in a bit.”

“That’s great.” Eloise’s voice sounded joyful.

Perhaps, seeing her face right now would be something that would make her and her husband happy.

After hanging up the phone, Madeline ate something and left.

Felipe sat in his seat, his long fingers holding his wine glass. He swirled the liquid in his glass and looked straight ahead.

“Vera, he’s not as benevolent and kind as you think. He’s not worthy of your mercy.”

...

About 20 minutes later, Madeline arrived at Montgomery Manor.

Eloise and Sean welcomed her with open arms when they saw her.

The moment Jackson saw Madeline, his childish and handsome face blossomed into a pure and happy smile.

Madeline sang a lullaby to coax Jackson into slumber. The little guy was enjoying this moment, and after a while, he fell asleep.

Looking at Jackson's peaceful and angelic sleeping face, Madeline leaned down and gave him a gentle kiss.

'Jack, I don't know if you'll still want to call me 'Mommy' after you know about what I'm going to do.'

She felt tears stinging the corners of her eyes. For some reason, she felt a pain in her heart.

At this moment, Madeline saw a figure from the corner of her eyes. She lifted her gaze and saw Eloise at the door. She was smiling and looking at Madeline with a gentle look on her face.

Madeline placed the blanket on Jackson and walked out.

Eloise looked at Madeline expectantly. "Miss Vera, you're more than welcome to drop by at our house at any time."

Madeline smiled. "I think this will be the last time I come here."

"Why?" Eloise stopped in her tracks. There was worry in her eyes. "Are you going back to F Country? Don't you want to see me after what happened?"

“You’ll know why soon enough,” Madeline replied calmly. She looked at Eloise with her watery eyes. “Sometimes, when something happens, you’ll never be able to go back to how things were. However, I still want to thank you and Mr. Montgomery.”

“T-Thank us?” Eloise was puzzled. However, Madeline just nodded and turned around.

‘Yes, thank you.

‘Thank you for bringing me to this world even though all I’ve ever gotten for the past 30 years was pain.’

...

The next day.

Madeline went to Whitman Corporation early in the morning. The shareholders with the shares from Whitman Corporation were all waiting in the meeting room.

After rearranging the relevant documents, Madeline sashayed into the meeting room. She sat down on the seat that signified the utmost power. Then, she started speaking solemnly, “Jeremy Whitman will not be the CEO of Whitman Corporation any more. He’s no longer the person with the power to make the final decisions. From this moment on, everything he was responsible for, including his business and positions, will be passed to me.”

Everyone was shocked when they heard that. They looked at each other and were stunned.

At this moment, the door of the meeting room flew open. The man who was supposed to be investigating in F Country was sauntering into Madeline’s vision at this very moment.

Despite Madeline being surprised about Jeremy's early return, she remained calm. She even had a thought-provoking smile on her face.

The man walked over to her, the icy aura around him making him look as domineering as a tyrant. Everything around him was only serving as props now.

He was looking straight ahead as if he could not see the other people in the room. His dark eyes only reflected Madeline's beautiful face.

He walked forward, and with every step, his heartbeat accelerated until he got in front of Madeline.

After one of the shareholders came back to his senses, he said, "You're back just in time, Mr. Whitman. Your wife said—"

"All of you, get out."

Jeremy interrupted him coldly, his eyes still glued on Madeline's face.

The shareholders were looking at each other in confusion. However, they still walked out.

Madeline and Jeremy were the only ones left in the large meeting room now.

Madeline said as she broke the silence, "You're back so quickly. Since that's the case, I think you already know what's going on."

She was not as soft-spoken as she was before. At this moment, she was distant and had a look of disdain.

“Mr. Whitman, you’re so exceptional. You’re so efficient in carrying out your duties. However, you’re too late this time.”

Madeline grabbed the stack of documents on the table and tossed it to Jeremy.

“From now on, you’re not the president of Whitman Corporation. You have no right to speak during the board meeting as well.”

Jeremy looked at Madeline calmly and picked up the documents.

He lowered his gaze as his eyelashes trembled. He scanned the contents of the documents and placed them down indifferently.

“If I can get you to come back to me after I lose all of this, I’ll be more than happy to accept it.”

Madeline scoffed when she heard that. “Jeremy Whitman, I don’t want to keep acting anymore. Why are you still keeping this up?”

She looked at his handsome face and mocked, saying, “Do you really think I’ll believe that you love me so much that you’re willing to lose everything for me?”

Madeline lifted her beautiful gaze, a sharp glint flashing in her eyes.

“You already know who I am right, right?”

After she said that, the air around them froze immediately.

Jeremy had an ominous glint in his eyes. However, he still looked calmly at the beautiful eyes in front of him that was filled with hatred and hostility.

On the other hand, Madeline did not have the pettiness or caution that she used to have in her eyes anymore. She looked into Jeremy's eyes confidently. Her eyes softened slightly when she recalled her past.

"Do you know how happy I was when I first met you?" she asked with a smile. "You were the warm light in my lonely and gray life. Ever since I met you, I treasured the light and kept it in my heart. I thought that when we met again, the light would glow even brighter and warmer. However, you killed that light completely and utterly with your cruelty again and again.

"Jeremy, I used to love you so much. I was willing to do and endure anything as long as you were happy. But why did you treat a woman who loved you so much so cruelly? Why did I get such an ending just because I loved you? Tell me, why?"

Jeremy felt tears well up in his eyes as he heard Madeline's words. His heartbeat also accelerated.

He pressed his lips together. He could feel his throat tightening because of some kind of emotion.

He lifted his hand to touch Madeline's cheek, but it was pushed away in disgust by Madeline.

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"Don't touch me," Madeline said in disgust, "Don't touch me with your hands that have touched other women. I feel disgusted."

Hiss.

Jeremy felt as if something had stabbed his heart after he heard Madeline's hateful words.

It turned out that the word 'disgusted' could hold so much power.

However, he had kept using this word back then as a weapon to attack her again and again.

Madeline took a deep breath when Jeremy did not say anything. She peered at Jeremy, her eyes filled with anger. She mocked, saying, "Why? Are you unhappy that I'm treating you like this? Who are you to be unhappy about it? Did you forget how you used to treat me? You said I was a wh*re with loose morals. You said I disgusted you. You said I wasn't worthy to be Jeremy Whitman's wife. Did you forget all of these?"

After she questioned him, Jeremy frowned.

He recounted everything he did to her in the past. He had indeed done innumerable crimes.

He did not say anything and only stared straight at her.

His red eyes were filled with countless unspeakable apologies, remorse, and love.

However, he knew the current Madeline would not be able to see all of that.

She only had sparks of hatred in her eyes. They were burning brightly, lighting up her unique but beautiful eyes.

Madeline walked in front of Jeremy, her tall and slender body not losing its imposing manner in front of him.

"Didn't you want to see? To make sure? I'll let you see it now."

She looked straight at Jeremy. Suddenly, she reached out her left hand and grabbed the collar of her white shirt. Then, she pulled it downward.

Her delicate collarbones and round shoulder blade were exposed to the air. Jeremy's eyes traveled down to the black mole on her flawless chest. It was so glaring and familiar as it went into Jeremy's vision.

Madeline gripped her shirt even tighter, her gaze getting more and more sarcastic.

"Jeremy, do you see that mole? I think you should remember it, right?"

She laughed.

"Jeremy, I'm not dead. I'm not Vera Quinn. I'm the ex-wife you hated and resented, Madeline Crawford! I'm back."

Jeremy looked into Madeline's hateful eyes. However, when he heard that, a beautiful flower blossomed in his gloomy and dark heart.

At this moment, the winter he had been stuck in since three years ago was met with the first ray of sun in spring.

His eyes were red as his Adam's apple quivered. A joyous smile slowly appeared on his face.

"I've been waiting for the moment you admit this yourself," Jeremy said, his deep voice trembling slightly, "Maddie, it's so good to see you."

"So you already knew about this." Madeline smirked, but she did not feel surprised. She tidied her clothes. "If that's the case, I won't beat around the bush with you. For the sake of Grandpa and Jack, I

won't touch Whitman Manor, but the property under your name will have nothing to do with you anymore."

Madeline was firm and cold with no emotions in her eyes.

"When I married you with Vera Quinn's name, we didn't get a marriage certificate. As such, you and I are not truly husband and wife. I'm not pregnant as well. Nothing happened between us on April Hill that night. Everything was a lie."

She stopped mid-sentence, her tone even colder now.

"Jeremy, you owe me all of this. You ruined my life, and now, I want you to get a taste of having your reputation swept away!"

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Madeline finished saying that without hesitation. Her piercing gaze scanned across Jeremy's face before she strode away.

Jeremy grabbed Madeline's hand, causing her to stop in her tracks.

She peered at him with a cold gaze. "What's wrong? Do you want to punish me with your barbaric ways? Jeremy, I'm not that Madeline who'd allow you to insult and humiliate her anymore. I'm not afraid of you!"

She looked into the man's deep eyes fearlessly. There was an invulnerable expression in her eyes that made her look as domineering and arrogant as a monarch.

Jeremy was not angry. His passionate eyes were glued on Madeline's flawless face as he looked straight at her.

Actually, he already knew the things she told him were just lies.

He would only have the chance to get close to her as long as he continued lying to himself.

Eventually, this day still came crashing on him.

After staying silent, Jeremy said with a small smile on his face, "I have a question for you."

Madeline looked at the man in front of her coldly. Then, she heard him asking, "Do you still love me?"

Madeline chuckled lowly as if she had heard a funny joke.

After she stopped laughing, she peered at him. "Jeremy, don't you think you're pathetic when you asked that question? Love you? Do you even care about my love? I bet you'd think that it's filthy for a woman like me to love you, right, Mr. Whitman?"

Jeremy felt a pang of pain in his heart. He heard the answer he did not want to hear.

He looked at Madeline's hateful eyes dispiritedly.

"Jeremy, I loved you. However, the worse you treated me back then, the more my love for you diminished.

"I'm fully awake now. I won't fantasize about your concern or fondness toward me. Even if you do have any sort of feelings toward me, I don't care. I just want to see you fall from grace. I'll be ecstatic if you have nothing left!"

Madeline chuckled. Then, she pushed away Jeremy's hand that was on her wrist.

She turned around without hesitation. She was emotionless.

Jeremy stood where he was as he watched Madeline walk away. Excruciating pain came from his heart, but there was a hint of delight in his eyes.

'As long as you're alive and well, as long as you're happy, then I'm willing to lose everything.'

Madeline walked out of Whitman Corporation and felt the winter sun enveloping her body. She lifted her head to look at the blue sky as she took a deep breath. A small grin appeared on her lips.

'Jeremy, you never expected this day to come, huh?

'I thought the same way too.'

She smiled and walked into the parking lot. Then, she drove away.

After knowing that Jeremy was back, Karen came over quickly.

When she went into the office, she saw Jeremy sitting in front of the french window desolately. His head was lowered as he was focused on something. Karen ran over quickly.

"Jeremy!" she called out frantically.

Jeremy frowned as he had been disturbed.

“Jeremy, bad news! Something bad has happened!”

Jeremy put away the photo in his hands in annoyance and lifted his annoyed gaze. “No one’s allowed to disturb me. Get out.”

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Karen was taken aback. However, she did not intend to leave. On the other hand, she walked in front of Jeremy.

“Jeremy, I have something important to tell you!” Karen looked frenetic. “Madeline is not dead! She’s Vera Quinn! She admitted to it two days ago! She really is Madeline!” Karen said in a flustered manner. However, she saw that Jeremy was unperturbed. Something clicked in her brain. “Jeremy, you... Did you already know this? You knew that the b*tch is Madeline?”

After she said that, Jeremy lifted his gaze to look at her.

His eyes were icy, making Karen shut up after seeing it.

Jeremy stood up frigidly and left without taking anything.

Karen chased after him. “Jeremy, w-what’s happening now? Are you going to just ignore Madeline? Do you know what she did in the past two days? Jeremy, don’t be too careless. That woman came back for revenge! Jeremy, Jeremy!”

No matter how much Karen called after him, Jeremy did not pay attention to her.

Karen stomped her feet in annoyance. Then, she turned around to get news about the company from the other heads of departments.

It would be fine if she did not ask. After she knew what was going on, she almost passed out.

She did not expect the 'rebirthed' Madeline to be so powerful and daring. She almost took over the entire Whitman Corporation.

After Madeline left Whitman Corporation, she went to the police station.

During this period, she had collected evidence of Meredith killing Len. She handed the relevant evidence to the police.

At the same time, she also made a report that Meredith killed Brittany Montgomery. However, she did not have any proof of this.

Then, she bought some white chrysanthemums and went to Len's grave.

She placed the flowers down and lit up some candles before bowing.

"Grandpa, the person who killed you will get what she deserves soon. I hope you can rest in peace.

"Even though your daughter was the one who switched me with another baby, I'm still glad that you loved me with everything you had. You took care of me and raised me.

"If there is an afterlife, I hope we can truly be a family after this."

She looked at the words on the tombstone with her reddening eyes.

Despite being mad at Diana for what she did, Madeline knew that if Len had not taken care of her,

Eveline Montgomery would have been dead a long time ago.

Madeline stayed there for a while. She wanted to leave after the candles were done burning. However, when she turned around, she saw Jeremy walking toward her.

He was wearing all black and his brown hair was messed up by the wind. However, the poise and charm in his eyes still remained.

Madeline's eyes turned cold after she saw the white chrysanthemums in Jeremy's hands. "What are you doing here? You still have the cheek to stand in front of my grandpa's grave?"

Jeremy allowed Madeline to insult him. He slowly walked over to the grave and placed down the flowers. After that, he bowed.

"Jeremy, stop pretending. If you hadn't let Meredith get away with everything, my grandpa wouldn't be here now. Meredith is a murderer and you're her accomplice."

Jeremy was taken aback when he heard that.

He did not know that Meredith was involved with Len's death as well.

"Get lost. Leave with your flowers. Don't dirty my grandpa's resting place," Madeline said in disgust.

When Jeremy did not move, she walked over and picked up the flowers he had placed before tossing them to his feet.

"Jeremy, do you think I'll forgive everything you've done after your stupid flowers and bows?" It's been four years but I'll never forget how you trashed my grandpa's grave and dug up his ashes in front of my face to avenge Meredith that day! Do you still remember what you did?"

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July 27, 2021 by superadmin

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 451

Madeline complained and questioned as Jeremy recalled what happened that day.

He remembered everything clearly. That day, it had been very windy and snowy. Madeline was shaking violently as she held the urn in her arms, her teeth stained with blood. She had looked as wretched as a defeated puppet. However, her eyes were protesting what he was doing in determination.

She had said, "Jeremy, kill me. I don't want to see you again."

She also said, "Jeremy, you'll regret this!"

However, back then, he had replied arrogantly, "The word 'regret' doesn't exist in my dictionary."

Madeline mocked when she saw Jeremy deep in thought.

"What's wrong? Are you remembering everything that you've done? Do you remember how you were so sure that our child was a b*stard child who you couldn't wait to crush her bones into dust?"

Jeremy came back to his senses after Madeline said those words sarcastically.

He recalled his cold-blooded behavior. He felt as if his evil doings were going to devour him.

'I finally realized how painful your heart must have been at that moment.'

“Jeremy, stop pretending to look apologetic. No matter what you say or do, it’ll never mend the hurt you caused me.”

Madeline looked at him coldly. There was no longing nor admiration in her eyes. There was only anger.

“Back then, I thought that my grandpa was really sick. I asked you to lend me money but not only did you refuse, you even humiliated me with Meredith. You trusted her lies and was sure that I was having an affair with another man. You even called our child a b*stard child!

“Because of Meredith’s ruse, you thought that I was scamming your money and lying about my grandfather’s sickness. You allowed Rose and Jon to abuse me. Do you know how much I suffered?

“I vomited blood after Jon kicked me. I couldn’t stand up from the pain. However, you carried Meredith to the hospital instead. I was thinking, ‘The only thing I did was love you, but why do I have to suffer such painful consequences?’ Finally, I understood that I loved the wrong person.”

After she said that, Madeline let out a sigh. Her eyes were wet with tears because the knot in her heart ached all of a sudden.

Jeremy looked at Madeline quietly. Unbeknownst to him, his eyes had also welled with tears.

The shards of the past were piercing and stabbing into his heart.

“Jeremy, I will never forgive you!”

Jeremy’s Adam’s apple was moving. He suppressed the painful emotions and smiled softly. “If you can’t love me, then you can hate me. I’m happy to be in your mind even if it’s in another way.”

“Hmph.” Madeline snorted. “Stop imagining that your love is reciprocated!

“And stop disturbing my grandpa!”

She turned her face in disgust before she left without hesitating.

Jeremy watched as Madeline walked away silently. He squatted and picked up the bouquet of white chrysanthemums, placing it back in front of Len’s tombstone. His eyes were apologetic. However, the only response he got was the chilling wind of winter.

After he left the cemetery, he went to the police station.

He handed the police a plastic bag with a Chanel earring. The blood on the earring had already dried up a long time ago. Then, he told them the reason.

Meredith was stunned when someone told her she was charged with two more accounts of murder. After she registered what was happening, she started to panic.

Madeline’s identity must have been exposed!

It must be! If not, she would not be charged with these two crimes!

However, if Madeline’s identity was exposed, Jeremy would be the first person to go after her!

Indeed, as Meredith was starting to worry, Jeremy arrived.

She looked at the man in front of her as she trembled. Her face was pale, making her already haggard face look even more hideous.

“J-Jeremy, are you here to see me?” Meredith was still trying to use the soft approach on him. However, it was evident that it would not work.

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Jeremy never loved her. Not even a little bit.

When she was exposed for pretending to be the little girl back then, she was nothing to Jeremy. She was not even a stranger anymore despite them having a son together.

“You look like you know something’s about to happen,” Jeremy said coldly. His tall body approached her as his overbearing aura terrified her.

Meredith shook her head innocently. “Jeremy, I don’t know what you’re talking about.”

She forced tears to well in her eyes so that she would look extremely aggrieved.

“Jeremy, for the sake of our relationship and for the sake of Jack, can you get me out of here? I was really falsely accused—”

“Heh.”

Before Meredith could finish, she was interrupted by Jeremy’s scoff.

“Do you know why you’re still alive?” he asked all of a sudden.

Meredith looked dumbly at the man who was getting more and more terrifying as each second passed.

“Because I’ve been waiting for Maddie’s answer.”

“...” Meredith widened her eyes in shock as her heartbeat accelerated from terror.

Indeed. Jeremy knew that Vera was Madeline and Madeline was Vera!

He called her Maddie so intimately. His eyes would even soften when someone mentioned her name. It was obvious that his feelings for Madeline were true.

“Maddie told me that she hates me. She hates me for all the things I’ve done to her. She hates that I always listened to your lies and caused her to endure so much pain that was even worse than the last,” he said while striding forward. His body was emitting a domineering aura that made Meredith so scared that she backed away into the corner of her cell.

Jeremy reached out his hand slowly and grabbed Meredith’s neck.

He wasted no effort in lifting Meredith, and his narrow eyes were filled with a sinister glare.

Meredith lost the ability to breathe. Then, her toes were not touching the floor anymore. She widened her eyes in shock as her face went red. “J-Jeremy, let me off. Please...”

“Let you get away with this? How?”

Jeremy’s fingers tightened their grip as the murderous aura in his eyes got even more intense.

“Do you know I fell in love with Madeline the first time I saw her in university? If you hadn’t appeared and told me that you were the girl I made my promise to back then, I wouldn’t have deliberately ignored her and treated her so coldly!

“Because of that promise, I allowed you to hurt the woman I love most with no restraints. And because of you, I treated my own child as a b*stard child. However, the truth is that you’re nothing. You’re not the girl I promised back then and you’re not the woman I love!”

Jeremy pursed his lips together, his eyes softening.

“Maddie has been the woman I love this entire time. She’s the little girl I met at the beach back then!”

When Meredith heard Jeremy’s firm and resounding statement, her eyes widened.

‘He knows! He knows everything!’

He even guessed that Madeline was the little girl back then!

Meredith felt like she was suffocating. When she thought she was about to pass out, Jeremy let her go.

She fell on the ground heavily. Her body curled up from pain as she coughed violently.

When she felt the strong killing intent oozing from Jeremy, she crawled to his feet. “Jeremy... Cough, cough... I was wrong. I’m begging you, please don’t kill me. I don’t... I don’t want to die... Cough, I-I have a way to make Madeline hate you less. As long as y-you...”

Jeremy towered above her and looked down on her. He spoke slowly, “If you still think that I’ll believe what you say, then you’re extremely stupid.”

“N-No, Jeremy. I really have a way!” Meredith grabbed Jeremy’s pants in fear. “Actually... Actually, the child Madeline had with you is still alive.”

The killing intent behind Jeremy's gaze disappeared.

He gripped Meredith's collar and dragged her in front of him. "Repeat what you said again."

Meredith inhaled Jeremy's scent hungrily as she started crying pitifully.

Despite the man looking at her frigidly, his eyes and handsome face were still the things she longed for even though he was in an angry state right now.

"Jeremy, even though I've done a lot of bad things, my feelings for you are genuine. I really love—"

"If you don't want to suffer, answer my question. Is my child with Maddie really alive?" Jeremy interrupted impatiently. His malicious eyes caused Meredith's body to go cold.

She trembled as she looked into Jeremy's eyes. She nodded. "He's not dead yet. H-He's still alive..."

The frost in Jeremy's eyes melted. "Where is he? Where's the child?"

Meredith bit her dry lip. "Jeremy, I want to get out of here."

"Do you think you have the right to negotiate with me? You'd better tell me before I find out for myself. If not, you'll have no value to me at all."

"..." Meredith's face fell.

In order to continue living, she had no choice but to tell him the truth. "That child h-has always been around you."

A twinkle appeared in Jeremy's eyes. "Jack?"

Jackson's face appeared in his brain subconsciously.

Meredith bit her teeth in dissatisfaction. She already saw the joy in Jeremy's eyes.

Back when she faked her pregnancy and 'gave birth' to Jackson, Jeremy did not show any signs of happiness at all.

However, there was only joy and relief in his eyes right now.

It was not because of anything special. It was only because the child belonged to him and Madeline.

Then, Meredith saw Jeremy turning around to leave. She got up hurriedly to chase after him. However, the door of the cell was slammed shut instantly.

"Jeremy! Jeremy! Please, let me off the hook! I won't do it again! Jeremy! Forgive me for the sake of our past love! Jeremy!"

Jeremy did not stop for Meredith no matter how much she wailed and cried.

After he left the prison, Jeremy got into his car. He started the car, and his hands that were holding the steering wheel trembled slightly.

'Jackson is my and Maddie's son.

'No wonder that child is so distant with Meredith and so close to Maddie. He's even so happy to call her his mother.

'It's all because of the blood they share.

'Jack.'

Jeremy muttered internally, the happiness he felt almost overflowing from his heart.

He called and asked about Jackson's current situation. He got the news that Jackson had been with the Montgomeries these few days. Then, he stepped on the accelerator and sped to Montgomery Manor.

When he arrived, Jackson was in the glasshouse in the garden. The little guy was on the bench and it seemed like he was fiddling with some DIY gadgets.

The little guy was focused on what he was doing. He had a serious expression on his pinkish and good-looking face. His crystal-like eyes blinked repeatedly and he was fiddling with the items in his hands with full attention.

Jeremy sped up as his gaze on Jackson grew more and more intense.

Perhaps he had heard the footsteps, so Jackson lifted his head. When he saw Jeremy, his little mouth parted. "Daddy."

Jackson's voice sounded like the voice of an angel to Jeremy.

It had been five years and this was the first time Jeremy felt that Jackson's voice sounded so nice when he was calling him daddy.

He walked over to Jackson and squatted. He looked at this small face with a gentle gaze. Perhaps it was a psychological effect, but at this moment, he felt that this child in front of him looked more and more like Madeline.

"Jack," he suppressed the emotions in his heart and called out his name gently.

Jackson nodded. "Daddy, when can I go home? I miss Mommy. Not my mommy but Vera."

Jackson emphasized.

Jeremy felt a tightness in his heart. "Jack, Vera is your mommy. You only have one mommy. Remember that."

"I remember." Jackson nodded. He waved the item in his hand. "I'm going to finish this bunny soon. After I'm done, I'll give it to Mommy to protect her."

The little guy started introducing his gadget.

Jeremy finally understood that it was a mini self-defense device.

He was surprised that the five-year-old kid would have such a talent. However, when he thought about the microchipped bracelet he gave to Madeline, he felt that this child might have a gift.

Eloise walked out of the house with some tea and snacks. When she saw Jeremy, she was surprised.

“Mr. Whitman, when did you get here? Are you here to take Jack home?”

Jeremy looked at Eloise who was walking toward him and got up slowly.

“Granny,” Jackson greeted Eloise cheerfully. His childish voice had a hint of joy that he never had before.

Jeremy knew that it was all thanks to Madeline that Jackson had this transformation.

This child was brought into the dark by Meredith. Fortunately, his birth mother Madeline brought him back to the sun.

“You’re such a good boy, Jack.” Eloise reached out a hand to caress Jackson’s hair. Then, she sighed in reluctance.

“Even though Meredith’s behavior was extremely despicable and Sean and I hate her to the bone, Jack is innocent. Plus, Jack is obedient and sensible. We truly love this child and we genuinely treat him like he’s our biological grandson.”

Eloise pleaded in embarrassment.

“Mr. Whitman, if you don’t have time to take care of Jack, Sean and I are more than happy to take care of him. Also, I hope that you’ll let us continue taking care of him.”

Jeremy smiled in high spirits. “You don’t have to treat him like he’s your biological grandson.”

“What?” Eloise was taken aback as her face darkened slightly. “Mr. Whitman, are you saying that you don’t want us to see Jack anymore? Why? Sean and I genuinely love Jack, plus...”

"You don't have to be so emotional. That's not what I meant." Jeremy interrupted in a gentle tone.

Eloise was shocked. Now, she was even more puzzled. "Then, what are you saying, Mr. Whitman?"

"I'm saying that Jack is truly your biological grandson."

"..." Eloise was utterly stunned. "W-What? Jack is my biological grandson? H-How is that possible?"

Jeremy nodded, and there was a self-mocking smile on his face. "Jack isn't Meredith's child. He's Maddie's son."

"What?" Eloise was surprised and elated. She did not know whether to laugh or cry.

When she knew that Madeline was her daughter, she was already heartbroken. Since Madeline was dead, as her mother, she did not have anything to hope for anymore.

However, if she still had a living grandson, her broken heart would be slightly healed.

"Also, I think you might not know this," Jeremy said with gentle eyes, "Maddie is still alive."

"..."

"Vera is Maddie."

Smash!

The teacup in Eloise's hand slipped and smashed on the floor.

Her limp hands were frozen in midair and could not move.

"W-What did you say... Vera is Maddie..." Eloise muttered as tears quickly filled her eyes and blurred her vision. The only thing she could see right now was Madeline's stunning face.

Eloise did not suspect anything. It was natural that she would wish her daughter was still alive and well in this world. Plus, during this period of time, she had started to grow fond of Vera.

She knew she should be happy, but for some reason, her heart was in such debilitating pain.

Sean came out when he heard the noise. When he saw Eloise standing there looking dull and sluggish as she sobbed, he walked over feeling worried and curious.

"Ellie, what's wrong? Why are you crying?" Sean was concerned. He looked at Jeremy in confusion. "Mr. Whitman, when did you get here? Why is Ellie so sad? Are you going to take Jack home?"

Jeremy caressed Jackson's hair. "I'm not taking him back. Mrs. Montgomery isn't sad, she's happy."

"Happy?" Sean was even more confused now.

When he was about to ask more questions, Eloise turned around and grabbed his hand. "Sean, our daughter is still alive!"

"What? Ellie, what did you say?" Sean's eyes were filled with an expectant glow.

Eloise had tears streaming down her face. "Vera is actually Maddie! She's our precious daughter, Eveline! She's Eveline!"

Sean was stumped for words as his heartbeat sped up. "Vera is Maddie..."

Eloise bawled and leaned against Sean's shoulder. She was feeling joy and sadness at the same time. "Sean, this is great. Our daughter is still alive. She's still alive. Thank God!"

Sean's eyes were also wet with tears. He suppressed his emotions and patted Eloise's shoulder to comfort her. However, he could not wait to see Madeline right now.

"Where is Eveline? Where is she? I want to see her now."

"Mr. Whitman, you must know where my daughter is, right? Please tell us!" Eloise was impatient as well.

Jeremy frowned, and there was an unspeakable bitterness in his heart. "You can try Whitman Corporation. She might be in the president's office."

After Eloise and Sean got the answer, they did not think too much about it. They immediately headed to Whitman Corporation without even changing their clothes.

"Where are Grandpa and Granny going? Why are they in such a hurry?" Jackson blinked and asked.

"Grandpa and Granny went to find your mommy." Jeremy squatted and caressed Jackson's adorable face, his eyes filled with gentleness.

"Jack, Daddy is at fault. I've wronged you and your mommy."

Jackson listened to Jeremy's apology in confusion. Then, he was pulled into Jeremy's tight embrace.

"Jack, I promise that from now on, I'll love and cherish you and your mommy."

...

Dusk arrived early in the winter.

After Madeline finished up her work, she called Ava and left with her bag.

When she got out of the office, the receptionist ran over to her. "Madam, just now..."

"You can call me Miss Quinn."

"I'm sorry, Miss Quinn." The receptionist corrected herself quickly. "I'm sorry, Miss Quinn, the lobby called saying that Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery need to see you urgently. They're coming up now."

Madeline nodded as if she was in deep thought. "I got it. Thanks."

After she said that, she walked into the VIP elevator and left.

At this moment, the elevator next to it arrived. When the door opened, the door to the VIP elevator closed just in time.

Madeline could see Eloise and Sean's frantic figures from the crack of the elevator door. She looked at them calmly until the door was fully closed.

Eloise and Sean ran to the receptionist to ask if Madeline was in the office the moment they got out of the elevator.

The receptionist pointed at the VIP elevator. "Miss Quinn just left."

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"She left? Where did she go? Do you know?" Eloise asked frantically.

The receptionist guessed and said, "I think she might be going home at this time."

"Home..." Eloise rolled the word in her mouth as she was stuck in a daze.

Home...

Montgomery Manor should be her house. However, Eloise and Sean did not dare to hope if she wanted to go back with them.

Perhaps, she would be unwilling to do so.

Eloise remembered what Madeline said when she came to Montgomery Manor for Jackson two days ago.

She said that would be the last time she went over.

Back then, Eloise did not understand, but now, she understood what she meant.

When she thought about it, Eloise started bawling. She felt extremely remorseful.

Sean held her. "Ellie, don't cry. Don't worry. We'll surely be able to see Eveline again."

"She won't want to see us. She must've hated us..." Eloise's eyes were red from crying as she recalled the day at the hospital. She recalled how she had blamed herself so much till she wanted to end her life when she found out Madeline was her flesh and blood.

At that moment, Madeline had called her 'Mom'.

She thought Madeline only called her that to save her.

However, it turned out to be a genuine act.

Eloise reminisced about the way Madeline had called out to her. Her heart started to feel more and more painful.

If Madeline did not want to acknowledge her as her mother, then that word would become the most melodic and heartbreaking sound in the world.

Madeline drove to where she promised to meet Ava.

It was a Mexican restaurant that was filled with the smell of different spices. It was already filled with people at this hour.

A few customers were surprised when they saw Madeline. She looked like a fairy who only feasted on dewdrops, but she was here for Mexican food.

At this moment, Ava waved at her. "Maddie, over here!"

Madeline looked over to the source of the voice. When she saw Ava, she saw Daniel's gentle face as well.

She smiled and walked over to sit down. When she saw the tacos in front of her, her heart grew warm.

Of course, she did not forget about eating tacos with hot sauce from a food truck with Daniel. Back then, Daniel had already realized that she did not have long to live because his eyes were filled with dread.

Actually, she thought her life would end as well, but in the end, everything changed.

"Maddie, has your body fully recovered?" Daniel asked in concern.

Madeline gave him a small smile. "Don't worry. I'm fine now."

"Maddie, you did the right thing! Two days ago, I saw a lot of negative news about Whitman Corporation. It's right of you to destroy it. Jeremy did all those things to you back then and now, he has only lost his reputation and power. But you and your child..."

Ava stopped herself when she talked about this.

"I'm sorry, Maddie. It's all my fault. I shouldn't have touched the tender spot."

"It's fine." Madeline smiled. "Actually, my first child isn't dead."

"W-What?" Ava was shocked.

Daniel was also surprised. "That child is not dead?"

"Yeah." Madeline nodded and sighed. "However, I don't know where that child is. Meredith hid her."

"What? How can Meredith do something like that?" Ava was curious. When she was about to curse Meredith, her eyes landed on something behind Madeline. Then, she placed her fork down and stood up angrily. She started yelling behind Madeline, "How did you find us? What are you doing here?"

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Daniel turned around and looked over as well. In the next second, he furrowed his brows together as his expression became grimmer.

Madeline did not know who was behind her, but from Ava and Daniel's reactions, she could guess who it was.

At this moment, she heard a lot of people whispering among themselves. A few girls were even blushing when they saw Jeremy.

"That man is so handsome!"

"He looks like the president of Whitman Corporation!"

"I saw him online before! He's Jeremy Whitman!"

Madeline placed her chopsticks down without batting an eyelid. She did not even turn around. "Ava, Dan, let's just ignore those irrelevant people. Let's change to another restaurant."

Ava scowled at Jeremy who was walking over while clenching her fists. "Alright, I'll listen to you, Maddie! Dan, let's go!"

"Okay." Daniel got up as well. Then, he peered at Jeremy in dissatisfaction with anger in his eyes.

Madeline grabbed her bag. When she turned around, she saw that Jeremy was already standing in front of her.

The man was still elegant and poised. His black leather jacket was stained with the coldness from the winter evening. However, his eyes did not have their usual coldness and were as warm as the spring breeze.

"I know you don't want to see me now, but there's one thing I have to tell you." Jeremy's voice was soft.

Madeline looked at Ava and Daniel before she smiled. "Ava, Dan, please wait for me."

After she finished saying that, she did not look at Jeremy. She walked outside the shop and waited for him to follow her.

The wind of this winter night was so cold that it was penetrating their bones. Madeline stood under the streetlight, her delicate face looking exceptionally cold under the yellow light.

"Mr. Whitman, you possess such remarkable abilities. You can always pinpoint exactly where I am every single time. Why? Are you here to catch your wh*re of a wife in the act with her illicit lover like how you used to? However, you should remember that I have no relations with you anymore. You have no right to question who I'm with or what I'm doing."

She mocked with a sarcastic smile on her face.

Jeremy heard her loud and clear. He also remembered the time he saw Madeline eating tacos with hot sauce by the food truck with Daniel. When he saw them together back then, he had felt extremely uncomfortable.

However, thinking back to that, he was jealous.

He did not understand that he was only disorientated before because he cared about her too much.

Now, everything was too late.

Jeremy hated himself in silence, but he was still looking at Madeline with such gentle eyes.

“Vera,” he called out to her. “Compared to Madeline Crawford or Eveline Montgomery, I think you would prefer to be Vera Quinn.”

Jeremy struck the target after he said that.

“Because you have such horrible memories as Madeline Crawford and Eveline Montgomery.”

“Is that what you want to say to me?” Madeline interrupted him coldly. She was annoyed. “Jeremy, stop harassing me. I don’t want to see you again. If you have time, you should visit Meredith in prison. Don’t forget, she’s the love of your life.”

“I do have a woman I love in my heart for all these years, but she’s not Meredith.” Jeremy denied it. He walked over to Madeline and took out the colorful shell from his pocket.

When Madeline saw the shell, she was visibly shocked.

"I know you won't believe me, but it's true. The person I've loved this whole time is you."

"Pfft."

Madeline burst out laughing. Looking at the gorgeous face in front of her, her eyes started to turn cold from the wind.

"Me?" She scoffed in sarcasm. "If loving someone is forcing her to a dead end, then your love is so extraordinary," she said while lowering her head to look at that faded shell. She could feel tears well up in her eyes.

"Jeremy, when I gave you this shell, I genuinely hoped that you would be happy, but now, I would even dream about you suffering in pain."

After she said that, Jeremy felt a sharp pang of pain that was akin to a million ants gnawing on his heart.

Madeline reached out her hand to take the shell. Then, she threw it at the bustling street that was filled with moving cars without hesitating. She turned around and did not even look at Jeremy from the corner of her eyes. As expected, she walked toward Ava and Daniel.

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Jeremy stood in the cold wind while looking longingly at Madeline's back. His tall and slender body casted a lonely shadow under the streetlight.

He curled the corners of his lips as a trace of bitterness started to spread from his heart.

His eyes started to feel wet, causing the beautiful figure in front of him to become blurry.

How could he blame her for being heartless and cold now? He only had himself to blame.

...

After eating with Ava and Daniel, Madeline went back to her previous apartment alone.

She sat in front of the french window as Jeremy's words lingered in her ear involuntarily.

'The person I love is you.'

"Heh."

Madeline chuckled coldly.

'No one would be willing to hurt the person they love to this degree.'

'Jeremy, don't tell me that you love me. Don't tell me that you didn't mean all those harsh words you said after my heart died from all the torture you gave me.'

Buzz, buzz.

Her phone on the nightstand started vibrating.

Madeline gathered her thoughts and picked up the phone after seeing that it was from Eloise.

'From the looks of how they were looking for me so frantically just now, they might already know that I'm their daughter.'

She thought about it silently as she allowed her phone to keep vibrating. She did not pick up.

Madeline finally answered after the fifth call.

It was evident that the person on the other side did not expect her to answer. Eloise only said something after she stayed silent for about two seconds. "Miss Vera?"

Madeline was surprised that Eloise was calling her that.

Did they not know? Had Jeremy not told them?

"What's wrong? Why did you call me so many times?" Madeline asked without batting an eye.

Eloise tried her best to control the emotions in her heart. She said while pretending nothing was wrong, "Miss Vera, Jack can't sleep again. He wants to see you and have you sing a lullaby for him. Can you come over now?"

Madeline wanted to treat her coldly, but when she mentioned Jack, she could not help but want to get close to him.

"I'll go over now. Tell Jack to wait for me."

"Okay, of course! We'll wait for you!" Eloise answered emotionally.

Madeline could detect something was amiss from Eloise's shaky voice.

She did not think much of it though. She changed her clothes and drove to Montgomery Manor.

About ten minutes later, she arrived at the entrance of Montgomery Manor. What surprised her was that Sean and Eloise were waiting for her.

They looked like they were expecting her, and because of this, Madeline was certain about one thing.

She stopped the car but before she could open the door, Eloise and Sean were already standing by the side of her car. Through the rearview mirror, Madeline could see that Sean's eyes were red from tears while Eloise had tears streaming down her face. She looked like she was in great sadness.

She stopped unbuckling her seatbelt.

Eloise and Sean were nervous when they saw that Madeline was not going to get out of the car.

Eloise wiped her tears away as she knocked on the window of the car with trembling hands. She looked at Madeline with a heartbroken and expectant gaze. She sobbed, saying, "Miss Vera, why aren't you getting out?"

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Even though the car window was closed, Madeline could clearly hear that Eloise's voice was shaking.

Eloise was obviously trying to suppress some kind of emotions, and Madeline already knew what emotion that was.

Knock, knock, knock.

Eloise knocked on the window again lightly.

She did not dare to use too much force. She was scared that Madeline would be upset, but at the same time, she was scared that Madeline would ignore her.

“Miss Vera, Vera...”

Eloise called out to her. Suddenly, with a click, Madeline unbuckled her seatbelt.

When they saw that Madeline was finally getting out of the car, Eloise and Sean’s faces lit up with joy.

Madeline opened the door and finally got out.

Looking at their wet and longing eyes, Madeline looked at them calmly. “Is Jack in his room?” she asked flatly.

Eloise and Sean looked at her intensely and nodded. “He’s in his room!”

“Got it,” Madeline said and turned around without saying another word more.

When they saw Madeline walking in through the door, Eloise and Sean looked at her departing back while feeling dispirited. They started sobbing in devastation. “Eveline...”

Madeline could feel the heated eyes behind her back, but she walked away without turning back.

The physical and emotional pain from before resurfaced again in her mind.

She forced herself to not think about them, but she could not stop the pain that was slowly spreading all over her body.

Madeline arrived at Jackson's room. The little guy was leaning against the headboard, holding a children's book that he was attentively reading.

When he saw a familiar figure approaching him, Jackson lifted his head quickly.

Upon seeing Madeline, a joyous smile blossomed on his adorable face.

"Mommy," he called out. It sounded so natural.

Madeline felt as if there was a dollop of honey sliding around her heart—the sweetness was mending her wounded heart.

"Jack, why are you still awake? It's so late." She walked to the side of the bed and sat down. After that, she caressed the little guy's head.

"If I can get Mommy to come to see me by staying up late, then I can stay up the entire night."

Madeline started laughing at his answer.

"Jack, you're such a master of words. There'll be a lot of girls after you when you grow up."

"No matter how many girls are after me, my favorite girl in the world will only be you, Mommy."

Jackson blinked his twinkling eyes and looked at Madeline seriously. Then, he picked up his handmade bunny-shaped mini self-defense device from his nightstand.

"This is for you, Mommy. I hope you can always have this with you. This bunny can help you defeat the

bad guys who want to hurt you.”

Madeline was surprised. She slowly took over the DIY self-defense device and was stunned.

She did not expect to have such an important position in Jack’s heart. She also did not expect him to care about her so much.

She felt a pang of pain in her heart as she grabbed Jackson’s shoulder and pulled him into her embrace.

“Jack, even though you’re not my biological baby, I still love you very much. I will protect myself and also protect you, Jack.” Madeline pressed her lips together as tears wetted the corners of her eyes.

She could not help but remember her first child with Jeremy.

She wanted so much to hold her flesh and blood. She wanted to tell that child that her mommy loved her very much.

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Eloise and Sean saw this scene when they were outside the room and their hearts were in excruciating pain.

They did not dare to go disturb them. At the same time, they did not dare to tell Madeline that Jackson was actually her biological son without careful consideration.

Eloise covered her mouth when she saw this. She swallowed her sobs and ran away quickly.

“Ellie!”

Sean called out to Eloise in a low voice. Then, he looked at Madeline longingly before chasing after his wife.

Eloise went back to her room and collapsed on her bed. She covered her face as she started bawling.

Even though Sean was also in debilitating sadness, as a husband and a man, he had to be stronger and more composed than Eloise at this moment.

“Ellie, stop crying. Don’t be like this.” Sean patted Eloise’s shoulder and comforted her. “No matter what, our daughter is still alive and she’s living her best life. We should be happy and proud of her.”

Eloise cried even harder after she heard that.

Of course, she knew she should feel happy about that.

However, everything from the past resurfaced in her brain. The scenes of her hitting and yelling at Madeline were replaying in her head, as well as the scene of Madeline vomiting blood and gasping for air because of her sickness.

When she thought about those, Eloise felt that it pained her just to breathe.

“Why am I such a failure as a mother? Even if she was just a stranger, I shouldn’t have hit or yelled at her...”

Eloise was blaming herself furiously. She lifted her red eyes and looked at Sean.

“Sean, do you know? I used this hand to hit our daughter so many times. I called her a vile woman and a b*tch. I even cursed that she’d go to hell. I told her that she deserved to be abandoned by her parents...”

“How could I be so despicable? I even said that she was just pretending when she vomited blood from her illness. I said she only did that to get Jeremy’s attention!”

As Sean listened to Eloise, his eyes reddened as his Adam’s apple bobbed. “Eloise, stop talking. Please stop talking...” he muttered. He was also involved in the horrible memories that Eloise mentioned. He had also been heartless and cruel to their daughter.

Eloise was crying like she was a burst dam. She cried so hard that she could not breathe.

“Sean, how could I have treated my daughter like this? What blinded me back then? I didn’t even notice that she’s our flesh and blood. She looked at me again and again with those eyes. Why didn’t I notice that her eyes are almost the same as mine...”

“Same goes to me...” Sean lowered his head in remorse. “Every time I saw Eveline, she gave me such a familiar feeling. However, with Meredith misguiding us, I completely lost my sense of judgment and hurt our daughter so deeply. Ellie, my heart hurt as much as yours.”

“Sean, I’m so ashamed to acknowledge Eveline. We’ve wronged that child so much...” Eloise fell into Sean’s arms and was in a state of despair.

Sean held Eloise and took a deep breath after he closed his eyes. Then, he sighed long and hard.

“You’re right. We are too ashamed to acknowledge the child. We also have no right to ask her to come home.”

“Sean...”

“Ellie, let’s give the right to choose to our daughter.” Sean made a decision.

Eloise understood what he meant. She did not want to make this decision, but she was also scared that Madeline would refuse to acknowledge them after they exposed this secret.

Sean smiled and wiped away the tears on Eloise's face.

"As long as our child is healthy and safe, I'll be happy even if she only calls me Mr. Montgomery."

Knock, knock, knock.

After Sean said that, there were knockings on the door. Then, the maid's voice came from outside the door.

"Sir, Madam, Young Master Jackson has already fallen asleep. Miss Quinn said she's leaving and asked me to inform you."

"Ask Miss Quinn to wait for us. We'll go down now."

Eloise and Sean washed their faces quickly in the toilet. After they recomposed themselves, they rushed downstairs.

When they saw the figure in their living room, Sean and Eloise called out with smiles on their faces, "Miss Quinn."

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife chapter 461-470

July 27, 2021 by superadmin

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 461

When Madeline heard voices, she turned around slowly. Eloise and Sean were looking at her with smiles on their faces.

Despite their smiles, they still could not hide the emotions and uneasiness in their eyes.

It had already come to this, so Madeline did not want to beat around the bush anymore.

“I’m guessing that you already know about it, right?” Madeline asked calmly.

Sean and Eloise were stumped for words. They looked at Madeline in shock after she asked that question.

After a few moments of silence, Eloise said cautiously, “Miss Vera—”

“Miss Vera,” Madeline repeated this name, interrupting Eloise with a smile. “Shouldn’t you be calling me Eveline Montgomery now?”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

Eloise and Sean’s breaths hitched when they heard that.

They stared blankly at the cute smiling face in front of them. At that moment, tears started pouring out from their eyes.

“Eveline!”

Eloise was crying heavily as she ran over to Madeline emotionally. Her remorseful and apologetic eyes were filled with love and benevolence, enveloping Madeline warmly.

After a while, Eloise reached out a trembling finger and placed it on Madeline's face gently.

She caressed Madeline's flawless face gladly as she felt the warm touch on her fingertips. Eloise bit her lip and held her daughter while feeling distressed.

"My child! My baby daughter!" Eloise called out uncontrollably while holding Madeline tightly.

"Eveline, I've finally found you. I'm sorry. I'm so sorry!"

She was crying as she apologized, her voice sounding extremely shaky.

Sean's eyes were red as he walked toward Madeline. He said with a sob, "Child, I'm sorry too. I'm so sorry."

He apologized sincerely with a sorry gaze.

Sean lifted his hand, and after hesitating for a few seconds, he placed it on top of Madeline's head before caressing her lovingly.

Madeline was motionless and unperturbed while she was showered by Eloise and Sean's apology and love. There was no emotion on her face, and it was only her eyelashes that fluttered.

She did not fight them nor did she welcome their hugs. She merely allowed Eloise to hold her and Sean to caress her hair motionlessly. She allowed them to express the love and remorse they felt for Eveline Montgomery that had piled up after so many years.

After a while, Eloise finally released Madeline from her embrace reluctantly after Madeline's phone started ringing.

She quickly wiped away her tears, her eyes focused on Madeline's face.

Madeline looked at the caller ID and switched her phone into silent mode.

Eloise then ordered the maids, "Brew some black tea of the highest quality and fetch us some snacks."

"Yes, Madam." The maid quickly carried out her orders.

"Eveline, sit down. Let me take a good look at you." Eloise approached her with tears in her eyes, reaching out her hand to hold Madeline's. She wanted to pull Madeline to the sofa. However, before she could warm up her daughter's hands, Madeline pulled away.

Eloise was stunned as she looked at Madeline with a disappointed gaze. "Eveline..."

"I'm leaving soon. Mr. and Mrs. Montgomery, you don't have to entertain me so courteously."

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When Eloise and Sean heard how Madeline addressed them, they looked at her worriedly and were at a loss.

Eloise called out with a broken heart, "Eveline..."

Madeline smiled lightly, lifting her beautiful eyes to look around. She walked to the European-styled sofa and ran her fingers across the surface.

"That time, you guys invited me for dinner for Meredith's sake and were willing to be courteous just to

entertain an enemy like me. You guys must feel extremely uncomfortable now that the tables have turned, right?"

Eloise and Sean felt even more distressed when they heard that.

Madeline smiled calmly, saying, "Mrs. Montgomery, you asked me whether I found my parents after so many years."

As she looked into Eloise's apologetic gaze, she continued, "Mrs. Montgomery, do you remember what my answer was?"

"Eveline..."

"I said I found them, but we can't reunite because even though I was standing right in front of them, they wouldn't want to acknowledge me."

Eloise's eyes were bright red as she held Madeline's hands with tears streaming down her face. "Eveline, please let me explain. Eveline..."

Madeline smiled. "You don't have to explain. I'm not blaming you for anything. I just want to say that maybe we're not fated to be family members."

"No, Eveline. Don't say that. It's our fault. We shouldn't have let that witch Meredith misguide us. We should have been able to tell who's our real daughter..."

"Eveline, please give us a chance to make it up to you."

Sean walked over, his handsome face filled with pain and sadness.

“Eveline, it has been so many years and we’ve never forgotten about you. Before Meredith’s existence, your mother would think about you every night and would wonder if you’re doing well. We preserved your room in this big house. Your mother would clean it meticulously every day so that one day you could come home.”

“Home?”

Madeline laughed.

“Is this my home? It looks so foreign. This isn’t my home.”

She laughed while looking at Eloise and Sean’s red tear-pooled eyes before turning her face coldly. Her eyes had become chilly.

“Perhaps when you first found out that Madeline was your daughter, you experienced a blow of remorse, but there was joy in finally knowing the truth, right? However, all it gave me was pain.”

Eloise and Sean felt as if a knife had sliced their hearts open after they heard that. The fiery pain was burning in their hearts.

Pain.

They had made their daughter feel pain.

They had a lot of apologies stuck in their throats, but perhaps everything they said now would be futile.

Madeline turned around and smiled sarcastically. “You might not know this, but I knew you were my birth parents the day I was accused of killing Brittany.”

“W-What?”

Eloise and Sean widened their eyes in disbelief as they felt excruciating pain in their hearts.

Looking at the pained and lost expression on the couple’s faces, Madeline laughed and let out a long sigh. “When you were hitting and yelling at me for Meredith’s sake, I had no choice but to accept the punishments given to me by the people closest to me.”

“...”

“I was fully conscious as I gritted my teeth. You were defending that heartless liar with all you got. You believed her lies and were so certain that I was the one who killed your adopted daughter, Brittany. You called me an animal. Even when I was in despair, I never cried. Do you know why?”

Madeline took a deep breath. “Because I didn’t have the courage to cry. I was worried that my tears would blur my vision. I wanted to take a good look at my parents before I died even though they hated me to the bone.”

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After Madeline said that, Eloise was already crying hysterically. On the other hand, Sean could not control his tears anymore.

They remembered when they went to see Madeline in the conjugal room the time Brittany was murdered.

Madeline’s face had appeared white and haggardly. That image kept on appearing in their heads, as well as their brutal and cruel treatment toward her.

They had cursed and slapped Madeline all to defend Meredith. Sean even slapped Madeline who was

already weak so hard that she collapsed to the floor.

Their hearts were hurting now as they thought back to it.

They could not endure the pain in their hearts that was caused by remorse.

Eloise and Sean could not imagine how strong Madeline had to be to not cry in that situation.

At this moment, Madeline was as tough and strong as she used to be. She smiled lightly when she recalled her miserable past.

“It’s all in the past. I don’t want to look into anything anymore.”

She smiled lightly as a disappointed glint appeared in her eyes.

“I don’t blame you for being fooled by Meredith’s meticulous ruse. I’m just upset that my birth parents were unable to distinguish right from wrong. You even chose to side with her and defend her after you knew how many inhumane things she had done.”

“Eveline...”

“When that pendant fell from me, I stole Mrs. Montgomery’s toothbrush from the hospital to check our DNAs. I knew there was a peculiar relationship between us, but you were so sure that I was the one who stole Meredith’s pendant. Perhaps it was fate. I’m destined to meet but not fated to be together with my parents.”

After Madeline said that, her disappointed gaze scanned Eloise’s body. Then, she looked at Sean who was feeling extremely remorseful.

“Despite having no chance to experience the love from my parents, I still want to thank you for bringing me to this world. The thing I longed for the most in this world is to have parents. The person I loved the most in this world was already destined to not be mine. I won’t make demands like how I used to back then.”

After she said that, Madeline turned around without holding back.

“Eveline! Eveline!” Eloise wailed and ran up to her with Sean following behind, but Madeline did not stop.

From the back, she looked carefree. However, tears were threatening to spill from Madeline’s eyes even though Sean and Eloise could not see.

The dim streetlight blurred her vision, but she was still walking carefreely.

Eloise ran outside and watched as Madeline’s car sped away.

At this moment, Eloise finally collapsed and knelt on the icy ground. Tears of sadness and remorse poured from her eyes as she pleaded. “Eveline, my Eveline... I’m sorry. I’m so sorry!”

Sean knelt on the ground with one knee in remorse. He held Eloise who was wailing uncontrollably.

Then, it started snowing lightly with snowflakes fluttering around them. The bone-chilling coldness penetrated their bodies, but it could never compare to the sadness and pain in their hearts.

...

Madeline’s phone rang on the way home.

She turned to look and saw Jeremy's name on the caller ID.

She ignored it before blocking Jeremy's number without hesitation.

When she was back in the apartment, she took a shower and went to bed.

The next morning, Madeline received Felipe's call. She got up, cleaned herself, and went to Whitman Corporation.

When Madeline got there, a gentle smile appeared on Felipe's handsome face. His bright eyes that looked like onyxes were twinkling softly.

Madeline smiled back at him before bringing Felipe to the office that used to belong to Jeremy.

Felipe looked at the scene outside the french window and saw the snow fluttering among the skyscrapers and onto the nooks and crannies of the bustling city. He was able to capture all those in his eyes.

He lifted the corners of his lips as a rare smile appeared on his face. "This position never belonged to Jeremy in the first place."

There was a hint of dissatisfaction in Felipe's voice, as well as a trace of anger in his eyes.

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Madeline could understand his dissatisfaction. After all, how could reputation mend the pain and ache of a destroyed family?

Felipe turned around and looked at Madeline. The ominous glint in his eyes disappeared quickly and there was just gentleness left.

“Vera, from now on, everything will belong to us.”

Madeline smiled and nodded. “It’s yours. After all, it’s the Whitmans’ property. I never wanted to take over this company. Now that it’s back to you, it’s going back to its rightful owner.”

Felipe was shocked. “You don’t want any of this?”

“The thing I want the most right now is to see Jeremy dispirited while having nothing,” Madeline said and frowned as if she was in deep thought.

“However, I keep feeling like the reason why I could hack into Jeremy’s computer so easily to transfer the stocks and important information is that he’s purposely allowing me to do so.”

“You’re saying that he knows you’d do this but he didn’t stop you?” Felipe frowned.

Madeline was quiet. What Jeremy said that day kept replaying in her head. ‘The person I’ve loved this entire time is you.’

“Vera, Vera?”

“Hmm?”

Madeline came back to her senses as she lifted her head to look into Felipe’s gentle eyes.

Felipe asked in concern, “What are you thinking about?”

"Felipe, can you not touch Whitman Manor?" Madeline asked with a pleading tone.

Felipe frowned, looking at Madeline solemnly before grabbing her shoulders. "Vera, don't be fooled by that old man. Back then, in order to get the Whitmans' estate, he schemed to kill my parents. It's evident that he's not a nice person."

After Madeline heard that, she was silent.

'Is Grandpa someone who'd do anything just to get what he wants?

'If he is, then why did he care for an outsider like me so benevolently?

'Even though he knows I'm back for revenge, he still supported me.'

"Vera." Felipe's gentle voice caressed her ear like the spring breeze.

When Madeline came back to her senses, Felipe was already holding her hands.

The man was smiling softly with his eyes filled with emotions.

"Vera, you keep saying that I saved you throughout these three years. However, you have no idea that you're the one who saved me."

"Hm?" Madeline did not understand what Felipe was saying.

Felipe did not explain much. He only held her hands gently with a gaze that was even more passionate than before.

“Now that everything’s been sorted, I only have one wish. I hope you can marry me and become my wife. I will cherish you and protect you in this lifetime. I’ll give the best to you and Lily. Vera, will you marry me?”

Madeline knew Felipe had liked her this entire time, but aside from gratitude and appreciation, she did not have any romantic feelings for him.

However, she had told herself that if Felipe were to propose one day, she would not reject him.

After pondering about this, Madeline came back to her senses.

Madeline smiled when she looked at Felipe’s expectant gaze.

Right as she was about to say yes, a stern and overbearing voice sounded from the office. “She doesn’t want to.”

Madeline was taken aback. Then, she lifted her gaze and saw Jeremy’s icy expression as he strode over to her domineeringly.

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Madeline was shocked by Jeremy’s sudden appearance. However, for some reason, she let out a sigh of relief.

Felipe was annoyed as his profession of love and proposal was abruptly interrupted. A hint of anger appeared in his gentle black eyes. “Jeremy, why are you here? You no longer have a position here.”

Jeremy’s narrow eyes stared straight at Felipe, then his eyes landed on Madeline’s face.

When he met her cold stare, his gaze turned soft.

"I know you hate me and you want me to die. I accept all kinds of revenge from you, but I won't allow you to be with him... Let alone get married to him."

Jeremy had no room for negotiation in his tone, and there was a domineering aura in his dark eyes.

When Madeline was about to say something, she heard Felipe chuckling behind her.

"You won't allow this?" he laughed as he questioned, "Who are you to not allow this? Did you forget how you used to treat Maddie? What were you doing when she was sick and injured? You were having the time of your life with another woman. When she was all alone and yearning for an ounce of your trust, what did you do? You asked her to die."

"Jeremy, just ask yourself, who are you to interfere with Maddie's business? She's not related to you anymore. Plus, you're not worthy of her."

Jeremy knitted his eyebrows together when he listened to what Felipe said. His eyes darkened, and he even lost the courage to look at Madeline.

Felipe smirked when he saw Jeremy lowering his head dispiritedly.

He lifted his arm and draped it across Madeline's shoulder. "Vera, let's go."

Madeline nodded, her cold eyes scanning Jeremy's side profile.

She saw that Jeremy was pressing his lips tightly, his handsome stained with a trace of bitterness that she had never seen before.

Madeline did not ponder about what Jeremy was thinking at this moment. She left the office with Felipe without hesitating.

Jeremy stood where he was for a very long time in low spirits. Finally, there were some emotions on his handsome face. However, it was only endless pain and regret.

After he left Whitman Corporation, Jeremy drove his car aimlessly. Finally, he stopped his car by the beach at April Hill.

At this moment while looking at the endless sea, the memories of him hurting Madeline kept replaying in his mind.

She had been crying helplessly as she begged him. She loved him so much but could not help but to only admire him from a distance. He could not get rid of these memories no matter how he tried.

Jeremy closed his eyes when a bone-chilling wind blew past him. When he opened them again, his eyes were red. His Adam's apple bobbed as he sobbed soundlessly.

The snow fell on his shoulder, and gradually, he was being enveloped by cold air.

Jeremy stood motionlessly as he faced the sea. It felt as if the waves were crashing against his heart. Then, painful ripples started spreading wider and wider.

He did not know how long he stood there. He eventually went home after he received a call from Karen telling him there was an emergency at home.

Jeremy did not want to bother himself with the matter, but when Karen told him it was about Madeline, he immediately sped back to Whitman Manor.

The moment he walked into the door, Karen ran in front of him frantically. "Jeremy, is that woman insane? Not only does she want to take over the entire Whitman Corporation with Felipe, but she even wants to take Whitman Manor as well! Those shameless adulterers, she—"

"Shut up," Jeremy interrupted her impatiently, his cool demeanor shocking Karen instantly.

Karen pursed her lips together in dissatisfaction. "Did I say something wrong? If she can do it, then I'm not allowed to say it? Hmph, what have we done to her? She deserved all of those things that happened to her back then. Why is she back to seek revenge from us now?"

Jeremy knitted his eyebrows together with an icy gaze. "You still have the nerve to say all of those things?"

"..." Karen did not dare to make a sound.

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"If this will make Madeline feel better, anything is possible."

"W-What? Jeremy, what did you say?" Karen widened her eyes in shock. "You despise that woman so much, so why are you... Did you really fall in love with Madeline?"

Jeremy did not answer Karen. However, his softened gaze was the best answer.

"I'll find a suitable place for you to move out soon. Don't annoy me if there's nothing urgent."

After he finished saying that, he turned around to leave. However, he stopped when he saw the old master in front of him.

Old Master Whitman was holding his cane, and although his shrunken face looked strict, his eyes were still benevolent.

“Follow me,” he said to Jeremy before turning around.

Jeremy hesitated for two seconds before following after him.

Study.

Old Master Whitman was facing the grey sky outside the french window. After a long while, he sighed.

“What are you going to do now?”

“Don’t worry, Grandpa. I’ve lost Whitman Corporation but I’ll definitely get it back.”

Jeremy looked at the old master’s back and gave him a determined answer.

The old master sighed again before turning around. “I don’t want to know about this. You should know what I’m asking about.”

Jeremy was silent. He knew that the old master was asking about Madeline.

The old master held his cane and walked over to Jeremy, saying, “You know some things that other people don’t. You came to me when you married Maddie. You begged me to officiate this marriage.”

Jeremy’s heart skipped a beat when the old master brought up what happened six years ago.

Then, he heard the old master talking again.

“Everyone, including Maddie, thought that you were forced by an old fart to marry a woman you don’t love. However, in reality, you know the reason why you married Maddie.”

After he heard that, a hint of panic appeared in Jeremy’s eyes.

He looked like a child who had made a mistake. At that moment, he felt as if he was at a loss.

Old Master Whitman looked disdainfully at Jeremy in rumination. “You liked Maddie from a very long time ago. In order to prevent other people from stealing her away from you, you decided to marry her so that she can become Mrs. Whitman. However, why didn’t you admit it? Why did you want to torture her and hurt her?”

Jeremy curled the corners of his lips into a bitter smile when he was faced with the old master’s questions. “I was wrong.”

“Make amends and make things right if you know you’re at fault.”

“She won’t forgive me,” Jeremy said, “She doesn’t love me anymore.”

When he said this, Jeremy felt as if his heart was being gnawed by a million ants. He was the only one who could feel the debilitating pain.

“I don’t know if Maddie still loves you, but I know she won’t be able to get too close to Felipe.”

When Jeremy heard that, he lifted his head. “Grandpa, what secrets does Felipe have? Why do I feel like he’s very hostile toward me?”

Jeremy asked the old master the question that he had been keeping in his heart. The old master looked at the grey sky, and there was a flash of sadness in his eyes. "This story started 23 years ago..."

The story went back to more than 20 years ago. When Jeremy was feeling puzzled, he could guess that this might be related to Felipe's parents.

Indeed, after listening to the old master's story, Jeremy had a concrete answer.

At the same time, this also proved that Felipe was a very dangerous person. He could not allow Madeline to get so close to Felipe.

The old master stopped Jeremy when he was about to leave. "Maddie might know about this sooner or later. Plus, Felipe helped her through the most difficult moments of her life, so she trusts Felipe a lot. On the other hand, Maddie resents and despises you, so she won't believe anything you say."

"I don't long for her to believe me, but I won't allow Felipe to lie to her or even hurt her." Jeremy frowned, his gaze intense and determined.

He left after he made up his mind. However, he saw a photo on the desk on his way out.

Jeremy was taken aback. He walked over to the desk to pick up the photo frame.

The two 50 or 60-year-old men in the photo were wearing plain and simple outfits. They were seen doing military salutes as they stood together like heroes in a war.

He recognized that one of them was Old Master Whitman and thought that the other man looked familiar.

However, what shocked him was that the background of the photo was at April Hill. In addition to that, there was a beaming little girl happily playing tag with a little boy at the beach behind them.

He was the little boy.

He still remembered that innocent and adorable face. It was this little girl who gave him the shell. She was Madeline when she was a kid.

Jeremy looked at the photo dispiritedly as his thoughts started to wander.

The old master walked over to him and looked at the photo, saying, "Do you know why I keep defending and supporting Maddie? It's because her grandfather was like a brother to me."

"..."

Jeremy was stumped for words after he heard that. The other man in the photo was the deceased Len Samuels.

"Back then, I brought you to the seaside villa to help you relax from the heavy school work. When I was there, I ran into my old buddy. He had a little girl with him too and that girl was Maddie."

"I joked with him and told him to marry his granddaughter to my grandson and he agreed with a grin. However, for some reason, he left without saying goodbye. I never saw him again after that. However, recently I was told that my buddy passed away..."

Jeremy's hand that was holding the frame lowered slowly after he heard what the old master said. He felt an indescribable bitterness and pain in his chest.

He examined the innocent and adorable face in the photo as his vision slowly started to blur.

After a long while, Jeremy placed the photo down and left the room silently.

The sky had turned dark. Jeremy drove all the way to Madeline's apartment.

When he saw the lights and the familiar figure through the window of the apartment, his gaze started to soften.

After a while, he saw Felipe appearing behind the french window.

The gentleness in his eyes disappeared instantly. What replaced it was intense dissatisfaction and jealousy.

He never thought that he would be jealous of another man.

However, at this moment, he indeed felt very uncomfortable.

He got out of the car and slammed the door shut in agitation. He wanted to go upstairs, but he did not have any valid reasons to get close to her.

In the end, he grabbed a bottle of wine from his trunk and stood in the cold snowy night. He downed his icy wine, his eyes never once leaving the apartment.

Unbeknownst to him, the snow and wind grew stronger. The cold winter penetrated every inch of his skin.

However, Jeremy was not cold. He only felt that time was passing too slowly.

It was almost the middle of the night but Felipe was still there.

Was he staying the night?

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When he was contemplating about that, the lights in the apartment went off.

Jeremy felt his breath hitch as his mind started wandering.

He tossed the empty wine bottle to the bin and turned around without hesitating.

However, when he was about to go into the apartment, he saw Felipe walking out.

Some of Jeremy's pent up frustration disappeared and he stopped walking. When he saw Felipe driving away with a grim expression on his face, he finally went into the building.

Jeremy went to Madeline's unit with ease. He still remembered that she had invited him to her apartment before when she came back to his life as Vera.

At that moment, he discovered that she was not actually living with Felipe.

Now, Jeremy walked slowly to the door and stood there quietly.

The wind and snow fluttered into the building from the window. The bone-chilling coldness pierced through his skin like needles, but Jeremy was not bothered.

This was nothing compared to the hurt he had once caused Madeline.

He leaned against the wall and bent his knees. Then, he found a stool and sat down in front of her door quietly.

Madeline was a light sleeper. She heard a muffled thud coming from her door in her sleep. It sounded like someone was knocking but not entirely.

She was curious, so she walked out after putting on a coat.

She looked through the peephole cautiously and saw no one there. However, she could still hear some muffled noise coming from the door.

After hesitating for a few seconds, Madeline decided to open the door.

When the door was opened, to her surprise, she saw Jeremy leaning against the wall next to the door.

His head was lowered and his dense eyelashes cast two shadows under the incandescent light in the hallway.

He did not have his frigid and elegant aura anymore. He looked like a defenseless child in front of her as he slept peacefully.

Madeline looked at him in silence. Then, she turned around.

“Like...”

Suddenly, when Madeline was about to close the door, she heard Jeremy mutter that word.

She stopped in her tracks and looked at the sleeping man.

“Really like...”

Madeline scoffed sarcastically after she heard what he said.

“Jeremy, are you here just so you can put on an act for me?”

Jeremy woke up from his slumber all of a sudden after he heard the voice that he longed for day and night.

He lifted his hazy eyes and saw Madeline in front of him. Then, he got up slowly after the initial wave of surprise receded.

Madeline finally noticed that his face was abnormally red. Plus, there was a strong smell of wine on him. It was obvious that he had too much to drink.

“Maddie,” Jeremy called out to her softly. His dazed eyes were filled with such an intense passion that Madeline had never seen before.

Madeline looked at him coldly. “Jeremy, stop coming to me. I don’t want to see you. Plus, don’t call me Maddie. Your stupid and dumb ex-wife Madeline is dead.”

Her gaze was colder than the wind outside the window as she glanced at Jeremy. Then, she lifted her hand to slam the door.

Jeremy reached out his hand to stop the door. "Eveline." He changed how he called her, his wine-stained eyes looking even more intense and gentle. "Don't reject me. I have something to tell you."

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The man's voice was soft and certain. However, it also sounded like he was begging her. His eyes were hazy and fazed. Though he looked sober, he also looked intoxicated at the same time.

Madeline looked at him indifferently and said, "I don't want to listen to anything you say. I feel disgusted when I see you."

Her words were a blatant show of her disdain toward him while her resentful eyes caused Jeremy to stand there feeling dumbfounded.

He felt as if his heart had plunged into a bottomless abyss where the bone-chilling coldness spread from his heart to his entire body.

He missed this so much. Back then, she would look at him with so much admiration and love in her twinkling eyes.

Now, she was looking at him with a gaze that was even colder than how one would look at a stranger.

When she saw Jeremy looking at her with a dazed look on his face, Madeline's attitude was more firm than before. "Jeremy, if you don't leave now, I'll call the security."

Hearing this, Jeremy quivered as he lifted his intoxicated eyes. "I'll go. I just want to tell you something first."

After he said that, a bone-chilling wind swept over them.

Madeline looked at Jeremy's abnormally red face and released her hand that was on the doorknob. Then, she turned around and entered her house.

When Jeremy saw that Madeline was willing to take a step back, a smile appeared in his deep eyes.

He followed after her and closed the door.

The heat in the unit quickly evaporated the frost on his coat. However, what warmed Jeremy up more was Madeline's tolerance.

"Spit it out. Don't waste my time," Madeline said coldly.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's frigid face, his intoxicated eyes filled with passion. "Don't get too close to Felipe. And you can't marry him. He's not as simple as you think he is."

Madeline chuckled after she heard that, a hint of sarcasm appearing in her eyes. "Jeremy, who are you to interfere with my business? Who are you to me?"

Her tone was mocking while her eyes were filled with contempt.

"I don't care what kind of person Felipe is. I only know that he genuinely likes me and he genuinely wants to make me happy. He won't humiliate, hurt, and insult me like how you once treated me! At least when I'm with him, I get to keep my most basic dignity as a human and I'm trusted."

Madeline's words traveled into his ears as he looked at the figure that was standing in front of him, feeling at a loss. His eyes were filled with remorse and pain.

"Jeremy, if this is what you want to tell me, then you're done. Please leave. I don't want to see you

again.”

When he saw Madeline walking into her room after giving him the cold shoulder, Jeremy could not help himself and ran up to her before hugging her from behind.

“Don’t go!”

He called out in a low voice. There were fear and terror in his voice. It was as if she would disappear from his world completely if he did not hold her now. Madeline stopped abruptly in her tracks when she was suddenly held from behind.

She was stuck in a daze for a few seconds before she started to reject him. “Jeremy, let me go.”

“No. I can’t let you go again. I can’t...” He tightened his arms, wanting so badly to keep her in his life. “I’m sorry, Maddie. I’m sorry. I was wrong. I was wrong right from the start...”

He kept on apologizing, his deep mutters spreading warmth to her ear. There was also a hint of panic and shiver in his voice.

Madeline listened to Jeremy’s apologies in amusement. There was only sarcasm in her eyes.

“Maddie, give me another chance. Please?”

His wet and hot breath fanned her face along with the faint smell of wine. The electrifying feeling penetrated her skin and into her heart.

However, it would never be able to strike the broken chord in her heart anymore.

Jeremy held Madeline dispiritedly. Even though he could never get her answer, this hug right now was enough to satisfy him.

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Amidst the silence, Jeremy could hear Madeline chuckling lightly.

"Jeremy, everything's too late. I won't have any feelings for you no matter what you say now," Madeline said coldly. She no longer had the same yearning for him any longer.

"Because I don't love you anymore."

Even though he knew that she did not love him, when he heard her saying it out loud, Jeremy finally felt what it was like to have a million arrows to his heart.

He felt like invisible knives were raining down on him, slicing away his flesh from his body. What was left of him now was just his bones.

Madeline lifted her hand suddenly and pushed away Jeremy's lifeless arms.

She turned around and looked sarcastically at the dispirited man.

"Jeremy, I'm done with you. The moment you asked someone to break open my grandpa's tombstone, I instantly regretted falling in love with a cold-blooded and heartless man like you."

When he heard her saying this, Jeremy felt the cold wind taking over his body. The temperature of his heart plummeted into sub-zero temperature.

Madeline chuckled again when she saw Jeremy looking at her with a stunned look on his face. However, in an instant, her face turned solemn and even her gaze became sterner.

“When I loved you the most, you did everything to hurt and insult me to no end. You even forced me to sign the divorce papers before I died just for the sake of that demon Meredith.

“Do you know that even after you forced me to sign the papers, I still wished that you’d turn around to look at me even if it’s just a single glance?! But you didn’t. I watched you leave carefreely from my vision with the last ray of light that I had left. I could only lie on the floor and endure the excruciating pain. I could only wait for my eyes to completely lose their vision and my life to end.

“So, don’t tell me that you’re sorry or you’re wrong. Jeremy Whitman, you’re not wrong! I’m the one who’s wrong because I loved the wrong person!”

Jeremy felt tears stinging at the corners of her eyes after he heard what Madeline said.

He sobbed soundlessly, his red eyes meeting Madeline’s determined gaze that was filled with hatred. At that moment, he felt so petty and despicable.

He had hurt her so deeply, but now, he was trying to get her forgiveness by apologizing to her.

Jeremy did not dare to look into Madeline’s eyes. He felt that he was not worthy to even look her in the eye.

“I got it.” He lowered his gaze, looking as if all life had been sucked out of him. “I’ll try to not disturb you,” he said before turning around slowly. After a few steps, he turned back around again.

“Is Lily our daughter?”

Madeline pressed her lips together. “No, Lily isn’t related to you. She doesn’t have such a cold-blooded

father.”

After Jeremy got her concrete answer, the light in his eyes diminished completely.

At this moment, he finally realized the extent of the heartbreak Madeline had suffered back then. His heart sank like a rock as he was plagued with despair and pain.

Jeremy left the unit, his tall and slender body looking so desolate and bleak.

After he closed the door, Madeline looked in the direction where Jeremy left. She took a deep breath and closed her eyes. When she opened them again, her eyes were red.

‘Jeremy, back then, I had a fatal attraction toward you. Finally, I burned the innocent part of me to death. However, I won’t repeat the same mistakes again.’

Madeline went back to her room to lie down. Even after tossing and turning, sleep never came.

She lit up some incense and forced herself to sleep for a few hours.

She woke up again in the early morning. For some reason, she wanted to go for a morning jog. However, when she opened the door of her apartment, she was shocked when she saw Jeremy lying on the icy floor.

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July 27, 2021 by superadmin

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 471

Maybe it was out of surprise, but Madeline’s heart skipped a beat.

She wanted to ignore the man on the floor at first, but when she saw Jeremy's brows knitted together and the way he looked like he was in pain, she subconsciously squatted down before taking his temperature.

His cheek was cold, but his forehead was burning.

When she got closer to him, aside from his scent, there was also a strong smell of alcohol.

He had drunk a lot and even stayed out in the cold wind the entire night. It was likely he was suffering from a fever now.

Madeline did not want anything to do with Jeremy, so she thought of calling 911 so that the ambulance could take him away instead. When she turned around to do so, however, Jeremy grabbed her hand.

His hand was so cold, feeling as if it had been frozen into ice. The coldness from his hand penetrated her bones.

"Don't go..." he muttered like he was still in a dream, his eyelashes moving slightly. Then, he slowly opened his narrow eyes.

"Don't go, please?"

He closed his eyes again after he said that.

Madeline frowned in dissatisfaction. She tried to get him to let go of her, but the more she struggled, the tighter he held on to her.

"Jeremy, let go of me."

“No. I won’t let you go again...”

He was still unconscious, but it was as if he was replying to her.

Madeline did not have a choice, so she could only put up with him. “Okay, I won’t go, but can you not hold onto me like that?”

Jeremy opened his eyes again drowsily when he heard Madeline’s voice. Her stunning face was reflected in his hazy eyes.

Even though she was not willing to do so, she could only help him into her house while he was half-conscious.

She was five foot five and dragging a six foot one man. Then, she threw him onto the bed of the guest room.

She wanted to give him an antipyretic, but when she turned around, the man grabbed her again.

“You said you won’t leave.” His eyes were half-closed. He sounded a little childish when he said that.

Madeline swung away his hand impatiently. “I won’t break a promise like you. When I say I won’t leave, it means that I won’t.”

She glared at him in disdain. Then, she fetched the antipyretic and a glass of warm water.

When she returned, Jeremy had already fallen into a deep slumber. He could not take the medicine nor drink the water.

Madeline took his temperature with a thermometer and he indeed had a fever.

In this situation, she could only cool Jeremy down physically so that he would feel better.

However, when she was wiping his body with alcohol, she clenched her fist and got up abruptly when she looked at his sleeping face.

‘Eveline Montgomery, what the hell are you doing?’

‘Why are you taking care of him?’

‘Even if his fever gets to 200 degrees Fahrenheit, it has nothing to do with you.’

‘Did this man care about you when you were in debilitating pain? He didn’t. He ignored your life or death.’

Madeline glanced at the sleeping man coldly and ignored him.

Three to four hours later, Jeremy woke up from a pleasant dream while feeling muddleheaded.

He dreamt that he had fallen sick and Madeline was taking care of him considerably.

However, when he woke up and looked around him, Jeremy was certain that it was not a dream but reality.

His bitter heart was invaded with warmth. He looked at the antipyretic and water on the nightstand. He then downed the water along with the pill. The water had already turned cold, but to him, it was sweet and warm.

...

Whitman Corporation.

At this moment, Madeline was sitting next to Felipe and they were ready for a press conference.

After a while, the change of ownership of Whitman Corporation started trending online.

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The rumors about Jeremy's debt and fall from grace started increasing as well.

A lot of people were waiting for Jeremy's response. However, after a long while, his Twitter was never updated.

Felipe was also predicting what Jeremy would do. However, even after one day, Jeremy never appeared.

It was as if he had gone missing. He even switched off his phone.

On the other hand, Madeline knew Jeremy was in her apartment. However, it had been a day. Was he still unconscious?

It would be impossible for him to not react after seeing today's press conference. Did he get even sicker?

Madeline was contemplating about this in silence. Then, she followed Felipe to the most luxurious restaurant in Glendale. To celebrate, Felipe opened a bottle of the most expensive wine.

“Congratulations on finally achieving your goal. Now, Whitman Corporation is yours.” Madeline lifted her wine glass in celebration.

Felipe was smiling from his eyes. “Before I met you, my biggest wish and goal was to avenge my parents. However, now you’re the one wish that I want to grant the most,” he said, taking out a wedding ring that he had prepared beforehand. The pea-size diamond reflected dazzling rays under the bright lights.

Looking at the ring, Madeline suddenly recalled the day she married Jeremy.

Even though he was frigid, he still held her hand and put on the ring for her.

“Vera, I truly want to take care of you forever. Will you marry me?”

Madeline knew she did not have a reason to reject Felipe’s sincere and gentle proposal.

However, she had spent all of her love and passion on Jeremy. She did not know how it would feel like to love someone again.

Then again, if she could marry a man who would sincerely take care of her, then it would be another kind of blessing.

Madeline thought about this and smiled. Then, she reached out her hand to Felipe.

Felipe smiled softly and took Madeline’s hand to put the ring on her ring finger.

“Mommy.”

Suddenly, the silence was broken by a childish voice.

Madeline retracted her hand abruptly before lifting her gaze to see Jackson running toward her. She got up quickly. “Jack?”

The atmosphere of the proposal was ruined. Felipe looked at the diamond ring in his hand as an ominous glint flashed across his eyes.

“Jack, why are you here? How do you know I’d be here?” Madeline squatted down and asked while holding Jackson in her arms.

Jackson nuzzled Madeline while simpering to her. “Mommy is my goddess, so that’s why I’ll always follow you closely.”

Madeline smiled and caressed the little guy’s head. “Silly.”

After she said that, her phone rang.

When she looked at the caller ID, she saw that it was from Eloise.

She pondered before answering her phone. Then, she heard Eloise saying cautiously, “Eveline, it... It’s your mother. Jack is missing. He said that he missed you and ran out all of a sudden. Your father and I can’t find him anywhere.”

“He’s with me, so don’t worry. I’m hanging up if there’s nothing else.”

“Eveline, wait!”

Eloise stopped her. However, after she calmed down, she started sobbing.

“Eveline, I miss you too...”

“If you don’t have anything better to say, Mrs. Montgomery, then I’m hanging up.” Madeline hung up the phone without hesitation.

On the other side, when Eloise heard the dial tone of the phone, she started bawling in remorse once more.

Felipe initially wanted to enjoy some time with Madeline, but because of Jackson’s appearance, their candlelight dinner could only be cut short.

Jackson said he was hungry and he had never said that in such a simpering tone. He said he wanted to eat mommy’s food, so Madeline could only turn Felipe down and bring him back to the apartment. Madeline also wanted to know if Jeremy was still there.

“Mommy, do you know what day it is tomorrow?” Jackson asked all of a sudden when they were at the door to their apartment.

“What day is it tomorrow?” Madeline asked with a smile. However, she stopped opening the door when she remembered something.

‘Tomorrow is a special day indeed.’

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This was the sixth year.

Six years passed in a blink of an eye.

Madeline placed her finger down on the ID fingerprint lock and opened the door of the apartment. At this moment, her thoughts had wandered. She recalled how she was wrongfully imprisoned and how she was tortured during all those years there.

She could not forget how she was forcefully induced into labor by those female inmates on that stormy night.

How could she forget that tomorrow was her child's birthday?

However, this year would be different because she would not cry at the empty grave.

She knew that her child was not dead.

"Mommy, tomorrow is my birthday," Jackson said. His voice that was as clear as bells brought Madeline back to reality.

She was slightly taken aback and could not suppress the pain in her heart.

Jackson was Meredith and Jeremy's child. The ironic thing was that her child was born on the same day as Jackson.

"Mommy, you'll celebrate my birthday with me tomorrow, right?" The little guy tugged on the corner of her coat.

Madeline lowered her head, smiling when she looked into those expectant and pure eyes. She caressed his hair.

“Of course, I’ll celebrate your birthday with you.”

There was a spark of delight in Jackson’s eyes. He lifted his adorable pinky at Madeline before saying, “Mommy, pinky promise.”

Madeline smiled and went along with it, pinky promising Jackson.

A huge joyous grin appeared on Jackson’s good-looking face. When Madeline saw that, she felt at ease as well.

She removed her coat and was about to make Jackson something to eat.

When she walked into the kitchen, she remembered something before walking back to the guest room.

Madeline thought the room should be empty, but she spotted Jeremy on the bed. He was in the same position as he was this morning before she left.

‘Has he been sleeping for the entire day?’

‘Even if he has a fever, he shouldn’t be like this.’

Madeline felt puzzled as she quickly walked to the side of the bed where she lowered her gaze to look at the man’s sleeping face. She reached out her hand and touched his forehead.

His temperature had gone down and there was some color on his face now.

When she was sure that Jeremy was fine, she retracted her hand. However, when she was about to turn around, a familiar hand grabbed her wrist.

She was stunned. Then, she turned around to see that Jeremy's eyes were open and he was smiling at her. Madeline swung his hand away in agitation.

"Were you awake this entire time?"

Jeremy did not answer her. He sat up slowly, his eyes were filled with tenderness. "You're still concerned about me."

"Concerned about you?" Madeline scoffed, her tone cold and emotionless when she said, "I just didn't want you to die here and dirty my place."

Jeremy's smile cracked instantly. He saw his heartless self in Madeline's cold eyes.

"Go now. I don't want to see you."

Madeline chased him away with ice in her eyes. Then, she turned around to walk away.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's back dispiritedly, moving his thin lips slightly but not being able to say a single word in the end.

He knew Madeline was back when he heard the sound of the door. He pretended to be asleep because he wanted to know how she would treat him.

Despite Madeline's coldness, he was already satisfied by the act of her taking his temperature just now.

After Jeremy walked out of the room, he saw that Jackson was there as well.

Jeremy lifted his gaze to look at Madeline who was cooking in the kitchen and suddenly had a thought.

‘Does Maddie know that Jack is her son?’

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“Daddy,” Jackson called out to him at this moment.

Jeremy looked over in surprise. The good-looking little guy walked over to him with a smile, his clear eyes looking more and more like Madeline’s.

Actually, during the three years of Madeline’s ‘passing’, he rarely heard Jackson calling him ‘Daddy’. Even if he did, his voice would sound lifeless and perfunctory unlike now.

“Daddy, you’re here as well? Do you want to celebrate my birthday with Mommy?”

Birthday.

Jeremy suddenly remembered that tomorrow was Jackson’s birthday.

Jackson was five, but from what he recalled, it seemed that he had never celebrated his birthday with him before.

“Jack, your father has to go now. Just tell him what you want to say to him next time,” Madeline walked over and said to Jackson with a smile. She was purposely saying that to Jeremy so that he would leave.

She turned around to look at the man, her eyes turning a few degrees colder. “You can leave now.”

Jeremy smiled bitterly. "I'm leaving, but Jack's birthday tomorrow..."

"Birthday? Mr. Whitman, you're such a good father." Madeline interrupted him in a mocking tone with a sternness in her eyes. "You treat Meredith's son like he's a treasure, but what about mine? You've never asked about her and even asked someone to induce labor on me in prison so that they could steal my child and make her a b*stard child. You threw her out like she was a broken shoe!"

"It has been so many years and I've never met my child. When Meredith stole my corneas, I held the photo of the child Meredith gave to me like it was a treasure. Eventually, I found out it was just a stupid photo of a scenery!"

When Jeremy heard this, his heart started aching as much as Madeline's.

He remembered seeing Madeline crying and kneeling on the roadside looking for a photo of a scenery. He did not understand why she treasured that postcard so much, but now he understood.

Meredith had lied to her saying that it was a photo of her child.

"Jeremy, tell me. What have I done wrong? Why did you guys treat me like that? I will never forgive you as long as I live. Get out now. Get out!"

Jeremy's Adam's apple bobbed soundlessly. He looked into Madeline's eyes that were filled with anger, wanting to say something. However, he pressed his lips together again. "Maddie..."

"Get out!"

"Okay, I'll go." Jeremy did not say anything more. He turned around and walked away desolately. His back had never looked so lonely before.

Madeline took a deep breath and forced herself to calm down.

She should be lucky that the child was still alive.

The next day after Madeline sent Jackson to kindergarten, she went to the mall to buy a gift for Jackson. She wanted to give it to him tonight.

At the same time, she would also buy a gift for her child who she had never seen before.

‘Darling, I really hope that I can find you soon. I want to hug you and celebrate your birthday with you.’

When she was about to leave the mall with her shopping bags, she spotted a familiar face.

It was Rose.

After Rose and Jon testified against Meredith, they had vanished. Madeline did not think that they would appear now.

Madeline knew she would not get the whereabouts of her child from Meredith. However, Rose was different.

Rose had just sold off all of her jewelry. When she saw Madeline, she averted her gaze and ran away quickly as if she had done something bad.

“Rose!” Madeline chased after her quickly. When she saw Rose running to the street without looking at the traffic light, Madeline chased after her without hesitation.

At this moment, she was only thinking about her child who she had carried for ten months but did not have a chance to meet.

If Rose escaped, then she would lose an important clue.

At this moment, the traffic light opposite the zebra crossing turned green. A white car sped over to Madeline as it was trying to run a red light. When they saw that there was someone on the zebra crossing, it was too late.

When Madeline saw that the car was about to hit her, she heard someone yelling her name hysterically. "Eveline!"

Then, she heard a loud thud.

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A lot of people started gathering around because of the accident.

The moment the car sped over, Madeline thought she was unable to get away. However, in a quick flash, there was a strong force holding her. In that instant, she felt a sense of security that she had never felt before.

While she was still in a panicked state, someone was holding onto her shoulders tightly.

"Eveline, are you okay? Are you hurt?"

When she heard the familiar voice of concern, Madeline finally realized that the person who had pulled her to safety was Eloise.

Eloise's graceful and elegant face was filled with worry. Her eyes that were filled with concern were scanning Madeline's body up and down to see if there were any wounds.

Madeline was stuck in a daze for a few seconds before she said, "I'm fine. Thanks, Mrs. Montgomery."

When Eloise heard how Madeline addressed her, her eyes became red. However, she had nothing to say.

She knew she had already lost the right to get her daughter back.

Madeline turned around to look at the car that almost ran into her. The car had crashed into a tree nearby and the front of the car was caved in. However, the driver was fine. At the moment, he was calling someone to tow the car while looking troubled.

"That was so close! I thought I'd crash into that pretty lady!"

"Thankfully, a wealthy-looking woman came and helped her. If not, I can't even imagine what would have happened."

"They look similar, so I think they're mother and daughter. It's a mother's instinct to risk her life to save her daughter. See, her mother's crying from worry."

Madeline was about to leave, but when she heard the passersby's comments, she turned around slightly while feeling emotionally moved.

She saw Eloise standing there while trying to suppress her emotions. However, she still could not stop her tears from streaming down her face.

Madeline noticed a huge wound on Eloise's right calf. Bright red blood started pouring down her leg.

She walked over to Eloise and frowned. "Why didn't you tell me you're injured?"

Eloise shook her head with tears in her eyes. "As long as you're fine."

Madeline was quiet after she heard that. Then, she looked around. "Did you come out yourself?"

Eloise looked straight at Madeline and nodded.

"Wait for me here. I'll drive the car over," Madeline said before quickly walking away. Eloise was feeling all kinds of emotions when she looked at Madeline's back. More tears started pouring from her eyes.

After a while, Madeline drove the car in front of Eloise.

She got out of the car and opened the door for Eloise so that she could get in. Then, she drove to the hospital.

While they were on the way there, Eloise did not care about her injury. She was looking at Madeline who was focused on driving. Her teary eyes were filled with relief and love.

What a beautiful face. Eloise could see her younger self in Madeline's eyes.

However, she could not even recognize this face that was similar to hers back then.

Eloise wanted to talk to Madeline, but she did not dare to disturb her.

When they were at the hospital, Madeline lined up to register for Eloise. Then, she helped her into the clinic. After Eloise was all bandaged up, she helped her to the entrance of the hospital before letting go. "Call him and tell him to come to pick you up. I still have something to take care of."

Eloise knew Madeline was talking about Sean. She felt a dull ache in her heart and forced a smile. "I don't want to trouble your father. I can go home myself."

Madeline hesitated for two seconds. Then, she replied, "Whatever. I'm leaving now."

"Eve—" Eloise wanted to call out to Madeline, but she had already walked away.

Eloise wiped away the tears in her eyes in devastation before limping to the door.

Madeline was in the car as she watched Eloise slowly walking out. She tightened her grip on the steering wheel subconsciously.

She did not know why she was still heartbroken.

It did not matter if it was Jeremy, Eloise, or Sean. They were all the people she loved the most, but at the same time, they were also the people who had hurt her the most.

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She should have stopped caring about them a long time ago. However, she could feel tears rising in her eyes when she saw Eloise struggling to walk.

After Jeremy left Madeline's place, he locked himself in his room in Whitman Manor.

During this time, Yvonne and Karen came and knocked on his door. However, he ignored them every time.

He sat there from dawn till dusk, constantly watching the wedding video of him and Madeline.

His grandfather was right. He had fallen in love with Madeline a very long time ago. The best evidence of him choosing her as his life partner was when he married Madeline using the old master's name.

However, Meredith had fooled him for six whole years because of that promise he made when he was a kid.

In the end, Meredith was just a phony.

The girl he loved was the girl he had made the promise to back then.

Jeremy leaned against the chair quietly. Suddenly, he burst into laughter.

'The person I love, no matter back then or in the future, will always be you, Linnie...'

Buzz, buzz. His phone vibrated all of a sudden.

Jeremy answered his phone, his expression changing. "What? Maddie almost got into an accident because she was chasing after Rose? I got it. I'll head over right now."

He got up quickly and changed.

Yvonne was bringing him some snacks when she saw him getting out of his room. She immediately went over to him to curry favors. "Jeremy, you're finally out... Jeremy, where are you going in such a hurry?"

Jeremy ignored her and went downstairs quickly.

When Karen saw this, she hurried over to stop Jeremy. "Jeremy, are you going to look for Madeline? Our

entire estate has been snatched by that woman and Felipe. Not only are you not doing anything, but you keep running to her. What's wrong with you? Are you going to tell me now that you're seriously in love with that woman?"

"It's none of your business who I go to," Jeremy replied coldly, "If you want to continue living how you lived before, then don't interfere with my business."

"..." Karen was speechless. She could only watch as Jeremy left.

...

After parting ways with Eloise at the hospital, Madeline could not focus for the entire afternoon. She even forgot to pick Jackson up from school.

When she remembered, it was already twilight.

At this moment, she received a call from Eloise.

This time, she did not hesitate before answering. She heard Eloise's soft voice coming from the other end of the phone. "Eveline, I know you hate us and you don't want to see us. However, I have a request. I hope you can come back home now. Just this once. After this, I won't force you to do anything more."

Madeline replied quickly after she heard Eloise's careful pleads, "You saved me today and I don't want to owe you anything. I'll go over now."

Despite saying that, Madeline knew that this was just an excuse for her to go to Montgomery Manor.

More than ten minutes later, she arrived at Montgomery Manor.

After she got out of the car, she saw Jeremy walking in with a cake.

When their eyes met, Jeremy's gaze softened as if they had been caressed by the spring breeze.

He walked over to her quickly. Before he could say anything, he saw Madeline smiling at him. However, her smile was dripping with sarcasm.

"Mr. Whitman, you're such a good father. You're about to lose everything, but you still remember to give your precious son a happy birthday."

Jeremy laughed in self-mockery. "I'm not a good father. If I am, I'd be celebrating my precious son's birthday with him every year and not only start doing it now."

"Precious son..." Madeline rolled those two words in her mouth. A dull ache surfaced on her chest. "Meredith's son is precious, but what about my child?"

"I carried the child for ten months and endured all the hurt and grievances myself. However, in the end, I never even got the chance to meet her. What about you? What did you do to that child? You harmed your own flesh and blood just to make Meredith happy."

Madeline's eyes welled up with tears. She was unable to stay calm when she talked about her child. She looked at the man in front of her with enmity, her eyes filled with intense hatred.

"Jeremy, I hate you to the bone from just this alone. I'll never forgive you as long as I live."

"Will you forgive me if I bring our child to you right now?"

After Jeremy said that, the air around them froze.

The anger in Madeline's eyes was shaken. "Jeremy, what did you say?"

The man looked at her pressing gaze and felt a pang of pain in his heart.

"Jeremy, repeat what you said just now! Have you already known that our child isn't dead? Do you know where she is?" Madeline could not control her emotions any longer. She grabbed the man's shoulders and asked, "Tell me! Tell me now! Where is the child?"

Jeremy felt devastated, and he blamed himself when he saw the tears in Madeline's reddening eyes. "Maddie, calm down..."

"Calm down? Do you think I'm able to calm down now?" Madeline scoffed and asked. Her gaze was as sharp as an icepick. "Jeremy, you don't care about the child but I do! Do you know how painful it is to have your child separated from you? You won't because you're heartless! You only have that witch Meredith in your cold-blooded and emotionless heart!"

"Daddy, Mommy."

When Madeline was about to question Jeremy, Jackson ran out of the house.

He was beaming. Under the moonlight, he had a hint of cheekiness on his face that he never had before.

Madeline's anger and pain went away slightly when she saw the adorable face.

She took a deep breath and recomposed herself before giving Jackson a warm and doting smile.

“Jack.”

She squatted and held the child who was running toward her.

Madeline felt tears forming in the corners of her eyes when she held the warm little body.

She was fond of Jackson and wanted to give this child more motherly love.

However, at this moment, she wanted to hold her child who she gave birth to back then even more.

Jeremy pressed his lips together when he saw this. His passionate and loving gaze was glued on Madeline.

‘Maddie, Jack is your child. He’s our baby.

‘You’ll be ecstatic when you find out.’

“Jack, happy birthday.” After Madeline let go of Jackson, she planted a kiss on his cheek. Then, she handed him the present she had picked out.

Jackson grinned and took it. “Thank you, Mommy.”

His childish voice felt like spring water flowing across Madeline’s heart.

Jackson stood on his tiptoes and planted a kiss on Madeline’s cheek as well.

Madeline smiled and caressed Jackson’s head before getting up.

“Daddy, Mommy, let’s go in. Grandpa and Granny have prepared so much food for me!” the little kid said while pulling along Madeline and Jeremy before leading the way.

Madeline looked at Jeremy in anger.

Jeremy only smiled softly. “Don’t worry. Our child is living a good life.”

“Good? Would a child living without the love of a mother and who was abandoned by her father have a good life?” Madeline snorted. Before she started walking, she reached out her hand to grab Jackson’s.

Looking at them holding their hands in front of him, Jeremy had a grateful glint in his eyes.

He smiled. Even though it was a bitter smile, he was still grateful that he still had the people he loved around him.

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Eloise and Sean had been worried that Madeline would not show up. When they saw her entering the living room with Jackson, their eyes lit up with joy.

“Eveline! Eveline, you’re really here!” Eloise walked over to Madeline in excitement.

Madeline looked at the bandages on Eloise’s leg subconsciously. When she saw that Eloise was still limping, she said flatly, “Mrs. Montgomery, you should sit down and rest in case your wound breaks open. I don’t want to owe you anything.”

When Eloise heard that, she looked at Madeline sadly. “All mothers would want their children to be safe and healthy. I’ll be happy as long as you’re fine. You don’t owe anything to any of us. We’re the ones

who have wronged you.”

Sean nodded on one side. He was looking at Madeline with the same love and pain in his eyes. “Eveline, we’ve wronged you so much. If you don’t want to acknowledge us, then we won’t force you. Your mother and I are happy as long as we get to see you.”

After Madeline listened to that, she said with no emotions on her face, “Aren’t we celebrating Jack’s birthday?”

Eloise and Sean were taken aback. Then, they smiled and nodded.

“Yeah, we’re celebrating Jack’s birthday today. However, before the celebration, Jeremy has something to give you,” Eloise said as she looked at the man who was walking over with a cake.

Madeline knitted her eyebrows together. “I don’t want anything to do with this person anymore. If you asked me here just to speak well of him, then I’ll leave now.”

“Eveline! Don’t go!” Eloise stopped her. “Eveline, don’t be mad. If you don’t like it, then I won’t mention it anymore.”

When Madeline walked past him, Jeremy grabbed her wrist.

The warmth from his palm traveled to her skin, the heat spreading all over her body.

Madeline lifted her annoyed gaze at him slowly. “Let go.”

“Jack wants you to celebrate his birthday with him. As for my present, I trust that you’ll accept it one day.”

“Daddy, Mommy, what are you talking about? What present?” Jackson lifted his head to ask.

Madeline retracted her hand in silence and recomposed herself. Then, she turned around and smiled warmly at Jackson to change the topic. “Today is your birthday, so of course, it’s a present for you.”

She smiled and carried Jackson to the dining room.

Eloise and Sean looked at each other before sighing. “If Eveline knows that the present you want to give her is to tell her that Jack is her flesh and blood, she’ll be ecstatic. I really didn’t expect her to be opposed to it so much.”

Jeremy chuckled in self-mockery. “I’ve hurt her so much, so it’s only understandable that she hates and resists me. I can’t even forgive myself for what I’ve done to her,” he said softly. He knew himself what he had done.

Jackson’s sixth birthday should be grand, but it was unpredictably simple.

This time, Jeremy placed a number six candle on the cake and lit it up.

Jackson put his hands together and closed his eyes to make a wish. A few seconds later, he blew out the candle. Then, after he cut the cake, he handed the first slice to Madeline. “Mommy, thank you.”

He thanked her solemnly out of the blue.

Madeline looked at the innocent face in confusion. “Why are you thanking me?”

“This is the best birthday ever.”

Madeline and the other three people in the room fell silent after Jackson said that.

“My biological mommy doesn’t like me at all and I don’t like her. She only smiles at me when Daddy’s around. When Daddy’s not around, she’d hit me and yell at me. She would also lock me up in a dark room. However, you’re different, Mommy. No matter if Daddy is around or not, you’ll always smile at me and protect me.”

Jackson looked at Madeline, and there was an expectant glint in his eyes.

“Mommy, can you be my mommy forever? Can you protect me forever?”

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After Jeremy heard what Jackson said, he furrowed his brows together tightly.

His eyes were filled with sadness for Jackson, but at the same time, there was more anger that stemmed from shock and horror.

He had no idea that Meredith was treating Jackson like that when he was not around.

No wonder Jackson would become so down and strange. It was all because of Meredith.

He clenched his fists, the veins on the back of his hands protruding.

“What? Meredith is so evil!” Eloise and Sean were seething. They were furious and heartbroken at the same time. “She’s not human!”

Madeline felt sorry for Jackson in her heart. Her chest was also filled with anger.

She clenched her fists and looked at the silent man with contempt in her eyes.

“Mr. Whitman, the love of your life really is something else. However, do you think that’s the only thing she did to Jackson?”

Her tone was sarcastic as she told them what happened back then.

“Back then, she slashed Jack’s face with a fruit knife to frame me. She pushed the knife into my hand with a sinister smile as the child bled out and wailed.

“The funny thing was, Mr. Whitman, your entire family believed Meredith’s lies. You all hit me, yelled at me, and punished me. I will never forget what happened that day as long as I’m alive.”

After she finished saying that, the room became tense.

Eloise and Sean fell into a deep state of self-blame. Even though they were not there back then, they too had berated her a lot after that.

Madeline glanced at Jeremy who had a solemn look on his face. Then, she turned around and smiled softly at Jackson. “Jack, I promise you that I’ll always protect and cherish you.”

“Really?” Jackson’s eyes shone with joy.

Madeline stuck out her finger. “Pinky promise.”

“Okay!” Jackson displayed his adorable canine teeth and reached his pinky out to Madeline.

Madeline finally saw an innocent smile that a child should have on Jackson's face. Her lips curled into a relieved smile subconsciously.

After celebrating Jackson's birthday, Madeline left.

Eloise and Sean wanted Madeline to stay. They had a million words stuck in their throats, but they did not have the courage to say them out loud.

Jeremy thought Madeline would leave without even paying attention to him. However, when he stepped out of the door, he saw Madeline standing there. She looked like she was waiting for him.

"Jeremy, where is my child?" she asked directly. Her hateful gaze scanned across his face. "Don't think that I'll forgive you because of this. I will never forgive you."

Jeremy felt uneasy as he walked toward Madeline, his charming narrow eyes looking apologetic. "You're right. Our child is not doing so well."

Madeline frowned. "What are you talking about? How's the child? Jeremy, hurry up—"

"I'm sorry."

Suddenly, before Madeline could finish, Jeremy opened his arms and pulled her into his embrace.

Before this, he thought Jackson was leading a good life with him. However, he did not know that Meredith had been destroying his tiny body and soul behind his back.

Yet, he believed himself as infallible and promised Madeline that the child was doing well.

No.

That child was not doing well at all.

When Madeline saw Jeremy's abnormal behavior, she pushed him away anxiously. "Jeremy, tell me now. Where's the child?"

Jeremy grabbed Madeline's shoulders and comforted her. He looked at her intensely. "I'll take you to see the child tomorrow."

Madeline's eyes lit up. "Really?"

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"Really." Jeremy nodded. "Trust me."

His voice was deep but gentle. Madeline looked at him like she was at a loss. After a while, she came back to her senses and pushed Jeremy's hands away in dissatisfaction.

"Remember what you said. Don't make me hate you more." She turned around and walked away after saying that.

Jeremy watched as Madeline walked away. All of a sudden, he felt an excruciating pain in his heart. His mind was occupied with Madeline's love for him and the admiration she had for him in her eyes. However, all those were in the past. They had become faded memories now...

That night, Madeline could not sleep.

She could not wait to see her child who was induced and stolen from her.

She imagined the child's face. What would she look like?

She had to be extremely adorable.

Despite her hatred toward Jeremy, she could not deny that he had extremely good looks. She looked pretty decent as well. As such, their child would not look too bad with their genes combined.

However, Madeline did not expect that Jeremy knew that the child was alive.

Did he know that the child was still alive at that time?

If so, what did he spread in front of her at the cemetery?

His cruel and tyrannical behavior was still replaying in her mind. He had not looked like he was pretending.

What was going on?

Madeline fell asleep with those questions in her head.

The next day.

She was woken up by the ringtone of her phone in her slumber.

Felipe's voice was deep and heavy with sleep. He greeted her and invited her to go to Whitman

Corporation for a board meeting with him.

Madeline agreed. Before leaving, she called Jeremy, but the call did not go through. She then messaged him and reminded him to bring the child to her.

After a while, Madeline arrived at Whitman Corporation. However, she saw a lot of journalists at the entrance.

In the crowd, Madeline saw Jeremy who was being surrounded.

He was tall, so he stood out from the crowd. His breathtaking face was also glowing, so it was difficult for people not to notice him.

He was wearing a black suit, looking frigid but elegant. His narrow eyes were icy and emotionless. However, they still looked alluring.

Madeline was surprised. She did not expect him to face the press with so much confidence.

She looked at him and walked over slowly. Then, she heard Jeremy speaking calmly to the journalists and the cameras, "The owner of Whitman Corporation is still the same. It's just temporarily handed to my uncle, Felipe Whitman. It still belongs to the Whitmans."

He was calm as he utterly played down the fact that he had been stripped of everything.

Then, Jeremy smiled. "I don't have anything to say about the statements about my fall from grace and dire straits online. Rumors will stop being spread when heard by the wise men."

He was still treating this like it was nothing. He did not look frightened or disturbed at all.

“Mr. Whitman, recently Meredith Crawford was charged with two murders that happened a few years ago. She’s the love of your life, so do you plan to hire a defense lawyer for her?”

“I heard that after Meredith Crawford was involved with the attempted murder, you never went to visit her again. Even though Meredith has done a lot of bad things, she still gave birth to a son for you and stuck with you for so many years. A lot of people online are calling you heartless, so what is your response to this?”

Jeremy’s gaze became grim when he was faced with the questions from the journalists. “Meredith Crawford has killed people, so she must be punished in accordance with the law. I was entangled with her before, but I’ve never liked her, let alone loved her,” he said. Suddenly, his eyes softened as if they had been caressed by the spring breeze. His eyes were glued on Madeline who was standing in the crowd.

“This entire time, there has only been one woman in my heart. She’s my wife, Madeline Crawford. No, her real name is actually Eveline Montgomery.”

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July 27, 2021 by superadmin

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 481

After Jeremy finished saying that, the crowd drew a sharp, astonished breath.

Back then during the press conference of Montgomery Enterprise, they finally knew that Madeline was the true Miss Montgomery. They were also shocked at first, but they were more surprised by what Jeremy had said now.

Who did not know that the young master of the richest family in Glendale was in love with Meredith Crawford? Why did it suddenly become Madeline Crawford now?

Madeline should be the woman he despised the most.

“Mr. Whitman, you mean that you’ve always been in love with your ex-wife, Madeline Crawford, and not Meredith Crawford?” a journalist broke the silence and questioned.

“You got half of it right,” Jeremy replied. He stared at Madeline with tenderness in his eyes. “I don’t have an ex-wife because this whole time, I’ve only had one wife.”

The journalists were stumped for words. “But Mr. Whitman, you divorced Madeline Crawford three years ago...”

“There were indeed some contradictions and unhappiness between us, but I can tell you with certainty that she’s still my legally wedded wife.”

“ ... ”

“ ... ”

The journalists looked at each other, evidently confused by Jeremy’s answer.

Madeline was calm and unperturbed. However, at this moment, she was slightly moved.

She saw the confidence in Jeremy’s eyes and her heart started beating faster all of a sudden.

‘What did he say?’

‘Did he just say that I’m still his legally wedded wife?’

Back then, he was the one who had forced her to sign the papers. How could she still be his legally wedded wife?

The strange atmosphere continued for a while. The journalist from just now asked cautiously, "Mr. Whitman, even if that's the case, we hope that you can restrain your grief because Madeline Crawford passed away three years ago. I'm afraid—"

"I think you've made a mistake." Jeremy interrupted the journalist. "My wife's alive and well."

What?

The crowd was all taken aback. Then, they saw Jeremy walking away.

The journalists and onlookers around him tactfully made way for him.

They looked over to where Jeremy was looking and they saw Madeline standing in a distance.

Her figure was tall and slender while her face was graceful and gorgeous. If one remembered it correctly, this was how Madeline used to look.

However, she did not look as casual and simple like she did before. Not only did she look classier now, but she also had the air of a monarch around her.

The journalists knew that face too. Was she not the founder and designer of Miss L.ady, Vera Quinn?

Was Vera Quinn Madeline Crawford?

This conclusion appeared in everyone's brains immediately.

After Madeline sensed something was wrong, it was too late for her to run away as Jeremy had already

approached her.

His gaze was gentle while his tone was as soft as the spring breeze. “Maddie, I was wrong. I wronged you and made you suffer so much. I know it’s difficult for me to get your forgiveness, but I hope that you’ll still give me another chance to love you.”

The journalists swarmed toward her after they heard what Jeremy said. “Miss Vera, are you really Madeline Crawford?”

“I heard you passed away after you were diagnosed with a fatal illness. How did you come back safe and sound?”

“Meredith Crawford stole your identity and took everything that was supposed to be yours. What do you think of this?”

“Did you not divorce Mr. Whitman? If so, will you forgive Mr. Whitman?”

Madeline felt that the sudden wave of questions was too noisy.

Under the impatient gazes of everyone, she looked into Jeremy’s expectant eyes while remaining calm and undaunted.

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“Your words were so touching, Mr. Whitman. However, it’s too bad that I’m not Madeline Crawford.” She denied it. Then, she chuckled sarcastically. “Even if I was Madeline, I wouldn’t forgive you nor give you another chance.”

The hope in Jeremy’s eyes was crushed. His heart also plummeted heavily.

Actually, it was not surprising for him to get this answer. However, when he heard her denying it, the words felt like a knife was slicing his heart.

Felipe rushed to the scene immediately after he saw the live broadcast online.

He pushed the crowd away and walked next to Madeline, his gentle and refined face filled with anger.

He grabbed Madeline's hand in front of everyone. His gaze was overbearing and possessive as he looked at Jeremy.

"Jeremy, don't force your hypocritical apology and love on Vera. She's not your ex-wife Madeline Crawford who you used to abandon and tarnish. She's my fiancée, Vera Quinn."

Felipe sounded like he was warning Jeremy.

On the other hand, this was the first time Madeline saw such obvious rage and aggression on Felipe's face.

"On behalf of our relationship, I can let you off the hook this time. Please have some self-respect."

After Felipe said that, he held Madeline's hand and walked away.

Madeline did not look at Jeremy before she left with Felipe. However, the moment she started walking, she felt another familiar hand holding her.

She stopped walking immediately, causing Felipe to stop as well. Felipe frowned in agitation when he saw Jeremy holding Madeline's hand.

“Let go of Vera.”

Jeremy ignored Felipe and walked in front of Madeline.

Looking at her icy gaze, Jeremy leaned down and got closer to her ear before he started talking.

He said something in Madeline’s ear, but no one else heard it. However, they saw Madeline’s eyes lighting up instantly.

Then, the onlookers and Felipe heard Jeremy saying four words. “I’ll wait for you.”

It was apparent that he was saying those words to Madeline.

Then, Jeremy turned around. Unexpectedly, Madeline also let go of her hand that was holding Felipe’s.

Felipe’s expression changed. “Vera?”

Madeline’s eyes were filled with apology and anxiety. “I’m sorry, Felipe. I need to leave. Something urgent came up. I’ll talk to you soon.”

Felipe did not have the chance to stop her before Madeline walked away hurriedly.

Judging from the direction she left in, it was obvious that she was chasing after Jeremy.

All of the onlookers were clear about this.

This also made them more suspicious about whether Vera Quinn was the wife who Jeremy had abandoned back then, Madeline Crawford.

After Jeremy got into the car, he saw Madeline chasing after him from the rearview mirror.

He was a little happy, but at the same time, he felt pathetic.

At this time, he could only use this method to get her to spend some time with him.

At the end of the day, he was the one who did this to himself.

While he was stuck in a daze, Madeline had already climbed into the passenger seat after opening the door.

"Jeremy, stop beating around the bush with me. Take me to my child now." Madeline ordered straight away.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's stunning side profile with a smile on his face. "I promised that I'll bring the child to you today, so I'll definitely do it."

Madeline chuckled after she heard that. "More than ten years ago, someone promised to protect me and take care of me forever, but what happened in the end?"

She mocked with a cold look on her face as she said, "Jeremy, stop wasting time. Unless you let me see my child, I won't believe anything you say."

"Alright, I'll take you to see our child now."

Jeremy started the car instantly.

After Madeline heard his words, an expectant smile appeared on her cold face.

Through the mirror, Jeremy could see that Madeline was holding her hands tightly. There were endless emotions in her eyes along with a hint of nervousness.

Jeremy curled the corners of his lips when he saw the look of genuine happiness on Madeline's face.

He was finally seeing a smile on his face.

However, after driving on the busy roads, the car ended up in a place where Madeline was familiar with.

She was puzzled as she reminisced about the scenery outside the window.

'Has my child been living in April Hill this entire time?

'Then who's taking care of my child?'

The car came to a stop slowly as she was thinking about these questions.

Madeline did not wait for Jeremy to open the door for her and got out hurriedly.

Everything in front was not foreign to her. They were at the beach of April Hill.

It was the depths of winter and the sea breeze was bone-chillingly cold.

No one would come to the beach during this season. Even the villagers nearby would rarely come to the beach.

Madeline looked at the vast emptiness in front of her before running toward Jeremy.

"Jeremy, where is my child?" she asked hurriedly, "Why did you take me here? I want to see my child!"

"I'll definitely let you see our child before the day ends."

"Before the day ends?" Madeline finally caught the loophole in his sentence. "Jeremy, what do you want? Are you trying to fool me?"

Jeremy curled the corners of his lips helplessly. "I don't have any other choice."

"What do you mean?" Madeline did not have the patience to beat around the bush with him.

"I know you won't forgive me and you won't love me like you used to, so I can only use this way to spend some time with you."

Madeline burst out laughing after she heard him saying that. "Jeremy, do you know how pathetic you sound?"

"I know," the man muttered. Madeline's smirking face was reflected in his eyes. However, his expression was filled with tenderness. "Just think of me as despicable or shameless, but I just want to spend this day with you."

Madeline stared straight into Jeremy's fawning eyes. Then, she pressed her lips together and decided to compromise. "Jeremy, if I don't see my child by the end of this day, I will never let you off the hook so easily."

Jeremy smiled as he looked at Madeline's angry face.

'Linnie, you have no idea how much I want you to keep pestering me.'

He thought about that in silence. When he came back to his senses, he saw Madeline leaving on her own.

The breeze kept blowing over. It was so salty and tasted like their memories from so many years ago.

However, after these memories went away like the tide, the only things left were the pain that was too unbearable to look back on.

Jeremy followed after Madeline. She was so close to him, yet she seemed so untouchable.

He wanted to find a topic to talk to Madeline about. Coincidentally, an old woman appeared in the field in front of them. The old woman had just dug out an entire basket full of sweet potatoes, but since she had too many, a few of them rolled out from her basket.

Madeline quickly ran up to help her. Jeremy ran up as well.

The old woman thanked them repeatedly. Then, she raised her head to look at Madeline and Jeremy. When she saw them, she smiled and said, "It's you two! You two came here even though it's so cold. Are you here to look back on your childhood memories again?"

Madeline and Jeremy were taken aback when they heard that. At this moment, they finally realized that this old woman was the retired doctor from back then.

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Jeremy went with her and smiled. "Yeah. My wife and I wanted to relive the memories."

Madeline spared a displeased gaze at Jeremy which the man paid no attention to as he helped the old woman pick up her potatoes and carry her basket.

"You live nearby, right? I can help you take them back."

"Thank you." The old woman accepted their help and began showing them the way.

Jeremy smoothly held Madeline's hand in his before following.

Madeline's attempt to break free was to no avail.

"The two of you sure are a loving couple, coming to the seaside despite how cold it is." The old woman looked back with a smile that deepened when her eyes fell on Madeline and Jeremy's interlocked hands. "You sure are a lucky lady to have such a loving husband. I remember how he ran all the way when you hurt your leg years ago, panting when he arrived at the health center. Oh, how worried he must have been. I knew right then that the two of you would end up together, and I was right."

Madeline's lips curled mockingly at the words as she looked at Jeremy.

"All you see is just the surface of the truth, old madam."

“This old madam saw nothing short of love and affection in this handsome young man’s eyes when he looks at you,” the old woman teased, saying, “Quarreling is not uncommon when it comes to married couples. I used to nag my late husband every day too, but I found the world growing too quiet the moment he passed.

“Life is much shorter than you think, so cherish the people in front of you now.”

“You’re right, old madam. I’ll definitely cherish my wife and make her happy,” Jeremy quickly piped up.

The old woman turned to look at him hopefully.

Soon after, the trio arrived at the old woman’s house.

Madeline took the chance to pull away from Jeremy’s hold and bid her farewell, but the old woman seemed passionate about inviting them for lunch.

Realizing Madeline was about to reject her, Jeremy agreed before she could.

The old woman began to prepare lunch joyfully. “My children are all in the city and they don’t return very often. I’m glad that there’s finally someone who’d spend time with good old me today.”

Half an hour later, a table of simple yet delicious home-cooked dishes was made.

Placing some of the dishes on Madeline’s plates, Jeremy had never felt such a simple meal to be so fulfilling.

It seemed like Madeline’s presence made anything he did satisfying.

Madeline helped the old woman with the dishes after lunch and made a move to leave.

The winter afternoon sun was pleasantly bright and warm today. Madeline returned quietly to the beach.

Turning around, she stared at the man who followed her here.

Jeremy's smile was gentle, his eyes never once leaving her today.

"You have half a day left, Jeremy. Is there anything else you would like me to do?" Madeline's tone was cold as she took the entire situation as it was—a business deal.

There was not a shred of patience in her eyes, for she complied merely for the sake of her child.

Jeremy slowly walked toward her, an enchanting smile gracing his ethereal appearance.

"Anything you want to do, as long as I get to spend the day by your side."

"Hmph." Madeline raised a delicate brow at the absurdity of his words. "Since when have you cared when I stayed wide awake for nights waiting and hoping for you to come home to me? Now you're telling me that you want to spend the day with me? Jeremy Whitman, don't look so satisfied with yourself. Don't you realize how shallow you're acting?"

Jeremy's sharp brows pinched. "Yes, it is shallow. I can't believe I'm stooping so low either, but what else am I supposed to do?"

"I can't turn back time. I can't go back to when you first returned to my life so that I can hug you and tell you I like you."

The light in Jeremy's eyes dimmed as his shoulders grew heavy with gloom.

Suddenly, he reached out to hold Madeline's shoulders.

"What's done is done, Madeline. I can't force you to forgive me because I can't bring myself to forgive me either. I'd be a fool to believe that you could love me again, so the only thing I can do is to make you hate me. At least then, you'll still keep me in your heart."

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At that, Madeline broke into a mocking chuckle.

Even so, her eyes grew wet as the sea wind blew despite her laughter.

"Do you even hear what you're saying, Jeremy?" She scoffed, her eyes brimming with unshed tears. "You're telling me that you loved me since the moment we met again, yet you've taken a part of my flesh away?"

Madeline's expression darkened the most at the mention of 'love'.

"Is this what it means to love someone, Jeremy? Being in love means that you wish the best for that person! Not to break, destroy, and torture them!"

Madeline let out the rage within as her tears began to trickle from the corner of her eyes with the sea breeze.

They fell on the back of Jeremy's hand, the warmth of the tears searing his flesh.

"You don't need to lie to yourself, Jeremy, and I don't need you to lie to me. The one you've loved this entire time has been Meredith all along, I can see it in the way you protect her despite the evil things she has done. Yet what did you do when I was slandered and scolded? You left me outside by the road in the pouring rain. You left me to die!"

Jeremy choked in silent agony at the words.

He opened his arms to hold Madeline in them. "Stop talking, please..." He pleaded softly, his tone weak.

Madeline struggled to get out of Jeremy's embrace, but it was to no avail.

Infuriated, she raised a fist to hammer it against his chest. "Let me go, Jeremy! Why can't I keep talking, hmm? If you had the galls to do it, then why can't you have the galls to hear it from me?"

"You crushed me under your foot time and time again when I was so irrevocably in love with you! Even until the day I 'died', you were still getting happily engaged with Meredith. Do you have even the slightest idea what it feels like to have your heart pierced? I wish I had actually died because even that would hurt less!"

Jeremy's arms tightened as he took in every word of rage Madeline threw at him.

Each one of them cut into his heart like daggers, bringing him to a whole new height of unbearable pain.

He dared not revisit that blood-filled memory, let alone watch her 'die' in his arms again.

Tears fell freely from Jeremy's eyes silently while his throat ached with every gulp.

Not knowing what comforting and apologetic words he could offer, Jeremy tightened his hold in fear that she would once more slip away from his life again.

Madeline took a deep breath to calm the raging storm of emotions within her, but she seemed to be unable to hold her tears back.

Her heart ached as she relived the past.

Void of the strength to struggle and hit him, she resorted to light scoffs.

"I was so happy when I met you the first time. You were my friend and the first boy who I impulsively decided I would live forever with. Yet, the fact that I love you is of the past, just like the rainbow shell I gifted you back then. It doesn't exist anymore!"

Jeremy's hold finally relaxed, only to have him procure something from his pocket and display it on his palm.

Madeline was stunned to find that it was the rainbow shell she had previously thrown away in the busy street.

Did he get it back?

"I still have the shell you gifted me." Jeremy's reddened and wet eyes rushed with joy. "Does that mean we still have a chance, Madeline?"

Madeline reached out to take the shell.

Looking at the hope in Jeremy's eyes, Madeline's heart growled crudely before she moved to fling it at the ocean.

"Madeline, no." Jeremy immediately tried to stop her, his hand lifting her off the ground by her waist as

the other reached for her hand.

“Let go of me, Jeremy. There’s no future for us anymore!” Madeline struggled furiously. “I’m not going to believe your lies about loving me either! I’ll never believe you, not even if I die!”

Jeremy immediately tried to comfort her. “Listen to me. Madeline, I mean what I said. I love you, I do.”

“No! Let go of me, Jere... Mmph?”

Madeline had not expected Jeremy to lean over to kiss her amidst her struggles.

His overpowering scent was all she could breathe in. It was tender and greedy as it overwhelmed the fragrant and sweet scent of her own.

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Madeline parted her lips only to bite down harshly on Jeremy.

The man’s brows furrowed slightly as he blinked his alluring eyes open.

Mirth swam in his eyes as he took Madeline’s harsh rejection as a sign of her enjoyment.

His grip loosened and he was immediately given a slap across his face.

Madeline glared at him, balling her fists at the sight of blood on Jeremy’s lips.

“Don’t kiss me with the same mouth you used to kiss someone else! It’s disgusting!”

She raged, fuming as she turned around.

Jeremy lifted a slender finger to wipe off the speck of red from the corner of his lips. "You're the only woman I've kissed."

Madeline's steps slowed.

Jeremy turned around to stare at her back. "I know you won't believe me, but it's the truth. I've never kissed another woman."

Madeline slowly lifted her ferocious gaze. "Yeah, you've never kissed another woman, so I take it that you've never touched Meredith too, right? Then how did Jack come to this world? The sheer force of will?"

"..." Jeremy had nothing to say.

Madeline's mocking laughter grew in Jeremy's silence. "What now? Did you forget the many times she had gotten pregnant? She even got a miscarriage this one time because of me, this oh-so vicious woman. You didn't even come home at all during our marriage. No, you spent every night with that monster!

"At least have the decency to admit it if you had the guts to do it, Jeremy. Save some dignity for yourself."

Madeline marched back to the car after her outburst and got in, closing its door with a bang.

Jeremy was left stunned in place as the icy sea breeze added to the coldness he felt.

He was not lying. Ever since the moment he knew that Jackson was not Meredith's child, he already had

the feeling that his and Meredith's relationship had never gotten to such a stage.

Not to mention that he was certain of never having touched her when he sober. The two times Meredith claimed she was 'pregnant' was when he had fallen asleep drunk.

Now that he thought about it, it seemed likely that Meredith was behind his drunken state and her 'pregnancy' was faux.

That meant he had never engaged in a physical relationship with Meredith.

Jeremy strolled over to the car to find Madeline lying against the back of the seat with her eyes shut.

Perhaps it was because she did not want to see him, hoping that the day would end by the time she woke.

Jeremy made no move to disturb her. Instead, he took to guarding the car from the outside as the wet and cold wind blew and turned his heart cold...

Madeline ended up napping before she realized it, and by the time she woke, it was already dusk.

She turned her head to look out the window and found Jeremy standing alone by the car like an exquisite sculpture.

As if feeling her gaze on him, Jeremy suddenly turned around.

Through the window, the two gazes locked. Then, Madeline averted her eyes indifferently.

Jeremy smiled faintly at her reaction and got in the car. "Good morning."

"It's getting late, Jeremy. Bring me to my child."

"Alright."

Madeline felt suspicious of his quick reply. "Don't waste my time."

"I'm really bringing you to see your child." Sparing Madeline a glance, Jeremy started the engine and stepped on the accelerator.

Half an hour later, Jeremy's car arrived at Montgomery Manor's gates.

Madeline's expression darkened. "Why did you bring me here, Jeremy?"

"To see our child." Mirth filled Jeremy's gaze. "Our son's right inside."

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Son?

Madeline was stunned.

'Meredith lied to me. I gave birth to a son, not a daughter!'

Madeline felt her heart stop.

Doubt tinted her gaze as she stared at the joyous man.

Reading the words left unspoken in Madeline's eyes, Jeremy looked at her before giving her a weighted nod.

Madeline felt all doubt vanish within her heart at his silent acknowledgment and quickly alighted the car. She ran into Montgomery Manor with large steps.

Jeremy closed his eyes remorsefully as he stared at Madeline's impatient figure.

Sure, Meredith was heinous, but was he not too?

It was dinnertime within the manor and Eloise was walking toward the dining room with Sean by her side and Jackson's hand in hers when a servant suddenly proclaimed, "Sir, Madam, Miss Eveline is back!"

Neither Eloise nor Sean could believe their ears. Turning around at the same time, the couple met an impatient Madeline with surprise and elation.

"Eveline!" Eloise called for Madeline lovingly before she could hold herself back.

Sean watched Madeline approach them with hope and happiness in his eyes. "You're just in time, Eveline. Come eat dinner with your mom and dad."

Staring at the couple before her, it was evident that Madeline's mind was not on them.

Impatiently, she began to scan her surroundings before her eyes suddenly fell on Jackson's small figure walking out from behind Eloise and Sean.

“Mommy,” Jackson greeted Madeline coquettishly.

The boy’s handsomely childish cheeks bloomed with an angelic smile.

Madeline felt her heart race suddenly as she stared at Jackson.

“What’s wrong, Eveline?” Eloise approached her worriedly as she took in Madeline’s weird expression.
“Eveline, what—”

“Aside from Jack, are there any other children in the house?” Madeline asked softly, her gaze fixed on Jack who was currently walking toward her.

Eloise and Sean shared a confused look, only to see Jeremy walk over just as they were about to open their mouths. Understanding of Madeline’s question slowly seeped into them.

“Are you and Daddy here to eat dinner with me, Mommy?” Jack asked as he walked over to Madeline, blinking his innocent and round eyes. Madeline felt her heart speed up at the mirth in his eyes.

An epiphany immediately came to her, but she did not dare to think more of it.

“Mommy,” Jackson called out again.

Just then, Jeremy arrived by Madeline’s side. His low baritone was tinged with guilt as it sounded by her ear.

“When you told me that Meredith had given Jack’s face a gash with a fruit knife, I thought you were framing her because I refused to believe that Meredith would do such a thing. Not even tigers prey on their cubs, so why would she hurt her Jack, her own son?”

Jeremy let the words echo in the air for two seconds before he continued in a grim tone.

“It was only after that I found out she could indeed do something so heartless because Jack was never her child to begin with. So why would she have any qualms about doing it?”

At that, Madeline felt her heart begin to tremble.

She lifted her misted gaze to meet Jeremy’s loving and guilty ones.

Jeremy reached out to wipe away the tears gathered at the corners of Madeline’s eyes with a slender finger.

“Jack’s the child you were forced to give birth to in prison, Madeline. Jack is our son.”

The tears in Madeline’s eyes fell relentlessly the moment he confirmed it.

Staring dazedly at Jeremy, Madeline finally trailed her gaze to look at the small boy standing in front of her.

Jackson looked back with confusion in his pure marble-like eyes, though an innocent smile remained on his dewy cheeks.

Madeline’s heart broke.

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Madeline dropped to her knees while her trembling fingers began to caress Jackson’s brow.

They went from his eyes to his nose to his adorably small mouth...

“What’s wrong, Mommy? Why are you crying?” Jackson blinked confusedly as he reached out to wipe Madeline’s tears away.

Madeline lovingly clasped Jackson’s fair and small hands in her larger ones.

“Jack... Mommy’s precious little boy. Mommy finally gets to see you!”

Unable to hold back, Madeline pulled Jackson’s small frame into her chest.

Holding Jackson tightly, the storm of joy and sorrow within her intertwined and came out in the form of wet scalding tears that streamed down her face.

She knew she should be elated, but her heart felt like it was going to shatter.

Meredith was just too wicked. How could she come up with such a way to torture her and her child?

Madeline felt her chest tighten as she imagined the wicked things Meredith had done to Jackson in the past five years.

She did not even dare to recall the scene of Meredith cutting Jackson’s face. It hurt too much.

It made sense that Meredith could do such ruthless things.

For the child Meredith had been torturing was Madeline’s!

While Jackson did not understand the reason behind Madeline's distress, he loved the feeling of Madeline's hugs for they were filled with adoration.

Eloise leaned against Sean's shoulder as happy and hurt tears trickled out her eyes at the scene before her.

The gods were hardly fair.

Why did they force their daughter to go through so much pain?

The corners of Jeremy's eyes burned as he quietly watched the mother and child hug and recognize each other by the sidelines.

Oh, how he wished that he could redo the past six years.

He would never self-opinionatedly push away the woman he loved again.

Madeline choked and sobbed for a while as her onslaught of emotions did not seem to calm, at least not until Jackson patted her back and comforted her. "Don't cry, Mommy. Jack and Daddy will go beat up the bad people who bullied you!"

Madeline shook her head with tears in her eyes, feeling her heart clench and warm at his attempt. "Nobody bullied Mommy. These are happy tears. Mommy's very happy..."

She pecked Jackson's cheek with a teary laugh before holding him in her arms lovingly again.

"Mommy's never going to leave you again, okay, Jack? Mommy's going to take good care of you and give you happiness."

Her eyes bloomed with motherly love as she promised.

Jeremy, too, leaned down to ruffle Jeremy's cute head. "Dad's going to take good care of you too, alright? Your family won't be apart again."

At that, Madeline snapped out of her joy and sorrow.

Wiping her tears decisively, she gave Jackson a small smile before turning to face Jeremy indifferently.

"Come out for a bit. There's something I'd like to talk to you about."

Madeline stood up before turning around to look at Eloise and Sean. Hesitating, she spoke, "Please help me look after Jack for a while. I'll be back soon."

"Eveline..." Eloise watched sadly as Madeline turned to leave.

Giving Jackson's head one last pat, Jeremy quickly stood up and followed Madeline out as well.

The frosty wind sunk into the bones of those who stood outside in that mid-winter night.

Silently waiting under the lamppost, Madeline turned around when she heard Jeremy's footsteps draw close. There was no sign of warmth in her eyes.

Jeremy remained kind and gentle. "What did you want to talk to me about, Madeline?"

Madeline's eyes held nothing but frost in them as they met the man's warm gaze.

"If you have any shred of conscience left, Jeremy, you'll give my child back to me."

"Was this what you wanted to talk to me about?" Jeremy tugged his lips into a bitter smile. "Jack can't lose his dad just because he has his mom now."

"Dad?" Madeline scoffed ironically as she sent a strong wave of despise at Jeremy. "Does your conscience not hurt, Jeremy? You've done nothing to redeem your worth as Jack's dad."

"..." Jeremy pursed his lips and remained silent.

Madeline walked up to him, frost oozing off her delicate and slender figure as she stood in front of the lithe man.

"Do you even remember what you fed me every time you were done with me? Contraceptives, that's what. You told me that a woman as wretched as me will never be worthy of having your children. Do you remember?"

"..." Jeremy's sharp brows knitted tightly at Madeline's interrogation.

"I was already pregnant with your child when Meredith lured you over to the hospital under the guise of suicide. I was so naive to think that my pregnancy would salvage what remnants of our relationship, yet all I got was contraceptive pills thrown in front of me before I could even tell you the great news."

Jeremy's eyes sparkled at her words.

He stared at Madeline in shock. "You were already pregnant then?"

"I was, and with Jack, but so what? It's not like you cared anyway!

"You couldn't even bring yourself to speak to me personally, so you had to inform me we were getting a divorce through text. You told me to abort the b*stard child because I wasn't worthy of bearing your children and that Meredith was the only woman in the world who could bear them! You even went so far as to warn me that you'd kill the illegitimate child with your bare hands if I didn't abort him.

"You called your son a b*stard child, Jeremy Whitman. How could you have the audacity to call yourself Jack's dad?"

Madeline took a deep breath to calm her emotions before boring her fierce red eyes into Jeremy's.

"I begged you, I begged for a chance to love you on behalf of our child, but so what? In the end, all I got from you was humiliation and disdain. All I got from you were scars that will never heal!"

"..."

Jeremy felt the blood within him freeze at Madeline's accusations.

His eyes burned with the threat of tears as he stared at Madeline's cold expression. His heart hurt, but his mind was blank.

Since when had he messaged Madeline something like that?

He had never heard her ask for a chance to love him because of their child.

Why would she say that?

His memory felt incomplete.

He had no recollection of anything Madeline was referring to.

He knew with certainty that Madeline would not lie about this, so the only possibility that remained was that someone else had used his name to say such inexcusable things to Madeline.

Snow suddenly began to fall from the midnight blue sky.

Recollecting her emotions, Madeline lifted a slender finger to rid the droplets that had gathered around the corners of her eyes with a scoff.

“The pain I felt when I gave birth to Jack isn’t something I can possibly describe with words, Jeremy, nor do I want to waste time trying. Our divorce was a fact three years ago, and since Jack is my son, I can promise you that I’ll fight until the end for his custody.”

After stating her will, she brushed past him and left.

Jeremy was quick to hold Madeline’s hand to keep her, but she sent him an icy look before he could open his mouth to speak.

“All you’ve done is push me away, and when I was finally in too much pain to stand, you left me alone.”

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 490

“What about when Meredith framed me and locked me in prison? Do you remember what you told me then? You told me to kill this b*stard child of mine to make up for Meredith’s miscarriage.

“Have you forgotten everything you’ve told me, Jeremy? What makes you think you have the right to promise Jack a happy family after every heartless move you’ve made against Jack and me? You have no right to be Jack’s father!”

Madeline flung Jeremy’s hold off and turned around coolly.

Jeremy stood rooted in place with his heart rate and breathing running wild.

Snowflakes littered across his shoulders before they seemed to melt into his heart, leaving his chest cold and moist...

With a warm smile, Madeline made a beeline for Jackson upon entering the house. “Do you want to live with Mommy from now on, Jack?”

Jackson nodded joyfully despite not understanding the situation. “I want to live with Mommy! And Daddy too, so that I can be just like the other kids with both a mom and dad!”

The sparkle in Madeline’s eyes dimmed.

“Does that mean I can go home with you and Daddy after dinner, Mommy?” The child’s eyes swam with hope.

From afar, Jeremy felt his heart grow numb at the pain.

He was so sure that Madeline would deny him, so he never expected her to nod in return.

She nodded to Jackson’s question! She said yes!

“Yeah. Mom and Dad will bring you home after dinner, Jack.” Madeline smiled as her eyes flooded with motherly love. “You’ve always been Mom and Dad’s precious baby, Jack. Tell me if anyone dares to say that you don’t have a mom or dad, okay? Mommy will teach them a lesson!”

“Yay!” Jackson clapped his hands excitedly as he turned around to run toward Eloise and Sean. “Granny, Grandpa, I’m going to go home with Mom and Dad later. I’ll come to visit you again next time, okay? So don’t miss me too much.”

The corners of Eloise’s eyes burned as she patted Jackson’s head lovingly. “Granny and Grandpa will miss you dearly, Baby Jack.”

Of course, they would miss him—much more than they did before too.

How could they not love him, when he was a part of their darling daughter?

Thanks to Jackson’s presence, both Eloise and Sean ate dinner happily with Madeline.

After dinner, Madeline held Jackson’s hand as they got into Jeremy’s car.

Eloise and Sean watched them leave.

The fact that they could see Madeline was enough.

Jeremy quietly watched the woman who was currently talking animatedly with Jackson from the rearview mirror as he drove. The loneliness in his eyes grew, and his heart hurt as if countless needles had pierced it.

The car stopped in front of what used to be his and Madeline’s marriage villa, and Madeline brought Jackson into the house.

Madeline then brought Jackson to his room and only left when Jackson had taken a bath and went to sleep.

Exiting the room, Madeline was met with the sight of a downcasted Jeremy standing by the side.

He must have been there for a while as he had not changed out of his clothes yet.

Sparing him a cold look, Madeline brushed past him and left.

“Madeline.”

Jeremy called after her, only to have Madeline ignore him and walk further away.

“Madeline, Madeline,” Jeremy continued to call out as he suddenly grabbed her hand to stop her in her tracks. Jeremy’s grip tightened just as he felt Madeline about to throw his hand off in disgust. He took big steps to stand before her. With a thud, he fell on one knee in front of her.

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife chapter 491-500

July 27, 2021 by superadmin

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 491

Madeline never expected to see the day when Jeremy would kneel for her.

It would be a lie to deny that she was shocked, but as shocked as she was, it would be more fitting to claim that she found the situation absurd.

The man before her was one of noble status and his name was known throughout the entirety of Glendale. It was a given that anyone who crossed paths with him would treat him with respect, while

some went the extra mile to get on his good side.

It was hard to imagine such a man kneeling in front of her, in front of the woman he had once cast away.

Madeline lowered her aloof gaze to stare at Jeremy's handsome face, his knitted brows radiating the sorrow he felt.

"Who would have thought that the young master of the greatest family would kneel for the woman he had once tossed away? Don't you find it hilarious, Mister Whitman?"

Jeremy took Madeline's mockery in stride. "I would do anything for your happiness."

"Hah." Madeline scoffed. "You'll make me very happy if you stop appearing in front of me."

Jeremy's eyes dimmed, feeling his heart ache in cold and pain as Madeline's frosty gaze pierced into his chest.

All he could do was hold Madeline's hand as he greedily took the warmth her hand provided.

"Madeline."

"Don't call me Madeline when the moment I became Madeline Crawford was the beginning of the tragic turn my life took."

Madeline interrupted Jeremy coldly as she tried to pull her hand away, only for the latter to tighten his grip.

"Let me go, Jeremy. I don't want our lives to be intertwined anymore. Don't you have an idea how much

I dislike and how much I hate you already?!”

Jeremy felt his body grow cold at her determined and annoyed tone.

She said she disliked and hated him.

Hate.

Jeremy silently pushed the heartache away for later as his Adam’s apple bobbed with the suppressed grief.

It took a while before he finally lifted his hurt-filled eyes, allowing his deep and dark irises to fall on the other’s beautiful features. Her features dripped with heavy fury.

“Eveline,” Jeremy called her by a different name. “You’re right, I’m blind and I’m a fool. I should never have allowed such a heinous woman to harm my wife and my child. I’ve done too much wrong to possibly hope that you could forgive me, but there’s something that you have to know.”

“It’s too late now. I don’t want to listen to you, nor will I believe anything you say anymore.” Madeline savored the serious and adamant look on the man before suddenly flinging his arm off as hard as she could. “I don’t love you anymore, Jeremy. Leave your shallow displays of affection for another woman. I don’t need it from you!”

Then, Madeline turned and left coolly.

Dazed, Jeremy knelt in place as he felt his heart break. Frost swarmed in through the cracks, freezing him from the inside.

He swallowed soundlessly as his deep eyes reddened.

He scrambled to run just as he heard Madeline open the door to leave. "Eveline!"

Madeline was at the door when Jeremy hugged her again.

Pissed, she tried to push him away, but her strength was no match for his.

The cool scent of the man attacked her nose, and for a moment, she felt her heart quicken inexplicably.

"What do you want from me, Jeremy?"

"Don't leave me, please. Don't leave me again..." he murmured frantically by her ear.

"I don't want you to vanish from my world again, Linnie. I won't survive it a second time..."

"Leave your honeyed words for the woman in prison!"

"No."

Jeremy rejected stubbornly and tightened his hold.

"I know you won't believe me, but I've never said this to anyone else. I mean it, Eveline. I love you, ever since the beginning. You were the only one for me."

For what was supposed to be the most touching phrase in the world, 'I love you' now sounded like the biggest joke as it drifted to Madeline's ears.

“Haha...” Madeline scoffed. “You remind me of a saying, Jeremy.”

Confused, the man’s grip around her slacked.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman’s Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 492

The two pairs of eyes locked under the dark of the night. Madeline’s gaze was cold as she parted her pink lips to speak, “The deaf heard the mute say that the blind saw love.”

“...” Jeremy’s reddened eyes widened when he heard Madeline.

“Perhaps it’s because you’ve never meant the words that you say, Jeremy, which is why you see your promises as pranks and your professes of love as jokes. But that doesn’t mean I’ve forgotten them.”

She paused for a moment, the mockery in her eyes thickening.

“You were the one who told me that Meredith has an irreplaceable spot in your heart, that the moment your eyes fell on her, you knew that she’s the only girl you’ll ever love and protect your entire life.”

Repeating Jeremy’s words to him, the contempt in Madeline’s smile grew.

“You were the one who said Meredith is your one and only, yet now you’re telling me it’s been me all along? Hmph. If this is what your love looks like, Jeremy, then I don’t want it.”

With that, she turned around decisively and left before Jeremy had the chance to stop her.

Jeremy broke into a self-deprecating smirk as he stared blankly at Madeline’s retreating figure.

There was nothing he could say about the happenings of the past.

How was he supposed to explain to Madeline that he only allowed Meredith to do as she wished as an extension of the love and care he had for Madeline when they were children?

Snow began to flutter from the night sky.

The snow was silent, yet Jeremy heard something shatter within him...

He had no idea how he endured the night.

Wide awake, he spent the night sitting by Jackson's bed.

Remorse and guilt filled him as he stared at the familiar brows and eyes on the small face.

His heart felt like it had been stabbed as he thought of how difficult Madeline must have had it when she was pregnant with Jackson.

The day finally brightened and Jeremy heard activity from downstairs.

His heart raced, knowing that Madeline had returned.

Walking downstairs, he found Madeline bustling in the kitchen just as he had imagined.

Jeremy felt his gloom lift considerably, but he did not dare disrupt her for she was most likely here for Jackson.

Not wanting to give Madeline more reason to be angry at him, Jeremy waited for Jackson to wake before helping the boy wash up and change. Then, he took him downstairs.

Seeing the father-son duo appear hand-in-hand, Madeline ignored Jeremy to smile at Jackson.

"I made you breakfast, Jack. Would you like me to send you to kindergarten after breakfast?"

Jackson responded with a hopeful smile, "Can I have both Mommy and Daddy send me to school?"

"Of course," Jeremy replied, sighing a breath of relief at Madeline's lack of protest.

When breakfast was over, Jeremy then drove the three of them to the kindergarten.

Reaching the kindergarten, Jackson tugged on a young female teacher and pointed a finger at Madeline and Jeremy. "Look, Ms. Laurens, that's my mom and dad! My mom's a beauty!"

His classmates exclaimed innocently as their gazes landed on Madeline, "Jackson's mom is so pretty."

"His Daddy is so handsome too."

A proud smile graced Jackson's boyish features at their praises.

It was a smile that comforted Madeline.

Her child would no longer be as gloomy as he used to be.

Madeline turned to leave after she watched the child enter only to have Jeremy follow behind. "Where

are you going, Eveline? I'll send you."

A car stopped in front of Madeline just as his words fell.

Alighting the car was Felipe who merely spared Jeremy a faint glance before he turned around to open the passenger seat door for Madeline.

Realizing Madeline was about to leave with Felipe, Jeremy stepped forward to loop his arm around her slender waist decisively. He then pulled her toward himself. "Please leave, my wife will not sit in your car."

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 493

Madeline was taken by surprise when she found herself being held tightly in Jeremy's arms. She had not the chance to avoid him.

A smudge of anger tinted Felipe's gentle features. "Let go, Jeremy. Stop bothering her. Vera's my fiancé."

"You're very well aware who exactly I'm holding in my arms, Felipe, and I can tell you with absolute certainty that Madeline and I are still legally married. Don't become a homewrecker."

Felipe's expression darkened.

Jeremy tugged lightly on Madeline's waist with a faint smile. "Let's go, darling."

"..."

Madeline had half the mind to struggle only to realize that several parents were watching her and Jeremy.

Remembering how happy and proud Jackson was as he introduced her and Jeremy moments ago, Madeline relented.

Sparing Felipe and his cold eyes a glance, Madeline followed Jeremy into his car.

It was only after they had left the kindergarten perimeters that Madeline requested Jeremy to stop his car.

He listened and stopped by the roadside.

Madeline gave him a cold look. "I would never have gotten in your car had it not been for Jack, Jeremy. Stop bothering me, please. I'm not your wife anymore."

Jeremy's grip tightened around the steering wheel.

He turned around when he heard Madeline push open the car door. "You are. You still are the wife of Jeremy Whitman."

Madeline turned back with a scoff. "Did you forget how you forced me to sign the divorce papers three years ago? I said no, but you held my hand and forced me to sign just so you could marry Meredith Crawford, that evil woman. How could you still call me your wife?"

Jeremy's brows furrowed slightly when he remembered how heartless he had been.

His gaze was remorseful when he looked at Madeline.

Yet, Madeline saw a tint of relief in Jeremy's eyes.

He opened his mouth to speak, "Indeed, you signed the papers. But I've never formally gone through the divorce procedures."

"..." Madeline was stunned. "What did you say?"

"I told you then, didn't I? I don't have an ex-wife. You're the only wife I've had, ever since the beginning."

"..."

"We're still legally married, Eveline. Be it the past or the present, you're still the only wife I, Jeremy Whitman, have ever married."

"..."

Madeline's expression was no longer calm.

Balling her fists, she stared at the man's gentle and happy expression in disbelief.

"What do you want, Jeremy? You forced me to agree to a divorce, only to tell me that you've never completed the procedures?"

The absurdity of the situation had Madeline losing control over her emotions.

"Fine. Since we haven't divorced yet, then we can divorce for real now!"

She alighted the car decisively and gave the man in the car an indifferent glance.

“I’ll draft up the divorce agreement and give it to you as soon as possible. I don’t want to have anything to do with you anymore.”

Madeline slammed the door with a bang and strolled away.

Jeremy gripped the steering wheel harder, his heart in pain as his gaze locked on the figure that was walking away. A bitter smile tugged on his lips.

Who would have thought? History was repeating itself.

He had forced a divorce back then.

Now, she was the one who would place the divorce papers in front of him.

He had done this to himself.

...

Half an hour later, Madeline arrived at the shop on First Crystal Street.

Locking herself in the office, she began to search for reference materials to draft the divorce papers.

However, every draft she made ended up being deleted.

She was unable to calm herself down, for she could not wrap her head around why Jeremy had not

divorced her.

Married by Mistake Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife [Sixteenth Child] Chapter 494

She was still his wife!

Knock, knock, knock. Someone knocked on the office door.

Looking up, Madeline was met Felipe who wore a warm and small smile on his lips.

After clearing her table, she opened the door for Felipe to enter and made him a cup of black tea.

Felipe took a light sip before going straight to the point. "Why did you turn your phone off the past two days? Did Jeremy say something that day in front of Whitman Corporation?"

At the mention of this topic, Madeline beamed with a beautiful smile. Her eyes were filled with joy.

"I found my child."

Felipe trembled. "Yours and Jeremy's first child?"

"Yeah. Who would've thought that he has always been by my side?" Madeline smiled sweetly, revealing her dimples. "Jackson's my son."

"Jackson is your son?" Felipe was stunned.

Madeline nodded. "It explains why I always felt a special connection and intimacy when it came to Jack."

Felipe's eyes softened as he stared at the sweet and carefree smile Madeline had never worn in front of him before.

"Congratulations on finally finding your child."

He smiled faintly, but there was a crease between his brows.

"This morning, you followed Jeremy into his car because of Jackson, didn't you?"

Madeline nodded as he spoke her mind. "While I never intended to be separated from Jack, I still owe it to him as his mother. After all, Meredith only tortured and hurt him that way because of me."

"It's not your fault." Felipe gently held Madeline's hand. "You're not at fault. The ones to blame are Meredith and Jeremy. I can help you if you want to fight for custody over Jack when you're divorcing Jeremy."

Madeline frowned in frustration at the mention of divorce. "Felipe, the—"

"Just give me a little more time to deal with some old issues. Then I'll bring you and Jack back to F Country to see Lily. We can get married then and live simple and happy lives as a family of four."

Felipe's obsidian-like eyes gleamed with tenderness.

Then, he pulled Madeline into his arms lightly.

Madeline did not know whether she should hug him back or push him away for a moment. Sure, that was her plan too, to leave this land of rumors after she completed her revenge.

Yet, she had no idea why her determination wavered now.

Not too long after Felipe's departure, Ava came to visit her at the shop as well.

Madeline told Ava everything that had happened over the past two days, which ended in Ava being too shocked to hold the cup steadily in her hands.

"What? How could that b*stard be so shameless as to tell you he loves you? Love my foot!" Ava was furious. "You can't fall for that, Maddie. He's got to be lying to you! He might just be saying that so he can reclaim Whitman Corporation's stocks."

Madeline nodded. "Relax. My feelings for him died long ago."

"Yeah!" Ava exclaimed satisfactorily before leaning over to hug Madeline's shoulder affectionately. "As evil as the b*stard is, I'm so happy you got to find your son back, Maddie!

"After going through so much to give birth to him and being tortured to death by that b*stard and that btch, I'm glad he's doing alright. Not to mention how cute he's grown to look."

"Jack's a really quiet and understanding child. It hurts me a lot to know what he's gone through."

"I'm hurt for you." Ava's eyes reddened. "You can't soften your heart because of the child, Maddie. Don't go back to him, not after how he left you battered and bruised."

Madeline's mind echoed with Ava's remarks after she left.

She would not go back to him again.

Definitely not.

Madeline began to redraft her divorce agreement, locking herself in the office for the entire day.

The sky was grim as the icy wind blew outside the windows.

Just as she was about to finish typing it up, Madeline accidentally clicked the exit button before she could save the document.

Despondent, she ruffled through her past resources and had accidentally clicked on one of the nameless files she previously copied from Jeremy's computer.

Madeline remembered how the file was filled with thousands of .txt documents. She simply clicked on one of them and it opened to reveal a single line—'It's nice to see you again. I mean it.'

Madeline realized that something was wrong as she pondered over the phrase.

She immediately closed it only to open the first document saved in this file.

The words within it had Madeline in a daze...

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The document was formatted as if it was a diary.

Clicking into it, the first thing Madeline saw was the date above.

It was dated three years ago, the day after she had 'died'.

Its content left Madeline tongue-tied.

[I never thought you would leave me like this. You wouldn't, right? This must be a prank, right? Don't joke about things like this, Madeline. It's not funny.

[You said you loved me, that you'd bother me forever. Why is your forever so short? It can't be. I refuse to believe that it is...

[You must be doing this on purpose, Madeline. You're doing this so that I would never forget you and miss you forever. You're sly, but I won't fall for it.

[Madeline...

[Madeline...]

"..."

Everything afterward was just her name typed again and again.

Her hand that was on the mouse trembled lightly.

While she could clearly read the words typed in the document on her screen, Madeline found herself unable to imagine how Jeremy must have felt while he wrote it back then.

Nor did she understand why Jeremy would type the words he did.

It was as if he could not accept the fact that she had 'died'

Hints of a breakdown could be seen within the lines.

Madeline stared at the words at loss, but the timestamp dating when the document was saved made it impossible to have been forged.

Madeline frowned as her gaze darted between the thousands of documents filed within.

She found it hard to click her mouse and delve into the other documents.

Just then, an employee came over to remind her. "Mr. Whitman's here, Miss Vera."

There was a hint of mockery in her eyes.

"He said he's here to fetch his wife from work."

"..."

Madeline immediately closed the file and looked for the divorce agreement that had been saved under 'history' before printing it out.

"I'm not his wife. There's nothing between us anymore." Madeline explained curtly before rolling up the divorce papers and going downstairs.

Arriving downstairs, Madeline was met with the sight of Jeremy holding a large bouquet of fire-red roses. He was standing elegantly not too far away.

With his attractive features, exquisitely defined brows, and eyes that reminded others of ink, the man looked noble and dignified.

Not to mention his cool appearance was currently graced with a small smile, and his dark eyes swam with warmth under those dense and long eyelashes as they stared in the direction Madeline walked out from.

The man's charms and aura oozed, causing numerous female employees and customers to stare at the gorgeous view with smitten looks.

"What a handsome young man!"

"I recognize him. That's Mr. Whitman!"

"Who would've thought he'd still be so romantic even though he and Miss Vera have already been married for quite some time?"

"Miss Vera sure is lucky."

The female workers and customers sighed enviously.

Madeline found herself unable to argue, for it was public knowledge that she had gotten married to Jeremy as Vera Quinn.

Yet regardless if she was Madeline or Vera now, she was going to sever all ties with this man!

Seeing Madeline approaching, Jeremy walked over with adoration in his eyes as he handed the bouquet to her. "Let's go fetch Jack from school, Eveline."

Hearing him, Madeline smiled lightly as she gripped the divorce papers in her hand tighter. She gave up on her initial plan to cut straight to the chase. "Let's go."

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While Madeline did not take the roses, he was happy enough with her silent acknowledgment.

However, Madeline threw the divorce papers at the driver's seat the moment she got in the car.

"I've already signed my part. Give it back to me when you're done signing yours."

Jeremy felt his heart sink the moment he set his eyes on the words atop the document.

Forcing himself not to think too much into it, he kept the papers and stepped on the accelerator.

"Jack hasn't known what a complete and happy family feels like for the past six years, Eveline. Do you really—"

"Don't try to use Jack as an excuse not to sign the papers, Jeremy. I don't know what you're trying to gain, but it'd do you good to stop believing that I would believe your lies about loving me."

Madeline's tone was cold and held no room for negotiations.

As such, Jeremy kept quiet and stewed in his own heartache.

After arriving at the kindergarten, Madeline moved to the back seat so that she could talk to Jackson easier.

Her heart clenched when she saw Jeremy in the child's features.

'Mom's so happy to see you again, Jack.

'Knowing that all the pain I endured has led to our reunion makes it all worth it. Mom's satisfied enough with the way things are.'

Madeline did not protest as Jeremy drove them to the villa.

Walking in, Madeline immediately went to the kitchen to prepare dinner.

Meanwhile, Jeremy sat and guided Jackson through his homework. By the time he finished it, so had Madeline with dinner.

Jeremy felt his heart shrivel as he stared at the mouth-watering dishes and soup on the table.

She used to cook him dinner too back then.

It was just that he never returned home.

Still, unlike what Madeline thought, it was not because he spent the night with Meredith.

In truth, he had spent every night in the office. He never once spent the night alone with Meredith.

As everyone got seated, Madeline began to help Jackson to some of the dishes and peeled some prawns for him.

The smile on the little boy's face was enough to fill Madeline with warmth and mirth.

After dinner, Jeremy took the initiative to wash the dishes, though Madeline ignored him and merely took Jackson's hand as they went out for a walk. The mother and child were basking in each other's presence.

Having cleaned up the kitchen, Jeremy decided to look for his family in the park nearby. Jackson waved when he saw him and called out to his dad.

Not wishing to destroy Jackson's elation as he called for his dad, Madeline could only smile and stare longingly at her recovered child.

Half an hour later, the sky was dark.

With a drowsy Jackson in his arms, Jeremy and Madeline walked back to the villa under the guidance of the street lamps.

The cold wind cut into his bones, yet Jeremy had never felt warmer.

Realizing from the corner of his eyes that Madeline was trembling in her light jacket, he reached out to take her slightly cool hands into his own pockets.

Madeline tried to pull her hands away but decided against it as she did not want to disturb Jackson who was slowly falling asleep.

The silver moonlight shone on their backs, enveloping them in a heartwarming glow.

It was only when they had returned to the villa and Jeremy tucked Jackson in for bed that Madeline

reverted to her aloof attitude. She handed him the divorce papers again. "Sign them."

Jeremy furrowed his brows. "I won't."

It was a familiar response, one Madeline had stubbornly given him before.

"I've already made my mistake once and I don't want to make it again." Jeremy fixed his gaze on Madeline. "Give me another chance, Linnie. For Jack and for Lily?"

Madeline was quiet for two seconds. "I've already told you, Lillian is not your daughter."

"Lily is our daughter." Jeremy's gaze was warm. "I refuse to believe that you'd throw yourself into another man's arms after you've been so thoroughly hurt by this b*stard who you loved so much."

He slowly walked toward Madeline. "Lily is our daughter, Linnie. You got pregnant with her from the time I forcefully took you in that apartment three years ago."

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Madeline's eyes flared as she clenched her fists tightly, her tone sounding determined. "Lily is not related to you in any way, Jeremy! Stop your wishful thinking!"

Her control over her emotions loosened as she fought to deny. "It's because you hurt me so thoroughly, you b*stard, that I gave myself to Felipe. He was the only ray of light in the darkness you put me in!"

Madeline met Jeremy's growingly somber gaze.

"Lillian is Felipe's and my child. She will never have a person like you as her father, so stop lumping Lily

with the likes of you!”

With that, Madeline raised her hand to push away the man in front of her.

Without realizing how boneless his legs had gotten, Jeremy felt himself stagger backward at the push.

Madeline took her bag and left the villa without another look.

Sitting in the taxi she hailed to head home, Madeline’s mind began to take a trip down an agonizing memory lane...

Picking up her weak body, Madeline had Ava bring her to Jeremy and Meredith’s engagement venue.

Her heart hurt, but she managed to take the cold words of the man she loved and the hatred of her dearest parents with a smile until she could not take it any longer.

She was so certain that she had died in the engagement venue and she never expected Jeremy to act so out of character by rushing over to hold her, asking her what was wrong.

She had lost consciousness two sentences in.

She thought that she was done for.

Still, she woke again. This time in F Country’s royal hospital with a gentlemanly and elegant Felipe Whitman standing in front of her.

He had saved her from her dying breath.

In F Country's royal hospital, Madeline underwent tumor removal surgery. The surgery itself was rather successful and Madeline was no longer in life-threatening danger.

While she was physically alive, her heart had already been completely shattered. Her onslaught of memories made her life a living hell.

Then one day, the doctor told her she was pregnant.

Lillian's presence gave Madeline hope again, and she lived through her most difficult times with Felipe by her side.

The memories slowly came to an end with Madeline staring determinedly at the scenery of the night outside from the window.

She would sever all ties she had with the horrid man who hurt her!

...

Madeline arrived at the villa early every day to make Jackson breakfast before sending him to kindergarten.

Jeremy would arrive on time outside Madeline's shop in the evening so that they could pick Jackson up and return to the villa to make dinner.

Madeline would then take Jackson out for a walk after dinner but return to the villa with Jeremy in tow.

Madeline only left when Jackson had taken a shower and gotten to sleep.

Madeline remained indifferent when it came to Jeremy, but the latter was already satisfied enough as it was.

He had no other excuse or method to contact Madeline, so he saw what he had now as an immense gift from the heavens.

At the same time, Jeremy received a court notice.

Whitman Corporation was to be fined a thundering amount for the forced cease in a few partnered projects with RS and South America.

While the amount should have been dealt with by Whitman Corporation's finance department, it somehow ended in Old Master Whitman's hands.

Unable to pay the debt, Whitman Manor was to be let up for auction.

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Like an ant on a hot pan, Karen called Jeremy over.

Not too long after his arrival came Felipe's.

Dressed in a black suit, Felipe's normally elegant and gentlemanly aura was tinged with a hit of dominance.

Realizing Old Master Whitman, Jeremy, and the rest of the Whitman family were present, Felipe had his assistant hand over a document before going straight to the point.

"This house is now mine. Considering our relationship, I'll give you one day to pack everything and move out."

Karen jumped up and pointed a finger to rage at Felipe. "Felipe, you *sshole! How could you scheme to snatch away the assets under the Whitmans' name? You already took Whitman Corporations, but now you're taking the old master's retirement house too? You have no conscience!"

Felipe smiled unconcernedly. "Conscience?"

His dark eyes shone with an ironic glint.

"We wouldn't be here if you guys had a conscience."

"What... What are you trying to say?"

Felipe scoffed and met Jeremy's deep gaze without sparing Karen another look.

"Madeline wouldn't have tethered over the brink of death had you even the slightest conscience."

Then, he turned to look at a silent Old Master Whitman, the frost in his eyes screaming with hatred.

"My parents would never have died such painful deaths had it not been your lack of conscience!"

"Who are you, a bunch of heartless f*cks, to accuse me so ostentatiously of not having a conscience?"

"..." Karen was infuriated. She wanted to raise her voice, but the harsh look in Felipe's eyes had chased away all her courage to do so.

Felipe's cold eyes swept over Old Master Whitman whose complexion had long lost its flush before landing on Jeremy.

"You two are to blame for the ruin of the Whitman family."

With that, he turned around to instruct his assistant coldly, "Keep an eye on them. I want them gone from the house within a day."

"Yes, Mr. Whitman."

Jeremy finally spoke as the other took his leave, "Felipe."

Felipe's footsteps came to a halt.

He allowed Jeremy to walk over with a solemn expression on his face. "Grandfather hasn't done anything on purpose to hurt you and your parents, Felipe. What happened back then was an accident. This is the house Great-grandfather left for him, so I can't allow you to take it away."

"You expect me to believe you?" Felipe smiled mockingly, replacing all gentlemanly aspects of his elegant features with unpredictable and sinister darkness.

"Worry about yourself, Jeremy. You're going to lose your only son very soon."

Jeremy's gaze hardened as his expression immediately turned fierce. "Don't touch Jack, Felipe. I'm warning you, don't even try to approach Madeline either. We've never divorced which means that she's still my wife. Do not try your way with her!"

"What? You didn't divorce Madeline?" Karen exclaimed in shock, "What are you talking about, Jeremy? Didn't you divorce that b... Divorce her three years ago? How—"

Felipe's phone rang, cutting Karen off.

Looking at the caller ID, Felipe smirked and looked at Jeremy as he accepted the call. "Vera."

His voice was gentle, a stark contrast to his cool tone seconds ago.

A storm brewed behind Jeremy's eyes as he bore his icy eyes at Felipe who was currently on a call with Madeline.

Following that, he heard Felipe's gentle words of comfort. "Relax. I'll be right there. Wait for me."

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Jeremy felt a tug on his heartstrings.

He immediately tried to call Madeline once Felipe's call with her ended, but it was without doubt that Madeline had already blacklisted his number.

Felipe chuckled lowly.

"Don't waste your energy. Madeline loves me now. All she feels for you is hate."

Jeremy's expression darkened. "What happened to Madeline, Felipe? What did she tell you?!"

"None of your business," Felipe replied coldly, "You have no right to ask about Madeline again."

“Who cares about what’s going on to that woman?!” Karen hounded confidently at Felipe from behind before Jeremy could speak and held her son back.

“That Madeline helped Felipe. It’s their fault our family’s like this now, Jeremy. Why are you still thinking about her? What’s wrong with you? Did you forget how much you hated her in the beginning?”

Jeremy snatched his arm back in annoyance. “Leave your nose out of Madeline’s and my business.”

“Jeremy, Jeremy!”

“Stop shouting,” Old Master Whitman finally spoke after a long lapse of silence, “Go back to your rooms and pack up. We’ll leave tomorrow.”

“What?” Karen widened her eyes, unable to accept such an agreement. “Are we really going to give this house to Felipe, Old Master? He said you killed his parents. What happened? I thought his parents died in a car crash? What—”

“Enough! Plack your things and leave.”

“...” Karen pursed her lips in indignance. “Where are we moving to? Do we really have to move and live in those kinds of 200 square feet apartments? No way am I going!”

Karen huffed as she climbed up the stairs, frantically keeping all her jewelry and valuable things away despite her words in fear that they would be taken to repay the debt.

...

On the other end was Jeremy driving behind Felipe as they arrived at one of the city’s many streets.

From afar, Jeremy's eyes fell on Madeline who was standing next to a car.

Her exquisite features looked even more beautiful under the sun as her aura stood out elegantly.

Jeremy immediately found a spot to park his car before running toward Madeline.

Hearing footsteps, she turned around. Seeing Madeline's soft smile, all gentle and sweet, directed at him, Jeremy felt his heart race.

Dazed, Jeremy found the situation unrealistic before he realized that she was smiling at Felipe who was behind him.

March brought the colder end of spring and Jeremy felt it seep into his heart.

Madeline's gaze was cold as it fell on Jeremy. "Why is he here too? I don't want to see him."

Felipe replied with a warm smile, "Then you can sit in my car first. I've already called someone to tow yours."

Madeline nodded. "Alright."

It dawned on Jeremy that the white car that broke down by the road was Madeline's.

She had a driver's license. She could drive.

His heart felt barren, feeling as if he had missed one of Madeline's crucial moments in life.

Jeremy stepped forward to hold Madeline's thin wrist just as she was about to leave with Felipe. "Don't leave with him, Eveline."

Madeline halted and looked up. "Let go."

The two words were all she gave.

Jeremy's grip tightened reflexively. "I won't let you leave with him. You're my wife."

"Wife?" Madeline scoffed before flinging Jeremy's hand away and looping her arms around Felipe's. "Let's go, Felipe."

"Alright." Felipe nodded with a gentle smile before shooting Jeremy a cold and mocking look from the corner of his eyes.

The cold wind blew amidst the busy street as loneliness filled Jeremy's heart.

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There were thousands of reasons to keep Madeline by his side, yet he resigned himself to watching her leave with Felipe.

Time slowly ticked by as he waited for evening to come. He immediately made way to fetch Madeline from First Crystal Street only to be told that Madeline had left.

Jeremy immediately went to the kindergarten, but the class teacher told him that Madeline had already picked Jackson up.

Jeremy felt his heart go haywire at the news.

He had a feeling that Madeline was about to leave him.

Frantic, he stepped on the accelerator and made it to Madeline's apartment in record time.

He pressed the bell continuously, but no one answered.

Jeremy grew cold. Darkness returned to his entire world as the unease that overwhelmed him made it hard for him to breathe and his heart to beat.

'Linnie...

'Do you hate me so much that you can't even bring yourself to look at me again...'

Jeremy leaned despondently against the wall with his peach-blossom eyes drooping. His long lashes left lonely shadows under the setting sunlight.

He had no one to blame for the one he hated was himself.

The sunset blurred his vision as the corners of his eyes grew wet.

He could almost see the scene of him chasing after Madeline happily by the sea years ago when they were still young. He had left her there, never to be found again...

Madeline walked out of the lift with a sleeping Jackson in her arms. Not two steps out, she found someone standing in front of her apartment.

Jeremy Whitman.

He was leaning lifelessly against the wall. The man stared blankly in front of him like a plank of wood that had lost all thoughts and feelings. He was rooted foolishly in place.

Jeremy had always been cold and untouchable as far as she was concerned, dignified and bossy.

She had never seen such a dispirited look on the man.

Perhaps he felt her gaze, for Jeremy looked up. His downcast eyes fixed clearly on Madeline's face while everything else blurred.

"Eveline!"

Jeremy strode forward, the gloom in his eyes vanishing in place of relief.

He reached out with a smile as he saw Jackson in Madeline's arms. "I'll hold him."

"It's fine."

Madeline rejected, but Jeremy had already taken him.

Afraid to wake the child, Madeline did not protest.

All she could do was open the door so that Jeremy could carry Jackson into the house.

Tucking Jackson in bed, Jeremy carefully closed the door behind him as he left for the living room.

Madeline reached out to take two new copies of the divorce papers from her bag as he walked out.

“Since you’re here already, sign first before you leave.”

Jeremy frowned at the divorce agreement. “I’m not signing.”

Madeline chuckled and walked toward Jeremy with a pen in hand. “That’s what I said too, but what did you do instead?”

“I’ve already told Jack that you’re going on a long business trip and won’t be coming back. Felipe and I will then bring Jack to F Country. We’re not coming back anymore. Hate me or love me, we’re our own entities from now on.”

She placed the pen in Jeremy’s hand. Affection would no longer exist in her calm gaze. There would only be alienation that was even colder than what strangers would have.

“Sign it, Jeremy. Let’s get divorced.”

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