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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The men seemed to freeze momentarily before shaking their heads.

“We don’t know the person you mentioned.”

“Who are you, then? Why should I go with you?”

“Don’t you know, Mrs. Whitman?”

“What should I know?”

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

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

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

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

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

“You’re Jeremy Whitman’s wife, so there’s no way you don’t know what he’s doing.”

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

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

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

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

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

“Hiss!”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Nonetheless, Madeline did not fluster.

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

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

"..."

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

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

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

“ ... ”

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

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

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

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

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

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

After Madeline returned home, Jeremy returned soon after.

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

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

Madeline did not refute either.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shirley exposed Carter's inner desires.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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This pained Madeline's heart.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Madeline was quite relieved, but her instinct told her that Carter would never stop there. Jeremy felt the same way, so he still insisted on taking Jackson to and from school every day. Furthermore, Madeline was with Jeremy most of the time. Every day, they would send their son to school together, go to the company together, and deal with the company's affairs together. When school was over, they would pick up their son together.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Madeline stood up gracefully after speaking.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"..."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

She was now convinced that this couple was very problematic.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Coco said, leaning against Madeline.

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

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

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

It turned out this was a trap.

The man and woman were merely a cover.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"You're insidious."

Madeline repeated in certainty.

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

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

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

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

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

“Give that back! ” Madeline reached out to grab it.

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

Carter’s figure oppressed her.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Carter, you are so despicable."

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

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

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

"You."

Carter had arrived before Shirley could utter the last word.

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

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

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

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

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

Carter threatened and then he gave the bodyguard a look.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Carter then smiled at Madeline unhurriedly. “It’s time to go.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Did it run out of battery?

Impossible.

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

The call went through, but no one answered.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jeremy became more uneasy. "Linnie."

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

“Sir, it’s dangerous inside. The fire has not been extinguished. Please wait outside.”

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

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

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

“Mr. Whitman...”

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

Jeremy’s heartbeat started to beat frantically.

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

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

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

“Did you drink this?” he asked.

Coco nodded. “I only had a couple of sips.”

“What about Linnie? Did she drink it?”

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

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

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

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

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

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

This was Madeline's ring.

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

She was indeed in trouble.

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

Jeremy commanded as he kept his cool.

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

The thought of it frightened Coco.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"He has indeed returned to Glendale."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

“Who is this?”

“Carter, it’s me, Jeremy.” Jeremy quickly told Carter who he was.

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

“Jeremy, I don’t think there’s anything you need to contact me about.”

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

“Weak?”

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

He thought that the word “weak” was absolutely unbecoming of Madeline.

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

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

Tch.

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

“Carter, you’re a man too. Come at me. Don’t drag my wife into this.”

“Heh.” Carter let out a cold chuckle after a while.

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

“Carter!”

“For you, nothing hurts more than losing Eveline, right?”

“Carter, don’t hurt Linnie! ”

“No, I won’t hurt my future wife.”

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

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

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

“...”

“Carter! Carter!”

Beep...

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

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

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

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

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

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

Those must be Carter’s men.

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

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

Carter had meticulously planned everything.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. Piaf.

Carter brought the still unconscious Madeline into the study.

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

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

He looked at the sleeping Madeline and he said insipidly.

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

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

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

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