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

"You really did make a move against her."

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Heh. Hehe..."

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

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

"What are you laughing at?"

Shirley stopped laughing and looked at Carter in disdain.

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

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

"""

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

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

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

Carter's face darkened after Shirley said that.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After speaking, Carter turned around and walked out.

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

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

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

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

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"Eveline, it's me."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

She was worried not for herself but for Jeremy.

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

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

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

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

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

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

""

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

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

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

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

Madeline smiled helplessly hearing what Shirley said.

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

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

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

Madeline said and lifted her pleading eyes.

"I hope you can help me."

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

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

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

Madeline did not speak further and merely smiled.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Thanks."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Madeline, however, thought otherwise.

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

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

The joy on Shirley's face vanished instantly.

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

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

"Miss Brown..."

The bodyguard still intended to stop them, but someone came in behind him midsentence.

"Eveline, why are you here?"

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

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

··..."

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

Camille did not know what to say to Madeline. At this moment, Shirley reached out and grabbed her hand. "Aunty Cammy, I know you hate me because I left without a word

back then, but I hope you can promise in e something, for the sake of our past relationship."

Shirley grabbed Camille's hand tightly.

"Let Eveline go."

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

She looked at Madeline. Camille was already moved.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"What?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Eveline, you really are special."

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Do you see the crystal ball in the middle of the pocket watch? Look closely. Do you see Jeremy appear in the crystal ball? If you can't see him, close your eyes, and then you'll see the person you want to see the most..." Carter's voice was very gentle. He then saw Madeline's eyes slowly losing focus. He knew he had successfully controlled her thoughts. He lifted the corners of his lips in satisfaction, ready to send her into a deep sleep.

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

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

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

This deviated from Carter's hypnosis plan.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

She asked directly, "Did you hypnotize Eveline?"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Carter, why? Tell me."

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

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

"No," Carter denied, "Jeremy killed our child. Even if you developed AXP69, he was the one who injected you with it. It was also because of him, that woman Ada had the

chance to do all those things. All your pain and suffering are related to Jeremy. Plus, Jeremy had also indirectly caused the deaths of your brother and that girl.".

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Married?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Knock knock knock.

Someone was knocking on the door at this moment.

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

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

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