

Rewritten 211

Chapter 211

Madelyn dabbed some concealer onto the red, swollen area around her lips and avoided the wound. She then put on some lipstick.

‘Otherwise, I’ll have a hard time explaining the situation again when we get back,’ she thought.

Madelyn waited for half an hour before she started feeling impatient.

Finally, Zach emerged from the supermarket exit with two big grocery bags in hand. He placed all of it into the trunk.

Then, he went to the passenger seat. By the time they got home, Jadie was already back. She heard their footsteps and excitedly went to the opened the door while in her slippers.

“I’ll take them, Zach.”

“There’s no need. They’re pretty heavy.”

“Alright, then.”

Madelyn was not in the mood to watch them play-act as loving brother and sister.

‘If there were others around, they’d instantly notice that I’m not needed around here,’ she thought.

Zach went to put the groceries into the fridge, and Jadie trailed behind him.

“Zach, is Rosario off today? What’re we having for dinner? Shall I cook?”

"I've ordered food, and it'll be here soon. Go do your homework. I'll let you know when it's here."

Madelyn got changed and came out with a backpack. Just as she was about to leave, Jadie stopped her, "Madelyn... are you leaving? I think it's about to rain, so bring an umbrella with you."

"I did," Madelyn replied.

Zach grabbed a carton of fresh milk and placed it in the fridge. He asked in a low voice, "Where are you going?"

"Extracurricular classes. Don't wait for me; I'll be back at 10 o'clock."

With that, Madelyn shut the door and left, leaving Zach and Jadie alone.

Once again, the atmosphere turned tense.

About two minutes after Madelyn left, the food Zach ordered from Gastronomie arrived.

The table was full of food, enough to feed three people.

Since Jadie was on a diet, she and Zach could not finish all of the food. At first, they wanted to save the leftovers for the next day, but the fridge was already packed with snacks and fruits Zach had bought from the supermarket.

They had no choice but to throw out the leftovers.

Tiger and Madelyn were practicing golf at the indoor golf course in Supreme World.

After half an hour of practice, Tiger handed Madelyn a bottle of water. Then, they sat in the

rest area.

The air conditioning was on, but Madelyn took off her jacket because she felt a little hot. She wore a tight, black, semi-high-necked sweater under her jacket. The sweater outlined her perfect body shape,

making her look youthfully beautiful but also maturely alluring. In simpler words, she looked stunning.

“It’s rare for someone your age to have such a figure.”

Madelyn was momentarily taken aback before she finally realized what he meant, “What did you say?”

Tiger smiled slightly, “It’s nothing. Do you have something on your mind? You seem a little preoccupied lately. Did you get into a fight with your boyfriend?”

Madelyn frowned.

“You think so too?”

Tiger pointed at his own lips-the spot where Madelyn had gotten hurt-and said, “It’s hard for one not to think so when you have this.”

Madelyn felt comfortable speaking to Tiger. It felt like she was chatting with a trusted friend.

“So... am I wrong?” Tiger asked.

Madelyn lowered her gaze, “I’m not feeling well, so it’s swollen. It’s not what you think it is.”

“Sorry.”

Madelyn did not know why he apologized, but she still replied, “It’s alright.”

Madelyn's class had been added in at the last minute. Tiger usually did not teach his classes this late at night.

However, Madelyn had done so merely because she did not want to face Zach. What happened today left her frustrated and distracted.

At nine o'clock, Tiger drove Madelyn back to Grand Court.

Madelyn glanced at the time. She did not go home right away, choosing to sit outside the apartment building instead.

She did not want to go inside.

Chapter 212

It was fifteen minutes to ten, before Madelyn had to go upstairs.

"Stand right there!"

She heard someone roar.

Then, she saw two persons walk into the neighborhood.

Forrest walked over with a cigarette in hand while a young, beautiful girl ran after him. She had long, wavy hair and wore a knitted long dress.

The girl ran to face him and slapped him across the face, "You're scum, Forrest!"

She continued, "How dare you break up with me over a single text?! What do you take me for? Do you think I'm just a toy you can discard at your will?"

Forrest was unfazed. He chuckled and chucked away the cigarette he was holding. He stuck his hands into his pockets and said, "It was just a fling. We broke up because I got tired of it."

The white streetlights shone on Forrest's hair. The breeze gently blew against his bangs, and they fell over his eyes, which quickly swelled up and revealed a handprint from the slap.

"I'm not interested in women who desperately throw themselves at me. Maybe you should go. find someone else?"

The mature-looking girl took out a bottle of water and dumped its contents onto Forrest's head.

"Just you wait. My dad won't let this go."

The girl flung the empty bottle aside and stormed off, leaving a drenched Forrest behind. Forrest shook the water out of his hair and pulled his hair back.

'I don't remember his girlfriend looking like this the last time I saw him,' she thought.

Just then, Forrest looked over. His expression was as if he was asking her, "Are you enjoying the show?"

Madelyn calmly met his gaze for a few seconds before she turned around and went into the escalator, pressing a floor button with feigned nonchalance.

Madelyn keyed in the password 810214, at the door, and the screen indicated that the password was correct. The string of numbers corresponded to Jadie's birth year and month.

She had seen Zach key in the password today and remembered it.

Madelyn opened the door. The lights in the living room were still on, but the room was completely empty.

“The lights must’ve been left on for me.”

Madelyn closed the door. When she saw the couch, she was reminded of her soft bed. The initial rush of adrenaline she felt was instantly replaced with exhaustion.

She walked to the kitchen and opened the fridge. She thought of having a glass of milk but decided against it when she remembered she was still on her period.

BZZT! BZZT!

Suddenly, Madelyn’s phone in her pocket buzzed. She checked her phone, and it was from a number in her contacts.

Ethan: [You moved?]

Madelyn saw the text messages he had sent from different dates. She took out a pre-washed cucumber from the fridge and started eating it while typing a response.

[My house is being renovated.]

Meanwhile, there was still a light left on at Southern Haven Villas-the Arnold family’s residence.

Madelyn’s fingers hovered over the send button as she stared at the five words in the text box. In the end, she did not send the text. She deleted her original response and sent a single word: [Yep.]

Her phone indicated that the message had been sent successfully.

Zach was in his pajamas, leaning on the bedframe. He had a book about suppressing emotions. and treating psychological diseases open on his bed.

Ethan looked at Madelyn's reply and revealed a small smile.

'She's finally stopped ignoring me,' he thought.

George was holding a glass of water and some medicine, and stared at Ethan on the bed before

he knocked on the door.

"Come in," said Ethan.

George said worriedly, "Sir, you should rest. Here are your meds."

"Mhm." Ethan set down the phone. He hoped she would respond by the time he picked up phone again.

his

He took the sleeping pills and downed them with water. George took the glass and asked, "Are you still waiting for Ms. Jent's message?"

"What do you think she's doing right now?" Ethan asked him.

"At this hour, Ms. Jent should have just gotten back from her extracurricular classes. Ms. Jent

went for golf practice at Supreme World today. Mr. Irwin sent her home.” a

“Who’s he?” Ethan frowned slightly. He continued, “Never mind. Send me all of his

information tomorrow.”

“Yes, sir.”

“You can leave now. I want to get some rest.”

“Of course, sir.”

Chapter 213

After George left, Ethan picked up his phone..

His hopes were shattered.

Ethan threw his book out of frustration, shattering the million-dollar painting on the wall. It was an original work by a renowned artist.

George sighed when he heard the commotion coming from Ethan’s room.

‘If this goes on, he’ll eventually relapse. He’s finally managed to take over the company’s affairs, so it’ll be disadvantageous if something happens to him now! Not only does he have the backing of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Sr., but he also has the backing of Mr. Young’s ex-wife. That’s why his current position is secured. Now’s not the time for him to mess up.’

George stared at the glass of water in his hand, ‘Not even the best medicine can replace Ms. Jent’s company. Perhaps it’s time for me to do something. If his illness relapses, I hope he doesn’t self-harm like he did in the past.’

Meanwhile, Madelyn ended the conversation with Ethan by giving him a slipshod excuse of being busy with her studies. Then, she set down her phone.

By the time she had finished washing up, it was almost midnight. She switched off her table lamp and gently lay down.

When Madelyn woke up at six o'clock in the morning, Rosario had already prepared breakfast. She sat at the dining table with Zach, who came out of his room earlier than usual. The two ate

in silence.

No one spoke, and they shared a rare moment of harmony.

Rosario filled a glass bottle with milk and set it down in front of Madelyn, along with her lunch.

"Don't forget to drink the milk. It's still warm."

"Mhm."

"Did you bring your painkillers? Does it still hurt?" Rosario was referring to Madelyn's period

cramps.

Madelyn replied, "I'm feeling much better than before."

"Don't forget to call me if you don't feel well."

"I'll be fine. There's a nurse at school."

Madelyn glanced at the time.

"The bus is almost here,' she thought.

She immediately gobbled up the rest of her pancakes and said, "I'm done. I need to catch the bus."

"Eh? Take your stuff with you."

Madelyn came back and took the thermal bag with her. Then, she darted outside and managed

to catch the bus.

'She hasn't changed. She's still as forgetful as ever!' thought Rosario.

There was already somebody on the bus, and it was none other than Forrest.

"This is odd. He's always so insufferably arrogant and decides the time he goes to school on his own. Why's he up so early to go to school now? Has he changed?' Madelyn wondered.

The two did not speak at all throughout the entire journey. Forrest did not even spare Madelyn a single glance.

'It's almost as if last night didn't happen at all. He didn't even come to the library after what I told him the last time. If he doesn't want to, then so be it. I'll have lesser distractions," Madelyn said to herself.

Madelyn sat in the window seat. About ten minutes later, they arrived at school.

She kept a moderate distance from Forrest as they walked.

There were a group of men and women dressed in funeral attire outside the school gate. They held wreaths and wept bitterly.

“Oh... My poor nephew! He’s so young, and he’s in jail! And that sister of mine’s dead because of that girl. Come and see for yourself and help me seek justice!”

She continued, “This isn’t fair at all!!”

This street was a school zone, and at this hour, many parents were dropping off their children at school, so there were many people around. However, the students here were mostly from wealthy or prestigious families. None of them stopped to see the commotion and just went

around them.

The security guards could not make the group leave and had no choice but to inform the school authorities. They decided to open the gates and let cars into the school to prevent the students from getting frightened.

Madelyn stared at the commotion, and an ominous feeling grew in her chest.

‘These people... What in the world happened?’ she wondered.

Chapter 214

Such an incident could negatively impact the school’s reputation, so the authorities of Ventrocloud High School quickly stepped in.

Leyton inadvertently learned about what happened at school and how it coincidentally had something to do with Madelyn.

He knocked on the CEO’s door and immediately reported the matter to Ethan..

Ethan was busy with paperwork. After he heard Leyton's report, his expression turned grave.

"...She's hurt? Why wasn't I informed immediately? What's the situation at the school right now?"

Leyton replied, "The school authorities have stepped forward and are currently handling the incident."

Ethan set down his thousand-dollar pen and closed the document in front of him.

"Postpone the upcoming meeting and get in touch with the school. I'll handle the matter," he said.

Leyton nodded, "Yes, sir."

Even though the Arnold Corporation was the biggest investor at Ventrocloud High School, there was no need for the CEO himself to personally intervene. Compared to their company matters, the issues at school all seemed so insignificant.

'Our CEO is overly concerned about an eighteen-year-old girl. He always loses his sense of reason when it comes to matters related to Ms. Jent... But then again, perhaps only Ms. Jent can lead our CEO out of the darkness and forget about his painful past,' thought Leyton.

Meanwhile, Madelyn had a free period at Ventrocloud High School. She was called to the principal's office halfway through the period. Initially, Yvonne was supposed to join her, but the principal could not ask for her, given the powerful status of the Young family.

Madelyn had an inkling about the reason she was called to the principal's office, so she did not ask.

Hailey walked ahead of Madelyn and adjusted her glasses with a serious expression.

“The incident has already reached the shareholders. Don’t worry; the school will help you. When you get in there, there’s no need for you to speak. Someone will handle this for you.”

Madelyn hung her head low and silently trailed behind Hailey.

‘I’m clearly the victim, but why do I feel so uneasy?’ she wondered.

With a heavy heart, she followed Hailey into the meeting room.

Several aunts and uncles of Danny were present. When they saw Madelyn, they emotionally cursed her, “You killer! You caused my sister’s death and drove my nephew to desperation.

Now he’s in jail...”

“How do you sleep at night? Do you know you’ve caused two people’s deaths?”

“Do you think you’re superior to us just because you’re rich?”

“Does being rich give you the right to kill others?”

Hailey moved sideways and shielded Madelyn behind her. She was experienced, so she was unfazed by the situation. She said calmly, “Please calm down. Acting this way won’t solve anything.”

The group calmed down slightly.

Hailey continued, “We’ll investigate the incident before we discuss the matter with you.”

“I didn’t harm anyone!” Madelyn-who had been silent-suddenly said as she regained her courage and emerged behind Hailey. She turned to the few with an unwavering gaze.

The room was silent for a few seconds.

Madelyn repeated her words.

"I'll say it again. I didn't harm anyone. I, too, am a victim."

She removed the bandage on her hand, revealing a gnarly and unhealed wound. The wound stretched from her wrist all the way down to her thumb and had eight whole stitches.

She continued, "When I was on my way home that day, Danny held a knife to my neck... And my friend who got hurt. He was also stabbed. If you all don't believe me, I can have him. confront you"

Madelyn did not know how Zach and her father had resolved the matter. After all, these matters were not something she could interfere with.

"I'm really sorry about what happened to Danny's mother. I never imagined that me transferring classes would cause you all harm like this. But... I'm just doing what I want to do. You can't put the blame on me because of what happened."

Chapter 215

A fifty odd year-old man stood up as he slammed the table. "What do you mean by that?! Are you saying my sister deserved to die?!"

"What about me then? Am I deserving of my wounds? I shouldn't protect myself? Also, that man Danny stabbed, did he deserved that as well?" Madelyn was about to lose her temper. Moreover, it was not like the deceased's side was at the right, and it was not as if she was disrespecting the dead. She was just stating the facts of the matter.

They had been born in the sixties and seventies, an era that lacked education. Moreover, they were rural villagers with little knowledge of the law, so such things were simply incomprehensible to them.

That was what Madelyn had thought, but it did not mean she was painting broad strokes. Her grandmother too lived in a rural village, and in that age, keeping themselves fed was itself an issue, much less being literate. It only took her grandfather a few sacks of grain to wed her grandmother.

Her grandmother had married her grandfather at the age of sixteen, and he had been a gangster in the village and had been involved in unsavory businesses. Due to getting into trouble with certain people, he had been beaten to death when he was just 34.

Even though her grandmother was so unlucky in her early years, she had never blamed anyone and even used whatever meagre strength she had to help others.

“If they had not come to my rescue that night, I would be the one dead today!”

“This is not a matter of them being in the right just because they’re dead.”

Kayley nodded. “I feel that my students have the right of it. Danny’s relatives, we’ve already contacted the police and they will bring him over later. The hospitalized victim is unable to show up, so his friends

will come over, as they were witnesses to the incident that night.”

A woman pulled the angry old man to the side and discussed something in a hushed whisper.

After a few minutes, the man suddenly spoke. “We actually don’t want to make a big issue out of this, but since a life was involved, let’s make it fifty thousand and we will not pursue the matter any further.”

“The pursuit of the matter is not your call to make.” An icy voice suddenly rang out.

Madelyn froze as Zach walked in with one hand in his pocket, radiating a powerful domineering aura as Kevin followed closely behind.

When Danny’s relatives saw the man with his dark and vicious gaze, all of them were frightened.

Zach then swept his gaze at everyone around him.

“Mr. Jardin.” Bjorn greeted him.

Zach then nodded slightly in acknowledgement.

“Kevin, take Madelyn back first.”

“Yes, sir.” Kevin nodded.

Madelyn pursed her lips. She had never thought of getting him involved.

‘Who told Zach?

After Madelyn left, Kevin closed the meeting room door as Madelyn turned around and saw Zach pulling out a chair to sit.

The matter could have been originally resolved easily, but now that Zach was involved, things would be very different.

She was afraid that he would not stop at Danny, but instead extend his fury towards the former’s family.

Zach crossed his legs and placed both his hands on his knee, as he emanated a fierce aura. Let’s talk things out.”

Not long after Zach arrived, Bjorn got word of another arrival.

The CEO of the Arnold Corporation was here too.

This time, everyone was squirming in their seats... It was as if the appearance of one living Satan was not enough, another one just had to show up.

It looks like this time, the Murdoch family had screwed up big time.

If the Arnold Corporation CEO were to get involved in this too, things could get out of hand.

Chapter 216

Madelyn was seating in the lounge with a glass of hot water in her hands. She then asked Kevin. "How does Zach plan to deal with Danny's case?"

Kevin was walking to the door when he heard her voice and stopped. "Miss Madelyn, it's better if you don't know. Mr. Zach has his ways, and he'll deal with this once and for all."

After some time, another commotion happened at the door.

It seemed like someone else had arrived.

Madelyn wanted to go and have a look, but after some thought, she decided against it as she did not want to add to his troubles.

The next moment, the lounge room door suddenly opened.

Seeing the person appearing before her shocked Madelyn so much that she was at a loss for words. A smart-looking Ethan, clad in gray suit, stood before her.

"Why... why are you here?"

George, who was behind him quickly explained. "Arnold Corporation is the biggest investor of this school, so we rushed over the moment we heard something had happened. But more so, it is because of you, Miss Madelyn."

"George, you've spoken too much," Ethan said.

"My apologies, sir."

Madelyn looked away as she looked at the ground beside him and her hands grabbed on anxiously at the sides of her skirts. "I'm so sorry to trouble you. Please let Zach handle this. We won't cause any trouble to the school."

"Madelyn, you don't need to be so reserved around me. Your issues are also mine. Did you hurt your hand? Let me have a look..."

Ethan stretched his hand out to her while Madelyn hid her hand behind her. "I'm fine, it's

much better now."

"Miss Madelyn, do allow sir to have a look. He had been really worried about you for the past few days," George interjected.

These words had another meaning behind it. To outsiders, it sounded like they had a relationship that cannot be put with words, but fortunately, there was no one around.

Madelyn then slowly stretched her hand out.

The next moment, Ethan sat down beside her. Upon seeing this, George quickly stepped out and closed the door shut.

Madelyn had always been sensitive towards being alone in the same room with another man. Her body stiffened a little and she felt very uncomfortable.

“Madelyn, are you afraid of me?” Ethan sensed the fear in her eyes. She would always be so cautious every time she was alone with him, as if she feared he would do something to her.

“No...”

It was her problem.

After she had been kicked out of her home in her previous life, she had tried to look for a job to feed herself, yet someone had fooled her into following him into a small hut before trying to sexually assault her. Thankfully, she managed to escape.

Thus, there were some lingering fears still within her.

No matter who it was...

Madelyn quickly changed the topic. “Why is your face so pale? Are you

unwell?”

Ethan smiled a little. “Just caught a cold. I’m fine.”

“Just remember to drink water... Oh right, There’s water here. Let me get you a glass.” As she said that, Madelyn pulled her hand back, got up and walked to the water dispenser to get him a glass of warm water. “Careful. It may be a little hot.”

Ethan’s eyes never strayed away from her. His gaze was scorching, longing, greedy yet he had to be careful to maintain the distance between them.

“Alright.”

Ethan put the water on the table as he pulled out an ornate-looking bottle out of his pocket.”

Come here.”

“What’s that?” Madelyn asked.

“Medicine.”

Ethan sat beside her. He knew that Madelyn was extremely cautious, but he did not mind. It was good to be cautious.

“As long as she... only has me in her heart from now on.”

“This is a healing balm I brought over. It’ll help with your wounds.” Ethan carefully undid the bandage, and when he saw the wound, his heart ached. “Does it still hurt?”

“Just a little...”

“It’ll sting a bit, so bear with me.”

Chapter 217

Madelyn simply nodded.

He really was a gentle person, even willing to put down his work to help her resolve her problems. Madelyn knew what sort of status he held in Ventropolis, and he did not need to show up for trivial matters like this, but yet he still came...

The more he treated her well like this, the more burdensome Madelyn felt. She could never provide a response to his feelings.

She was still too young now, and so was he. The future was still full of possibilities.

After all, no one knows what the future holds...

There were plenty of women who would pursue him, and compared to him, Madelyn felt like a dime a dozen.

If it was due to her actions that time of pulling him back from the brink and saving his life, he had already repaid that debt of kindness long ago. The birthday present and everything else he had prepared for her was the biggest surprise she had received in both her lifetimes....

Madelyn had never wanted anything from him since the very beginning.

Ethan also disrupted her plans for her life. She could never be with him, but Ethan also held a deep obsession towards her. No matter how powerful he was, even if he could snatch her from the clutches of the Jent family, she would simply be moved from one cage to another.

She no longer dared to entrust her life on another person.

"Does it feel better?" Ethan gently held her fingertip as his lips drew close and blew cold air onto her wound. It felt a little chilly but comfy.

With her fingertip stretched out, this was the first time she could clearly see the tattoo on the back of his hand. It was a bit similar to the one Forrest had, but it did not seem to be any sort

of pattern.

"Is there any meaning to that tattoo?" She asked.

"Nope, it was just a spur of the moment decision."

It did not look that way to Madelyn. She felt like there was some sort of story behind it, but she did not probe any

further.

About an hour later, Leyton walked out from the meeting room. He took part in the

negotiations himself since his CEO had asked him to, but he was of little use there as he knew what sort of people the Jent family were.

He pondered, 'Zach Jardin hides daggers behind his smile. He didn't show them any shred of mercy and wanted to drive all those people to the brink. A few of Danny's relatives had

instantly prostrated themselves before him, and yet Zach showed no mercy at all. An eighteen- year- old boy had even fainted on the spot after a few words from Zach himself.

'As expected of Hayson Jent's son.

'Everything the Jent family has done in the past is all of the dirty and underhanded sort. Who knows whether the Murdoch family will even leave the school compound alive?'

George rarely saw such an expression on Leyton's face. "Did the negotiations break down?" "Everything went swimmingly. The chief's not out yet?" Leyton shook his head.

"Just wait a little longer. Sir rarely gets to meet Miss Madelyn, after all."

Even Kevin did not know what had possessed Zach today. The Murdoch family were just a couple of nobodies, yet he pushed all of them against the wall.

Moreover, the other party was still just a child, so Zach was acting a bit too cruel.

If Zach were to have his way in the negotiations, Danny would be an outcast in Ventropolis for the rest of his life.

Chapter 218

Upon receiving the call from the school, Zach immediately canceled the meeting and rushed to the school.

‘Actually, I can handle this matter. Mr. Jardin doesn’t have to be involved,’ Kevin thought.

Then, he said slowly, “Do you really want to expel Danny from school and sentence him to ten years of imprisonment? As far as I know, Ms. Jent caused all of this.”

Zach’s deep gaze fixed on Kevin and then shifted to the floor-to-ceiling window. He sat on the chair, an icy aura emanating from him. “Do you think it’s her fault too?”

Kevin suddenly realized he might have said something he should not have. He lowered his head, “I dare not to.”

“Don’t forget who you’ve been working for these past ten years!” Zach stood up from the chair and cast a cold, piercing gaze at him before turning around and walking away.

Kevin suddenly spoke up when Zach reached the doorway, “I only work for you, sir.”

When Zach decided to bring Kevin by his side, Kevin’s life became bound to his. He was the one who had granted Kevin a second chance at life.

Zach stopped in his tracks. “I’m not the one paying your salary!”

He thought to himself, ‘Madelyn’s getting more unruly now. I never meddle in her school matters. Self-improvement is good, but it’s just wishful thinking if she thinks she can enhance her skills and escape

from the Jent family by using this method! She's gotten smarter now, but she's misusing her intelligence. All she's getting is even harsher punishment.'

In the lounge, Madelyn stood up and avoided Ethan's gaze. "My brother should have already

settled things. I'll go check."

Madelyn opened the door, her steps barely pausing, and she held a vial of medicine given to her by Ethan in her other hand.

Zach was smoking on the balcony, probably waiting for her. Madelyn rarely saw him smoke, except during important social situations. Notified by Kevin, Zach extinguished the half-smoked cigarette against the railing.

Madelyn watched Zach walk over, and her gaze shifted to Ethan, who had also come out of the lounge. She felt a guilty conscience for some reason, as if Zach had caught her having an affair.

Zach walked up, and Madelyn found herself sandwiched between them. There was a strange tension between them. It made her feel suffocated as if a battle was silently unfolding. Zach initiated the conversation, saying, "Mr. Arnold, I hope you've been well."

Ethan nodded in response. Though he was a few years younger than Zach, his presence was

just as commanding. However, he was not like Zach. Zach had been in the business world for many years and encountered all sorts of challenges. He had climbed the ranks from the bottom by using ruthless tactics to solidify his position and achieve his goals. He was skilled in manipulation and scheming.

Unlike Zach, Ethan relied on his powerful family. He had lived a sheltered life of luxury since childhood. Even after inheriting the Arnold Corporation, both the Arnold and Young families

served as his strong supporters.

Madelyn could not imagine the extent of the bloody battle that would ensue if these two people became enemies. However, Ethan could not outplay Zach in terms of scheming and intrigue. Just like that accident with the big truck last time had been Zach's doing.

Ethan said to Madelyn, "I'll pick you up tonight."

Madelyn was afraid to look at Zach and nodded, "Okay."

"Is something up?" Zach asked Madelyn.

Madelyn felt his intense gaze and explained, "Mr. Arnold helped me today, so I invited him to dinner."

Zach nodded, "Naturally, an invitation is in order. However, it should be me, your brother, who extends the invitation both morally and logically. I'll take care of the arrangements for tonight. Mr. Arnold, do you mind if I bring my sister along?"

George interjected, "Mr. Arnold!"

Ethan waved his hand, signaling George to stop. He chuckled and said, "Of course, that's fine."

"See you tonight," Ethan said gently to Madelyn.

Madelyn nodded, "Okay."

Ethan left and took the passenger seat. His emotions seemed guarded. "Any results for the last car accident?"

Chapter 219

Leyton said, "I'm sorry, Mr. Arnold. We investigated all the vehicles that night. When we

found the car, it was in a scrapyard, but the person was nowhere to be found. Moreover, we couldn't find any information about that person. It's as if someone deliberately concealed his identity. However, I don't think this was an accident."

Ethan closed his eyes, "No need to investigate further. There's no point in wasting time on someone like this."

Ethan's words held a deeper meaning, and Leyton felt he had been answered after hearing them.

Madelyn followed Zach downstairs. The two of them remained silent along the way. At the entrance, Madelyn saw Jadie and Yvonne coming down.

Yvonne walked up to Madelyn, "Are you okay? I'm so sorry! I shouldn't have contacted Mr. Newton. It's all because that bastard Danny misunderstood, it's got nothing to do with you. By I also managed to get your test paper back from Mr. Newton. Madelyn, you're

the

way, amazing!"

She excitedly took the folded test paper from her pocket, "Did you know you ranked second in the exam? Oh my god! Madelyn, you're really incredible."

Madelyn stared at the test paper in a daze and was struck speechless. 'So I managed to get into the Math Olympiad training class on my own merit. It wasn't because of Yvonne's help after all.

After learning this news, Madelyn felt as if a heavy burden had been lifted off her shoulders. "T -Thank you."

"Besides..." Yvonne nudged Madelyn with her elbow and chuckled, "My brother said not to burden yourself with this. Danny has a mental illness, and his mother was in the advanced stages of kidney disease. Even if his mother had money for treatment, she couldn't have survived the surgery. Madelyn,

it's not your fault. Because of this, my brother punished me too. He asked me to copy the 'I Have a Dream' speech three hundred times."

"Really?"

'Why does she feel so happy about being punished?' Madelyn wondered.

"Yes! It's the second thing my brother told me, so I was still happy despite being punished," said Yvonne.

Jadie said, "I'm glad that you're fine. Zach, is Danny getting imprisoned?"

Zach answered, "It's close. We have to wait for the court's verdict."

He pondered to himself, 'Six years? Ten years? That's nothing. With Ethan Arnold and I

involved, Danny could be looking at a life sentence. At first, they aggressively demanded fifty thousand dollars, but not only did they fail to receive a single cent, they even ended up losing everything they owned. After realizing they had provoked someone they shouldn't have, they fled with their tail between their legs. They came looking for money, but they picked the wrong target.'

Suddenly, Madelyn noticed a group of familiar figures ahead. One of them had red hair, and another had green hair, making them stand out. Forrest was among them too.

'They're less wild than I remember,' Madelyn thought.

There was a man seated in a wheelchair while someone pushed him along. Madelyn recognized him as the one Alex called Caden. He was only sixteen, an orphan who had grown up in the Fishing Village. His upbringing had involved the care and support of many, allowing him to reach this age.

Back then, when Danny's knife had been at her throat, he had rushed forward and tightly gripped Danny's hand, giving her a chance to escape.

Alex smacked Caden's head, "Damn! I told you not to come over, but you insisted. Look, it wasn't worth the effort! Not only were you not compensated, but they didn't even bother sparing a glance at you."

"Alex, it's okay as long as she's fine. This injury won't kill me."

Caden had lived with Alex's family since childhood, so Caden was like his younger brother.

Thinking about the heartless Madelyn, Alex could not help but become furious.

'Ever since Caden was hospitalized, Madelyn hasn't visited him even once. She didn't even bother to say a simple "thank you." It would've been better if Caden had just let her die.'

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Alex said, "You helped her fend off the knife, but she didn't even appreciate it."

As soon as he finished, a figure appeared in front of them. Seeing the comer, Alex sarcastically said, "Speak of the devil, and she appears."

The three people still at the door watched as Madelyn abruptly left, and they had no idea what she was trying to do. Then, they saw her bowing and saying something, but they were too far away to hear it.

Zach's gaze suddenly deepened, and everyone looked at Madelyn's actions in surprise.

"Thank you!" Madelyn's words were sincere. Then, she straightened up again. "I'm really sorry for not visiting you at the hospital all this time. Are you doing okay?"

Caden scratched his head bashfully, "I'm fine. The doctor said the wound isn't deep, and a few days of rest will do."

Alex cursed angrily, "Bullshit! Your intestines are practically out, and you're saying the wound isn't deep? And you, why are you coming over here pretending to care now? Get lost! Stop blocking our way."

Caden lightly tugged at Alex's clothes, "Alex, don't say that."

"Did I say anything wrong? She was acting all high and mighty before. Forrest, is she the same at school? Such a poser!"

Madelyn looked at Forrest.

Forrest smiled, "She's toned it down, actually! She used to have such a fiery temper."

"Regarding our past interactions, I admit I had some biases against you." Madelyn hesitated, unsure how to explain herself.

She continued, "I'm used to being alone. I'm sorry, I don't know how to interact with me reintroduce myself. I'm Madelyn." She extended her hand to Caden.

you.

Let

Caden also shyly extended his hand. "I'm Caden."

"Thank you." They shook hands gently. It was the first time Madelyn had taken the initiative to interact with someone.

Madelyn also invited them to join the dinner tonight. Actually, there was a hidden agenda in her invitation. She might be in deep trouble if it were just the three of them tonight. Besides, having more people could ease the awkwardness of the situation.

After they left, Yvonne asked Madelyn on their way back, "What did you say to them?"

Madelyn answered, "I thanked them and invited them to have dinner together."

"Is Forrest going too?"

Madelyn nodded, "Maybe."

Yvonne's expression changed abruptly, "Madelyn, I told you before. Someone like him doesn't deserve to be at the same dinner table with us, let alone appear in front of my elder brother!

Her tone sounded furious and radical. "Besides, Forrest's friends are nothing but gangsters and hooligans! Madelyn, you can just use money to deal with those people. You really don't have to do this."

"That's your family's business!" Madelyn retorted and looked at her calmly. "Yvonne, I don't understand your situation, just as you don't understand mine. I can't empathize with it. To me, their identities, their circumstances, and their birth aren't things they can choose. In my eyes, they're just ordinary people like me. Caden saved me, and Forrest too."

Madelyn had never felt superior because of her wealth or as a member of the Jent family. "I'm sorry, Yvonne! I know saying these might upset you. It's getting late. Let's go to class."

After she got the test paper and asking Albert about it, Madelyn learned that Albert had studied the questions with the other teachers to understand them.