

Rewritten 91

Chapter 91

Half a minute later, Zach pulled up another number. "Do me a favor."

After giving out his orders, Zach gave Madelyn one last call.

He only heard the cold, robotic notification from the phone. "The number you have dialed is no longer in service."

At three o'clock in the morning, a series of knocks rang out on Madelyn's door. "Open up! I'm home, open up!"

Madelyn covered her ears and stare at the dark ceiling above.

She had lost count the number of times Rogan had harassed her in the middle of the night.

There was also the time he had stolen her clothes and underwear as well, and she had found them in the trash can downstairs the next day.

She had originally thought she could live here in peace, but if this continued, she felt like she would go crazy sooner or later.

Rogan was the local hoodlum and was the son of Mrs. Paul who lived next door.

Madelyn did not open the door and after a good while, he finally left.

The cacophony by her ear blissfully faded away.

That night, Madelyn did not sleep well at all.

By the time she woke up, it was already twelve in the afternoon.

Madelyn walked to the balcony, stewed some pork ribs, fish fillet and chicken fingers....

She then squeezed the washed clothes dry and hung them on the balcony.

As she held the clothesline in her hand, a window suddenly lit up in one of the houses that had been long uninhabited.

The buildings here were very close to one another, if the curtains in another house were open, one could see what was going on from their window.

All of a sudden, the window of the building on the opposite side opened.

And just as quickly, Madelyn saw Forrest standing by the balcony smoking.

Their eyes met.

Madelyn quickly reacted and hurriedly hung the last piece of clothes before walking over to turn the stove off and close the balcony door before pulling the curtain shut.

She was wearing a light-colored nightdress with nothing else underneath.

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Madelyn quickly changed up and brought in the cooked food and started eating.

She did not plan to go to the restaurant today as she did not know when Forrest and Jadie would leave.

She did not want Jadie to see her here. Madelyn wanted to wait for them to leave before she herself leave this place, moving to Lorville to live with her grandmother.

This place was unsafe and unsuitable for her.

Madelyn suddenly remembered her purse and could not remember where it was.

She had placed it in the pocket of the clothes she had worn yesterday.

Yet, when she went to look for it, it was nowhere to be found.

It was not in the washing machine either.

Only then did Madelyn remember that she might have dropped in the restaurant last night.

She immediately put aside her food.

Without her ID in her purse, she would not be able to buy a ticket to Lorville, but the most. important thing in the purse to her was a picture of her mother.

Madelyn barely had any time to think as she ran out.

By the time she got to the restaurant, she immediately walked toward Wonda, who was preparing some vegetables, and asked, "Did you see my purse in the restaurant last night?" Wonda did not even look at her. "How is you losing your purse any of my business?"

The reason Madelyn decided to keep her purse on herself was because she knew that Wonda had a tendency to steal things.

Mr. Massey had dedicated lockers in the restaurant for each employee to store their items.

Madelyn had gotten Rosario to bring over her hand cream from her drawer in the Jent residence. It had been a gift from Jasmine and was a rather precious skin care product, with each bottle costing at least two hundred dollars.

Two hundred was already a big sum in those days.

One time, she had seen Wonda pretending to go to the bathroom and then secretly rummaging through Madelyn's belongings, and she had even used the hand cream.

Despite her despicable actions, Madelyn could not retaliate against her in this situation. Without any solid evidence, she could not just accuse her like that!

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If she had lost it under normal circumstances, she could have just gotten it replaced, but not in this situation. However, she could not do anything without her identity card, and she did not want to go back to the Jent residence.

Madelyn had never had much patience for Wonda and usually just turned a blind eye her, which was much better than Wonda deserved in her eyes.

toward

If she still had her old temper, Madelyn would have shoved the trash can over Wonda's head by now.

"Wonda, I have my mother's photo in that purse, and it's very important to me. Also, there are important documents inside... If you want money, I can give it to you. Everything else in there is useless to you, can you just return it to me?"

Wonda kicked the trash can aside, and its contents spilled out. She snapped, "What's the meaning of this, Madelyn? What does your missing purse have to do with me!? I didn't take your wallet, so what are you accusing me for? If you don't believe me, then make a police report!"

Her voice was so loud that the entire restaurant could hear her.

Madelyn scratched her head in frustration as she said somewhat helplessly, “Wonda... I’ve never done anything to hurt you! If you want my hand cream, I can even give it to you. Just give me back my purse and I’ll treat it like nothing’s happened.”

“Madelyn, I’m saying I didn’t take your purse! Why are you accusing me like this?!”

Mr. Massey heard the commotion and did not know what was happening, so he hurried over.” What happened?”

“Lass, aren’t you working the late shift tonight? What are you doing here so early today?”

Madelyn responded bluntly, “Mr. Massey, I dropped my purse, and there’s a really important photograph inside it alongside my IDs. Also, I actually came to tender my resignation and go back to my grandmother’s place, but without my ID, I can’t even buy any tickets.”

“What’s the matter, lass? Why are you so eager to leave out of the blue?”

She did not want to talk about what happened last night, since thinking about it would just make her feel more distressed. Besides, she did not want to make a big deal of the matter either.

Madelyn tried to weasel out of talking about it, instead saying, “I just miss home. Can you help me make a police report for the lost purse?”

“What does your purse look like? I’ll get some people to help you look for it.”

Madelyn looked at Wonda, who eyes were now red as she looked away impassively. “It’s a pink Chanel purse with a logo on it. My student ID and national ID card is inside the purse. The most important thing in there is my national ID.”

Mr. Massey let out a slightly dejected look. "It'll be difficult to find your lost purse, and your Cha-what-its-name, must be pretty pricey. I suppose anyone who picks it up will not return it to you. How about this, just tell me how much you need, and I'll give you the money."

Madelyn bit her lips. "Mr. Massey, can you buy me a bus ticket straight to Lorville? I want to leave today."

"Wow, are you really in that much of a hurry? I'm afraid it won't be possible, at least not today. How about tomorrow afternoon? I'll go buy the ticket for you tomorrow."

"I guess that's the only option I have," Madelyn nodded. "Alright, thank you, Mr. Massey. You can deduct the bus fare from my salary."

"Pah, don't sweat the small stuff. But tell me, Madelyn, are you really leaving? Does Rosario know about this?"

"I'll inform Rosario later tonight."

Mr. Massey nodded. "Alright then. Give me a minute, I'll calculate your remaining salary for the past few days."

The amount Madelyn got was about two thousand, and this was a huge amount of money for her.

Yet, compared to what Hayson had given her, two thousand was just the price of a skirt.

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Back then, all of her money had been handed to her on a silver platter.

It was now that she realized that earning money was not as easy as she had assumed.

The envelope with the cash in it was quite thick.

After calculating her wages, Mr. Massey went out to deliver goods.

Now there was only Wonda and her left in the restaurant.

“The reason I dared to say all those things about you, Wonda, is because I know what sort of person you are. Who you really are, and what you’ve done. Deep down, you know yourself better than I do. I just hope that you can truly let your tears and words be without guilt. I know. I have no evidence, and perhaps I might be wrongly accusing you. If that’s the case, then I apologize in advance.

But if

you did take it and you’re hiding it from me, then you may have struck a jackpot. That purse is a limited-edition birthday present from my father, worth around three thousand dollars, but it will forever be a mark on your hideous, thieving character.”

Wonda only let out a mocking laugh. “Madelyn, what the heck are you pretending for? You’re just slightly prettier than me, and you think yourself some rich person’s daughter? As if I would believe that purse of yours is actually worth three thousand. Why not just claim that it’s thirty thousand then? If you really are the daughter of a rich person, why are you here. working part-time jobs?

I’ve seen my share of pretenders before, but none like you!

I wouldn’t take your purse even if you gave it to me! And so what if I did take the purse? You have no evidence, what can you do to me?”

Wonda was not a good-looking person. Her figure was skinny, and when she put on a scowl her face looked scheming and insidious. It was this look that was really grating.

When she first came to this place, Madelyn had been nice to her and even gave the latter her skin care products to use, but Wonda was very greedy and had started to use them without asking her permission. So, Madelyn just reminded her that she needed to ask her permission. first before using her things.

After that incident, Wonda had started acting strange toward her, and even started smearing her reputation by calling her unhygienic and a harlot who spread her legs for multiple men.

Wonda had made her sound like something worse than a beast.

Madelyn was not even angry. She only felt pity and felt that Zach was right when he said that how one appeared was determined by what was inside them. So, a hateful person must also be a pitiful person, and a pitiful person must have something detestable.

"I just hope you can keep speaking to me with such a tone and attitude, and I hope you shall never be wracked by guilt in whatever you do..."

After Madelyn left, she returned to her place to pack her luggage.

Yet, she ran into Rogan, who was barring the way as she went upstairs. "Hey, girl, you're back. What are you doing outside?"

"No need. Please step aside!"

"Oh, come on, no need to be so fierce. I haven't even apologized to you about last night. I've made food already, so come join me and consider it my apology!"

Madelyn did not plan to acknowledge him at all as she prepared to leave from the other side. Yet, wherever she went, he stopped her...

"Come on, girl. We're literally neighbors, so just come to my place for dinner."

Madelyn did not respond. She turned around and prepared to walk downstairs, not wanting to face off with him.

At this moment, Rogan grabbed her arm. "What are you leaving for? Come follow me home. I'm alone at home today..."

"Let me go! LET ME GO!!!"

Rogan was a six feet tall hulk of a man, and him grabbing onto Madelyn was as if he was grabbing a little bunny. To him, her struggling was nothing but mere amusement.

He then dragged Madelyn's thin body up the staircase toward his house.

"Rogan Paul, what do you think you're doing?! I'll scream, you know!"

"You'll scream...? Ahahaha... Try it then. You can scream your lungs out for all I care. No one will be saving you today."

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"Let me go, you bastard! My father won't let you live if you lay your hands on me!"

Rogan let out a contemptuous laugh. "Your father? He's worthless, and he'll need to kowtow to me if he dares to show his face here."

"Somebody, anyone, HELP!!!"

"Bitch, what the hell are you screaming for!? Your underwear is all lace, so why the heck are you pretending?" Rogan immediately slapped her.

Madelyn's face turned to one side by the impact as she opened her mouth and tried to bite back. Rogan tugged her hair and pulled her head back.

She then let out another scream.

Just at this moment, a man walked down from the staircase.

As if seeing a savior, Madelyn pleaded. "Help me, please, help me..."

The narrow staircase suddenly became cramped with the three people on it.

Rogan looked at the man menacingly, "Mind your own business, cunt."

The man had a powerful and intimidating aura about him and was a whole head taller than Rogan. His expression was icy cold as he glared at Rogan and barked, "Let her go!"

"Fuck off!"

"I'll not repeat myself again. Let. Her. Go." The man's voice was ice cold.

"And what if I don't let her go? What are you gonna do? Don't you know who I am? Around these parts, I can have you killed with a snap of my fingers!" Rogan let go of her hair and pointed at his nose.

Yet who knew, the man gave Rogan a kick down the staircase as the latter screamed as he

tumbled down.

Madelyn too was shocked and saw Rogan lying flat on the ground unconscious, blood flowing

from his forehead.

Madelyn covered her mouth to prevent herself from screaming.

Before she could even thank the man, he had already left!

Madelyn quickly went upstairs in a panic and fumbled her keys out. However, due to the lingering fear from earlier, she was in such a panicked state she could not even hold the key properly and it fell onto the ground.

She did not have time to think and simply locked the door from inside, went to the cupboard

to take her clothes out and shoved them into her luggage.

Back then, she had truly been sheltered by the Jent household, and she did not know how sinister and dangerous the world outside could be!

Without her identity and without the Jent family, Madelyn did not know what sort of life she was about to experience.

Perhaps, she would encounter situations that were even more painful and grueling than this

one.

Was she destined to be able to escape this fate of hers?

Was her fate just... that?

Madelyn squatted on the ground as a sense of helplessness gnawed at her heart.

Perhaps the debts she had owed the Jent family in her past life was now hers to pay back in this life.

Madelyn put away the clothes from the balcony and inadvertently saw on the opposite side, Forrest, clad in a black singlet, kissing and hugging Jadie on the balcony.

He lowered his head, then raised his gaze and watched as the person that had been packing things up walked back into the house.

It was four o'clock in the afternoon, and before Madelyn left, she left a letter on the table. Perhaps by the time Rosario returned, Madelyn would already be in Lorville.

After reading the letter, Rosario would understand everything that had happened, as well as the reason why she left.

As Madelyn dragged her luggage out, Rogan was still lying at the entrance of the staircase.

Whenever he regained his consciousness, he would definitely not let her go easily.

When he heard the sound of luggage being dragged along the floor, Rogan opened his eyes in a daze as he looked at Madelyn's departing figure.

"Bitch... just wait till I get my hands on you."

As he let out a weak growl, he fainted once again.

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At a convenience store by the intersection, Madelyn spent two hundred dollars just to use the lady boss's identity card to purchase a ticket to Lorville.

It would take 16 hours by bus to get there and was quite the journey, but fortunately, that was the last ticket for the bus tonight and the only downside was the late departure, leaving only at 8:30 in the evening.

Madelyn had to wait another hour to get on the bus to the West Station, and it would be just the right time when she arrived there.

Yet just at that moment, a boom of thunder could be heard in the horizon, followed by flashes of lightning.

The lady boss looked worriedly. "Girl, it's going to rain buckets soon. How about you go tomorrow instead? It's already so late, and I bet the bus to West Station will be delayed as well.

Madelyn bit her lips and said somewhat worriedly, "Ma'am, do you have a way to send me over there? I can pay you some more money."

No way! It'll take two hours just to send you there. Also, it'll be a big downpour soon, and the roads won't be safe."

"How about 1 give you another hundred?"

The lady boss' eyes lit up but she quickly put on a rueful look. "No, no, a life for a hundred is..."

"Two hundred, if you really can't do it, then I'll just look for someone else."

The lady boss quickly grabbed the two hundred and stuffed it into her pocket. "Just wait, I'll call my husband to send you over."

"Thank you," Madelyn replied.

Soon, the boss came with a borrowed van.

The lady boss carried Madelyn's bag and said, "Girl, you have to be careful, going somewhere so far. Make sure you don't get yourself kidnapped. You're so pretty and those kidnappers are specifically after young, vulnerable girls like you."

Madelyn saw the lady boss' gaze and caught something inexplicable in it.

Just as she was about to take her luggage from the lady boss, she saw the boss on the driver seat letting out a smirk.

Madelyn noticed something was not right and through the van's window, she saw someone. else inside the van.

"Hey, girl, what are you standing there for? Get in the van, stop wasting time."

Madelyn then said calmly, "Wait, I left something at your shop, I'll go grab it."

"Get into the van first. I'll help you take it." The lady boss said as she tried to get Madelyn into

the van.

"It's just on the fridge right there."

Just as the lady boss turned around to look for the item, Madelyn took the opportunity and fled toward Mr. Massey's restaurant.

The lady boss took a glance and saw nothing there, and when she turned back around, Madelyn had already run away.

“Shit! That brat got away! After her!” she yelled.

“What?!”

Rogan had originally just wanted to sit and wait for the prey to fall into his lap, but who could have guessed that the girl would be sharp enough to see through the ploy?

Earlier on, Rogan had fainted by the stairwell, and it was Mrs. Paul who found her son

bleeding on the forehead as she screamed for people to send him to the clinic.

The moment he had gotten out of the clinic, Rogan had looked for Madelyn all over town to settle his score with her.

The van quickly turned around and chased after her.

Madelyn desperately ran with every bit of her strength she could muster.

A crack of thunder rang from above and the lightning shone a light on her fearful face.

Rain soon came pouring down in heavy sheets.

Ice-cold raindrops fell on her, seeping through her clothes. The rain came suddenly and under the dim streetlights, the truck’s high beam behind her looked like a ravenous beast chasing

after her.

The rainwater quickly accumulated into puddles on the ground as Madelyn stumbled into an uneven pothole and fell straight onto the pavement.

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Five people got out of the car. Madelyn propped her hands on the ground, staring back at their nauseating gazes. She backed away in fear.

“What... What do you all want...?”

She continued, “D-Don’t come any closer! If you want money, I’ll give you all of my money.”

Rogan smiled lewdly and slowly walked closer to Madelyn, “Fucking hell. I almost broke my bones because of you. You’re still trying to run...? Let’s see where you can run to now...”

“This stupid bitch. Why are you wasting our time talking to her? Just bring her to our turf, and the five of us can have some fun with her!”

“That’s right! I guarantee it’ll take less than three days to get her to submit to us completely. Soon enough, she’ll serve us and give us a few sons.”

Madelyn stood up with her trembling legs, “Do you realize what you’re doing is illegal?!”

The few men laughed wildly upon hearing her words. They asked in a mocking tone, “Illegal? Why don’t you take a look around and see where we are?! We’re the law around here.”

“This is madness. You’re a bunch of lunatics...”

‘I can’t let them get their own way. If I get into this car, the tragic events of my past life will happen again... My cries... My screams... Echoing in the warehouse,’ Madelyn thought.

The image of the few naked men smiling lingered in her mind and haunted her.

‘No... I don’t want this...’ she thought again.

A black sedan parked in a dark spot in the parking lot nearby. In the car, there was a man wearing Bluetooth earphones as he reported, "Mr. Jardin, the footage has been sent."

"I've seen it."

"Should we take action now? The group has laid their hands on Ms. Jent."

"There's no rush. I'll go and settle things. Follow them!"

The windshield wipers moved left and right, making a squeaky sound. The display screen in the dimly lit car showed the footage of a few tall men laying their hands on a young woman.

Zach gazed at the footage and was in deep thought.

'Madelyn, you were so determined to escape the Jardin family. Do you see the consequences of your actions now? You need to pay for making the wrong decisions! My princess, the world is dirty. It always has been this way. Isn't it better for you to stay inside, pampered and protected? Madelyn Jent, all of this... is just the beginning!' he thought.

In the footage, Madelyn's shirt got torn into pieces during the process of fighting them off. She was covered in dirt, and all she had left on her was a close-to-see-through bra top.

Madelyn's eyes were filled with despair. Even though she was clearly no match for them, she continued to fight back with all she had.

The men toyed with her as if she were a kitten. Madelyn was bruised all over. When she fell onto the ground, one of the men grabbed her by the head and forcefully shoved her into the

car.

Madelyn felt for a stone near her and hurled it at the man.

The man screamed in pain.

Madelyn took advantage of the men letting their guard down, and quickly got up from the ground. Then, she ran away.

“Oh shit! The bitch escaped!”

“After her!”

Elsewhere, a group of people took shelter from the rain under the eaves of a house. Jadie had a black leather jacket wrapped on her head. It was the one Forrest usually wore.

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Jadie stood next to Forrest and glanced at him. He only wore a black short-sleeved shirt.

“Aren’t you cold? You should wear the jacket instead!”

“I’m not cold. You wear it,” he said.

Claire stood next to Jadie and lightly bumped her arm, “Jadie, are you two dating? That was quick!”

Jadie said shyly, “Stop! We’re just friends.”

“You call this just friends? Stop lying!”

Meanwhile, Alex rolled her

eyes.

'She's so damn good at pretending,' she thought.

Ajax noticed the odd atmosphere and quickly said, "The weather is so lousy! We finally got together after a while, and now it's raining. The heavens are being so rude!"

"Rude? Who do you think you are, calling the heavens rude?! You're gonna get struck by lightning," Alex said.

The group burst into laughter.

"No way! None of us brought an umbrella. When's it going to stop raining?"

"Who knows?"

"Hey, do you guys hear that? I think someone's calling for help."

"Calling for help? Are you sure you're not hallucinating?"

"No. I really do hear someone shouting. Listen, Forrest..."

Everyone quickly fell silent. They seemed to really hear someone calling out for help amidst the sounds of the rain. There were also the voices of several men.

Forrest's gaze turned icy. The person's voice clearly echoed again in the back alley, "Help! Is there anybody..."

"You stupid bitch! Where do you think you're going?!"

Ajax quickly recognized the voice, "Shit! That voice is clearly Rogan and the gang. They're clearly trying to force themselves onto a woman."

"Alex, doesn't this woman's voice sound like that girl who just came and talked back at you?"

Forrest said, "I knew Rogan was a no-good scumbag. That girl just turned of age... Forrest, should we go check it out?"

Forrest casually fished out a cigarette from his pocket and held it under his nose. He sniffed it and said, "Since when were you all so nosy?"

Jadie said hesitantly, "Forrest, why did I hear Madelyn's voice? She... Is she also here?"

Forrest lowered his head and looked at her with a smile, "That's none of your concern. Alex, you all stay here and wait while Ajax and I go buy umbrellas. This rain is going to last a while. We don't want you catching a cold when you get back."

Then, Forrest walked off into the rain with Ajax, the red-haired guy, the green-haired guy,

and the rest.

After walking for a while, the few realized they were going the wrong way.

"Forrest, the convenience store is that way. We're headed in the wrong direction."

Forrest stood in the rain with reddened eyes, "Say another word, and I'll stick an umbrella into your mouth when we get home."

The three of them exchanged glances and obediently trailed behind Forrest without saying another word. The current situation was clear.

The green-haired guy shouted, "Forrest, guys, look! The girl's up there."

Forrest followed his gaze.

The rain did not look like it was going to stop at all. It was dark, so all they could see was a dark expanse of the sea with raging waves, and Madelyn, who stood by the cliff, had nowhere to

run.

She was forced to the edge of the cliff, which had sharp, craggy rocks below it. If she were to fall off the cliff and get swept away by the waves, there would be no chance of survival.

"Oh no! Mr. Jardin, Ms. Jent is being forced to jump into the sea."

At that moment, there was a black Audi parked on the bridge that spanned across the sea. Its high beams were on as the person in the car observed the events happening down below.

"Fred, what do you think? Will she dare to jump or not?"

Fred Turner was Zach's loyal subordinate.

"I don't know, but if we don't intervene, something's going to happen to Ms. Jent."

Zach mockingly tapped his fingers on the steering wheel as soft, slow music played in the car,

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"Keep running! Why'd you stop?"

"Come on, girl. Stop resisting and just follow us back. We won't hurt you."

Madelyn glanced at the raging waves beneath her. As the rocks under her feet fell, they were instantly swallowed by the waves. In the face of such uncertainty, she found herself

contemplating, 'Am I scared right now? Perhaps I am.'

Memories flooded her mind-tragic deaths, betrayal, and the loss of cherished things. She had once believed she was the happiest person, but that dream shattered, leaving behind a gaping void of darkness, anguish, and torment.

'I thought I could escape from all the tragedies of my past life in this lifetime as long as I let go of those things and those people... But now... I think I was wrong!' She clenched her fists as she grappled with this conflicting realization.

'My life was destined to be a tragedy from the very moment of my birth. It seems as though the heavens demand that I pay for all of Hayson Jent's sins. All I yearn for is to live on and peacefully spend my days...' She silently lamented her fate.

'I've really tried my best to change everything from my previous life. I hoped for a better outcome, but things still ended up this way in the end. I've already experienced death once...

'To me, death isn't terrifying. Besides, if I were no longer alive, perhaps...the only person. who'd be sad is Ethan. What a shame that I never got to meet him one last time,' she concluded, her thoughts tinged with regret.

Ajax said, "Oh shit! Don't tell me she's really gonna jump? If she jumps, we won't even be able to retrieve her body..."

Forrest walked faster and faster and eventually broke into a run. He shouted, "All of you, stop!

His voice was drowned out by the thunder. No one else heard him apart from them.

"Madelyn Jent! Don't you dare jump!" He repeated, "Don't you dare jump! Do you hear me?!"

“Oh shit! If she dies, we’re all done for when the police show up!”

“Stop putting on an act, you stupid bitch! Do it, then! I dare you to jump!”

“Stop resisting. It won’t do you any harm. Don’t risk your own life over such a small matter.”

Suddenly, Madelyn laughed sadly. She spread her arms apart, looked up at the night sky, and let the raindrops fall on her face. ‘If this is my fate, I no longer wish to repeat the same mistakes.’

‘Zach Jardin, I really am exhausted! Your grudge against Hayson from these two lifetimes. Can

we just settle it once and for all? Can you please treat me better in the next lifetime?’ She silently implored, ‘I really want to be your sister. I envy Jadie for having a brother like you...

Lastly, she whispered in her thoughts, ‘And... Farewell, Ethan.

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Madelyn leaned back and fell, the wind blowing against her face as if it were a knife.

Her body was wracked with pain all over.

Forrest shouted, “Madelyn Jent!”

“Oh no! Mr. Jardin, Ms. Jent is-” Fred uttered in shock.

Zach said, “Madelyn-”

“Oh fuck! Rogan, that woman actually jumped. We killed her! What should we do?!”

“This has nothing to do with me! I didn’t kill her! I didn’t do anything.”

Rogan looked down, and Madelyn was already nowhere to be seen. He was so terrified that his legs gave out, and he fell onto the ground. Meanwhile, the others had already run away in fear.

At that moment, Forrest arrived. He took off the only piece of clothing on him-a short- sleeved shirt and jumped into the water without a word.

“Oh shit, Forrest! Forrest actually jumped!”

Madelyn had fallen onto the rocks, and she bled out into the sea. The ice-cold seawater seemed to freeze her limbs, and her consciousness turned hazy. She felt like she was free- falling like a perishing star and falling to a place where she belonged.

It’s so dark... Mom, I’m cold...’ she thought.

Ajax anxiously paced by the shore.

“Call the cops! Quick, call the cops!”

Someone took out a cell phone and tried calling, “It’s not connecting. The signal’s dead because it’s raining.”

Ajax scratched his head in distress and continued pacing around anxiously, “Fuck...”

“What do we do?!” the

green-haired

guy

said in worry.

Ajax roared in annoyance, "You're asking me? How the hell am I supposed to know? You two, go and get the others. Go get someone who knows how to swim. And get a phone. Find a place that has a good signal and call the cops. Then, we'll talk."

Alex and Jadie waited until the rain stopped. When they saw that Forrest and the others still had not returned, they sensed that something was amiss. And so, they went to the seaside.

As expected, they saw Ajax anxiously pacing around by the sea.

"Ajax, where's Forrest?"

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Ajax said hesitantly, "Forrest just jumped into the sea to save the girl."

Alex widened her eyes in disbelief before going up to Ajax and grabbing him by the collar. Then, she kicked him to the ground, "Why didn't you stop him? It's high tide right now, he's gonna die!"

Jadie covered her mouth and teared

up in worry, "F-Forrest..."

"Another person just jumped into the sea. We don't know who it was.'

Alex teared up in desperation, "Forrest, you're an asshole! If you die, I won't let you off easily, even if you turn into a ghost!"

At that moment, the red-haired guy pointed to some spot in the distance. He was in shock and could not speak, "A-Alex... It... It's Forrest!"

Everyone turned to look in that direction and saw Forrest holding a person in his arms as he walked out of the sea.

Everyone walked over to him. Forrest placed Madelyn on the ground. Then, he pinched her nose, leaned down, and gave her mouth-to-mouth.

"Forrest..."

Alex and Jadie immediately ran over to Forrest, who had turned blue from the cold.

Forrest sat up and started performing CPR.

"All of you, step back."

Jadie was frozen in shock when she saw Madelyn. She did not expect the person to be Madelyn, who had been missing for nearly three months.

'I can't believe that all this time, she's been here in this fishing village,' she thought.

10 minutes later, there still was no sign of Madelyn regaining consciousness.

Alex could not help but say, "Forrest, stop it. She's... already dead."

"Get lost! If you don't have anything nice to say, shut your mouth!"

Forrest had a dark, icy gaze.

Nobody dared to speak. None of them had ever seen him this angry before.

Forrest gave Madelyn a few more mouth-to-mouths.

He said, "Madelyn, you've already taken advantage of me. If you don't fucking wake up, who'll repay me? Wake up, Madelyn! Do you hear me?!"

Suddenly, the person on the floor moved.

"KEUGH!"

Madelyn coughed out a few mouthfuls of water. However, she was only momentarily

conscious. She only saw the blurry silhouette of a man and did not manage to clearly see who he was before she closed her eyes and passed out.

Forrest breathed a sigh of relief and finally no longer felt as tense. Then, he quickly picked up Madelyn

Just then, several black cars drove over and surrounded them, and several bodyguards in black suits stepped out of the cars.

Chapter 100

Kevin held an umbrella and walked to the front of the car before heading to the passenger seat. He opened the car door, and a man in a perfectly tailored black shirt and slacks stepped out of the car. He exuded an air of intimidation.

The man stepped onto the ground with his black leather shoes. He was incredibly handsome, but his eyes were filled with danger.

Everyone seemingly had been intimidated by his presence and automatically made way for him when he approached.

Forrest met with his gaze just as he picked up Madelyn. When their eyes met, an unknown, suffocating feeling quickly passed between the two.

Zach walked over while Kevin held an umbrella beside him.

“Mr. Arnold, I owe you one for saving Madelyn’s life,” said Zach as he stuck out his head. However, Forrest seemed to show no intention of accepting his handshake.

“You owe me one. Don’t you forget it, Zach Jardin.”

Zach took the unconscious Madelyn into his arms.

They went to the Portsmouth Fishing Village Clinic.

On their way back to Ventropolis, they discovered that a section of the road ahead had collapsed. Since the route back was under repair, it would take a few more days before they could get back.

“Sorry, Zach. I didn’t mean to hide things from you on purpose. It’s just that I have exams coming up, and I felt a little stressed. I came out with my friends to have fun and was worried you’d be upset, so I didn’t tell you.”

Jadie stood before Zach with her head lowered and did not dare to speak. She looked like a child who had done something wrong.

”

Claire was worried Jadie would get reprimanded by Zach, so she stepped forward and said, Zach, I insisted on dragging Jadie out. This has nothing to do with her. If you want to blame someone, blame me."

Zach did not blame her.

"Where have you been staying?" he asked.

Claire quickly answered, "She and I stayed at our friend's house."

Zach said, "Move out of your friend's house tonight and stay at a guesthouse for now. I'll send you back to school in a few days."

Jadie nodded and fiddled with her fingers, "I understand, Zach."

"Let's go back home first! It's almost sunrise. Let's go back and rest for a bit."

"How about you, Zach?" asked Jadie.

"I'll wait for Madelyn to wake up."

Jadie did not say anything more, "Then I'll come and see you guys again tomorrow. You should get some rest soon too, Zach. Don't tire yourself out."

Not long after Jadie left, someone opened the examination room door. A middle-aged doctor walked out and said, "Are you the patient's kin?"

"How is she?"

The man spoke in a dialect and replied in not-very-standard Venturian, "Not good. There's a tear in her abdomen, but we've stopped the bleeding for now. All we can do here is conduct a simple examination.

Once the roads are repaired, it would be best to take her to a bigger hospital for treatment and see if she has any other internal injuries.”

“Thank you,” replied Zach.

Kevin followed the doctor to retrieve the prescribed drugs.

Zach walked into the shabby examination room. Madelyn lay on the wooden bed with a pale face and closed eyes. She was so quiet it was almost as if she were dead.

The dimly lit room cast a slight glow onto her pale face. Zach stared deeply at her. ‘Madelyn Jent, you had hundreds of ways to continue living, yet you chose the most idiotic path. When did you stop fearing even death?’

Zach suddenly realized the person lying in front of him was more unfamiliar than ever. “The Madelyn I know is usually stubborn and headstrong, but timid and weak. This time, she’s truly exceeded my expectations.”

Zach genuinely felt a soft spot for Madelyn when he saw her jump off. It was a feeling that had appeared out of nowhere.

He tucked her exposed hand under the blanket.

The rain outside stopped momentarily and started again.

“D-Don’t come any closer!”