Sinner Wife 471

Chapter 471

Maybe it was out of surprise, but Madeline's heart skipped a beat.

She wanted to ignore the man on the floor at first, but when she saw Jeremy's brows knitted together and the way he looked like

he was in pain, she subconsciously squatted down before taking his temperature.

His cheek was cold, but his forehead was burning.

When she got closer to him, aside from his scent, there was also a strong smell of alcohol.

He had drunk a lot and even stayed out in the cold wind the entire night. It was likely he was suffering from a fever now.

Madeline did not want anything to do with Jeremy, so she thought of calling 911 so that the ambulance could take him away

instead. When she turned around to do so, however, Jeremy grabbed her hand.

His hand was so cold, feeling as if it had been frozen into ice. The coldness from his hand penetrated her bones.

"Don't go..." he muttered like he was still in a dream, his eyelashes moving slightly. Then, he slowly opened his narrow eyes.

"Don't go, please?"

He closed his eyes again after he said that.

Madeline frowned in dissatisfaction. She tried to get him to let go of her, but the more she struggled, the tighter he held on to her.

"Jeremy, let go of me."

"No. I won't let you go again..."

He was still unconscious, but it was as if he was replying to her.

Madeline did not have a choice, so she could only put up with him. "Okay, I won't go, but can you not hold onto me like that?"

Jeremy opened his eyes again drowsily when he heard Madeline's voice. Her stunning face was reflected in his hazy eyes.

Even though she was not willing to do so, she could only help him into her house while he was half-conscious.

She was five foot five and dragging a six foot one man. Then, she threw him onto the bed of the guest room.

She wanted to give him an antipyretic, but when she turned around, the man grabbed her again.

"You said you won't leave." His eyes were half-closed. He sounded a little childish when he said that.

Madeline swung away his hand impatiently. "I won't break a promise like you. When I say I won't leave, it means that I won't."

She glared at him in disdain. Then, she fetched the antipyretic and a glass of warm water.

When she returned, Jeremy had already fallen into a deep slumber. He could not take the medicine nor drink the water.

Madeline took his temperature with a thermometer and he indeed had a fever.

In this situation, she could only cool Jeremy down physically so that he would feel better.

However, when she was wiping his body with alcohol, she clenched her fist and got up abruptly when she looked at his sleeping

face.

'Eveline Montgomery, what the hell are you doing?

'Why are you taking care of him?

'Even if his fever gets to 200 degrees Fahrenheit, it has nothing to do with you.

'Did this man care about you when you were in debilitating pain? He didn't. He ignored your life or death.'

Madeline glanced at the sleeping man coldly and ignored him.

Three to four hours later, Jeremy woke up from a pleasant dream while feeling muddleheaded.

He dreamt that he had fallen sick and Madeline was taking care of him considerately.

However, when he woke up and looked around him, Jeremy was certain that it was not a dream but reality.

His bitter heart was invaded with warmth. He looked at the antipyretic and water on the nightstand. He then downed the water

along with the pill. The water had already turned cold, but to him, it was sweet and warm.

...

Whitman Corporation.

At this moment, Madeline was sitting next to Felipe and they were ready for a press conference.

After a while, the change of ownership of Whitman Corporation started trending online.

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The rumors about Jeremy's debt and fall from grace started increasing as well.

A lot of people were waiting for Jeremy's response. However, after a long while, his Twitter was never updated.

Felipe was also predicting what Jeremy would do. However, even after one day, Jeremy never appeared.

It was as if he had gone missing. He even switched off his phone.

On the other hand, Madeline knew Jeremy was in her apartment. However, it had been a day. Was he still unconscious?

It would be impossible for him to not react after seeing today's press conference. Did he get even sicker?

Madeline was contemplating about this in silence. Then, she followed Felipe to the most luxurious restaurant in Glendale. To

celebrate, Felipe opened a bottle of the most expensive wine.

"Congratulations on finally achieving your goal. Now, Whitman Corporation is yours." Madeline lifted her wine glass in

celebration.

Felipe was smiling from his eyes. "Before I met you, my biggest wish and goal was to avenge my parents. However, now you're

the one wish that I want to grant the most," he said, taking out a wedding ring that he had prepared beforehand. The pea-size

diamond reflected dazzling rays under the bright lights.

Looking at the ring, Madeline suddenly recalled the day she married Jeremy.

Even though he was frigid, he still held her hand and put on the ring for her.

"Vera, I truly want to take care of you forever. Will you marry me?"

Madeline knew she did not have a reason to reject Felipe's sincere and gentle proposal.

However, she had spent all of her love and passion on Jeremy. She did not know how it would feel like to love someone again.

Then again, if she could marry a man who would sincerely take care of her, then it would be another kind of blessing.

Madeline thought about this and smiled. Then, she reached out her hand to Felipe.

Felipe smiled softly and took Madeline's hand to put the ring on her ring finger.

"Mommy."

Suddenly, the silence was broken by a childish voice.

Madeline retracted her hand abruptly before lifting her gaze to see Jackson running toward her. She got up quickly. "Jack?"

The atmosphere of the proposal was ruined. Felipe looked at the diamond ring in his hand as an ominous glint flashed across his

eyes.

"Jack, why are you here? How do you know I'd be here?" Madeline squatted down and asked while holding Jackson in her arms.

Jackson nuzzled Madeline while simpering to her. "Mommy is my goddess, so that's why I'll always follow you closely."

Madeline smiled and caressed the little guy's head. "Silly."

After she said that, her phone rang.

When she looked at the caller ID, she saw that it was from Eloise.

She pondered before answering her phone. Then, she heard Eloise saying cautiously, "Eveline, it... It's your mother. Jack is

missing. He said that he missed you and ran out all of a sudden. Your father and I can't find him anywhere."

"He's with me, so don't worry. I'm hanging up if there's nothing else."

"Eveline, wait!"

Eloise stopped her. However, after she calmed down, she started sobbing.

"Eveline, I miss you too..."

"If you don't have anything better to say, Mrs. Montgomery, then I'm hanging up." Madeline hung up the phone without hesitation.

On the other side, when Eloise heard the dial tone of the phone, she started bawling in remorse once more.

Felipe initially wanted to enjoy some time with Madeline, but because of Jackson's appearance, their candlelight dinner could

only be cut short.

Jackson said he was hungry and he had never said that in such a simpering tone. He said he wanted to eat mommy's food, so

Madeline could only turn Felipe down and bring him back to the apartment. Madeline also wanted to know if Jeremy was still

there.

"Mommy, do you know what day it is tomorrow?" Jackson asked all of a sudden when they were at the door to their apartment.

"What day is it tomorrow?" Madeline asked with a smile. However, she stopped opening the door when she remembered

something.

'Tomorrow is a special day indeed.'

Chapter 473

This was the sixth year.

Six years passed in a blink of an eye.

Madeline placed her finger down on the ID fingerprint lock and opened the door of the apartment. At this moment, her thoughts

had wandered. She recalled how she was wrongfully imprisoned and how she was tortured during all those years there.

She could not forget how she was forcefully induced into labor by those female inmates on that stormy night.

How could she forget that tomorrow was her child's birthday?

However, this year would be different because she would not cry at the empty grave.

She knew that her child was not dead.

"Mommy, tomorrow is my birthday," Jackson said. His voice that was as clear as bells brought Madeline back to reality.

She was slightly taken aback and could not suppress the pain in her heart.

Jackson was Meredith and Jeremy's child. The ironic thing was that her child was born on the same day as Jackson.

"Mommy, you'll celebrate my birthday with me tomorrow, right?" The little guy tugged on the corner of her coat.

Madeline lowered her head, smiling when she looked into those expectant and pure eyes. She caressed his hair.

"Of course, I'll celebrate your birthday with you."

There was a spark of delight in Jackson's eyes. He lifted his adorable pinky at Madeline before saying, "Mommy, pinky promise."

Madeline smiled and went along with it, pinky promising Jackson.

A huge joyous grin appeared on Jackson's good-looking face. When Madeline saw that, she felt at ease as well.

She removed her coat and was about to make Jackson something to eat.

When she walked into the kitchen, she remembered something before walking back to the guest room.

Madeline thought the room should be empty, but she spotted Jeremy on the bed. He was in the same position as he was this

morning before she left.

'Has he been sleeping for the entire day?

'Even if he has a fever, he shouldn't be like this.'

Madeline felt puzzled as she quickly walked to the side of the bed where she lowered her gaze to look at the man's sleeping

face. She reached out her hand and touched his forehead.

His temperature had gone down and there was some color on his face now.

When she was sure that Jeremy was fine, she retracted her hand. However, when she was about to turn around, a familiar hand

grabbed her wrist.

She was stunned. Then, she turned around to see that Jeremy's eyes were open and he was smiling at her. Madeline swung his

hand away in agitation.

"Were you awake this entire time?"

Jeremy did not answer her. He sat up slowly, his eyes were filled with tenderness. "You're still concerned about me."

"Concerned about you?" Madeline scoffed, her tone cold and emotionless when she said, "I just didn't want you to die here and

dirty my place."

Jeremy's smile cracked instantly. He saw his heartless self in Madeline's cold eyes.

"Go now. I don't want to see you."

Madeline chased him away with ice in her eyes. Then, she turned around to walk away.

Jeremy looked at Madeline's back dispiritedly, moving his thin lips slightly but not being able to say a single word in the end.

He knew Madeline was back when he heard the sound of the door. He pretended to be asleep because he wanted to know how

she would treat him.

Despite Madeline's coldness, he was already satisfied by the act of her taking his temperature just now.

After Jeremy walked out of the room, he saw that Jackson was there as well.

Jeremy lifted his gaze to look at Madeline who was cooking in the kitchen and suddenly had a thought.

'Does Maddie know that Jack is her son?'

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"Daddy," Jackson called out to him at this moment.

Jeremy looked over in surprise. The good-looking little guy walked over to him with a smile, his clear eyes looking more and

more like Madeline's.

Actually, during the three years of Madeline's 'passing', he rarely heard Jackson calling him 'Daddy'. Even if he did, his voice

would sound lifeless and perfunctory unlike now.

"Daddy, you're here as well? Do you want to celebrate my birthday with Mommy?"

Birthday.

Jeremy suddenly remembered that tomorrow was Jackson's birthday.

Jackson was five, but from what he recalled, it seemed that he had never celebrated his birthday with him before.

"Jack, your father has to go now. Just tell him what you want to say to him next time," Madeline walked over and said to Jackson

with a smile. She was purposely saying that to Jeremy so that he would leave.

She turned around to look at the man, her eyes turning a few degrees colder. "You can leave now."

Jeremy smiled bitterly. "I'm leaving, but Jack's birthday tomorrow..."

"Birthday? Mr. Whitman, you're such a good father." Madeline interrupted him in a mocking tone with a sternness in her eyes.

"You treat Meredith's son like he's a treasure, but what about mine? You've never asked about her and even asked someone to

induce labor on me in prison so that they could steal my child and make her a b*stard child. You threw her out like she was a

broken shoe!

"It has been so many years and I've never met my child. When Meredith stole my corneas, I held the photo of the child Meredith

gave to me like it was a treasure. Eventually, I found out it was just a stupid photo of a scenery!"

When Jeremy heard this, his heart started aching as much as Madeline's.

He remembered seeing Madeline crying and kneeling on the roadside looking for a photo of a scenery. He did not understand

why she treasured that postcard so much, but now he understood.

Meredith had lied to her saying that it was a photo of her child.

"Jeremy, tell me. What have I done wrong? Why did you guys treat me like that? I will never forgive you as long as I live. Get out

now. Get out!"

Jeremy's Adam's apple bobbed soundlessly. He looked into Madeline's eyes that were filled with anger, wanting to say

something. However, he pressed his lips together again. "Maddie…"

"Get out!"

"Okay, I'll go." Jeremy did not say anything more. He turned around and walked away desolately. His back had never looked so

lonely before.

Madeline took a deep breath and forced herself to calm down.

She should be lucky that the child was still alive.

The next day after Madeline sent Jackson to kindergarten, she went to the mall to buy a gift for Jackson. She wanted to give it to

him tonight.

At the same time, she would also buy a gift for her child who she had never seen before.

'Darling, I really hope that I can find you soon. I want to hug you and celebrate your birthday with you.'

When she was about to leave the mall with her shopping bags, she spotted a familiar face.

It was Rose.

After Rose and Jon testified against Meredith, they had vanished. Madeline did not think that they would appear now.

Madeline knew she would not get the whereabouts of her child from Meredith. However, Rose was different.

Rose had just sold off all of her jewelry. When she saw Madeline, she averted her gaze and ran away quickly as if she had done

something bad.

"Rose!" Madeline chased after her quickly. When she saw Rose running to the street without looking at the traffic light, Madeline

chased after her without hesitation.

At this moment, she was only thinking about her child who she had carried for ten months but did not have a chance to meet.

If Rose escaped, then she would lose an important clue.

At this moment, the traffic light opposite the zebra crossing turned green. A white car sped over to Madeline as it was trying to

run a red light. When they saw that there was someone on the zebra crossing, it was too late.

When Madeline saw that the car was about to hit her, she heard someone yelling her name hysterically. "Eveline!"

Then, she heard a loud thud.

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A lot of people started gathering around because of the accident.

The moment the car sped over, Madeline thought she was unable to get away. However, in a quick flash, there was a strong

force holding her. In that instant, she felt a sense of security that she had never felt before.

While she was still in a panicked state, someone was holding onto her shoulders tightly.

"Eveline, are you okay? Are you hurt?"

When she heard the familiar voice of concern, Madeline finally realized that the person who had pulled her to safety was Eloise.

Eloise's graceful and elegant face was filled with worry. Her eyes that were filled with concern were scanning Madeline's body up

and down to see if there were any wounds.

Madeline was stuck in a daze for a few seconds before she said, "I'm fine. Thanks, Mrs. Montgomery."

When Eloise heard how Madeline addressed her, her eyes became red. However, she had nothing to say.

She knew she had already lost the right to get her daughter back.

Madeline turned around to look at the car that almost ran into her. The car had crashed into a tree nearby and the front of the car

was caved in. However, the driver was fine. At the moment, he was calling someone to tow the car while looking troubled.

"That was so close! I thought I'd crash into that pretty lady!

"Thankfully, a wealthy-looking woman came and helped her. If not, I can't even imagine what would have happened.

"They look similar, so I think they're mother and daughter. It's a mother's instinct to risk her life to save her daughter. See, her

mother's crying from worry."

Madeline was about to leave, but when she heard the passersby's comments, she turned around slightly while feeling

emotionally moved.

She saw Eloise standing there while trying to suppress her emotions. However, she still could not stop her tears from streaming

down her face.

Madeline noticed a huge wound on Eloise's right calf. Bright red blood started pouring down her leg.

She walked over to Eloise and frowned. "Why didn't you tell me you're injured?"

Eloise shook her head with tears in her eyes. "As long as you're fine."

Madeline was quiet after she heard that. Then, she looked around. "Did you come out yourself?"

Eloise looked straight at Madeline and nodded.

"Wait for me here. I'll drive the car over," Madeline said before quickly walking away. Eloise was feeling all kinds of emotions

when she looked at Madeline's back. More tears started pouring from her eyes.

After a while, Madeline drove the car in front of Eloise.

She got out of the car and opened the door for Eloise so that she could get in. Then, she drove to the hospital.

While they were on the way there, Eloise did not care about her injury. She was looking at Madeline who was focused on driving.

Her teary eyes were filled with relief and love.

What a beautiful face. Eloise could see her younger self in Madeline's eyes.

However, she could not even recognize this face that was similar to hers back then.

Eloise wanted to talk to Madeline, but she did not dare to disturb her.

When they were at the hospital, Madeline lined up to register for Eloise. Then, she helped her into the clinic. After Eloise was all

bandaged up, she helped her to the entrance of the hospital before letting go. "Call him and tell him to come to pick you up. I still

have something to take care of."

Eloise knew Madeline was talking about Sean. She felt a dull ache in her heart and forced a smile. "I don't want to trouble your

father. I can go home myself."

Madeline hesitated for two seconds. Then, she replied, "Whatever. I'm leaving now."

"Eve—" Eloise wanted to call out to Madeline, but she had already walked away.

Eloise wiped away the tears in her eyes in devastation before limping to the door.

Madeline was in the car as she watched Eloise slowly walking out. She tightened her grip on the steering wheel subconsciously.

She did not know why she was still heartbroken.

It did not matter if it was Jeremy, Eloise, or Sean. They were all the people she loved the most, but at the same time, they were

also the people who had hurt her the most.

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She should have stopped caring about them a long time ago. However, she could feel tears rising in her eyes when she saw

Eloise struggling to walk.

After Jeremy left Madeline's place, he locked himself in his room in Whitman Manor.

During this time, Yvonne and Karen came and knocked on his door. However, he ignored them every time.

He sat there from dawn till dusk, constantly watching the wedding video of him and Madeline.

His grandfather was right. He had fallen in love with Madeline a very long time ago. The best evidence of him choosing her as

his life partner was when he married Madeline using the old master's name.

However, Meredith had fooled him for six whole years because of that promise he made when he was a kid.

In the end, Meredith was just a phony.

The girl he loved was the girl he had made the promise to back then.

Jeremy leaned against the chair quietly. Suddenly, he burst into laughter.

'The person I love, no matter back then or in the future, will always be you, Linnie...'

Buzz, buzz. His phone vibrated all of a sudden.

Jeremy answered his phone, his expression changing. "What? Maddie almost got into an accident because she was chasing

after Rose? I got it. I'll head over right now."

He got up quickly and changed.

Yvonne was bringing him some snacks when she saw him getting out of his room. She immediately went over to him to curry

favors. "Jeremy, you're finally out... Jeremy, where are you going in such a hurry?"

Jeremy ignored her and went downstairs quickly.

When Karen saw this, she hurried over to stop Jeremy. "Jeremy, are you going to look for Madeline? Our entire estate has been

snatched by that woman and Felipe. Not only are you not doing anything, but you keep running to her. What's wrong with you?

Are you going to tell me now that you're seriously in love with that woman?"

"It's none of your business who I go to," Jeremy replied coldly, "If you want to continue living how you lived before, then don't

interfere with my business."

"..." Karen was speechless. She could only watch as Jeremy left.

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After parting ways with Eloise at the hospital, Madeline could not focus for the entire afternoon. She even forgot to pick Jackson

up from school.

When she remembered, it was already twilight.

At this moment, she received a call from Eloise.

This time, she did not hesitate before answering. She heard Eloise's soft voice coming from the other end of the phone. "Eveline,

I know you hate us and you don't want to see us. However, I have a request. I hope you can come back home now. Just this

once. After this, I won't force you to do anything more."

Madeline replied quickly after she heard Eloise's careful pleads, "You saved me today and I don't want to owe you anything. I'll

go over now."

Despite saying that, Madeline knew that this was just an excuse for her to go to Montgomery Manor.

More than ten minutes later, she arrived at Montgomery Manor.

After she got out of the car, she saw Jeremy walking in with a cake.

When their eyes met, Jeremy's gaze softened as if they had been caressed by the spring breeze.

He walked over to her quickly. Before he could say anything, he saw Madeline smiling at him. However, her smile was dripping

with sarcasm.

"Mr. Whitman, you're such a good father. You're about to lose everything, but you still remember to give your precious son a

happy birthday."

Jeremy laughed in self-mockery. "I'm not a good father. If I am, I'd be celebrating my precious son's birthday with him every year

and not only start doing it now."

"Precious son..." Madeline rolled those two words in her mouth. A dull ache surfaced on her chest. "Meredith's son is precious,

but what about my child?

"I carried the child for ten months and endured all the hurt and grievances myself. However, in the end, I never even got the

chance to meet her. What about you? What did you do to that child? You harmed your own flesh and blood just to make Meredith

happy."

Madeline's eyes welled up with tears. She was unable to stay calm when she talked about her child. She looked at the man in

front of her with enmity, her eyes filled with intense hatred.

"Jeremy, I hate you to the bone from just this alone. I'll never forgive you as long as I live."

"Will you forgive me if I bring our child to you right now?"

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After Jeremy said that, the air around them froze.

The anger in Madeline's eyes was shaken. "Jeremy, what did you say?"

The man looked at her pressing gaze and felt a pang of pain in his heart.

"Jeremy, repeat what you said just now! Have you already known that our child isn't dead? Do you know where she is?"

Madeline could not control her emotions any longer. She grabbed the man's shoulders and asked, "Tell me! Tell me now! Where

is the child?"

Jeremy felt devastated, and he blamed himself when he saw the tears in Madeline's reddening eyes. "Maddie, calm down..."

"Calm down? Do you think I'm able to calm down now?" Madeline scoffed and asked. Her gaze was as sharp as an icepick.

"Jeremy, you don't care about the child but I do! Do you know how painful it is to have your child separated from you? You won't

because you're heartless! You only have that witch Meredith in your cold-blooded and emotionless heart!"

"Daddy, Mommy."

When Madeline was about to question Jeremy, Jackson ran out of the house.

He was beaming. Under the moonlight, he had a hint of cheekiness on his face that he never had before.

Madeline's anger and pain went away slightly when she saw the adorable face.

She took a deep breath and recomposed herself before giving Jackson a warm and doting smile.

"Jack."

She squatted and held the child who was running toward her.

Madeline felt tears forming in the corners of her eyes when she held the warm little body.

She was fond of Jackson and wanted to give this child more motherly love.

However, at this moment, she wanted to hold her child who she gave birth to back then even more.

Jeremy pressed his lips together when he saw this. His passionate and loving gaze was glued on Madeline.

'Maddie, Jack is your child. He's our baby.

'You'll be ecstatic when you find out.'

"Jack, happy birthday." After Madeline let go of Jackson, she planted a kiss on his cheek. Then, she handed him the present she

had picked out.

Jackson grinned and took it. "Thank you, Mommy."

His childish voice felt like spring water flowing across Madeline's heart.

Jackson stood on his tiptoes and planted a kiss on Madeline's cheek as well.

Madeline smiled and caressed Jackson's head before getting up.

"Daddy, Mommy, let's go in. Grandpa and Granny have prepared so much food for me!" the little kid said while pulling along

Madeline and Jeremy before leading the way.

Madeline looked at Jeremy in anger.

Jeremy only smiled softly. "Don't worry. Our child is living a good life."

"Good? Would a child living without the love of a mother and who was abandoned by her father have a good life?" Madeline

snorted. Before she started walking, she reached out her hand to grab Jackson's.

Looking at them holding their hands in front of him, Jeremy had a grateful glint in his eyes.

He smiled. Even though it was a bitter smile, he was still grateful that he still had the people he loved around him.

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Eloise and Sean had been worried that Madeline would not show up. When they saw her entering the living room with Jackson,

their eyes lit up with joy.

"Eveline! Eveline, you're really here!" Eloise walked over to Madeline in excitement.

Madeline looked at the bandages on Eloise's leg subconsciously. When she saw that Eloise was still limping, she said flatly,

"Mrs. Montgomery, you should sit down and rest in case your wound breaks open. I don't want to owe you anything."

When Eloise heard that, she looked at Madeline sadly. "All mothers would want their children to be safe and healthy. I'll be happy

as long as you're fine. You don't owe anything to any of us. We're the ones who have wronged you."

Sean nodded on one side. He was looking at Madeline with the same love and pain in his eyes. "Eveline, we've wronged you so

much. If you don't want to acknowledge us, then we won't force you. Your mother and I are happy as long as we get to see you."

After Madeline listened to that, she said with no emotions on her face, "Aren't we celebrating Jack's birthday?"

Eloise and Sean were taken aback. Then, they smiled and nodded.

"Yeah, we're celebrating Jack's birthday today. However, before the celebration, Jeremy has something to give you," Eloise said

as she looked at the man who was walking over with a cake.

Madeline knitted her eyebrows together. "I don't want anything to do with this person anymore. If you asked me here just to

speak well of him, then I'll leave now."

"Eveline! Don't go!" Eloise stopped her. "Eveline, don't be mad. If you don't like it, then I won't mention it anymore."

When Madeline walked past him, Jeremy grabbed her wrist.

The warmth from his palm traveled to her skin, the heat spreading all over her body.

Madeline lifted her annoyed gaze at him slowly. "Let go."

"Jack wants you to celebrate his birthday with him. As for my present, I trust that you'll accept it one day."

"Daddy, Mommy, what are you talking about? What present?" Jackson lifted his head to ask.

Madeline retracted her hand in silence and recomposed herself. Then, she turned around and smiled warmly at Jackson to

change the topic. "Today is your birthday, so of course, it's a present for you."

She smiled and carried Jackson to the dining room.

Eloise and Sean looked at each other before sighing. "If Eveline knows that the present you want to give her is to tell her that

Jack is her flesh and blood, she'll be ecstatic. I really didn't expect her to be opposed to it so much."

Jeremy chuckled in self-mockery. "I've hurt her so much, so it's only understandable that she hates and resists me. I can't even

forgive myself for what I've done to her," he said softly. He knew himself what he had done.

Jackson's sixth birthday should be grand, but it was unpredictably simple.

This time, Jeremy placed a number six candle on the cake and lit it up.

Jackson put his hands together and closed his eyes to make a wish. A few seconds later, he blew out the candle. Then, after he

cut the cake, he handed the first slice to Madeline. "Mommy, thank you."

He thanked her solemnly out of the blue.

Madeline looked at the innocent face in confusion. "Why are you thanking me?"

"This is the best birthday ever."

Madeline and the other three people in the room fell silent after Jackson said that.

"My biological mommy doesn't like me at all and I don't like her. She only smiles at me when Daddy's around. When Daddy's not

around, she'd hit me and yell at me. She would also lock me up in a dark room. However, you're different, Mommy. No matter if

Daddy is around or not, you'll always smile at me and protect me."

Jackson looked at Madeline, and there was an expectant glint in his eyes.

"Mommy, can you be my mommy forever? Can you protect me forever?"

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After Jeremy heard what Jackson said, he furrowed his brows together tightly.

His eyes were filled with sadness for Jackson, but at the same time, there was more anger that stemmed from shock and horror.

He had no idea that Meredith was treating Jackson like that when he was not around.

No wonder Jackson would become so down and strange. It was all because of Meredith.

He clenched his fists, the veins on the back of his hands protruding.

"What? Meredith is so evil!" Eloise and Sean were seething. They were furious and heartbroken at the same time. "She's not

human!"

Madeline felt sorry for Jackson in her heart. Her chest was also filled with anger.

She clenched her fists and looked at the silent man with contempt in her eyes.

"Mr. Whitman, the love of your life really is something else. However, do you think that's the only thing she did to Jackson?"

Her tone was sarcastic as she told them what happened back then.

"Back then, she slashed Jack's face with a fruit knife to frame me. She pushed the knife into my hand with a sinister smile as the

child bled out and wailed.

"The funny thing was, Mr. Whitman, your entire family believed Meredith's lies. You all hit me, yelled at me, and punished me. I

will never forget what happened that day as long as I'm alive."

After she finished saying that, the room became tense.

Eloise and Sean fell into a deep state of self-blame. Even though they were not there back then, they too had berated her a lot

after that.

Madeline glanced at Jeremy who had a solemn look on his face. Then, she turned around and smiled softly at Jackson. "Jack, I

promise you that I'll always protect and cherish you."

"Really?" Jackson's eyes shone with joy.

Madeline stuck out her finger. "Pinky promise."

"Okay!" Jackson displayed his adorable canine teeth and reached his pinky out to Madeline.

Madeline finally saw an innocent smile that a child should have on Jackson's face. Her lips curled into a relieved smile

subconsciously.

After celebrating Jackson's birthday, Madeline left.

Eloise and Sean wanted Madeline to stay. They had a million words stuck in their throats, but they did not have the courage to

say them out loud.

Jeremy thought Madeline would leave without even paying attention to him. However, when he stepped out of the door, he saw

Madeline standing there. She looked like she was waiting for him.

"Jeremy, where is my child?" she asked directly. Her hateful gaze scanned across his face. "Don't think that I'll forgive you

because of this. I will never forgive you."

Jeremy felt uneasy as he walked toward Madeline, his charming narrow eyes looking apologetic. "You're right. Our child is not

doing so well."

Madeline frowned. "What are you talking about? How's the child? Jeremy, hurry up—"

"I'm sorry."

Suddenly, before Madeline could finish, Jeremy opened his arms and pulled her into his embrace.

Before this, he thought Jackson was leading a good life with him. However, he did not know that Meredith had been destroying

his tiny body and soul behind his back.

Yet, he believed himself as infallible and promised Madeline that the child was doing well.

No.

That child was not doing well at all.

When Madeline saw Jeremy's abnormal behavior, she pushed him away anxiously. "Jeremy, tell me now. Where's the child?"

Jeremy grabbed Madeline's shoulders and comforted her. He looked at her intensely. "I'll take you to see the child tomorrow."

Madeline's eyes lit up. "Really?"

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"Really." Jeremy nodded. "Trust me."

His voice was deep but gentle. Madeline looked at him like she was at a loss. After a while, she came back to her senses and

pushed Jeremy's hands away in dissatisfaction.

"Remember what you said. Don't make me hate you more." She turned around and walked away after saying that.

Jeremy watched as Madeline walked away. All of a sudden, he felt an excruciating pain in his heart. His mind was occupied with

Madeline's love for him and the admiration she had for him in her eyes. However, all those were in the past. They had become

faded memories now...

That night, Madeline could not sleep.

She could not wait to see her child who was induced and stolen from her.

She imagined the child's face. What would she look like?

She had to be extremely adorable.

Despite her hatred toward Jeremy, she could not deny that he had extremely good looks. She looked pretty decent as well. As

such, their child would not look too bad with their genes combined.

However, Madeline did not expect that Jeremy knew that the child was alive.

Did he know that the child was still alive at that time?

If so, what did he spread in front of her at the cemetery?

His cruel and tyrannical behavior was still replaying in her mind. He had not looked like he was pretending.

What was going on?

Madeline fell asleep with those questions in her head.

The next day.

She was woken up by the ringtone of her phone in her slumber.

Felipe's voice was deep and heavy with sleep. He greeted her and invited her to go to Whitman Corporation for a board meeting

with him.

Madeline agreed. Before leaving, she called Jeremy, but the call did not go through. She then messaged him and reminded him

to bring the child to her.

After a while, Madeline arrived at Whitman Corporation. However, she saw a lot of journalists at the entrance.

In the crowd, Madeline saw Jeremy who was being surrounded.

He was tall, so he stood out from the crowd. His breathtaking face was also glowing, so it was difficult for people not to notice

him.

He was wearing a black suit, looking frigid but elegant. His narrow eyes were icy and emotionless. However, they still looked

alluring.

Madeline was surprised. She did not expect him to face the press with so much confidence.

She looked at him and walked over slowly. Then, she heard Jeremy speaking calmly to the journalists and the cameras, "The

owner of Whitman Corporation is still the same. It's just temporarily handed to my uncle, Felipe Whitman. It still belongs to the

Whitmans."

He was calm as he utterly played down the fact that he had been stripped of everything.

Then, Jeremy smiled. "I don't have anything to say about the statements about my fall from grace and dire straits online. Rumors

will stop being spread when heard by the wise men."

He was still treating this like it was nothing. He did not look frightened or disturbed at all.

"Mr. Whitman, recently Meredith Crawford was charged with two murders that happened a few years ago. She's the love of your

life, so do you plan to hire a defense lawyer for her?"

"I heard that after Meredith Crawford was involved with the attempted murder, you never went to visit her again. Even though

Meredith has done a lot of bad things, she still gave birth to a son for you and stuck with you for so many years. A lot of people

online are calling you heartless, so what is your response to this?"

Jeremy's gaze became grim when he was faced with the questions from the journalists. "Meredith Crawford has killed people, so

she must be punished in accordance with the law. I was entangled with her before, but I've never liked her, let alone loved her,"

he said. Suddenly, his eyes softened as if they had been caressed by the spring breeze. His eyes were glued on Madeline who

was standing in the crowd.

"This entire time, there has only been one woman in my heart. She's my wife, Madeline Crawford. No, her real name is actually

Eveline Montgomery."