

Married by Mistake: Mr. Whitman's Sinner Wife

Chapters: 151

Jeremy yelled tyrannically, causing Meredith to quickly turn around and run out in fear.

No one dared to go into the room anymore. At the same time, no one understood why Jeremy was acting like this.

Everyone in Glendale knew that Jeremy loved Meredith, but now, he was reluctant to let go of his dead exwife's body. What was going on?

Daniel knew about Madeline's death from Adam. He ran over the moment he heard the news but was stopped outside the operating theatre.

He fought with Jeremy's bodyguards for a while.

Then, the door opened and Jeremy walked out.

When he saw Jeremy, Daniel escaped from the bodyguards and ran toward the man. "Jeremy, you murderer! You killed Maddie!" he yelled as he was about to punch Jeremy.

Jeremy grabbed Daniel's hand indifferently, lifting his head to look at him with red eyes. "I said, no one's allowed to come and disturb my wife. Scram!" "Your wife?" Daniel was amused. "Jeremy, just ask yourself, when have you ever treated Maddie like she was your wife? Now that you've tortured her to death, you're here pretending like you have such deep love for her. Don't you think you're being hypocritical and ridiculous?"

It seemed as if Daniel's words had triggered the other man because dark clouds started appearing in Jeremy's eyes and on his face.

He pushed Daniel away, overwhelmed by anger. However, in the end, he only said one word." Scram!"

He shut the door of the operating theatre and once again, he locked himself and Madeline in the same enclosed space.

It was not real. 4

Madeline had to be pretending.

Then, he should put on this act with her. She would not be able to keep this up after some time.

However, he could not handle this anymore. No normal human could be able to withstand this for so long.

He reached out his trembling hands, his fingers landing softly on her face. The coldness traveled from his fingertips to his heart.

Jeremy felt a sting in the corner of his eyes. He could not control himself before holding Madeline's shoulder and placing her against his chest. While caressing her cheek, his first tear dropped on her face that had already lost its temperature. However, no matter how hot his tears were, it would never be able to warm her body again. 8 'Madeline, you said I'll regret this. It's true. I'm regretting this now. Can you wake up and look at my remorseful face?'

He hoped this was just an act. However, the passing time told him that the person in his arms was a dead person.

Jeremy did not think nor feel that he liked Madeline. Plus, he did not expect her to like him this much.

All this time, he thought a woman like Madeline was just an eyesore.

However, at this moment, the excruciating pain reminded him again and again that he liked Madeline. He liked her so very much.

The news of Madeline's death spread like wildfire. After Old Master Whitman knew about this, he was hospitalized from being too heartbroken. 7

Madeline was dead, and it was an undeniable truth. Of course, Meredith was the happiest person. Even though she did not get to enjoy the party that day, now everyone in Glendale knew that she was Jeremy's fiancée.

From now on, Madeline — the obstacle in her way — would be no more. No one would be able to threaten her position anymore!

As per Jeremy's request, Madeline's body was frozen and preserved.

Jeremy went back to the house for a while, but when he came back, he noticed that Madeline's body was gone.

He looked all over for her like he was crazy. He even hoped that Madeline had run away because she could not keep up with her act anymore. However, in the end, he saw fr the security footage that Ava had asked seone to take Madeline's body away. 3

Jeremy went to the funeral parlor with the clues fr the security footage.

When he was about to go in, he saw Ava walking out with an urn.

Jeremy was frozen in the snow. At this ment, he felt as if he was cmitting a sin fr just breathing. 6

Ava was crying heavily, and when she saw Jeremy, she walked around him. 7

Jeremy's eyes were red as he chased after Ava before stopping her. "Give it to me." 13The four words he said sounded light. It was as if he had used up all the energy in his body. "Jeremy, I won't give you Maddie anymore! Meeting you was the most unfortunate thing that ever happened to Maddie. Will you only be satisfied after you crush her bones into dust?"

When he listened to Ava's accusations, Jeremy felt his temples throbbing furiously. He reached out his hand, his tone sounding firm. "Give her to me!" "No! I'd rather die than give Maddie to you!"

When Jeremy saw that Ava was refusing to hand Madeline's ashes to him, he felt like he was going to explode.

He reached out to snatch it fr her, and of course, h e got it.

He carried Madeline's ashes and ran to the car. He heard Ava's curses behind him, so he quickly stepped on the accelerator. Then, he left the scene like a thief.

Ever since he was young, Jeremy would get everything he wanted. No one had ever gone against him except for Madeline. However, he lost his reputation and image just to snatch over a dead person's ashes.

He went to Madeline's he when she was still alive. He lay on the bed she slept in and tried to look for any trace of her as well as the warmth she left behind.

He decided to read Madeline's diary once again. After he opened it, he saw Madeline's feelings detailed in fragments. 1 '6th November. Sunny. 'Why can't I let go of him even until now? What's the purpose of protecting a man who doesn't even love me? He's able to hurt me to this extent and was also able to crush our daughter to dust, so why should I still yearn for him? Madeline Crawford, you deserve this. You deserve to be tortured by him. 4 '11th November. Gloy with rain. 'If there's a next life, I don't want to run into him again. I don't want to be in so much pain and go through so much torture . If time can be paused, I really hope it'd be paused the ment I ran into Jeremy in university. At least at that ment, he had smiled at me sincerely. 2 '20th November. Snowy with rain. 'My body hurts so much. I think I don't have much time left. I'll be able to go find my grandpa and my baby soon. They must be missing me. I want to stop this once and for all. I want to see my baby so much. I want to look at her face and hold her tiny body. I want to tell her that mmy loves her and that daddy actually loves her too, but he was blinded by a bad person. He'll be very remorseful and heartbroken when he finally finds out the truth.' 4

When Jeremy read that, his vision had started to bece blurry.

What was he blinded by in all these years?

He slowly flipped through the pages, and in the end, he saw ten words. Her handwriting was still nice and clean, but they were not very tidy.

The time recorded was the day before his engagement to Meredith. '20th February. Sunny. 'I hope I won't meet him in my next life.'

The ten simple words caused tears to fall fr Jeremy's eyes immediately.

She truly did not love him anymore.

There was only contempt.

From that day on, Jeremy started having problems sleeping. He could only sleep with the help of sleeping pills.

However, when he finally fell asleep during those long nights, he would still see Madeline's face in the middle of the night. 3

In the morning, Jeremy was focused on work and only work. It was as if he would not think about Madeline if he did that.

Meredith saw all of this happening in front of her eyes, so how would she be able to accept this?

She went to look for Jeremy. Sometimes, she would bring Jackson along to attract Jeremy's attention. However, he ignored them and turned a deaf ear.

Meredith was so mad that she hired someone to get Madeline's birthdate and star sign so that she could curse her a million times over. 3

She thought Jeremy was not concerned about Madeline at all, but she did not think that after she died, she would still occupy Jeremy's thoughts.

She thought Jeremy was only feeling remorse and upset for the first few days. She thought that he definitely would not think about her anymore after some time had passed. 3

However, as the days went on, Jeremy had stopped paying her any attention. He even started to ignore Jackson now. 7

She had been thinking about marrying Jeremy every day so that she could become the real Mrs. Whitman. However, it had been three years and their relationship did not change at all. 2

It had been three years and she could not wait anymore.

It was a bright and sunny summer afternoon. An adorable little girl was

holding the skirt of a young wan in Glendale Airport. 3 "Mmy, Mmy, I'm hungry."

The wan turned her head when she heard that. Her long wavy hair fluttered as she turned around. A benevolent smile was displayed on her stunning face. She picked up the adorable little girl who looked like an elf. "I'll bring you to eat sething yummy soon."

She started walking after picking up the girl. An elegant and poised aura started following her like it was her shadow.

On the way, she attracted a lot of praise and glances for her beauty and figure.

After they found a place to stay, she took the little girl out. "Mmy, I want a burger first." "Alright." The wan agreed. "Thank you, Mmy! You're the best mmy in the world!" The little girl circled her arms around the wan's neck and kissed her loudly on the cheek.

The wan laughed cheerfully, revealing her beautiful dimples. She pinched the little girl's cheek. "You have such a sweet mouth. Who taught you this?" 3 "Daddy did!" The little girl blinked with a serious look on her face. 5

The wan's smile froze after she heard that, but she did not say anything more.

It was the weekend and there were a lot of people in

KFC.

She held the little girl's hand as they placed their orders at the counter. After ordering, they found a place to sit down.

A little while later, the little girl blinked her crystal clear eyes and said, "Mmy, I want that too." 3

She pointed at a toy that came with the kid's meal. "Then you should wait for me here, Lilian. I'll bring the ducky for you in a bit." "Thank you, Mmy."

"Good girl."

The woman went back to the counter to order a kid's meal. When she took the toy to go back to her seat, she noticed that the little girl was gone.

Her expression changed. Her heart that had not felt any nervousness all these years started beating furiously.

Just as she was about to look for her daughter, she saw a tall and slender figure standing up from one of the tables with Lilian by their side. "Thank you." She heard Lilian thanking the man politely. 2

Then, her face changed when she saw the man as her heart started beating normally again.

Madeline took out her sunglasses from her bag and put them on. When she was about to walk over, she saw Meredith wandering into her vision. 12

This devil of a woman killed her baby daughter, disfigured her, blinded her, and even lied to her saying that a picture of a scenery was the photo of her daughter!

She did not think that she would run into her.

Indeed, enemies would often cross paths with each other.

Madeline's pupils constricted beneath the sunglasses. 'Meredith Crawford, I didn't die, so it means that your life is going to be over soon. 5 'This time, I'll make you pay with your blood.' 29 she

At this moment, the little girl lifted her head and spotted Madeline at a distance. A sweet smile appeared on her beautiful face. She opened her mouth to call out to Madeline.

Madeline made a shushing gesture and the little girl immediately understood. She pursed her lips together. On one side, Meredith was extremely unhappy when she saw Jeremy holding a little girl. However, she knew she could not show it. "Jeremy, whose child is this? Why do you keep holding her? Jack is waiting for us outside. Let's go."

She looked at Jeremy with a smile on her face, but then she rolled her eyes at Lilian who was in Jeremy's arms.

She did not know where this little thing came fr. She even looked similar to that country bumpkin, Madeline! "You can leave with Jack first. I'm waiting for the little girl's parents," Jeremy replied coldly. Just then, his eyes fell on Lilian.

For se reason, he felt a connection to her.

Meredith finally got to ask Jeremy out using Jackson as an excuse. She did not think she would be treated so coldly. She could not express her anger, so she could only turn around while pressing her lips together tightly.

Meredith was so focused on being upset that she did not see where she was going. When she walked past Madeline, she bumped into her shoulder.

Madeline took this opportunity to let go of the things in her hands.

The kid's meal fell to the floor, and the overturned coke splashed all over Meredith. Meredith's expensive Chanel skirt and shoes were soaking wet. She was already pissed, and now, she was furious. She released all of her anger on

Madeline. "Do you even know how to walk? Are you blind?" She turned around to cplain to Jeremy. She put o an aggrieved look on her face. "Jeremy, this wan dirtied my clothes and shoes."

Jeremy only turned his head around calmly. With just one glance, he was attracted by Madeline's back. 3

He felt his heart skip a beat. It was such an unusual feeling.

He walked over with Lilian in his arms.

Madeline looked at the furious Meredith and smirked calmly. "I think the blind person is you, Miss Foul Mouth. I've been standing here this entire

time and you're the one who crashed into me like a headless fly." "What did you say? How dare you call me a fly?! Do you know who I am? You..."

Meredith pointed at Madeline and shrieked.

However, when she lifted her head to look at the face behind the sunglasses, she was alarmed. Her eyes went extremely wide.

She looked at that face in disbelief. That face shape, those features...

Even though she could not see her eyes, those features looked eerily familiar. Meredith felt like it was getting harder to breathe the more she looked at this man's face.

When Madeline saw Meredith looking at her in shock, Madeline raised the corners of her lips and smiled softly. "Why do you look like that all of a sudden? Did you see a ghost?" "...". When she heard this, Meredith's expression changed. "What are you talking about? What ghost? Even if I see one, I'll destroy it!" 7

She argued back angrily and ran back to Jeremy. Her voice was extremely coquettish. "Jeremy, let's go now. I don't feel so well all of a sudden." "Sir, please put me down." Lilian wiggled her body.

Jeremy placed her down, but his eyes were still glued to Madeline's back.
3

Madeline felt someone staring at her, so she turned around calmly. Her hair fluttered as she did that, accentuating her fair face that was hidden by the sunglasses. 4

Jeremy's heart beat faster. He looked at the man who was walking toward him. She looked elegant and refined. In addition to that, she stood out among the crowd. "Sir, is this rude man your wife?" Madeline asked with a soft smile.

When Jeremy heard her voice, he could feel his heartbeat slowing down.

It was not her.

This was not her voice.

Of course, how would it be her?

She had already left this world. What was left of her were her ashes. "Of course I'm Jeremy's wife. The entire Glendale knows about this!" Meredith could not wait to announce her relationship with Jeremy.

Madeline said after suddenly realizing it. "So you're that famous Miss Montgomery, Meredith Crawford?"

When Meredith heard this, the arrogant smile on her face returned.

However, after a few seconds, Madeline added, "The wan who used her identity to force her sister, Madeline, to a deadend before stealing her sister's husband! You're that mistress, Meredith Crawford, right?"

Meredith's face fell, but she displayed an innocent look on her face. "Miss, how can you spew nonsense like that? When did I steal my sister's husband fr her? Jeremy and I have always been together, right, Jeremy? The person you love this whole time has been me and me only," she said, looking at Jeremy with an agreeable look.

However, Jeremy was only looking at Madeline. His gaze was so intense that it was as if he wanted to see through her sunglasses.

She looked exactly the same as Madeline even though he could not see her eyes. "Let's go," after a while, Jeremy said before walking away.

Meredith noticed that everyone around them was looking at her while criticizing her. She did not want to stay as well. After she glared at Madeline, she walked away quickly. 3

Madeline looked at Jeremy's back and called out to him, "Mr. Whitman, are you agreeing to what I said just now since you didn't deny it?"

Jeremy was about to push open the door to leave when he froze.

She had intentionally asked that to embarrass Jeremy and Meredith in

front of everyone. 3

Meredith was the mistress and the other man while he was the man who had an affair. What did it matter if they came from wealthy and reputable families? It would not get rid of the fact that they did such shameful things.

Madeline thought Jeremy would be mad after she said that and that he would defend Meredith. However, he turned around and lifted the corners of his lips into a smile.

After three years, his demeanor and appearance were even better now.

His irresistible charm came crashing, causing a few men to start blushing. 3 "You seem interested in my gossip, Miss." He smiled and handed her a card. "If you're interested, you can call me anytime to get more details."

Madeline took the card and smiled profoundly. "I think we'll meet very soon."

Jeremy was attracted to the wedding ring on Madeline's ring finger. When he heard Madeline saying that, he came back to his senses.

Meredith did not understand what Jeremy was doing, but she knew he was interested in that face.

That night, Madeline sat by the window in the hotel. She was working on her draft on her laptop. 6

She picked up Jeremy's card and took a look at it.

Then, she scoffed and threw it to one side. 'Jeremy, you didn't think that I'd still be alive, huh?' 10 "Mmy, Mmy, look! It's that annoying and evil man!" The little girl waddled over to Madeline and handed her the phone. 5

Madeline lowered her head to take a look. She noticed that it was a video of her and Meredith arguing in KFC. Someone had captured this scene and uploaded the video online.

Jeremy was a well-known person in Glendale, so it was only natural that everyone knew what happened between him and Meredith.

Now, Meredith's refusal to apologize after she ran into Seone in KFC and her arrogant attitude right after was being witnessed by everyone. Almost everyone was criticizing Meredith. They said that she was the daughter of a reputable family who did not have any basic manners.

On the contrary, a lot of people were praising Madeline. They said that she had a good attitude. Plus, they even said that she had a demeanor a young lady from a reputable family should have. A lot of them were also trying to guess what she looked like underneath those sunglasses.

She shut her laptop and looked at the lights outside of the french window. She smirked. 'Meredith, this is just the start.' 40

At this moment inside Whitman Manor.

Jeremy sat next to the bed lazily. He was holding his phone while watching a video that was going viral.

In the video, Meredith's menacing behavior made her lose her good reputation. All of a sudden, he was starting to wonder if this was the little girl he met when he was younger, Linnie.

He did not think much of it, but his eyes eventually landed on Madeline.

His heart started beating faster.

Those features looked just like hers.

However, despite looking similar, it was still a fact that Madeline had left him forever.

As Jeremy pondered, Madeline's sweet face appeared in his mind. His heart started aching uncontrollably again...

Maddie... "Jeremy, are you asleep?" Seone knocked on the door, and in the next moment, Meredith's voice came from outside. "Jeremy, I think you saw the video, right? I'm being maliciously slandered. Can you accompany and comfort me?" "Plus, the shop at the plaza in the city center is going to be up for auction soon. You promised that you'll buy it for my birthday present. Do

you still remember that, Jeremy?" 6

Her soft voice sounded from outside the door as she waited for Jeremy's reply. However, after a while, Jeremy's mother pulled her away quickly and lectured her. "You know that Jeremy hasn't been able to get any decent sleep for the past three years. Don't disturb him now that he's finally fallen asleep."

Meredith was already feeling miserable. Now, she was feeling even worse. "Didn't Jeremy's father buy some special aromatherapy kit from overseas to soothe Jeremy's nerves? His sleep has already improved a lot!" "That's not a reason to disturb him!" Even though Jeremy's mother was fond of Meredith, her son was more important. 3

Meredith clenched her fist as a fire of rage burned in her chest. However, she could not release her anger. "Madeline is the one who caused him to suffer from insomnia!" She pushed all of the blame onto Madeline. "That woman did so many evil things. It's karma that she's dead!" Jeremy's mother cursed as well. Then, she looked at Meredith. "I have to remind you not to disturb Jeremy when he's asleep. There's finally some progress but you're here making a fuss. Plus, the aromatherapy kit from that perfumer is hard to get."

Meredith scoffed in disdain. "Mrs. Whitman, don't be fooled. How would there be such amazing perfumers in the world? It's just a hoax. The reason Jeremy's sleep has improved is all because of me." 5

Jeremy's mother peered at Meredith. "That perfumer is the rising star of the industry. If it's fake, how can Jeremy sleep so soundly during this period?"

When Meredith heard this, she was even more pissed.

What perfumer? How could there be such people in the world?

She called someone to investigate this. After she got news about this, she found out that this perfumer, Nell, had gotten very popular in the past two years. Plus, the aromatherapy kit Nell created was indeed very efficient. 4

Meredith had an evil thought in her head. It had been so many years and

she used all kinds of ways to try to get Jeremy to sleep with her but failed. It was time she invested in something like this. 4

If she got pregnant 'again', then it would only be expected that Jeremy would marry her! 11

She asked someone to contact the mysterious rising star in the industry, Nell. 2

When she saw that Nell had accepted her order, Meredith transferred a lot of money over in a showy manner. Plus, she even ordered Nell to give her the finished product in three days. 3

Meredith had made up her mind and already chosen a time. After the auction, she would use the aratherapy kit to take down Jeremy. 7 On the other side, Madeline took a sip of her coffee slowly. She looked at the huge sum of money that was transferred to her bank account on her phone. She lifted the mirror and looked at her reflection.

She touched the place where the scars used to be. However, she would still feel a stinging pain even though she had only touched them lightly. 3

She put down the mirror and turned her elegant body. Then, she walked into the fashion boutique next door.

All of the rich and powerful upperclass elites in Glendale were going to the auction that was being held in the most luxurious sixstar hotel here.

They were going to auction off a huge shop in the busiest part of the plaza in the city center.

Meredith had been eyeing this shop for a very long time. She also hinted to Jeremy many times before for him to bid on this shop for her.

Back then, she had stolen Madeline's diary and the jewelry design drafts she left behind when she was in university. Even she needed to admit that Madeline's designs were outstanding.

Even though Eloise was letting her manage two shops, she was still

dissatisfied.

As such, she made up her mind to start her own brand once she got her hands on the shop. She would make a name for herself in the industry and crush all those brands that emerged during that period. Eventually, she would become an internationally well-known jewelry designer. 4

Meredith spent a lot of time and effort dolling herself up. She wanted to become the center of everyone's attention after she successfully got the shop. 3

On the other hand, she also wanted to attract Jeremy's attention.

Before they left, she did not forget to get an update regarding the aratherapy kit. It was the key item to whether she would be able to have sex with Jeremy tonight. However, she did not get any reply from the perfumer even after a long time. 5

Meredith was agitated, but she could not show it. She followed Jeremy into the hall. 3

Today was such a great opportunity. She was able to follow Jeremy to a place filled with the rich and famous, so she had to put on a good performance.

Jeremy was wearing a black custom-made suit. His charming and digneering aura was oozing from his bones. 3

Meredith was wearing a stunning gown while donning on the latest jewelry. She walked next to Jeremy while all dolled up in jewels. She had her usual mask of kindness and gentleness as she occasionally greeted the people around them. She enjoyed the envious gazes the other socialites gave her and all the men ogling her. 2 "Jeremy, let's sit there," Meredith blinked and said sweetly.

Jeremy pulled his arm away from Meredith emotionlessly.

If this hotel was not under his name, he would not even be in attendance.

Meredith felt an emptiness in her hands, making her frustrated. However,

she still kept the smile on her face as everyone was looking at her and Jeremy. She enjoyed the feeling of being in the center of attention too much. 2

The auction soon started. Meredith sat next to Jeremy happily. However, at that moment, everyone's gazes left her and were all focused on the entrance of the hall.

Meredith's face fell. She caught a lithe and beautiful figure sashaying over slowly from the corner of her eyes.

She turned around to look closely. When she saw the person walking over with a pair of sunglasses on her face, Meredith could not maintain her hypocritical smile anymore. "Hmph, what a small world!" Meredith gritted her teeth. She still had not forgotten about what happened in KFC that day.

Jeremy was initially not bothered by the emotion, but all of a sudden, he felt that something was amiss.

He subconsciously turned around to look over at the scene. When he saw the woman in a long dress and magnolia white suit jacket sashaying over, his eyes lit up. 7

It was her! Madeline could see Meredith's cracked smile from underneath her sunglasses.

She walked over while remaining calm and collected. She could feel the eyes of everyone in the room glued on her.

Back then, she did not know how to put on makeup or doll herself up. She did not even know how to walk after putting on high heels.

At that point in time, she was an ugly duckling that even a beggar would look down on.

However, everything was different now.

Every dog had its day. Ten years later, Madeline Crawford was not who she was back then.

Madeline smiled sweetly while sitting in an empty seat behind Meredith in a calm and composed manner.

Jeremy's eyes were on her the entire time. Until now, he was still looking at her.

When Meredith noticed that Jeremy's attention was on Madeline, she clenched her fists in anger.

Jeremy was indeed moved by that b*tch Madeline. If not, why would he stare at her just because she looked similar to Madeline?

Madeline noticed Jeremy staring at her. Perhaps, this was the gaze that she had longed for the most back then, but now, she did not care.

After she sat down, Madeline heard whispers from all around her. "Who's that woman? Is there someone like her in our circle?" "Look at her bracelet and necklace. Those are from the latest Miss Lady collection. Only their honorary members are allowed to buy them." "I think this woman is someone extraordinary. I wonder what she looks like. She's so mysterious with her sunglasses." "Mysterious? Pah! Those might even be fake. She probably wormed her way in here to get a free meal! The star of today is Jeremy Whitman's fiancée, Meredith. Everyone knows that Jeremy will surely get the shop today because he wants to give it to Meredith as her birthday present!"

Madeline only smiled lightly when she heard those voices of suspicion.

After a while, the auctioneer arrived. After his opening remarks, the auction started officially.

The item of the auction was a shop on First Crystal Street. The base price was five million dollars.

Even though they knew Jeremy was going to win the auction no matter what, a lot of people were still trying to bid for the shop as it was located in the busiest part of the city center. The revenue that it would generate would be much more than the base price.

Every time someone lifted their placard, Meredith would follow suit.

The price was then raised to 8.8 million dollars.

It was a good number. Meredith lifted her placard and smiled widely. She was very confident. ³ She knew no one in this room would dare to fight with her for this anymore.

The reason was that she had Jeremy and the Montgerys backing her up. "8.8 million going once," the auctioneer started announcing. "8.8 million going twice." Still, no one lifted their placards. ² "8.8 million going thrice..." "10 million."

When the auctioneer was about to slam his gavel down, a loud and clear sound interrupted him.

Meredith had been basking in happiness that she even felt like she was going to rise to heaven, but at that moment, her heart plunged into a bottomless abyss.

The huge contrast lit the burning flames of anger in her heart.

She looked at Madeline who was sitting behind her, following other people's gazes.

Madeline put down her placard calmly and smiled lightly. "Miss Crawford, if you want the shop that badly, you can continue." "... Madeline's face fell. She turned around and started simpering to Jeremy. "Jeremy, I really like that shop..." ¹⁹ "Just continue bidding if you like. No need to ask me," Jeremy replied flatly.

Meredith beamed. She lifted her placard. "11 million!" She generously added one million.

Madeline looked at Jeremy. 'Indeed, you're still spoiling that cruel and heartless two-faced b*tch. ³ 'Jeremy, not only are you blind, but you're also heartless. You still can't see Meredith's true face after so many years.'

Madeline pondered and said after parting her pink lips, "15 million." After she said that, everyone looked at her with shock on their faces.

Meredith was so angry that she almost ripped the placard into pieces. Was this wan purposely going against her?

Who did she think she was? How dare she go against her?!

How would Meredith allow this? She lifted the placard again. Everyone thought Meredith would add on a few million dollars, however, she only added 500,000 dollars.

The ment she finished saying that, Madeline said nonchalantly, "20 million." "Wow..."

Everyone exclaimed.

Meredith could not stand this anymore. She suppressed the fire of rage inside her and glared at Madeline. She then forced out an innocent and gentle smile. "Miss, were you hired by the other party to ce here to deliberately raise the price? Everyone knows that my fiancé is going to buy this shop for me as m y birthday present. Could it be that you enjoy stealing things fr others?" "Steal things fr others? Isn't that what you're good at, Miss Crawford?" 3

Madeline's face fell. "WWhat do you mean?" 22 "Nothing," Madeline smirked profoundly. "I just want to ask you, Miss Crawford, is your name on the shop now? If yes, then just pretend I didn't say anything. If no, then please respect the rules of an auction. The highest bidder wins." "You..." Meredith was speechless and gritted her teeth in anger. She wanted to raise the placard to continue bidding, but she did not dare to add on too much. As such, she could only look at Jeremy." Jeremy..."

Jeremy looked at Meredith with a blank expression. He said flatly, "She's right. The highest bidder wins."

Meredith did not have anything to say to that.

At this ment, the auctioneer started repeating the amount Madeline proposed.

Meredith was livid and frantic. When she came back t o her senses and

was about to bid again, the auctioneer had already slammed the gavel down.

The auctioneer invited Madeline to the stage. She walked up the stage as everyone gawked at her.

She was walking slowly, her every movement graceful. She had a charming aura that one could not put their fingers on no matter how they thought about it.

The auctioneer smiled and asked, "What's your name, beautiful lady?"

Madeline smiled and said, "My last name is Quinn."

Quinn?

Jeremy thought about this last name. It was pretty rare. 2

Meredith was grinding her teeth at one side, glaring at Madeline who was on the stage while baring her teeth.

She was supposed to be the main character tonight, but at the last moment, her spotlight was stolen by this woman who had seemingly appeared out of nowhere! 3

She would not be able to let this go no matter what! 2

The contract was signed with everyone in the room as witnesses. The auctioneer announced that Madeline was the new owner of the shop on First Crystal Street and congratulated her.

Thunderous claps sounded from below the stage as well.

Madeline stood on the stage gracefully. Through her sunglasses, she saw Meredith fuming and felt extremely pleased. 2

When she was about to say something, she saw Jeremy getting up and walking toward her. "Jeremy, where are you going?" Meredith wanted to stop him, but Jeremy did not turn back.

He walked up to the stage and looked at the dimples on Madeline's cheeks. He hesitated for a while before saying, "As the owner of this hotel, I'm happy that the event has ended perfectly."

He held out his hand to Madeline. "Miss Quinn, congratulations." Meredith looked at Jeremy's hand and felt that this entire scene was extremely ironic. 15

Back then, she had longed to hold his hand so much, but now, all of those longings were gone.

She smiled and held out her hand. However, she did not shake Jeremy's hand. On the contrary, she removed the sunglasses on her face. 3

The moment she removed them, she saw Jeremy's expression freeze over. Even the air around them started to freeze. 5

However, Madeline smiled while maintaining the same expression on her face. She held Jeremy's frozen hand and said, "Thanks." 8 "Thanks."

The word she uttered so softly lingered in his ear. However, it landed heavily on Jeremy's heart.

When Jeremy saw this stunning face in front of him, he felt as if he had turned into a sculpture. In that split second, he lost all of his senses and consciousness.

He even felt that he might be dreaming. 2

The beautiful face in front of him was so glaring.

It was so painful! 'Maddie!'

He could not control himself from screaming out her name in his heart.

His heart that had fallen into a deep slumber for the past three years was abruptly woken up.

Madeline smiled lightly when she saw Jeremy's reaction. 'Are you

surprised, Jeremy? 'The exwife you despise isn't dead yet. 'However, I'm not that Madeline Crawford who loved you so much that she abandoned all self respect, selflove, and even herself.' 3 "I'm sorry, Mr. Whitman. I still have se things to take care of, so I'll get going now." Madeline retracted her hand and walked past Jeremy elegantly and calmly.

When the warmth was removed fr his hand, Jeremy jolted back to his senses. 3

An extraordinary fragrance invaded his nostrils as h e turned around to see Madeline walking toward the side door. 3

Jeremy did not hesitate and turned around to follow her.

Everyone below the stage was looking at each other after they saw this happening in front of their eyes. 2

Even though there were people in the crowd who had seen Madeline before, three years was a long time, so no one had any impression of her anymore. 2

They just thought that this face looked nice and yet, so familiar.

The multicolored neon lights intertwined with each other in the city at night. 3

Madeline walked out of the door, but before she could go far, she saw Jeremy fr the side mirror of the car that was parked on the side of the road.

His expression was grim, looking so intense that no one could tell what he was thinking about. 3 "Madeline !" She heard him calling out her name.

Madeline smiled in secret and continued walking forward, unperturbed. She looked into the side mirror of the car with the corner of her eyes and saw

Jeremy chasing after her.

When he was behind her, he reached out his hand to grab her wrist. "Madeline!" he called out again, his voice sounding astonished.

Madeline stopped. She displayed a look of innocence and shock as she blinked slowly. "Mr. Whitman, why are you following me? Why are you holding my wrist?"

Jeremy's deep eyes were staring into Madeline's dazed eyes. The night cast a shadow on his features, making them look even more abstruse. "Madeline, you're not dead!" he exclaimed as he held Madeline's wrist tighter.

It was as if Madeline would disappear if he let go of her.

He would not allow her to disappear from his world again.

Madeline looked at Jeremy in confusion. "Mr. Whitman, I don't know what you're talking about. My name isn't Madeline, it's Vera Quinn."

Jeremy's eyes became darker after he heard that. "You are! You are Madeline!"

He stared into her eyes. Even though this face was a clone, he believed there would be no other eyes that looked like those in this world.

Madeline stayed silent for a few seconds after hearing that. Then, she smiled and said, "I heard that Madeline was Mr. Whitman's cruel and despicable exwife. Do I look like her? Did you chase after me because you think your hateful exwife has come back to life?" When he heard Madeline's words, Jeremy's face went cold.

He pressed his thin lips tightly together and grabbed Madeline's chin all of a sudden.

Madeline did not expect him to do this. However, she managed to quickly dodge away. "Mr. Whitman, you have a fiancée. Please have some respect for yourself." She reminded him.

However, Jeremy's face was icy as he stared piercingly at Madeline. "You say you're not her, but do you have the guts to show me your left chest

area?" 3

He would never forget the mole on Madeline's left chest. It was extremely glaring on her fair and smooth skin.

After he said that, Madeline's face fell. "Mr. Whitman, are you joking? Do you think I'll let you see that part of my body? Please let go of me." 2

He stared at the beautiful eyes in front of him. "Are you feeling guilty? Is that why you won't show me? Madeline, why aren't you dead yet?" "Why didn't you come back to me if you're alive and well?" 3 "Why am I not dead yet?" 2 "Am I such an obstacle in your life just because I'm alive? Do you want me to die again so badly?"

After he said that, Madeline smiled. "Mr. Whitman, you're hilarious. I told you my name is Vera Quinn. I'm not your exwife, Madeline Crawford. If you don't let me go, I'll call the cops." 3

At this moment, a car stopped next to Madeline. The window of the car was rolled down and a man's voice called out to her. "Vera, I heard you won the auction and you're now the owner of the shop. Let's go have a few drinks to celebrate! Who's that? Why is he holding your hand?"

Jeremy felt that this questioning voice sounded extremely annoying. Then, he heard Madeline introducing him calmly. "This is the young master from the most influential family in Glendale. He's also the president of Crawford Corporation, Mr. Jeremy Whitman." 7 "Oh, it's him. Why is he holding your hand?"

Madeline chuckled lightly. "He says I look like his dead exwife." "Pah! There are so many similar-looking people in this world and you look like someone who died? Say, Mr. Whitman, is this a trick to get to know Vera? I've seen all kinds of cheap tricks, but there are too many men out there who want to get to know our Vera. If you're interested, you can get in line."

Jeremy's face became icier when he heard that. His bottleless eyes were still glued on Madeline.

Madeline used this chance to retract her hand. Then, she got into the car.

In an instant, Jeremy felt an emptiness in his hand. At the same time, he felt his heart getting empty as well. "I'll see you when I see you, Mr. Whitman."

Madeline sat in the car and smiled at Jeremy. Then, the window was rolled up slowly. Nhớ đọc truyện t*rên Truyện88.vip để ủng hộ team nha !!!

The car drove further away. Madeline looked at the tiny figure in the rearview mirror and lifted her hand to tidy the hair on her forehead.

Jeremy stood in place as the darkness of the night blurred his vision.

They had the same face, but she said she was not her. 3 Jeremy frowned.

His heart started beating normally again.

Indeed, she was not.

Madeline would not have that sharp and mature gaze. Plus, she would also not have such a thought provoking smile.

She had always been simple, and she simply loved him for so many years.

Jeremy's heart sank once again.

Meredith had looked all over for Jeremy before she finally found him. "Jeremy, why are you here? The wan just now..."

Jeremy ignored Meredith and just went straight he.

On the way, he contacted his trusted assistant, Ken Baker. "Investigate a wan named Vera Quinn for me. I need the information tomorrow morning."

On this night, Jeremy tossed and turned in bed. In the end, he could only fall asleep with the special aratherapy kit. 4

The next morning, he sped to the office. Ken followed behind him and handed him the information he got. When Ken looked at the photo of the wan, his expression was abnormal. 4 "Mr. Whitman, isn't this Madeline, your exwife who has been dead for three years?" 6After Jeremy heard

that, his hands froze as they were trying to flip open the documents.
"You're dismissed."

Ken did not ask much before leaving.

Jeremy flipped through the documents quickly, and the information on them was simple.

Vera Quinn was from F Country. She grew up in F Country and had never come to Glendale before. She studied psychology in university and had lots of interests. There was close to zero information about her social life.

It just stated that she had a very close male friend. 1

Her boyfriend.

Jeremy felt a thorn in his heart. When he first met her in KFC, he remembered she was wearing a ring on her ring finger. 1

Was she engaged?

Jeremy lit a cigarette and white smoke escaped from his lips. The smoke then blurred his expression.

While looking at this photo, his mind started to wander.

After a short while, Jeremy started to put his attention on Ava. 1

Back then, Ava was the one who brought Madeline's body to the funeral parlor. When he got there, she was the one who walked out with the urn. 3

He never suspected whether it was Madeline's ashes or not. 3

However, now...

Jeremy went to Ava's office and followed her for the entire day. He also hired someone to track Ava's calls for the past few days but found nothing suspicious.

Ava was Madeline's best friend. If she was still alive, it was impossible for her not to contact Ava.

Although, she could intentionally choose not to contact Ava so that he would not be suspicious.

If he was able to do a DNA test on the ashes, he would have done it.

Unfortunately, he could not.

Madeline woke up early and braided her daughter's hair. Then, she sent the little girl to kindergarten.

When she was about to leave, Madeline turned around and her attention was attracted by a little boy who was talking toward the entrance.

Madeline could tell immediately that it was Jackson.

Since it had been three years, he would be five years old now. His young and childish face changed a lot. He looked more handsome now and his eyes similar to Jeremy's. He looked

This was Jeremy and Meredith's child. Madeline knew she did not hate or resent Jackson, but every time she saw him, she would recall her child who had died tragically. 8 Truyện88.vip trang we*b cập nhật nhanh nhất

Madeline pursed her lips as the fire of resentment rose in her heart uncontrollably.

At this moment, Jackson spotted Madeline.

There was shock on his cute face. "Maddie," he called out to Madeline. 1

Madeline unclenched her fists in secret and smiled gently at Jackson. "Are you calling me, little boy?"

Jackson was curious about Madeline's question. His long and thin eyes looked at Madeline up and down in puzzlement. Then, he averted his gaze quickly. "I'm sorry, I got the wrong person." After he said that, he walked

to the front door. "Jackson." At this moment, Jeremy's voice sounded far not far away.

Madeline stopped in her tracks. She turned around to look at him.

Jeremy was walking over with a frigid and elegant aura surrounding him.

It was a beautiful sunny day, but when she looked into Jeremy's eyes, she felt that it was abnormally glaring.

Jeremy looked at Madeline thoughtprovokingly.

Then, he walked to Jackson and handed him his lunchbox. 2

Jackson took the lunchbox before leaving. The father and son did not say anything to each other, looking more like strangers instead. Jeremy was already quite used to meeting her this way. He raised his eyebrows, gazing deeply at Madeline's unblemished, picturesque face.

He obviously did not forget that there used to be two deep wounds on the right side of Madeline's face. Those wounds never really healed, up until the day she stopped breathing.

However, the face in front of him had a flawless smile, and her skin was completely smooth. In short, she was stunning. "Miss Vera, our fates seem quite intertwined," Jeremy said in a casual tone.

Madeline looked at the man in front of her and let out a vibrant smile. "It seems like Mr. Whitman is quite sober today. You're no longer mistaking me for your dead exwife."

Jeremy furrowed his eyebrows, looking quite dissatisfied.

However, he did not voice it out and instead continued smiling as he said, "I wonder if I can have the honor of treating you to dinner?"

Madeline knitted her eyebrows together. "Dinner might not be possible, but I'm free for lunch today."

Jeremy was very happy at Madeline's agreement. 3

However, the happiness lasted for only two seconds before his heart started to ache. 2

He suddenly thought of Madeline.

He recalled the days when they were married, how she would prepare his meals every day, waiting for him to get he. However, he never once treated her well.

Now, he was trying to use this wan who looked exactly like Madeline to regain the happiness and love that used to be his.

Madeline went back to the store, checking on the renovations as she prepared for the grand opening.

Before it even struck 11, Jeremy arrived.

Jeremy had changed his car. He was currently driving a white limited edition sports car.

As he stopped in front of the shop, he drew quite a lot of attention. The attention was all focused on Jeremy when he got out of the car.

He was a young man in his prime, coupled with Jeremy's flawless looks, he was the dream guy in every wan's heart. 2

He opened the door for Madeline in a gentlemanly manner before leaving.
3

As Madeline sat on the passenger seat, she could not help but mock him in her heart. She had loved him s o much before and even married him. However, he hated her and thought she was filthy. He never even let her touch his car, let alone sit on the passenger seat. 5 However, he now invited a wan he only knew for more than a day to sit in his car. 3

It was obvious to her how low her position in his heart was back then. 2

Jeremy brought Madeline to the restaurant in the middle of the city. Madeline remembered this restaurant very clearly.

They even sat in the exact spot next to the window. Even though they had changed since then, she never forgot the humiliation she suffered at his hands.

Jeremy ordered a few dishes, and Madeline remembered that they were pretty much the same as what was ordered that day. Even the drinks were the same. 'So, he still thinks I'm his despicable dead exwife? Did he invite me for a meal just to investigate?' "Miss Vera, it's your first time in the city, and you probably don't know much about our local specialties. I've specifically ordered these dishes for you. They're all signature dishes of the restaurant. Please have a try." "Thank you, Mr. Whitman, but I'm quite partial to grapes, and the best drink to pair with steak is wine. Do you mind ordering a bottle of wine for me?" Ủng hộ team chúng mình bằng cách theo dõi truyệ*n tại Truyện88.vip

Jeremy paused for a second before shooting her a seductive smile. "Of course."

Meredith had felt that something was off since last night. She kept feeling like Jeremy seemed to be interested in the man who stole the store from him.

She got someone to follow Jeremy at the start of the day, and she received a slew of photos of Jeremy together with another person thanks to that. 2

The photos were taken outside of Jeremy's view, and they had to be sneakily taken, so they were not very clear. However, there was the obvious silhouette of a man. It was just that the man's face could not be seen. "Seductress!" Meredith exploded in anger.

The moment she knew Jeremy brought that man to the restaurant, Meredith immediately grabbed her bag and rushed over there. 4When Meredith reached the place, she immediately saw Jeremy sitting next to the window. Even if she had only seen his back, Meredith would never mistaken him for anyone else.

However, Meredith did not see another man sitting in front of Jeremy. After thinking about it, she figured that the man could have just gone to the washroom. Meredith did not bother greeting Jeremy and headed straight to the washroom instead.

Looking around, she failed to find anyone who was wearing the same outfit as the man in the picture she saw.

Meredith cursed in her heart before tidying her appearance and putting on her best smile to go look for Jeremy. However, the moment she headed over, she noticed that Jeremy had disappeared as well. 4

She hurried down the elevator but only managed to see Jeremy's white-colored sports car speeding away in front of her, and in the passenger seat was a man.

Meredith gritted her teeth in anger, immediately calling Jeremy. The phone call went through, but no one answered.

At night, Madeline was earnestly designing some new jewelry on her computer when a little girl ran next to her. She climbed up her leg and into her embrace. It was just like a kitten cozying up to a human. "Mmy, Mmy, I met another boy today. He gave me a cute lollipop. I really liked it." 3

Madeline looked down at the little girl who was cuter than a doll, kissing her tenderly as she said, "Is that so? Then did you give the boy something back?" "Yes!" Lily nodded earnestly. "I gave the boy the yellow duck you gave me, but he said he didn't want it." "Is that so..." "I know, I'll give this to Jackie tomorrow!" Lily suddenly jumped off Madeline and ran toward the coffee table.

Madeline's expression changed subtly. "Lily, what's the boy's name?" "Jackson Whitman. He has the same surname as I do!" 8

Madeline was stunned and mentally speechless. Suddenly, the phone rang, snapping her back to reality. 4

Looking at the caller, Madeline immediately picked it up. A man's gentle tone could be heard from the other end. "Are you used to being back in Glendale?" "Yes." Madeline nodded, going silent for a few seconds before asking, "When will you be back?"

The man astutely realized something was off. "Did something happen?" "Lily met

Jackson Whitman. She seems to like him, so I'm a little worried." "Both of them are just little kids. Don't overthink it.

Nothing will happen, so get some rest." 4 Madeline calmed down significantly after listening to his words. She smiled. "You should get some rest as well. Good night." 7

Her mind was still active after the call.

If not for that man, she would have died years ago. Cập nhật nhanh nhất trên* Truyện88.vip

Instead, her dreams came through and she was living the life she always wanted. She even had the ability to return to Glendale to seek revenge.

Madeline managed to find some pictures of Jeremy and Meredith's engagement from the internet. Remembering how she had gone there to offer her 'gift', her expression drastically changed.

Meredith's birthday as the daughter of the

Montgeries was fast approaching. That day, Madeline would give her a birthday she would never forget.

In the few days that followed, Madeline was very busy preparing for the opening ceremony of her shop on First Crystal Street. 4

No one knew what she had gone through in the past three years.

Behind everyone's clueless backs, she knew that she had to make herself even more powerful in order to make the ones she hated pay the price.

In the following days, Meredith noticed that Jeremy had pretty much visited the shop at Crystal Street every day. He never entered and only waited inside his car, but Meredith could clearly see that he was always talking to a man. 5

She clearly saw that the man's silhouette was the same as the man she had an incident with at KFC the same man who looked incredibly similar to Madeline. After investigating, she found out that the man was called Vera Quinn. Meredith felt like she was in trouble, so she once again put on a

show of spraining her foot. She made Rose exaggerate the story of her injury to Jeremy, wanting to trick him into visiting her at the Montgomery household.

The room was large and beautiful, elegantly decorated. Even the cloakroom was filled with various luxury goods.

Meredith was obviously enjoying everything that should have belonged to Madeline. She had never felt a shred of remorse, and even Brittany's death caused her to swell with pride at how decisively she handled it. 3

Only an intelligent and capable woman like her deserved the life of the upper society.

Madeline and Brittany were unworthy of being her opponents.

As such, how could she possibly lose to Vera Quinn— a woman who had appeared out of nowhere?!

While indulging in her own thoughts, Meredith heard the sound of Jeremy's footsteps. She immediately lay in bed like a frail patient, putting on a pair of pitiful eyes. "Jeremy, you've come to see me."

Jeremy saw Meredith's right leg wrapped up in bandages and asked, "Are you alright?" "Since you're here, I'll be fine." Meredith reached out her hand to Jeremy, craving to touch him.

However, Jeremy did not hold her hand and stopped his advance. "Since you're fine, I'll just head off for now. I still have a lot of things to do." 3

Meredith was stunned as her expression changed immediately. "Jeremy, don't go!"

She pretended to fall off the bed in agitation, sobbing as she reached for Jeremy. "Jeremy, don't go! Please don't leave me!" As she cried, she immediately put on a hurt face. "Jeremy, why have you been treating me so coldly? It's been three years. Why are you still unwilling to marry me? Have you stopped loving me? Did you forget your promise of making me your

wife all those years ago? Did Madeline's death cause you to believe her slander, that it was me who blinded her?" 3

Jeremy stopped in his steps, her words causing his face to visibly freeze.
2

Slander.

Why did he feel like that word was a joke? "Jeremy..."

Meredith was still trying to continue when Jeremy's phone rang. As soon as he picked it up, the graceful and clear voice of a man could be heard on the other end. "Mr. Whitman, thank you for the flowers. I like them a lot." 3
The room was very quiet, so quiet that Meredith immediately recognized the voice as belonging to Vera!

Her heart was immediately filled with rage as she listened to Jeremy speaking to that man in a warm tone. She felt like exploding on the spot!
"Get some rest. I'm going to get some work done,"

Jeremy said coldly before leaving. Cập nhật chương mới nhất tại
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Not long after that, Meredith heard the sound of a car starting outside her window. She jumped up in embarrassment and anger, throwing things around her room in frustration.

After venting out her anger, she changed into a set of expensive clothes and picked up an expensive bag before rushing over to the shop on First Crystal Street. 2

When she got there, the front of the store was filled with flowers. Soon, she managed to spot the basket that Jeremy had given, causing Meredith's rage to soar.

She went inside while forcing herself to maintain a smile as she wanted to protect her graceful image in front of everyone.

There were a lot of shops around here and she was afraid that she would be photographed by someone.

However, recalling that Jeremy had basically forgotten her for this wan, Meredith struggled to maintain the smile on her face. "Vera Quinn! Who's Vera Quinn? Ce out!" she shouted, attracting a lot of attention.

A female staff member immediately went outside. " Miss, do you need anything fr our boss?" "Boss?" Meredith smiled coldly, arrogance shining i her eyes as she said, "Where's Vera Quinn? Tell her I wish to see her!" 3

Meredith was just done shouting when she felt seone ce up behind her. "I'm Vera. Miss Crawford, we meet again." (5When Meredith heard the voice, her eyes lit up in fury. These three years, she had been quite unhappy with Jeremy's cold treatment. Now, this wan came out of nowhere to attract Jeremy's attention, causing her to snap in anger.

However, due to the incident at KFC, Meredith was working hard to control her temper. She put on a smile as she said, "So you're that Vera wan who has been getting very close to my fiancé lately..." 2

She said those words as she turned around.

However, before she could even finish her sentence, she gazed upon Madeline's beautiful and smiling face that instantly made her freeze. 2 Her eyes widened as she gaped at the face in front of her in disbelief. 2 "How, how... Madeline?!" Meredith's tongue was tied as she retreated. "How is this possible..."

She denied it in her heart. 2 'How is that possible?! 'That blind b*tch had long since turned into ashes, s o how could she appear in front of me like this now! 'That's impossible!

Madeline smiled as she looked at the rapidly changing expressions on Meredith's face. Her frantic expression gave Madeline quite a bit of cfort. 'Meredith Crawford, so you do understand what fear is.' "Miss Crawford, are you okay? You look quite unwell. Do you want me to send you to the hospital?"

Madeline walked closer toward Meredith, but the latter frantically retreated in fright. 1

Looking at her honest reaction, Madeline smiled and said, "What's wrong, Miss Crawford? Why do you look like you've just seen a ghost? Do you think I'm going to eat you?"

Meredith finally cposed herself at those words, furiously putting on an astonished face. "Madeline, you're not dead?" 4

She stared at that beautiful face, uttering, "How is that possible? How are you still alive? Your eyes, your face..." How did they recover so flawlessly?!

Looking at Meredith's astonished look, Madeline suddenly feigned realization. "I think you're mistaking me for that dead Madeline just like Mr. Whitman?" 3

Meredith stared at Madeline in suspicion. "What you mean is that you're not Madeline?" Cập nhật chương mới nhất tại Truyện88.vip

Madeline smiled, adopting a casual posture as she stood in her high heels in front of Meredith. "Miss Crawford, you're free to take a good look. Do I really look that much like your dead sister?" Madeline was a little taller than Meredith, and she was smiling as she looked down. Meredith looked up for a while before slowly cposing herself. After a few seconds, she let out a cold laugh like nothing had happened. "You do look quite alike, but you're very different fr Maddie." Meredith's attitude changed drastically as she looked at Madeline in contempt. My sister was obedient and mindful. She wouldn't have seduced an engaged man like what you're doing now!" 3

Meredith made sure to shout that last sentence loudly, causing the workers and custers in the store to look at Madeline curiously. 7 "Vera Quinn, I'm here today to tell you this. If you care at all about your reputation, you should stop seducing my fiancé. I'll never let anyone destroy my marriage!" "Miss Crawford, you're free to shut up if you don't know how to speak properly. No one will think you're mute if you don't talk.

Mr. Crawford and I have done nothing out of the ordinary. Even if you don't trust me, surely you should trust your own fiancé?" 14 "You..." "If my memory serves me right, even Miss Crawford was a mistress before this. Don't you think the words that are cing out of your mouth are quite funny?"

Meredith was speechless as her face soured. She saw that the gazes surrounding them were quickly changing, so she adopted a look as if she was wronged. 2 "Miss Quinn, I don't know where you heard those rumors fr, but I've always been together with Jeremy. It's my sister Madeline who fell in love with him and hatched a plot to sleep with him, forcing Jeremy to marry her. Now, Madeline is already dead, so I don't enjoy bringing this up, but I won't allow anyone to insult me like that!" 5 "You won't allow anyone to insult you, but it's fine i f you insult me to my face? Miss Crawford, I heard that you're the daughter of the Montgery family. Does a noble lady like you think she's above basic manners?" Meredith was speechless, but she reacted quickly. She reddened her eyes as she gently said, "Miss Quinn, I didn't mean it like that. I just love Jeremy s o much, which is why I... I'm sorry, I've troubled you." 3

Meredith said those words and walked away tearfully.

After a while, two other people walked into the shop. Madeline would never forget the evil faces of Rose and Jon Crawford.

She once believed that they really did treat her as their own daughter. However, it was all proven false i the end. She had treated them with such

loyalty, but they still decided to beat her up, even almost costing her her life. 3

Madeline naturally knew they were here to question her under Meredith's orders. The moment the two of them stepped inside, they were looking around frantically.

A young worker politely greeted them. "Do you two need any recommendations?" 6

Rose and Jon dismissively looked at the jewelry on display. "We want to buy a bracelet for our daughter, but we don't know how to pick one out. Ask your supervisor to recommend something to us.

Their goal was obvious, and when Madeline heard their words, she casually turned around.

When the staff saw Madeline, he greeted her. "Miss Vera, the two customers here wish to pick out a bracelet for their daughter. Are you free to help them?" Truyện88.vip trang web cập nhật nhanh nhất

Madeline smiled. "Of course." She walked toward Rose and Jon after that.

When they looked at the source of the voice and saw Madeline walking

over, they were instantly surprised.

They had done so many wicked things, so it was hard not to be frightened when looking at Madeline's face. "Madeline!" "You... How are you still alive?!"

Rose and Jon said at the same time.

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows when she heard that and proceeded to put on a casual smile. "It seems like I really do look quite a bit like this woman named Madeline. Did the two of you come here because you were curious about how I look?" 6 "Look like? You're definitely Madeline!" Rose pointed at Madeline accusingly. "I'll never forget your face even if I die! Speak up, why are you not dead? What have you come back for? Are you trying to ruin Meredith and Jeremy's relationship? How could you be so despicable?! So what if you're alive? I'll kill you anyway, you despicable b*tch!" 11

A slew of insults flew out of Rose's mouth as she raised her hand up and aimed it right at Madeline's face. 10 Smack! Smack!

Not only did Rose's slap not hurt Madeline at all, but she was currently holding onto her wrist tightly. Madeline still vividly remembered all those slaps and beatings she had suffered before.

The moment she regained her sight, she had sworn to herself that she would never let anyone bully her again! "You, let me go!" Rose shouted as she struggled in anger.

However, Madeline was quite strong. Thanks to the strength her hatred had given her, she was no longer a weakling anyone could pick on!

"Madam, please watch your tone! If you're here as a customer, I'll welcome you anytime. However, if you're here to cause trouble, then get lost right now!" Madeline's eyes were piercing as she put force into uttering every word, looking very imperious.

Rose stared for a few seconds, seemingly shocked into silence by Madeline's imposing manner.

At that time, Jon started to get angry. He reached out to help Rose.

However, Madeline did not give him a chance. She immediately pushed Rose's hand away. Rose did not manage to stabilize herself and her fat body went tumbling into Jon. 6

Jon had wanted to avoid the crash, but he was not quick enough. Rose caused him to slam into one of the counters as the two of them fell down, even causing the accessories on the counter to fall as well. "Ouch!" Rose shouted in pain before shouting, " Madeline, you b*tch!" 2

Madeline sneered as her eyes lit up in anger.

Was she going to make a scene just because of that?

That was barely a scratch compared to everything the two of them had done to her!

Rose and Jon angrily stood up before turning around to prepare to curse at Madeline when a staff member next to them picked up the broken accessories. Two of you, you've broken our accessories. According to the law, you need to pay for all of them!" 5 "Pay for what?! I only fell down because that b*tch pushed me!" Rose pointed at Madeline. "Madeline you b*tch, you don't even know how to die properly! You dare push me? I'll kill you right now!"

Rose was preparing to rush over, but Madeline stepped forward without even intending to retreat. She could not bother to put up with any more nonsense and took out her phone right away. Officer, I'm here at First Crystal Street. There are two crazy people causing a scene here. One of them is saying that she wants to kill me. I'm scared, so please send someone here immediately to take care of them." "What? You dare make a

police report?! You even said we're crazy people?! Madeline, you seem to have forgotten how we taught you last time. How we lacerated your skin until you didn't even dare to lift a finger! Look at you pretending right now! You..." "So you treated Madeline Crawford like that in the past? I'm quite curious, who exactly are you? Did Madeline kill your entire family? Why are you still holding onto your grudge against her even though she's dead?" 5 "Madeline, stop pretending! You're obviously Cập *nhật chương mới nhất tại Truyện88.vip

Madeline!"

Rose was going to make a move again, but security came just in time and stopped both Rose and Jon.

Not long after that, the police arrived as well.

Meredith had been sitting in a car outside waiting for the results, but she did not expect to see the police.

She did not know what happened, but she saw Rose and Jon being taken into a police car. 3

Only after an hour did Meredith finally see Rose and Jon walk out of the station. 6She immediately brought Rose and Jon to the little villa they stayed in nowadays which was given to them as thanks for raising Meredith.

Rose cursed and swore as she recounted the events in great details to Meredith. 2

After understanding the matter, Meredith was deeply suspicious, but Jon shook his head. 2 "That's definitely not Madeline. Madeline was never that bold!"

Rose was originally certain as well, but she was wavering since stepping out of the station. Meredith, I think that woman just looks like her. She definitely isn't Madeline. She's been dead for three years and even her corpse would have rotted by now. Jeremy personally brought back her ashes, so how could she return to life?!" 4

Even if that was the case, Meredith was still full of doubt. "Could there really be two people who look so much alike on earth?" "Maybe she somehow saw a picture of that woman and felt that she looked good, so she did plastic surgery to look like Madeline. No matter what, that Vera woman is definitely not Madeline! Your dad is right. How could that idiot ever be this imposing?! It's impossible! That piece of trash was never able to fight us!" Listening to Rose and Jon, Meredith's doubts slowly disappeared. A smile returned to her face. "That's true. Madeline was just a useless idiot, so how could she be so imposing? Furthermore, she could never have gotten enough money to buy that shop on First Crystal Street. She even got the trending brand, Miss Lady, into the shop."

Rose could not help but complain. "What kind of rotten brand is that? Just a stinky breast pin cost me 300,000, and a diamond even fell off it!" 3

Meredith proudly showed off her bracelet and ring. "That's not a rotten brand. It's the most popular jewelry brand among women in these two years. The designs are impeccable and highly sought after. Mom, I'll give this to you. That Patton woman insisted on giving it to me some time ago, and it's worth 100,000!" she said that as she passed the bracelet to Rose. 3

Rose's eyes lit up as she hurriedly received it. "What a filial daughter I have. Anyway, what's going on with Jeremy? I feel like he's been neglecting you recently. Your fake birthday is almost here, so why don't you get Jeremy to propose to you on that day? There'll be a lot of people there. If we pressure him together, he won't have a good reason to refuse!" 5

Hearing that, Meredith smiled happily as a sinister glint flashed through her eyes. "Jeremy is mine. It doesn't matter if it's Madeline or Vera. I'll kill anyone who tries to steal my man!" Meredith said as a plan began to hatch in her mind. 4 This time, she would succeed! Tru*yen88.vip trang web cập nhật nhanh nhất

After the two incidents in the morning, Madeline felt quite refreshed. 3

Remembering the shocked and frantic looks on Meredith and that couple's faces, her determination to get her revenge strengthened. 3

She looked at the time and was about to leave when Jeremy's car stopped in front of her shop.

Jeremy stepped down, his tall body a picture of elegance. 2 "Miss Vera, would you like to have lunch?" he said warmly as he walked toward her.

Madeline smiled coldly. "I don't think so. Your precious fiancée might run over and accuse me of seducing you."

As she said that, she turned around to leave.

Jeremy frowned as he quickly understood what Madeline meant.

He immediately chased after Madeline and saw her accidentally stepping on a rock. She was falling right in front of his eyes.

Jeremy did not know what came over him as his heart stopped. He immediately rushed over as he grabbed onto her tightly. "Maddie."

Hearing Jeremy call her that caused a wave of emotions to wash over Madeline.

She did not think that Jeremy would have rushed to her side and hold her like that.

Madeline looked up and saw the concerned look on Jeremy's face.

Was he worried about her?

A brief ment of doubt could be seen in Madeline's eyes as she felt Jeremy hug her tightly. She could even clearly feel the warmth fr his chest.

It was the warmth that she used to long for, but today, she no longer craved it. "Thank you, Mr. Whitman," Madeline said calmly. Jeremy sobered up at that, relaxing his hug.

Madeline tidied up her clothes as she shot a meaningful look at Jeremy. "If I'm not mistaken, did you call me Maddie just now? According to your fiancée, you deeply hate your exwife. Not only was she constantly clinging to you, she even trapped you and forced you to marry her. If that's the

case, shouldn't you hate me as well? Why did you help me just now?"

After that, there was an air of silence around them.

It took a while before Jeremy spoke again. He showed Madeline a fake smile as he said, "If you want to know, then get in the car."

Madeline awkwardly wrinkled her eyebrows before nodding. "Fine. To satisfy my curiosity, I'll get in your car." 4

Not long after she got in his car, Madeline's phone rang. She looked at the screen and saw that it was Meredith. She was definitely calling to ask about the aratherapy kit.

Madeline looked at Jeremy who was driving the car as she answered the call, even switching on the speaker. Meredith's questions could quickly be heard. "It's been a few days. Where's the aratherapy kit I asked for? What have you been doing after receiving my money?"

The car was already very quiet, and thanks to the speaker, Jeremy could clearly hear what was being said. He was already starting to feel that the voice was familiar when Meredith spoke yet again, "I'm warning you, if you don't give me the product in three days, I'll report you to the police for fraud!" 5

Madeline calmly replied in a low voice, "If you can wait, then wait. If you can't wait, then don't bother looking for me. I don't need your money." 4
"You..."

Madeline hung up before Meredith could even say anything else, immediately refunding her payment. 3

After the car quietened down, Jeremy curiously asked, "Who was that on the phone just now?" 4 Even though he knew it was Meredith, he still found it strange that Meredith would give such a phone call to Vera. He even heard Meredith mentioning an aratherapy kit. 2

Madeline casually smiled. "It's just an unreasonable customer." "Customer? Other than managing the jewelry shop, do you have other businesses as

well?" Jeremy looked at Madeline with interest. Ủng hộ team chún*g mình bằng cách theo dõi truyện tại Truyện88.vip

Seeing that Jeremy was interested, Madeline let out a mysterious smile. "Mr. Whitman, you'll find out very quickly."

Hearing that answer, Jeremy smiled and did not press on.

In Madeline's eyes, it was quite funny. When had he ever smiled at her when they were together in the past? 3 'Jeremy Whitman, you really are living a good life. It seems like my death really was a good thing for you.'

As she was thinking that, Jeremy's phone started to ring.

Jeremy looked at the screen and ignored it, but the phone kept on ringing. He finally put on his Bluetooth headset in annoyance. "What is it?" Jeremy asked coldly.

Madeline heard the sharp shrieking voice of a wan on the other end of the call. She thought that the voice was quite familiar, and after listening closely, she realized it was Rose. 2 "Jeremy, Meredith left a note and went missing. She said she's exhausted and depressed. She said she's going to the place where she first met you for se peace and quiet. I really don't know where you first met her. Hurry and go see if Meredith is really there. Don't let anything happen to her!"

Madeline could clearly hear the words that were said toward the end.

She had long gotten used to Meredith's usual tricks. ①Meredith had just called her a ment ago, and her tone was quite aggressive. How did she sound even remotely like seone who might do sething stupid?

However, she saw that Jeremy's face was solemn. He seemed to have believed it and was now concerned about Meredith's safety. "If Mr. Whitman is busy, I can just get off right now."

Jeremy looked at Madeline, seemingly hesitating. It took him a while before he stopped the car.

Madeline got down fr the car quite briskly, waving to Jeremy after. "Mr. Whitman, see you another time."

After that, she turned around and left.

Jeremy did not leave immediately and looked at her walking away with his rearview mirror as he replayed the scene earlier in his head. Why did he so frantically reach out for her? That answer was quite clear in his heart.

It was only until Madeline heard the car moving did she stop to look back.

She immediately hailed a taxi to tail after Jeremy's car. She did not expect that the car would go all the way to April Hill. This place held one of her happiest memories. It was the place where she met Jeremy for the first time when she was still young.

She wondered why he suddenly came here, but she was even more curious as to why he had held her so tightly as he called her 'Maddie' earlier. 3

Before she could dwell on it, she saw a man standing next to the shore. 2

It was Meredith.

Madeline smiled. It turned out that they had met here for the first time as well.

When Meredith saw Jeremy approaching, she started to sob as she looked at him. 9 "Jeremy, do you still remember the first time we met?" she asked him, but Jeremy looked at her with an expressionless face. "We were so happy here back then. You said you'd marry me and treat me well for the rest of my life. You said you'd protect me, and I believed it. I've been waiting for so many years, thinking that it would finally happen. I never expected that despite all that's happened between us, we'd still not truly be together." She wiped away her tears pitifully while walking over to Jeremy. "Jeremy, have you stopped loving me? Was it Madeline's slanderous words before she died that affected you? Is that why you don't want to be together with me or marry me anymore? 4 "If that's true, then let's just let everything end here Ủng hộ team chúng mình bằng cách theo dõi truyện tại Truyện88.vip

Meredith turned around and started to walk toward the sea after that. 2

Jeremy looked at her for a good while before reaching out to pull her wrist.

Meredith happily smiled as she took the chance to fall into his embrace. "Jeremy, I knew that I'm still in your heart. These few years, I didn't mind even if people called me a hewrecker. I'm content as long as I can be with you!"

Madeline stood on the road in the distance, looking at the two of them hugging with a sneer on her face. 1

The sea breeze was blowing, bringing a wet and salty taste to her lips.

The sunlight shone brightly, and the tranquil sea looked as if thousands of stars were shining on it. 3

It was a perfect scene.

However, Madeline felt exceptionally disgusted by it.

She turned around and left, but at this exact moment, Jeremy looked up and saw her.

The sun was very bright, preventing him from seeing clearly, but he got a good look at that face.

Madeline?

He pushed Meredith away who was trying to lean further into his embrace and turned around to chase after the other woman. 5 Madeline got on a taxi at the side of the road before leaving immediately. As she looked at the signs on the road, the words 'April Hill' hurt her eyes. 2 She suddenly felt that the cleanliness in her heart had been polluted. 2

How filthy.

When Jeremy finally caught up, he did not see Madeline at all and only saw a car moving along the roads of April Hill in the distance.

His mood sank again, sinking into the sea next to April Hill. he's gone. 'She left three years ago.'

He reminded himself again, but he had never accepted that fact in the first place. 3 "Jeremy, what's wrong?" Meredith hurriedly ran after him, not understanding Jeremy's actions or expression.

Jeremy glanced at her, his voice sounding distant. " Get in the car."

Meredith hurriedly got into the car. Her show had concluded, and she planned on cashing in on it. "Jeremy, it's my birthday the day after tomorrow. I'm actually quite content just being by your side, but Jack is growing up. He's starting to understand a lot of things, and I'm worried that others will call him a b*stard, so... let's get married." 2

Jeremy suddenly lifted his foot off the gas pedal and shot a distant gaze at Meredith's tearful eyes. "Can you give me an honest answer to my question?" 4

Meredith was quite shocked by Jeremy's gaze, but on the surface, she maintained her innocent facade. " Jeremy, I'll tell you everything you want to know." "Did you know before I did that Madeline was pregnant?"

She did not expect that Jeremy would ask that question. A look of shock flashed across Meredith's face, but she quickly shook her head. "Madeline never talked to me about her pregnancy." "Is that true?" Jeremy asked meaningfully. After that, he stepped on the gas pedal again. His gaze caused Meredith to feel uneasy.

She clenched her fists in silence, cursing at Vera in her head. That woman was a thorn in her side. If that woman had not suddenly appeared, Meredith was certain that Jeremy would not suddenly suspect her or think about Madeline!

After Jeremy dropped Meredith off at the Montgomery household, he went to the cemetery alone.

As the evening sunlight fell on his back, the summer winds blew past the branches and brushed against his face. Jeremy slowly walked to the front of a tombstone, bending down as he placed a bouquet of 88 roses in front of it. 3

Roses represented love, and 88 roses represented remorse.

Alas, remorse was the most useless thing on earth. What was the point of his belated love?

Looking at the name on the plaque, Jeremy lit a cigarette. As the sun started to set, night soon fell, obscuring his expression. 2 Truyện88.vip trang we*b cập nhật nhanh nhất

The next day, Madeline went back to the shop and noticed someone in the VIP room after sending her little girl to school.

Ever since she came back to life and had her eyesight restored, she spent an entire year establishing her own brand Miss Lady.

She personally designed every piece of jewelry. Since the designs were unique, they were very well received. Her business boomed because of that, quickly becoming a household name internationally. She received quite a few famous VIP customers thanks to that. 3

That was why the person who was browsing the limited edition jewelry in the VIP room could be considered as a highclass member.

Madeline was about to greet the person inside and express her gratitude, but she suddenly heard a familiar voice. 2 Her feet suddenly felt like lead as her footsteps became abnormally heavy. "I definitely want this set. Do you have anything else? How could one set be enough for my daughter's birthday?" Eloise's voice was filled with endless love for Meredith. 4

Madeline thought that with her giving up on Jeremy, her yearning for parental love would be gone as well. She did not expect that her heart would suddenly hurt so much.
Her mother...

No, she was Meredith's mother.

Madeline laughed at herself mockingly, her mind filled with the scenes of Eloise and Sean slapping her in the face for the sake of protecting Meredith.

She even remembered that last kick fr Sean which caused her to spit out blood. 3

They never looked at her until the end.

Madeline's grip on the door was extremely tight, and at that ment, Eloise took out her phone to give Meredith a call. "Mer, you can ce out now. I'll bring you for a spa session later, then we can look for sething to wear. It's your birthday torrow, and Jeremy will propose to you as well. I want to make sure you'll look the prettiest you can be. I'll turn you into the most dazzling princess in the world. Dear, you'll always be my precious daughter."

Princess? Precious daughter?

Ah.

Madeline wanted to laugh hearing all that. She no longer wanted to continue listening.

She turned around, but she did not see that one of her employees was carrying coffee and snacks over. With a clank, the cups and tray all fell to the floor. "I'm so sorry, Miss Vera, so sorry!" The employee frantically apologized. 3.

Madeline knew she was the one at fault for being distracted, so she consoled him and said, "No need t o apologize. It's not your fault."

The moment she finished saying that, she saw that Eloise had walked out. 2
"What happened?" Eloise asked curiously, lifting her gaze to look at Madeline who was standing by the door. "You are" "This is our store manager, Miss Quinn." The staff member explained briefly.

Madeline's back was turned toward Eloise, she softly said, "I'm terribly sorry. I have an important matter to attend to. All of you make sure you treat our customers well. I'm heading off." 3

After leaving, Madeline's thoughts were still on Eloise and Meredith's call earlier.

Looking at the cars zipping and going in the bustling city, a deep smile presented itself on her face.

Thanks to Meredith's current status, her birthday celebration was going to be very grand and plenty of influential, rich people were invited. 3

After all, Meredith wanted to use public pressure to force Jeremy to propose to her on that day. 4

Meredith spent the whole morning putting on her custom-made gown and fixing her makeup as she put on her luxury-branded jewelry. She wanted to make sure that her entire being would look immaculate tonight.

She stood at the balcony as she looked down on the guests who were conversing with each other. From her high vantage point, she immediately spotted Jeremy's car stopping in front of the main gate. She hurried down to receive him.

She had thought that since it was a special day, Jeremy would have formal attire on, but disappointingly, he only had casual wear on.
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Even so, he was still unrivaled when it came to looks. 2

Meredith was a little unhappy, but she still went to receive him with a bright smile on her face. "Jeremy, you're here," she said, "Jeremy, do you

know? As long as I see you, I'll be exceptionally happy." "As long as you're happy," Jeremy replied coolly.

Meredith felt like there was a hidden meaning to his words, but she did not dare press the matter. 5

She followed Jeremy into the garden as a tall, seven layered cake was pushed out. The cake was beautiful beyond compare, and on top of it were the figures of a newlywed couple.

The crowd surrounded them as Eloise and Sean gave him a push. "Jeremy, my precious daughter has been waiting for you to propose for so long. Shouldn't you finally make a move?" 4 "Jeremy, it's Meredith's birthday today. Why don't you make use of this happy occasion to propose?" "Propose! Propose!" the crowd started to chant as well.

Meredith looked at Jeremy with an embarrassed face. "Jeremy..."

Right as she spoke, a melodious and graceful female voice could be heard in the distance. "Miss Montgery's birthday really is quite sensational. There's even a proposal going on? It looks like I didn't see here tonight for naught." 3 Meredith had a shy look on as she waited for Jeremy's response. Her mood was soaring.

She never expected that just as everyone was shouting for Jeremy to propose, an unwelcome voice would be heard.

Meredith's smile froze on her face as she clenched her teeth in dissatisfaction. She said, "Why is she here?!"

Jeremy immediately turned around when he heard the voice, and the face he had been dreaming of every night entered his sight. 1

Following that, everyone else looked toward the direction where the voice had come from as well. A graceful and beautiful woman entered their sights, but once they took a clear look at her face, Eloise and Sean widened their eyes in shock! "This... Madeline?! How... How is that possible?" Eloise's face was pale, obviously scared as she unconsciously took a step backward. If not for Sean supporting her, she might have fainted from shock.

A dead person had appeared in front of them, so it was only natural that she was scared.

Sean was also taken aback, but he was still a man and had never done another against his conscience. That was why he was not as scared as Eloise.

To him, it was a person in front of them. It was impossible for her to be a ghost. 2

However, Madeline had clearly died, so how could she be right here?

It was one thing if she was not dead, but was she here to cause a scene again? He would not allow that man to bully his precious daughter!

Meredith had thought that she would definitely be the center of attention that day, but with the sudden appearance of Vera, she suddenly felt like she had been sidelined. 2

Meredith raised her hand, about to pull at Jeremy's sleeve, but she saw that Jeremy had already started walking toward Vera. "Jeremy..." Meredith called out to him with a wounded look, but he did not stop.

Madeline had a gown on, and her elegant figure was complemented with the refined smile on her face. Her exceptional looks were also accompanied by a graceful demeanor.

Looking at Vera, thoughts of Madeline filled Jeremy's head.

They looked exactly alike, which meant that Madeline was just as beautiful last time. It was just that he had never paid her any attention back then and never really appreciated her beauty... 2 "Mr. Whitman." Madeline greeted. "It looks like it was right for me to be here today. I've never seen an actual proposal in all my years alive. It looks like I'll get to experience one today." Looking at her beautiful face, Jeremy said, "Then I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you." "Oh?" Madeline raised her eyebrow. "Miss Quinn, why did you be to my house so suddenly?" Meredith put on a smile as she

faked a curious face. 2 Ủng hộ team chúng mình bằng cách theo dõi truyện tại Truy*ệ̣n88.vip

Madeline smiled back. "I heard that it's Miss Montgomery's birthday today, so I came here bearing gifts."

Meredith's expression changed into one of surprise. "How did you know it's my birthday today? We're not that familiar with each other, so how could I receive your gifts?"

In her mind, she could not help but think back to her engagement with Jeremy three years ago. Madeline had also appeared similarly, claiming to have come bearing gifts. In the end, the engagement ceremony did not conclude. She certainly did not want her birthday to be ruined in the same way.

Madeline looked at Jeremy and smiled. "I know because someone cares for you a lot." 1

Hearing that, Meredith glanced at Jeremy, thinking that he was the one who told her. 6

Even if she was not happy that Jeremy was close to that woman, those words still made her feel quite happy. Madeline's next words rained on Meredith's parade very quickly. "Yes, I'm obviously referring to your mother." "What?" Meredith looked like she had been slapped in the face. "What does this have to do with my mother?" 2 "Yesterday, your mother came to my shop to buy two sets of jewelry for you." Madeline explained calmly. 2

Meredith finally understood, but she had lost her smile.

Looking at the scene, Eloise and Sean exchanged a look. "What did Meredith call Madeline? Miss Quinn?"

Sean was also filled with doubt, not knowing what was happening. The moment they saw Madeline face Meredith, the two of them immediately walked over as they were afraid that Madeline would do something to Meredith.

Upon walking closer, they heard Jeremy say to Madeline, "Since you're here, ce in and have sething to eat." "No! How can we let that wan into our he?!" Sean hurriedly shouted.

Madeline ignored the wave of hurt and continued smiling while looking toward the source of the voice. 3 In front of her were her mother and father, but they were staring at her with even more intense hatred than three years ago.

Madeline suspected that she must have accumulated a lot of bad karma to warrant being tortured so much in this life. 2 "These two must be Mr. and Mrs. Montgery? Let me introduce myself, I'm Vera Quinn." She smiled a s she offered her name card.

Eloise and Sean looked over the name card before sizing Madeline up with a suspicious gaze once more. "You're not Madeline? How could that be? How could two people look so alike?" Eloise mumbled.

Sean had his doubts as well. "You're called Vera?" "Yes." Madeline nodded earnestly. "This is my first time in Glendale." "Impossible!" Eloise denied it, staring at Madeline. "How could there be two people who look so similar i this world?" "There are many miracles in the world. I heard that the two of you managed to find your long lost daughter after over 20 years, isn't that a miracle as well?" Madeline asked with a smile. 2

Eloise did not know what to say to that and merely smiled coldly. "Madeline, stop lying! You never died! Back then, you were just putting on a show for us in order to ruin Jeremy and Meredith's engagement! With your sudden appearance today as well, it's obvious you're trying to do the same thing. Madeline, you've never changed. How despicable..." "Enough." Jeremy suddenly interrupted angrily, his tone extremely harsh.

Eloise was shocked into silence and looked at Jeremy in surprise. She saw that Jeremy's face was icecold a s if a layer of frost had formed over his features. 3 "I don't want to hear anything like that again." He looked at the innocentlooking Madeline. "They're clearly two different people. You should be careful of how you speak. Respect others and respect yourself a s well." "M, Dad, Jeremy's right. Miss Vera really isn't Madeline. Madeline left us forever three years ago ..." Meredith faked a tear when she said that. Then, she introduced them, saying, "M, Dad, she's Vera

Quinn. I've met her before. She's completely different from Madeline and they're clearly separate people." Truyện88.vip trang web cập nhật nhanh nhất

Eloise and Sean's expressions changed as they apologized to Madeline. "Since Meredith and Jeremy have said so, then it must be true. Please forgive us, Miss Quinn."

Meredith smiled. "I'm already quite used to this." 8

Eloise and Sean paused awkwardly. "Since Miss Vera is friends with Jeremy and Meredith, then please come inside and witness Jeremy's proposal to Meredith." "Very well." Madeline smiled, sending a meaningful look toward Meredith. "This is the present I picked out for Miss Montgomery. I prepared it in a bit of a rush, but I hope you'll like it." Meredith wanted to reject it, but to keep up her gentle appearance, she accepted Madeline's gift with a smile. "Thank you."

After that, she pulled on Jeremy's sleeve. "Jeremy, let's go in. We shouldn't keep the other guests waiting." "Indeed, the two of you head inside first." Eloise and Sean urged, their expressions full of happiness. "Make use of the happy occasion today and quickly set a date for your marriage."

Meredith smiled shyly at Jeremy. "Jeremy, I can finally marry you and become your bride."

Looking at Meredith's smiling face, Madeline shot them a gentle smile as well.

As they returned to the garden, quite a few gazes fell onto Madeline, all of them trying to guess her status and origin. 5

Sensing all their attention on Madeline, Meredith started to get unhappy.

Seeing that Jeremy did not seem to be willing to propose today, Meredith had an unsettled feeling. It would be quite embarrassing if it did not come to pass today.

With that in mind, she turned to Eloise and Sean before saying, "M, Dad,

I'm feeling a bit unwell. I want to go back to my room to rest." Eloise and Sean walked over, full of concern for her. "What's wrong? Are you alright?" "I'm okay. Could the two of you take care of the guests?" Meredith smiled gently. "Jeremy, could you accompany me back to my room?"

Jeremy did not agree immediately. Instead, he looked at Madeline. "Miss Vera, please make yourself at home. I have something to see you about later."

Madeline smiled and nodded. 2

Staring at that scene, Meredith turned around and headed inside with a dark look on her face. 2

Looking at the retreating backs, Madeline calmly made a move as well.

No one minded her, and even her own parents did not spare her a glance.

Madeline walked through the luxurious courtyard alone, admiring the scenery around the villa as she stepped on the pavement. 2

Even if it was not the greatest of mansions, it was still significantly luxurious and splendid. 2

If it was not for the mistake that happened over 20 years ago, this would have been the garden where she grew up in.

Madeline did not know how she was lost all those years ago but wondered if it was just her fate. Cập nhật nhanh nhất trên Truyện88.vip

However, she knew very clearly what her goal was today. 4

She walked for a while, then slipped into the house when no one was paying attention to her. 2

The moment she stepped inside, Madeline could hear the chilling sounds of a crying woman.

Madeline was once on the brink of death herself, so she did not carry a shred of fear in her, only curiosity. She wondered why someone was hiding in the corner, crying away at this time. 2

Following the voice, she spotted a middle-aged woman wiping away her tears in the corner. In her hands was a photograph. "Brittany, oh my Brit..." The woman continued sobbing.

Brittany?

Madeline immediately thought of Brittany Montgery. "Brit, today should have been your birthday, but you were murdered by that despicable woman, Madeline! That woman deserves to die. You were so kind and smart, you shouldn't have left so early..."

It was Brittany Montgery. 2

That woman was certain that Madeline was Brittany's murderer. 5

What Madeline could not understand was why she was sobbing so much for Brittany? Looking at her attire, she did not seem like a servant of the Montgeries, and neither did she look like a guest, so who was she?

Madeline did not have the chance to think about it. She hurried upstairs when she saw that the woman was wiping away her tears and preparing to leave.

Before she could clear the mystery in her head, Madeline heard Meredith's voice coming from inside one of the rooms. 1

She walked toward the room and stood outside. She did not know how Meredith did it, but she heard her voice shout out in elation, "Jeremy, I'm so happy. Marrying you is my greatest wish in life!"

It would seem that Jeremy really was going to propose to Meredith, and they were going to be married quite soon. "I'll definitely fulfill my promises." Jeremy's voice followed, sounding like someone who always kept their promises.

Madeline felt like those words were grating against her ears. 'Jeremy, when have you ever fulfilled your promises to me? 2 'You destroyed everything that I waited and hoped for from you for over ten years. You even wanted to end my life in the end, and yet here you are, living a happy life with another woman. 'I won't allow you such happiness.'

Madeline clenched her fists, quickly hiding when she heard the sound of approaching footsteps. "I'll go downstairs first. You should wipe away your tears and redo your makeup before cing down." Jeremy walked out of the ro.

Once he went downstairs, Madeline returned to her original spot.

When she looked inside, she quickly spotted Meredith doing her makeup in front of the dressing table with a victorious smile on her face.

As she enjoyed herself, she suddenly remembered sething and turned around to unwrap the present Madeline had given her.

When Meredith opened it, her face immediately sunk. "A mirror?" Meredith did not understand, but she viciously threw the mirror on the floor the next second. "Vera Quinn! Where did that sl*t ce fr?! Does she think she can seduce Jeremy just because she's pretty? That's right, she's quite good looking, but alas, she looks exactly like Madeline. Jeremy will only feel usted looking at her!"

Meredith clenched her teeth in anger. "Who do you think you are, trying to steal Jeremy fr me?! Jeremy will never marry anyone other than me!" 2

Meredith had an ace up her sleeve as she smiled. "I have a trump card! With this trump card, no one can stop me!"

Madeline looked away, not batting an eyelid.

Trump card? 2

Did she mean Jackson Whitman? 'Oh Meredith, so what if you have a trump card? The day you saw my ceback was the beginning of the end for you.' Meredith sneered as she walked downstairs gracefully. 8 Nhớ đọc truyện t*rên Truyện88.vip để ủng hộ team nha !!!

When she reached downstairs, she stumbled upon the returning Jeremy.

Seeing her, he furrowed his eyebrows. He walked toward her as he asked, "Why are you in the house?"

Madeline shot him an innocent look as she said, "I'm looking for the washro, but I couldn't find it."

She looked around as she said that, catching a glimpse of Meredith exiting her room.

Remembering how tightly Jeremy held her the other day, Madeline did not hesitate as she acted like she tripped, making herself fall to the side.

Madeline could not deny that it was a gamble, but she won the bet. Jeremy sped over just like that day, holding her tightly. 3

Madeline had a shocked look on her face as she locked eyes with Jeremy, but she noticed Jeremy was looking at her face with a lost look. That look was very complicated and hard to make out. She laughed coldly in her heart. 'Ah, Jeremy, are you remembering your dead wife again?' 4 "Jeremy!" Meredith's screech could be heard, causing Madeline to feel like her eardrums were about to be ruptured. The next second, her arm was forcefully pulled aside. "Vera, you sl*t! So this is how you're seducing my fiancé!" 9Meredith raised her voice. It was probably the first time she had been so hysterical in front of Jeremy.

She wildly pulled at Madeline who was in Jeremy's embrace, shrieking. "Vera Quinn! I knew you didn't have good intentions. Giving me a present?"

You're clearly here to seduce Jeremy!"

Madeline was getting quite annoyed with Meredith's highpitched voice. If it was not for the fact that she had a plan, she would probably have slapped Meredith. 4

However, Madeline did not do so and instead frowned in mock dizziness. "Miss Crawford, you're mistaken." "I'm not mistaken! I saw it with my own eyes! You despicable wan!" As Meredith shouted, she decided to send her palm straight toward Madeline's face.

Smack!

Meredith's palm did not find her target. Instead, it was grabbed firmly by Jeremy.

Jeremy's eyes coldly looked at the hysterical Meredith. "I was just helping her up. Do you have to shout at her like that?"

His voice was so cold that Meredith almost cried fr hearing it. "Jeremy, you've never talked to me like this before ..." Meredith started to cry as she said that. 4

Jeremy released his hand, his expression still serious. "I've talked like this before. You don't have t o read into it, but your actions just now really

crossed the line. Apologize to Miss Vera." Madeline widened her eyes in disbelief. "What? You want me to apologize?"

She clenched her teeth as she looked at Madeline. "I will not apologize to her!" "It's fine, there's no need to apologize. It's my fault for not keeping my balance," Madeline said softly before turning to the angry Meredith. "Miss Crawford, I'm sorry for causing you grief." "Vera, quit your acting! Do you think I don't know what intentions you have for Jeremy? Who are you to even apologize to me?" "You're still going!" Jeremy interrupted her coldly, staring at Meredith with ice in his eyes. 3 "Today is your birthday, and Miss Vera is a guest. Are you supposed to treat your guests like this? Apologize immediately."

Meredith acted like the victim as her eyes reddened. "I won't apologize to her! She clearly did it on purpose!" 3

On purpose!

Madeline smirked subtly. She really did do it on purpose. 9 'Don't forget, Meredith, this is just what you taught me! "That day, you held onto the divorce papers and humiliated me in front of Jeremy. You provoked me and even pretended to be pushed down by me to mislead Jeremy. You made him force me to apologize to you, have you forgotten that? 7 'You might have forgotten it, but I'll never forget that my whole life!' Cập nhật *chương mới nhất tại Truyện88.vip

Flames of vengeance burned brightly in Madeline's heart as she looked at the expression Meredith had on her face with extreme satisfaction.

"Fine, if you won't apologize, I'll just leave right now." Jeremy turned around and looked toward Madeline's face. "Miss Vera, would you be willing to accompany me?" 2

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows awkwardly. "Well "Don't go, Jeremy!" Meredith grabbed onto Jeremy with a worried look. "Jeremy, don't leave. You're right. Today's my birthday and I shouldn't treat my guests this way, but I only lost myself because I love you too much!" 5

Meredith refused to let go of Jeremy's arm, reluctantly saying, "Jeremy, I can do anything as long as you're happy. I'll apologize right now!"

She turned to Madeline as she said that. 5
Even though her eyes were filled with hatred, Meredith still managed to put on her signature mask as she smiled gently. "I'm sorry, Miss Quinn. I just love my fiancé too much and lost my composure for a moment. I hope you don't mind."

Madeline smiled back. "I can see how much you care for Mr. Whitman. I can understand how you feel. I always get jealous when my boyfriend gets too close to other women as well." 5

Hearing that, Madeline could feel a subtle change in both Jeremy and Meredith's gazes. "Miss Quinn, you have a boyfriend?" Meredith somewhat managed to recover a bit of her smile.

Madeline laughed gracefully. "Yes." She nodded softly, pretending to accidentally meet Jeremy's gaze.

Seeing that Jeremy's gaze was still on Madeline, Meredith hurriedly shifted the topic. "So Miss Quinn has a boyfriend. Why don't you call him over and we can get to know each other." 2 "He's temporarily not in Glendale, but I'll definitely introduce all of you if we have the chance." Madeline smiled brightly.

Meredith did not continue and wiped away her tears as she once again put on a warm smile. "Jeremy, let's go. We shouldn't make everyone wait."

Jeremy did not utter a word. All he did was pull back his arm and walk outside.

Meredith's smile faded a bit, but she did not care as she chased after him. "Jeremy, you won't disappoint me, right? You prised me you'd propose when we were in the ro!"

Madeline heard Meredith pleading with Jeremy.

She was quite curious, wondering if sething had happened in these three years that caused Jeremy to stop adoring Meredith as much. 3

However, he still liked Meredith. Otherwise, she would not be able to remain by his side for so long.

Even so, Madeline had a feeling that Jeremy had begun to be interested in her, even if she did not know what he was actually thinking.

Madeline was quite certain that her face had successfully attracted Jeremy's attention. 5

That was the first step toward her revenge.

She followed them into the garden, but as she walked, she suddenly felt as if seone was silently observing her. 3

She turned around but failed to notice anything.

It was only until she left the house when the person who was hiding behind the walls walked out, casting a venous and hateful gaze on

Madeline's back. 'Madeline! 'You're still alive!' Truyện88.vip tra*ng web cập nhật nhanh nhất

When Jeremy and Meredith returned to the public eye, they were once again surrounded by those who were pushing for a proposal.

Meredith maintained her shy look as she sweetly stood next to Jeremy. Her smile was full of confidence, confident that Jeremy would definitely propose to her. This caused Madeline a lot of annoyance. 3 "Jeremy, Meredith is waiting for you to pop the question!" Eloise said. "It looks like I'll have a son-in-law soon," Sean said happily.

Looking at her own parents fighting so hard for the happiness of their fake daughter, Madeline could not help but laugh.

She averted her gaze and saw Meredith leaning into Jeremy. "Jeremy..." She urged him.

Madeline felt like it was about time. She looked at Jeremy who was about to say something as she casually took out her phone and placed it against her ear, saying, "Really? I miss you too. I'll go over right now, so wait for me." 3

She could feel Jeremy's gaze on her when she was done talking. 2

Madeline let out a smile as she headed toward the entrance. She had not even taken a few steps when she heard Meredith's desperate shouts, "Jeremy, Jeremy! What's wrong? Where are you going?" Meredith's voice shook as she said, "Jeremy, don't go. Where are you going? Our marriage" "I don't have the mood today," Jeremy replied coolly, pulling his hand away from Meredith's grip. "Jeremy!" Meredith continued to shout, but Jeremy had already left.

The Montgeries and the guests did not understand what they just saw.

However, they could clearly see Jeremy's attitude. He was very obviously frustrated with something.

The crowd was suddenly suspicious. Jeremy did not seem to love Meredith as much as the rumors seemed to claim. Otherwise, why did

their marriage keep getting delayed? Even today, Jeremy left Meredith just for the simple reason that he was not i the mood. 8

Meredith lifted her dress as she chased after him. She saw that Madeline was walking in front and Jeremy had driven his car next to her, opening the door for Madeline like a gentleman as he invited her i before leaving. 2

Meredith tightly grabbed onto her dress at the sight of the scene, and in her eyes was a murderous rage. "Vera Quinn!" she uttered the name with her teeth clenched, so angry that even her lips were trembling. Madeline was actually not certain that Jeremy would have followed her, but he not only left Meredith behind, he even invited her into his car.

He drove the car around, finally stopping at the beach next to April Hill.

Madeline was quite surprised, but when she recalled Jeremy and Meredith embracing each other at the beach here, she felt a bit disgusted.

She was forced to get out of the car when Jeremy opened the door for her.

As the summer breeze blew past them, the scent reminded her of her youth.

She suddenly heard the sound of a lighter and turned around to see Jeremy holding a cigarette.

He casually leaned against his car as his alluring lips let out a puff, the white smoke obscuring his flawless looks.

His expression seemed melancholic.

She wondered when he started to smoke. In her memory, it was not a habit he used to have. "Mr. Whitman, why did you leave your fiancé behind and bring me here?" Madeline looked at him with a perplexed expression. "I have an appointment with seone, so I can't stay here too long."

Jeremy looked over, his smile reaching his eyes. " With your boyfriend, Miss Vera?"

Madeline nodded. "You even managed to guess that?" "It's not just wen who have a sixth sense. Men have their intuition as well." He smiled. A strong flirtatious tone could be heard in his voice as he continued speaking, "My intuition also tells me that you're interested in me." 4

Madeline was not shocked by what Jeremy said, but she was quite surprised that he said it so bluntly at that ment. 5 Truyện88.vip trang web c*ập nhật nhanh nhất

She did not have a shred of panic as she smiled serenely. "A perfect and successful man like Mr. Whitman would attract attention without fail. It's just a pity that we met at the wrong time," Madeline said that with a sorry look on her face, but Jeremy suddenly walked in front of her. His breath closed in on her, carrying the faint smell of cigarettes.

His gaze was deeply alluring as it swam across Madeline's face. Slowly, his expression changed fr the usual sharp and cold look to one of strange tenderness. "Are you suspecting that I'm your exwife Madeline? Is that why you're giving me so much attention?" Madeline said calmly, "If I remember correctly, you hate your exwife quite a bit. I even heard that you didn't shed a single tear when she died. It seems like Madeline was quite the horrid person..." 7

Jeremy snapped back to reality when he heard that, and a fake smile was on his face as he turned around to look at the vast sea. "She was quite horrible indeed," Jeremy said softly. "That's right, she was quite horrible for leaving just like that, not even giving me the chance to say goodbye.'

She was horrible for leaving just like that, leaving him with countless sleepless nights spent thinking about her.

After hearing Jeremy say that, Madeline could not help but feel angry. 7She smiled coldly. "If that's the case, then why did you befriend a woman who looks exactly like her? Wouldn't you be disgusted looking at my face?"

Jeremy turned around, looking at Madeline with an alluring gaze. "Miss Vera, your face is beautiful."

Yes, that face was beautiful.

Just as beautiful as she was.

No, she was just a little bit more beautiful.

Her face had a simple and genuine quality, perfect in its serenity.

Jeremy looked at the face in front of him as if he was only able to fill his empty heart that way.

Suddenly, the phone rang, stopping his admiration. He looked at the screen and wanted to reject it, but he still answered in the end. "What is it?"

The breeze was too strong, so Madeline could not hear what was being said on the other end, but she heard Jeremy's unwilling reply. "I'll return right now."

Madeline had thought that Jeremy would drop her off on the way, but he did not stop until he reached a familiar street. In the end, the car stopped in front of the Whitman household.

Madeline felt like Jeremy was still suspicious of her identity, which is why he brought her here.

However, she had long since made preparations for an encounter with the Whitmans.

When Mrs. Whitman heard the car, she walked out. Looking at Madeline getting out of the car, she had a look of panic and shock as she retreated. "Ah! It's a ghost! Ghost!"

Madeline smiled at that. "Mr. Whitman, I told you to drop me on the way. See, I've scared someone off again."

Mrs. Whitman ran right behind Jeremy while pointing at Madeline. "Jeremy, what is this?! Shouldn't this woman be dead? How is she alive?"

Jeremy frowned. "She's called Vera Quinn. She grew up in F Country, and it's her first time in Glendale."

"Hello, I'm Vera Quinn." Madeline introduced herself.

"Is that true?" Mrs. Whitman asked suspiciously, "Our future in-laws called me earlier to tell me about someone who looks exactly like Madeline. I even thought they were mistaken..."

As she said that, she pulled Jeremy aside. "Jeremy, what happened? They told me you left Meredith behind during her birthday party. She's still crying even now. Surely you didn't leave her alone for this woman?"

Mrs. Whitman cast a sideways glance at Madeline, but the moment she met Madeline's beautiful eyes, she withdrew in shock.

"That's my own problem," Jeremy said coolly before looking at Madeline. "Follow me inside."

"Is that okay?" Madeline hesitated.

Jeremy nodded. "Come."

Madeline then walked in without hesitation, scaring Mrs. Whitman into retreating when she walked past her.

Looking at Mrs. Whitman's panicked expressions, Madeline smiled.

Was she afraid now?

It was still too early for that. Thinking about what Mrs. Whitman had done to Madeline, the worst had yet to come.

Madeline followed Jeremy closely and entered the hall. She immediately heard an old man say in a heavy accent, "Jeremy, you brat! Tell me what's happening!"

"You didn't appreciate Madeline back then and insisted on being with that mistress no matter what. I only agreed to this marriage because of

Jackson, so what's the meaning of that stunt you pulled today?! Tell me what you left your precious mistress behind for!"

Hearing that, Madeline felt exceptionally fond.

Her eyes could not help but heat up when she heard the old master call out her name.

Before she could even process it, her hand was pulled over by Jeremy. "Grandpa, don't be mad. Look who I brought over to see you. Jeremy whispered a few words to Madeline before bringing her to Old Master Whitman.

Old Master Whitman was already quite old, so his eyesight was not too good. All he could see was Jeremy pulling a long haired woman over. However, the moment Madeline was in front of him, his eyes widened in disbelief as he gripped his cane and stood up from the sofa.

"You... You are... Maddie?" the old man asked in disbelief as his trembling right hand reached out to her, seemingly trying to test if it was an actual 'human' in front of him.

Madeline looked at his hopeful gaze and could not help but feel sad. However, there was a hint of sweetness within that sadness. There was still someone who cared about her here!

She smiled as she reached out to hold the old man's hands. "Grandpa."

"Are you really Maddie?" the old man asked excitedly.

Mrs. Whitman watched by the side with a suspicious gaze.

"Grandpa, of course she is," Jeremy said, helping Madeline answer. Seeing that, Mrs. Whitman's expression

changed. "What? She really is Madeline?

Jeremy,

didn't

you say that..."

She was interrupted by a cold look from Jeremy before she could finish.

Old Master Whitman ignored Mrs. Whitman's words as he held Madeline's hands tightly, pulling her to the side.

His face was full of adoration. Those eyes that had seen all that could be seen were gazing at Madeline, full of warmth and love.

"Maddie, it really is Maddie. It's great that you're alive..." he muttered. It was obvious that he was really happy.

Madeline's face was smiling calmly, but her heart was in turmoil.

In this world, other than that man and

Ava, only Old Master Whitman really

treated her like family.

The old man had been quite weak in recent years and could not even walk normally. He usually needed to be in a wheelchair, but the moment he saw Madeline, his spirits were lifted several folds. 2

Madeline maintained her smile and occasionally nodded her head, but she was obviously careful not to do anything that would cast suspicion onto herself.

She could feel that Jeremy was definitely still suspecting her of something.

The old man said he wanted to bring

Madeline into the garden to look at the

flowers, so Madeline followed.

Seeing that Jeremy was going as well, Mrs. Whitman hurriedly pulled him over. "Jeremy, what is the meaning of this? Is she really Madeline? How

could that woman still be alive?" (4

Hearing Mrs. Whitman's words, Jeremy's expression frosted. "I wish she was still alive."

Seeing Jeremy's unhappiness, Mrs.

Whitman said, "So you mean that woman

really isn't Madeline? Then why-"

"Grandpa hasn't been well lately, and his spirits have been quite down. Don't you want Grandpa to cheer up?" Jeremy gave a very good reason.

However, only he knew his true goal. Old Master Whitman talked to Madeline for a long time, but he never asked her where she went in the three years she was gone.

When Jeremy was going to bring Madeline away, Old Man Whitman carefully looked at Madeline before giving out a caring smile. "Maddie, even though you've divorced Jeremy, our doors will always be open to you. As long as you're willing, I'll always be your grandpa."

Hearing that, Madeline was filled with

gratitude and warmth.

On the surface, she pretended to look at Jeremy with disinterest before smiling softly. "Thank you, Grandpa. I'll be taking my leave, then." Old Master Whitman nodded, casting a meaningful look at Madeline as if he had seen through something.

In the car, Jeremy spoke first, "Miss Vera, thank you for fulfilling my unreasonable request."

"Since it's an unreasonable request, I hope there won't be a second time," Madeline said calmly, "Mr. Whitman, you've taken up a lot of my time. Could you please send me back immediately? You should also go back and console your fiancé." 4

Jeremy looked at Madeline and saw that her expression was cold and impatient. He said, "I'm really sorry for taking up your time with your boyfriend. I'll treat the two of you to a meal next time."

"That's not necessary. I'm afraid my boyfriend will get jealous." Madeline rejected.

Jeremy did not say anything else and headed back right after sending Madeline to the designated location.

Madeline stood next to the busy streets, looking down at her palms.

It felt like there was still some warmth in

her hands.

Grandpa.

He actually still remembered her.

She smiled, feeling as if a lot of the wounds in her heart had just been healed.

That night, Madeline chanced upon news of Meredith's birthday party as she surfed the internet.

The scoop was that not only did Jeremy not propose to Meredith during her birthday, he even left Meredith for a mysterious woman. Everyone was frantically discussing who the mysterious woman was, and there were also some who said that Jeremy never liked Meredith to begin with. It was just Meredith who clung to him incessantly.

Meredith had borrowed the influence of Jeremy and the Montgomeries to turn into quite a famous makeup influencer these three years, amassing several million fans for herself. When the news broke out, brainwashed fans flooded in, all frantically protecting Meredith. , her

They said that Meredith and Jeremy were a match made in heaven, claiming that their engagement was already set three years ago.

They even dragged Madeline's name into it, claiming that their idol would have been married to Jeremy long ago if not for Madeline's evil and despicable actions.. Somehow, the topic changed just like that, turning all threads of discussion into attacks on Madeline.

Meredith instead turned into a poor victim who was tortured for many years.

Her fans gave their kind sentiments, flooding Jeremy's social media with them.

That was followed by more flaming of that mysterious girl and Madeline.

Madeline could imagine how happy Meredith was looking at those discussions online. She smirked as she left a message on Meredith's social media. 'Miss Crawford, do you like the gift I gave you?'

Not long after she sent that, Madeline was assaulted by an onslaught of foul private messages from many alternate accounts. The tone of those messages was exactly like how Meredith spoke.

Madeline casually made herself some coffee, feeling very satisfied while imagining Meredith's current furious expression. She also knew that Meredith would not let the matter rest.

During the weekend, Madeline brought Lilian into the shop. Lily had a beautiful princess dress on as she played in front of the door.

She had a beautiful glass bead in her hand and was happily playing with it

when it suddenly slipped away. Lillian immediately ran after it, and as she was about to get it, the bead was suddenly stepped on.

"I thought I saw a familiar face. You're that thing that stuck to Jeremy at KFC that day!" 4

Lily looked up curiously, her large and innocent eyes blinking as she looked at Meredith and her friend who was smiling sinisterly. "Aunty, are you calling me a thing?"

"Who's your aunt?!" Meredith's eyes widened. Looking at that small face that looked similar to Madeline's, her pent up rage surged. She raised her hand and aimed it at Lillian's face. "Shut up!" Although Lily was not even three years

old, she was very nimble.

Seeing that Meredith was about to hit her so maliciously, she immediately avoided her.

Meredith stretched her hand out, hitting the air. She became even more annoyed and stretched out her fingers to pinch Lily's face.

Lily opened her cute little mouth and

unceremoniously bit the back of

Meredith's hand.

"Ah!" Meredith screamed.

Lily loosened her mouth and blinked her big, beautiful eyes. "Aunty, my mommy said that those who like hitting children are bad people. Since you're a bad person, I can shout and hit you. "What? What did you say?" Meredith had never expected that there would be such a day when she was actually lectured by a little girl who was not even three!

She was furious. Seeing Lily having turned

and was walking toward the shop, Meredith hurriedly chased after her, forgetting at that moment that she was still stepping on the glazed bead under her feet. The glazed bead immediately rolled. Unable to hold herself steady, she fell down embarrassingly and pulled her friend beside her down to the ground as well. 2

"F*ck!"

Lily stopped. She turned her head around and stuck her tongue out at Meredith. " Tsk tsk tsk, bad aunty. Hmph, you shouldn't have bullied me."

The little girl then turned around proudly after she said that. 2 "You damned girl!"

As a pair of high heels were about to hit the back of Lily's head, a tall and handsome figure suddenly appeared. The man picked up Lily just in time and stood aside. The high heels flew directly into the glass window of a shop and cracked it.

This showed how much strength Meredith used.

If these high heels were to have hit the back of Lily's head, the consequences would be unimaginable.

Meredith did not expect someone to suddenly rush out to save this damned girl. She wanted to get angry, but when she saw that this man was Jeremy, her expression changed drastically. She hurriedly stood up and motioned to her friend beside her to pick up the shoes.

"Jeremy, you... Why are you here?" She gave an awkward and gentle smile. Jeremy glanced at Lily who was unscathed in his arms, then looked at Meredith questioningly. "What are you doing?"

"Jeremy, don't get me wrong. It's because of this kid

"Miss Crawford? Mr. Whitman?" Madeline walked out of the shop and saw Lily in Jeremy's arms. She glanced at the broken glass again. She then pulled her lips apart and smiled. "Can someone tell me what happened?"

The employee beside her immediately walked to Madeline's side and explained it in a few words.

Madeline furrowed her eyebrows and looked at Meredith who had a terrible expression on her face. "Miss Crawford, if you have any dissatisfactions, you can come to me personally. You don't need to use a private message to curse me, let alone try to hurt my daughter.." "What? Your daughter?" Meredith looked at the little girl in Jeremy's arms in shock.

This little thing was actually Vera's daughter!

Jeremy also looked at the little girl in his arms blankly. She had a pinkish yet tender little face, and her faint eyebrows were curved like two small crescent moons. Sitting on top of her pretty little nose was a pair of clear eyes that were big and round. Long curly lashes accompanied them, blinking every so often. She looked especially innocent.

She was like a little fairy with a rare kind o

f beauty.

He finally understood then why he had felt that this little girl gave him a familiar impression when he first saw her in KFC. She was her daughter.

They looked alike. Their eyebrows were almost identical.

"Thank you, Big Brother. You've saved Lily again." Lily blinked at Jeremy with her pure-looking glass-like eyes. "My mommy is here, so you can put me down, Big Brother."

Jeremy looked at the little girl in his arms as a gentle smile appeared on his cold face. "Your name is Lily?"

"Yeah..." Lily nodded obediently but soon furrowed her cute, little eyebrows before shaking her head. "Only Mommy calls me Lily, but Dad doesn't call me that."

Dad.

Jeremy never felt these two words to be so

harsh before.

Harsh and unfamiliar.

He thought of Jackson. In the past three years, he had hardly heard Jackson call him 'Dad'.

His heart was beating uneasily all of a sudden for some reason.

He put Lily down and she ran straight to Madeline's side. "Mommy, this aunty wanted to hit me just now, but she fell down. Luckily, this big brother saved me." 11

Lily raised her eyes in a serious manner before explaining the situation earlier to Madeline.

Madeline smiled gently and hugged Lily." Mr. Whitman, thank you, but please don't come to me again in the future, lest your noble fiancée thinks I have something going on with you. It doesn't matter if something were to happen to me, but if my daughter gets hurt, I will fight you,"

Madeline said before turning her sharp gaze to Madeline. "I will verify the price of the glass window and send it directly to the finance department of Whitman Corporation. Don't forget to pay for it, Miss Crawford." 20

"What?" Meredith's eyes widened, but then she saw Madeline turning around and leaving.

"Vera Quinn, you..."

"Have you not caused enough trouble?" Jeremy's voice sounded coldly with a reproach.

Meredith looked over at him, feeling at a loss. When she saw that Jeremy had turned around with a cold expression, she could hardly be bothered by her barefooted state as she hurried to catch up with him.

"Jeremy, Jeremy, wait for me. You've

misunderstood me, Jeremy. Listen to me!"

She chased after Jeremy and shouted, but he completely ignored her.

Meredith's heart was anxious. When she saw a piece of glass shard in the middle of the road, she steadied herself and stepped directly on it.

"Ah!" she screamed out in pain and fell to the ground. "Jeremy, it hurts..."

Jeremy stopped and saw that Meredith had fallen to the ground sideways. There was a piece of glass stuck in the sole of her right foot and blood was flowing from the wound.

His thoughts all drifted away at once. She had also accidentally gotten glass pierced in the soles of her feet that year, that month, and that day.

He had ended up carrying her nervously, walking a mile. She was curled on his back at the time, saying sweetly, "Jez, I want to be with you forever."

He had promised without hesitation that he

would marry her and protect her forever.

However, he did not know when it began that he no longer wanted to fulfill this promise at all.

Maybe it was the moment he realized that he was in love with Madeline...

"Jeremy, it hurts. There's a lot of blood..."

Meredith pulled Jeremy back from his

memories with her crying voice.

Despite some resistance, he still walked over and crouched down whilst still thinking of that year.

Madeline had walked to the door again and she saw Meredith sitting on the ground while bleeding from the soles of her feet. She was crying and holding onto Jeremy's hand.

"Jeremy, what did I do wrong? Why are you so indifferent to me now? Have you forgotten what you've promised me? You said you'd take care of me forever."

Listening to these words, Madeline felt disgusted. She was already turning around to leave when she heard Meredith say, Don't you see, Jeremy? I injured the sole of my foot the same way that year. I was so scared, but you walked such a long

distance with me on your back. You said that you'd protect me forever and never let harm befall me. Did you forget..." Madeline could not help but halt her steps. She looked at Meredith who said these words as a layer of doubt gradually appeared in her heart.

Why was Meredith and Jeremy's past so similar to her own experience with Jeremy back then?

Moreover, was April Hill the place where they first met as well?

"Jeremy, I don't need anything, but I

really can't lose you. Please don't leave me

okay?"

Meredith's soft voice pulled Madeline's thoughts back.

She saw Meredith's eyes that were filled with tears while she looked at Jeremy with an expectant gaze..

Although Jeremy had not responded, he took out a handkerchief to bandage Meredith's wound. He still cared for Meredith so much.

"Jeremy..." 11

"Stop talking. I'll take you to the hospital."

Meredith looked at Jeremy affectionately " Jeremy, with you accompanying me, I won't be in as much pain. I know that you'll protect me forever."

Madeline could hear these words from

where she was standing.

While watching Jeremy help Meredith up, Meredith had then turned her head to cast a triumphant and provoking look at her as she was getting into the car. It was as if she was saying, 'Vera Quinn, you're not qualified to steal my man!' a

Madeline looked at this scene indifferently and smiled softly.

'Jeremy, it's such a shame that a smart person like you with extremely high emotional and intelligence quotients who's also able to expertly maneuver through the business world is still incapable of clearly seeing Meredith's true character even after so many years.

'Or perhaps, that's what you like about this scheming b*tch.'>>

Madeline returned to the store, and not long after picking up the paintbrush, the phone rang.

She glanced sideways and saw that it was actually Jeremy who was calling.

However, she did not answer. Jeremy then called a second time.

Madeline picked up the phone and looked at the name on the screen with indifferent eyes as if she had seen herself from before.

How many times had she called Jeremy back then only to never receive a response? Her outgoing calls were either ended or blocked.

She knew that he had hated her so much,

but still, she hoped that she could change her mind again and again.

Thinking about it now, Madeline felt that she was both ridiculous and sad.

How could she have so desperately fallen in love with such a cold and ruthless man?

Madeline did not answer the first two calls. Seeing that Jeremy was making a third call, Madeline then simply silenced the phone and threw it aside.

The rhythm of her heartbeat would never be moved for this man again. a

Madeline was busy in the office the entire day. Finally, she was getting ready to bring Lily back to the apartment, but the moment she left, she saw a familiar car parked in front of the shop.

Jeremy got out of the car, and the afterglow of the setting sun was quietly scattered along his jade-like body. His natural and powerful aura shrouded him with every step he took. His charm was always bright and radiant.

Madeline looked at him and raised her knitted eyebrows. She was about to speak, but Jeremy beat her to it.

"Do me a favor of having a meal with me. After all, I saved your daughter

today," he said. He walked up to Lily with a rare smile on his handsome face. "Cutiepie, are you willing to have a meal together with Big Brother?"

Lily thought for a few seconds, then stretched out her pale and tender little arm to hug Madeline's thigh. She raised her vivid eyes to look at Madeline.

"Mommy, are we having dinner with Big Brother?"

Madeline smiled and stooped down low to hug Lily. "Lily, we won't be eating with Big Brother. Mommy will be taking you home."

Of course, she could not give Jeremy and Lily the opportunity to make contact.

If Jeremy still suspected that she was Madeline, then Lily would become his breakthrough point. She would never let Jeremy discover the secret about Lily. 28Never.

Seeing that Madeline was turning around to leave, Jeremy pulled the corners of his lips into a smile. "Miss Vera, you seem to want to draw a clear line with me?"

Madeline turned her head and chuckled. " Mr. Whitman, you and I have always been just passersby. There's no need to draw a clear line."

She quickly brought Lily into the car and returned to the apartment.

Right after taking a shower, she prepared to put Lily to sleep when the phone rang again.

After looking at it, it turned out to be

Meredith. 2

Madeline walked to the balcony to answer the phone, and Meredith's questioning voice came from the other end, "Vera Quinn, where is Jeremy now? Are you with him?"

Madeline laughed in a low voice. "Miss Crawford, why would you come to me to ask if your fiancé is missing? You're really interesting." 11

"Vera Quinn, you don't have to pretend! Isn't your plastic surgery meant to look like Jeremy's ex-wife just so you can attract his attention?" Meredith's tone was full of resentment.

"Listen to me. Don't think that you can attract Jeremy's attention by doing this. What rights do you have to fight me for a man?!"

After Meredith arrogantly spat out these few words, she suddenly sneered proudly, "In terms of reputation and status, I'm a dignified and wealthy lady who has millions of fans on the internet! What about you? Don't you just have some lousy money? The money may have also been obtained through some abnormal means! Vera, how can you compare with me? So, you'd better stay within your bounds or things won't end well for you!"

Beep, beep.

Without giving Madeline any more chances to speak, Meredith hung up the phone. With this, it was as if it meant that she had won.

However, in Madeline's view, Meredith's anxious performance just revealed her inner worries and anxieties at the moment.

While imagining Meredith's unhappy appearance at this moment, Madeline turned around and went back into the room.

Just as she walked in, the phone rang

again.

The caller ID showed that it was Jeremy. This was really interesting.

Thinking of Meredith's call just a moment ago, Madeline decisively swiped the answer button.

Before she even spoke, the voice of a strange man sounded on the phone. The background noise was mixed with all kinds of music and

voices.

"Miss Vera Quinn? Your friend, Mr. Whitman, is with us right now. He's drunk. Could you please come and pick him up? Here's..." 2

The man reported the exact address, and Madeline's mind instantly brought up an old scene.

After she had put Lily to sleep, she then changed her clothes and left.

She did not forget to call a certain friend to ask her to come to the apartment to watch Lily when she left, lest the little girl woke up halfway and became afraid after not being able to find her mother.

The evening breeze of the late summer came in wisps, also bringing with it the unbearable past events.

Madeline once again entered this high end entertainment venue called Zero Degrees. The lights in the lobby were so glaring that she did not like it.

Back then, it was because of Meredith's lie that she had thought that her grandfather was seriously ill. At the end of her rope, she had come here to sell alcohol, but in the end, she did not make any money but only got humiliated and left with a debt of 500,000 dollars that made her not want to live anymore.

On the day of the divorce, Jeremy might have thought that she had asked for 500,000 dollars to be free and happy. He would not know that she wanted to return the money to Daniel Graham before she died. She did not want to owe anyone, especially those who had treated her well. Madeline stopped the memory and halted

her steps.

In front was the room where Jeremy was in. It was also the place where she was humiliated and got trampled on by Meredith and Jeremy.

Madeline pursed her pink lips as a spark of revenge flashed in her eyes. Just as she was about to push the door open to enter, she noticed that someone had stopped by her side and was looking at her.

"You... You... Ma-Madeline?!" 4Never.

Seeing that Madeline was turning around to leave, Jeremy pulled the corners of his lips into a smile. "Miss Vera, you seem to want to draw a clear line with me?"

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"You... You... Ma-Madeline?!" 4The voice was familiar and her nerves were telling her that the owner of this voice extremely repulsed her.

She tilted her eyes up and looked over. The lights in the corridor were very bright and Madeline could clearly see Tanner's ugly, wretched face appearing in her sight.

When Tanner was drunk, he thought that this woman only looked a little familiar after looking at her side profile. However, now that he could see Madeline's face clearly, he was instantly shocked! He backed up again and again, and as a result, both his feet tripped. He fell on all fours.

Madeline stood calmly at the door of the room, watching Tanner turning pale with fright. He looked like he was crawling backward in a panic, and she smiled brightly with the corners of her beautiful lips. "Sir... Is something the matter?" she asked with a puzzled smile on her beautiful face. "Are you okay? Do you want me to help you up?"

Tanner looked at her, his eyes widening in horror. "Ma-Madeline! Don't come over!"

'Don't come over?

'Hmph!'

Madeline smiled even more brilliantly and walked toward him. "Why is this gentleman so scared? I'm a human, not a ghost. Why are you-' 11

"Ghost! You're a ghost! Madeline, you're a ghost! Don't come over! Don't come to me. I told a lie at best. I didn't do anything to you. I'm not the one who killed you. If you want, go to Meredith! Don't come to me!"

After Tanner was done roaring at

Madeline, he ran away.

It was as if he would have been killed by Meredith's ghost in a second.

Madeline snorted funnily whilst looking at

Tanner's back.

She had never done anything against her conscience in her life, but she was tortured until her body was incomplete and bloody.

These people who had hurt and bullied her, instead of getting any retribution, still went to nightclubs to drink and dance as usual.

Thinking about Tanner's horrified response just now, Madeline curled her lips slightly, already planning one of the links to her revenge.

She turned around and finally pushed open the heavy room door in front of her.

The lights in the room were very soft and not as colorful or messy as the ones in the hall. They were also not as bright and dazzling as the ones in the corridor. She walked in and saw Jeremy leaning lazily against the corner of the sofa.

He was wearing a white shirt with the neckline slightly opened. She could vaguely see his collarbone which was very sexy hidden under the shirt, just looming.

His eyes were closed as if he was sleeping. The soft warm light of the crystal lamp lightly spilled on his angular and handsome face, but it seemed that the fatigue between his eyebrows could not be dispelled.

This was the first time Madeline realized that he had such a tired look on his face when he fell asleep.

However, how could he be tired?

He was worth hundreds of billions with a woman he liked by his side and a son. Why was he tired?

She put down her bag and walked toward him. "Mr. Whitman."

Madeline called out, but Jeremy did not respond. There was the faint fragrance of wine lingering around him, covering up his breath. Madeline glanced at the bottles of red wine on the coffee table, wondering how many Jeremy had drunk.

"Mr. Whitman," she called out again, but she still could not get any response. Jeremy." 11

Finally, Madeline called his name, a name that had appeared in her heart countless times. She had also thought that this name would remain in her heart forever like an ivy until the day she died.

Yet during the time when she was really about to die, she then realized that she had been chasing the love of her life, but it was just a dream bubble of a person.

With an indifferent gaze, Madeline looked at the man who was breathing steadily and sleeping serenely in front of her. Then, she smiled

'Jeremy, it's true that I loved you back then, but it's also true that I don't love you

Just then, a phone's ringtone rang out. The room was quiet, so the ringtone was very clear.

Madeline lowered gaze and saw Jeremy's mobile phone vibrating incessantly. Her sixth sense was telling her that this call was most likely from Meredith. z

She stretched her hand out without hesitation and was just about to swipe the answer button when her palm was suddenly held tightly.

Madeline was startled and looked

sideways, not wanting to run into

Jeremy's deep and hazy eyes.

Somehow, Madeline's heart was beating fast, but she smiled calmly. "Mr. Whitman, are you awake? I originally wanted to answer the call for you, but since you're awake, you can answer it yourself." She tried to pull her hand back, but Jeremy did not seem to show any signs of letting g 0.

"Please let go of me, Mr. Whitman."

"I'll never let you go again."

What?

Madeline was shocked at Jeremy's unexpected confession.

She turned to stare at him in confusion, not expecting Jeremy to suddenly pull her into his arms.

As she was in her heels, Madeline lost her footing at the sudden tug and fell onto Jeremy.

For a split second, she felt the familiar warmth despite their distance.

He may have never loved her, but that did not mean nothing had happened between them.

Quickly recollecting her emotions, she tried to push herself up only for Jeremy to wrap an arm around her waist.

"What are you doing, Mr. Whitman?"

As she was feeling uncomfortable, Madeline tried to struggle out of his grasp. Her efforts were futile due to the difference between their strengths.

Right then, the hand around her waist suddenly moved upward, pressing Madeline against Jeremy before she realized what was happening.

His intoxicated yet handsome appearance was magnified before her eyes. With their breaths mingling and their noses touching, Madeline was stunned by the lack of distance between them.

She had never expected to get so close to Jeremy again. However, Jeremy seemed truly drunk. His eyes were dazed and glazed over as they stared back at Madeline.

Slowly, he lifted a hand, his warm fingertips caressing Madeline's cheeks. In his eyes swirled a myriad of unspoken feelings.

Madeline did not understand them, nor did she want to maintain such close distance and position.

She lifted a hand to push Jeremy away in distaste. "You're drunk!"

Taking her bag, Madeline made a move to leave only to have Jeremy hold her close from behind. The warmth she used to yearn for engulfed her,

making it hard for her to escape.

"Madeline."

Jeremy's low and raspy baritone voice

sounded, thick with mixed emotions. Madeline halted in her steps, doubting the truth behind the situation.

"I missed you, Madeline..." the man spoke softly against her ear.

Madeline smiled at the hilarity of the situation. 'Do you think I wouldn't know that you're trying to test if I'm your ex wife, Jeremy?

'You miss me?

'Hmph!

'The only person you miss is the evil b*

tch, Meredith!

"Since when have you ever missed me?

'Had you never thought, for one moment, that I was human too? That I would hurt too when my appearance got disfigured when my cornea got removed? No!

'You didn't, Jeremy Whitman! >>

'So don't tell me you miss me or that you want me. All you've wanted was for me to die!'

Bang!

The doors of the private room were kicked open.

After hearing about it, Meredith had sped over to find Jeremy hugging Madeline in his arms. Furious, she ran over and took one of the many red wine bottles lying around.

"Vera Quinn, you b*tch! I'm going to kill you!" Meredith ran toward them like a madwoman, completely forgetting about her gentle and kind persona in front of Jeremy.

She raised the bottle and aimed it Madeline's face.

In the nick of time, Jeremy raised a hand to stop Meredith.

He pulled Madeline behind him. Intoxicated as he may have seemed a moment ago, Jeremy now glared at Meredith with displeasure, completely sober.

"What are you doing?"

Seeing Jeremy protect Madeline had Meredith struggling to keep her anger in check. However, she also knew that tears and acting weak were the only things she could do in this situation.

"I didn't actually want to hit her, Jeremy. I just don't want to see this woman always with you." She complained hurtfully, placing the bottle back down.

"Can't you tell, Jeremy? She even did plastic surgery to look like Madeline so that she can attract your attention. Jeremy, don't be fooled by this woman."

Jeremy turned to look at Madeline's

flawless skin at the words 'plastic surgery'.

Madeline, however, merely smiled. "I had no idea that Miss Montgomery and the future Mrs. Whitman could speak in such an irresponsible manner. My appearance is a gift from my parents. Who are you to accuse me of plastic surgery? And even if I had done plastic surgery, pray tell why I would turn myself into a dead woman?"

The words 'dead woman' pierced into

Jeremy's heart. Any remaining sign of drunkenness had immediately vanished. The pain of losing Madeline and the woman who loved him the most woke him up.

Madeline brushed past Jeremy to stand in front of Meredith. "If you have time to throw a tantrum, Miss Crawford, I suggest you use it to think about why I was the first person your fiancé called when he was drunk instead of you, his fiancée."

"You..."

"Please refrain from contacting me again, Mr. Whitman. We wouldn't want this soulmate of yours feeling jealous, now would we?"

With that, Madeline turned and left.

Grinding her teeth together, Meredith glared at Madeline's retreating figure before turning around to reach for Jeremy with a pitiful look in her eyes. 2
"Let's go home, Jeremy. That woman's not worth ruining our relationship over."

She tried to persuade him, but Jeremy had chosen to evade her outreached arm.

He lifted his eyes to stare at her, displeasure swimming in the deep gaze. How did you know I'd be here?"

Something flashed in Meredith's eyes. There was no way she would tell him that she had her own people spying on him. "I didn't know you were here, Jeremy. All I knew was that I was worried because I didn't know where you were. I came here to try my luck, but I didn't expect to see you and that Vera Quinn..." +

She explained as tears of hurt fell cooperatively from her eyes.

"I don't want another woman to come

between us again, Jeremy..."

All Jeremy could think of was Madeline's face when he looked at Meredith's tearful eyes.

He realized that the moment Madeline had taken root in his heart, any

other woman had become the mistress including Meredith.

Jeremy returned to the villa with Meredith following behind.

Meredith did not like the villa at all. Sure, it was luxurious and beautiful, but it was also filled with traces of Madeline. Madeline's death did not change the fact that Meredith still hated her.

Oh, how she wished that Jeremy would build a new one in commemoration of their marriage. Yet three years had passed and she had not received even a single bracelet from him, let alone a new villa.

Jeremy made a beeline for his bedroom the moment he returned to the villa.

Meredith wanted to follow after him, but Jeremy stopped her outside. "I'm tired. Go back."

"Let me spend the night with you, Jeremy. It's been so many years. You must know how I feel about you by now. You used to tell me I'm the most perfect girl you've seen."

Meredith stared at Jeremy suggestively, reminding him of a memory he held dear. Knowing that Jeremy had drunk tonight, she hoped that the alcohol would help him lose some of the logic holding him back.

Jeremy hesitated, and Meredith took the opportunity to reach for his hand.

"Don't you want to go back, Jez? Back to how happy we used to be together?"

"Dad."

Just when Meredith was so close to persuading Jeremy to allow her into his room, the voice she hated rang out. Embers of anger licked within her, but to be with Jeremy, she had no other choice than to play the part of a dignified and loving mother. Turning her head, she smiled lightly at Jackson.

"Why aren't you asleep yet, Jack? It's late." Jackson's eyes quickly flitted

away upon seeing Meredith's smile.

"I need Dad to sign something."

Meredith smiled warmly as the workbook in Jackson's hands caught her eyes. "How about I sign it instead?"

Jackson pinched the corner of his workbook and turned to look expectantly at Jeremy.

"Just let your mom sign it instead. Don't go to bed too late." Then, Jeremy closed his room door.

Staring at the closed door, all the light in Jackson's eyes was replaced with unknown fear and darkness.

Turning around, he walked quickly to his own room. Rejected by the door, Meredith

immediately dropped the smile on her

face.

Extremely displeased, she marched into Jackson's room. She kicked the door open right as he was about to close it.

The word 'Mom' was on the tip of Jackson's tongue, yet he dared not call Meredith that at all.

"What's wrong, Jack? I'm your mother. Why do you always look so sad every time you see me?"

She approached with a smile, only for her expression to shift drastically the next second. Almost as if she was a demon who had torn off a kind mask, there was nothing but ugly underneath.

"Of all the times, why did you just have to appear at that moment? All you know is to ruin my plans! Do you think I'd have kept you alive had it not been for the fact that you were useful? Every time I see you I hate you

even more!" Meredith roared without restraint.

Running around her, Jackson hid in the bathroom and locked the door behind him.

Meredith ran after him to the door, continuing her round of verbal attacks that sounded downright horrible.

She did not have an ounce of like for Jackson. If anything, all she felt was deep hatred! Just like how she hated Madeline before!

Even if Jackson was the cause of her many benefits.

Sure, everyone would think that Jackson's eyes and brows were a replica of Jeremy's, but Meredith could not help but feel that Jackson was slowly growing to resemble Madeline.

He was Madeline and Jeremy's son, after all! It made sense for a son to resemble his mother!

What nobody knew was how she had tortured Jackson behind everyone's backs. Jackson was five, yet he did not have the energetic and bubbly personality fit for a child his age.

At that moment, Jackson was squatting in the corner with his eyes shut tight and his small hands covering his ears. He was shielding himself from Meredith's scoldings.

'Why is my mother so different from everyone else's? Why... 3

'Shouldn't mothers love their child the most?'

His mind was filled with question marks as his long curly lashes sat heavily on his eyes from tears he had unknowingly begun to shed. Returning to the apartment, Madeline took a cold shower.

She did not want to be swayed by Jeremy again just because he had called her Madeline'.

Walking to her bed, her resolve for revenge strengthened as she stared at the calmly sleeping child.

Lillian would have a sister had it not been for Jeremy and Meredith. 4

Madeline's fist tightened. She vowed to

avenge herself and her late child no

matter what.

The following evening, Madeline arrived at the kindergarten to pick Lillian up from school as usual. Traffic was horrible due to the rain and she was half an hour late.

Most kids had already been fetched when she arrived, leaving Lillian and another boy at the guardhouse. After walking closer, Madeline realized

that the boy was no other than Jackson

Whitman. Seeing Madeline, Lillian ran toward her

excitedly. "Mommy! Hugs!"

Staring at the adorable and innocent girl, Madeline scooped Lily into her arms to plant a loving kiss on her cheeks.

Jackson felt a swell of emotions bubbling within him as he set his eyes on Madeline's face from the side.

He lifted his handsome but childlike face, summoning his courage to walk up to Madeline.

Realizing something was amiss, Madeline lowered her confused gaze to meet Jackson's. "What's wrong?" "Is it you, Maddie?"

Staring seriously at Madeline, Jackson finally mustered the courage to ask.

Stunned for a second, Madeline then replied with a smile, "Hey, buddy. I'm

Lillian's mother. I can tell you my name if you want? It's nice to meet you, I'm Vera Quinn."

She introduced herself with a smile, realizing that Jackson was currently analyzing her. 2

The small face before her eyes was a fair one of exquisite features, a result of Jeremy's great genes.

For some reason, Madeline could not help but feel like there was something deeper and more pressing within Jackson's onyx orbs. Perhaps it was the light..

What issue could such a young child have, anyway?

Memories of how Meredith had cut Jackson's cheek to frame her appeared in Madeline's mind. She could still remember how freely the blood flowed and how the boy wailed. It must have hurt a lot.

Seeing the flawless cheek of his now, Madeline sighed an inexplicable breath of relief.

Thank goodness it had not scarred.

"Mommy, Mommy. This is the Jackie I

told you about. We're great friends!"

Lily's voice was sweet and soft, melting her heart like cotton candy.

Madeline nodded. "Oh, so you're Jackie?" she said cooperatively despite not wishing for Lily to get too close to Jackson. It was not because she disliked Jackson, but because their relationship was an unconventional one.

"Time to go home, Lillian. Say goodbye to

Jackie now, okay?"

"Okay." Lily reached out to wave a chubby hand. "Bye-bye Jackie. See you tomorrow."

Madeline smiled warmly at Jackson. "Bye, buddy." 2 With that, she turned around with Lily in her arms and left, holding an umbrella over them with one hand.

Yet no more than two steps later, Madeline found herself stopping unexpectedly in her tracks.

The rain fell heavier and the last winds of summer were chilly as they blew past.

Turning back, Madeline stared at Jackson who stood by the gates. The boy did not seem to be wearing much and the schoolbag weighed heavily on his little body. Jackson's bright eyes bore into her.

He was so close, yet Madeline could not help but feel there were miles between her and Jackson.

Her heart suddenly clenched as she remembered the child Meredith and Jeremy had killed.

She walked back to stand in front of Jackson. "Are your parents coming to fetch you, buddy?"

"My dad's busy," Jackson replied.

Madeline smiled. "What about your mom?"

Madeline watched rejection flare in Jackson's eyes at the mention of Meredith.

That moment, Jackson's class teacher walked over to tell her that it had been almost half an hour since the day had ended but they had yet to get in contact with Jackson's family.

Madeline hesitated before dialing Jeremy's number. It went to voicemail.

Mulling over the thought for a few seconds, she then decided to invite Jackson. "Hey, buddy. Do you want to come home with me first? We can wait until your dad contacts me and comes to bring you home." a

"That's awesome! Jackie's gonna be a guest at our house! I'm so happy, Mommy!"

The little girl wrapped her arms around Madeline with a coquettish exclamation, making Madeline find it hard not to ruffle her head fondly.

Seeing as Madeline seemed to be acquainted with Jackson's father, the class teacher handed him over to him.

Half an hour later, Madeline arrived at the apartment with the two children in tow.

Lily jumped around and pulled Jackson into the house excitedly, already sharing her favorite snacks and fruits with him.

Madeline went to the kitchen to bake small cakes for the two kids.

In the open kitchen, Madeline was given a clear view of Lillian and Jackson sitting on the small stools by the coffee table. z

For a child who detested homework, Lily had surprisingly taken her workbook out on her own today. "Hey, Jackie? Do you know why one plus one equals two?

"Why do two apples plus one banana equals three?"

"Jackie, Jackie. Do you like mushrooms?"

As if transforming into the Book of Questions, Lily began to ask Jackson one question after another with her round eyes shining with curiosity and life.

Jackson may only be five years old, but he appeared much more mature.

He seriously tried to answer every one of Lily's questions. He would repeat himself patiently when Lily showed even the slightest bit of confusion.

Madeline had initially been afraid that something would go wrong should Lily and Jackson become friends. Yet the sight in front of her quelled those worries, for Jackson was acting like an understanding brother who loved his younger sister without limits. The heartwarming sight melted her heart.

However, Madeline's smile did not last too long.

Perhaps Lillian would have a sister who loved her if her first child was still alive.

Perhaps she would be privy to such a heartwarming scene.

"Do you want to play hide and seek, Jackie?" Lily stretched a hand toward Jackson.

After hesitating for a moment, Jackson took Lily's hand. "Okay. I'll play with you."

Madeline found his voice childish but unusual when he opened his mouth to speak.

Yet that was not the only problem. Jackson did not seem to know how to smile, and that was very wrong.

He had not smiled once ever since they returned.

Such was not the behavior of a normal child.

Befuddled, Madeline placed the freshly baked cake and orange juice on the coffee table. Before she could search for the kids, her phone rang.

Reading the caller ID, she accepted the call.

"Why did you call? I thought you were the one who told me not to look for you anymore, Miss Vera." Jeremy's alluring baritone voice sounded over

the line, his tone flirtatious.

Madeline chuckled. "Didn't you realize the calls from your son's class teacher before you called me back, Mr. Whitman? I understand that work is important, but a child also needs the loving nurture of his parents."

The line grew silent at her words.

Not too long after, Jeremy's voice sounded from the speaker again. "My son's with you? Send me your address. I'll be there shortly."

Madeline did not mind giving Jeremy her address. After all, searching it up would be an easy feat for him if he truly wanted to know.

After sending the address, she hung up the call.

"Jackie? What's wrong? Jackie, Jackie!"

Lily suddenly shouted just as Madeline was about to call the two children over for snacks.

Realizing that something may have happened, Madeline quickly ran to the storeroom where the sound came from.

Turning on lights, she was shocked to find Jackson squinting in the corner with his head between his knees. The boy's arms were wrapped around himself as he trembled.

Lily blinked innocently at her. "Jackie and I were just playing hide and seek, Mommy. Then, he suddenly hid in here and stopped talking."

"It's alright, baby. Mommy's here." Madeline comforted Lily before walking over to squat in front of Jackson.

"What's wrong, Jackson?" she asked kindly, reaching out to touch his shoulder.

Jackson shook at the touch and hugged himself tighter in fear.

Madeline felt her heart tighten at the strange reaction, her worry doubling, " Don't be afraid, Jackson. Aunty Vera won't hurt you."

Madeline reached out again to place a hand on Jackson's shoulder. Jackson finally raised his head. His complexion was pale and his expression looked lost. His round eyes were brimming with tears.

For a reason unbeknownst to her,

Madeline felt her heart break at the sight. The feeling resembled the time when she was forcefully inducted into labor. Her heart stabbed with a pain that was akin to losing a child.

Her hand slowly rose to softly pat Jackson's head, her tone warm and soft as she said, "What's wrong, Jackson? Did something upset you? You can tell Aunty Vera. It's alright, shh. It's going to be okay. Aunty Vera's here. I won't let anyone hurt you."

Jackson's eyes reddened as he watched Madeline comfort him. His small lips pursed as he dove into Madeline's arms. His voice trembled as he shook. He called out to Madeline. "Mom..." The last thing Madeline could ever have expected was Jackson running into her arms, calling her his mom.

Jackson must have been feeling terrified and insecure.

He buried his tiny physique deep into her arms. It was as if the only way to lessen his fear was to hold her tight with both his hands while his eyes remained shut. S

Madeline felt her heart clench at the signs of distress on his small cheeks. It had been a long while since she had felt such an intrusive stab of pain eating its way out of her chest.

She lifted a hand to lightly pat the back of Jackson's head, her voice soft.

"It's alright now, Jack. It's alright."

With her comforting words, Madeline saw Jackson relax and calm from his

previous

upset state.

"Is Jackie okay, Mommy?" Lily walked over and asked innocently.

"He'll be alright. Don't worry." Madeline smiled. "Mommy made you some snacks. How about you share some with him?"

"Okay!" Lillian reached out a hand to

Jackson. "Come on, Jackie, let's go eat some snacks together! Mommy's cake is the best!"

At her words, Jackson seemed to finally

pull himself out of that mindset.

He blinked open his round eyes, his long eyelashes fluttering as he looked up to stare at Madeline Crawford. Slowly but surely, a red blush of what looked like embarrassment tinted his handsome little cheeks.

"Sorry." He suddenly apologized. The words echoed with familiarity in Madeline's ears.

She smiled warmly and gently caressed Jackson's small cheeks. "What are you apologizing for, silly? You didn't do anything wrong."

A quick flash of envy left as fast as it came in Jackson's eyes as he took in Madeline's gentle, kind smile. He envied Lillian for having such a warm and familiar mother figure.

Madeline found herself sighing an inexplicable breath of relief when she saw that the state of Jackson's emotions was back to normal.

Mirth washed over her chest as she watched the two children sitting next to each other while eating the snacks she made.

Especially when she watched Jackson caringly wipe off the butter

smudged on the corners of Lillian's mouth.

Her heart clenched again, this time

reminding her of the child she lost.

Right then, Lily got up to use the

bathroom. Only when she was conveniently out of earshot did Madeline dare to ask, "Hey, Jack. How does your mother normally treat you?"

Jackson hesitated as he drank his orange juice, the light in his eyes slowly dimming.

The answer to the question was clear as

day.

Three years ago, she had watched

Meredith heartlessly slash Jackson's cheek with a fruit knife.

Meredith scared her more than any demon for being able to remain aloof in the face of her son's tears.

How could such a woman who preyed on her own son for status and wealth exist in this world?

To the point that Jackson would act in such a weird manner. What had she done that warranted so much fear in him that he ran into her arms and called her his mom?

Had Jeremy never paid Jackson any attention? Had Jeremy left Jackson to deal with Meredith's torture alone?

Jackson's silence had Madeline putting a hold on her questions. Ruffling his adorable head, she changed the subject.

"You think that I look a lot like someone you know who's named Maddie, right?"

At her words, Jackson's gaze bore heavily into her before he nodded. "I thought you were Maddie in the beginning."

Madeline smiled. "What if I am this Maddie? I'm sure your mother told you that Maddie was a horrible woman, didn't she? That this Maddie had hurt you before, Jack."

Jackson's expression grew solemn when he heard her words. Then, he started to shake his head vigorously.

"Maddie definitely isn't a horrible woman. She would never hurt me."

His words were certain, and his eyes were exceptionally determined.

Madeline was stunned as an indescribable feeling started to bubble in her heart. To have Jackson Whitman trust her so much despite his young age was something Madeline had never expected.

"Can I call you Big Sis Vera from now on?" Jackson looked at Madeline expectantly.

Madeline nodded and smiled, her mind wavering at the memory of Jackson calling her 'Mom' moments ago.

"Of course."

Hearing her reply, a smile finally graced Jackson's features.

This was the first time Madeline had seen Jackson smile, be it three years ago or three years later today.

Two dimples appeared by the corners of Jackson's mouth as he smiled. He looked warm and adorable, just like Lillian. Madeline felt warmth flood into her chest at the child's angelic smile.

Not too long after, Jeremy arrived.

He wanted to enter the house, but Madeline held him off outside.

"Please do take better care of your son, M r. Whitman. He is, after all, the precious child of you and your beloved." There was more to Madeline's words that met the eye. Turning around, she fired Jackson a gentle and light smile. "Come on, Jack, your father's here to fetch you home. You can always come again next time."

"Okay." Jackson nodded and slowly shuffled to stand beside Jeremy.

Instead of greeting his father, Jackson remained silent by his side.

The father-son duo gave her a strange and distant feeling.

"Thank you, Miss Vera." Jeremy expressed his gratitude. He wanted to say more but was interrupted by an untimely phone call.

Looking at the caller ID, he realized that it was from Meredith.

Jeremy spent a few seconds hesitating before accepting the call anyway.

When the line connected, Meredith's complaints and wailing drifted in from the other end. "Jeremy! I just went to pick Jack up from the kindergarten but the teacher told me a woman called Vera Quinn had already taken our son away! What does she want? Why did she kidnap Jack? What are we supposed to do now, Jeremy? I'm scared. What if Vera Quinn hurts Jack? Jeremy..."

There was no way Madeline could not catch a word with how loud Meredith was being.

She chuckled as she watched Jeremy frown with his lips apart, ready to respond.

However, Madeline reached out to take his phone and placed it by her ear instead.

Meredith's high-pitched screams continued to sound from the speaker. "

Jeremy, Jeremy, can you hear me? Je-

"Miss Crawford? You're correct, I've kidnapped your son. In fact, not only did I kidnap your son, but I also have your fiancé with me. You want to save them, don't you? So how about you bring the ransom to my house? Oh, and call the police too while you're at it."

Meredith froze when she heard Madeline's voice, slowly taking in the other woman's words.

Imagining Meredith's embarrassed and pissed expression, Madeline smiled and returned the phone to Jeremy.

"This must be the legendary love of Mr. Whitman's life. Quite the high maintenance, I'd say."

Madeline waved Jackson goodbye with a warm smile. "Bye-bye, Jackson. See you next time."

Jackson smiled and waved back. "Bye-bye, Big Sis Vera."

Madeline nodded and quickly closed the doors.

She let out an ironic smile when she saw the grim expression Jeremy wore from her peripheral vision.

The following day, Jeremy caught Madeline by surprise as he found her working in the shop as usual.

In a tailored suit, Jeremy's divine aura attracted numerous envious gazes.

He made a beeline to speak to Madeline, going straight to the point.

"Grandfather believes that you're my ex wife, Madeline Crawford. As a result, he wishes that you could attend the 50th anniversary of the founding of Whitman Corporation. The anniversary is in two days."

Madeline continued to draw without lifting her head. "I'm sorry, but I don't want to attract any more unnecessary issues, let alone be suspected from time to time by other people as your ex-wife."

With that, she lifted her gaze to stare into Jeremy's bottomless eyes. Madeline chuckled.

"You suspect it too, don't you, Mr. Whitman? You, too, suspect that I'm that damned ex-wife of yours.

"You pretended to be drunk when you called me over to the club. You knew what you were doing when you held me and cried lovingly for Madeline. Perhaps you've forgotten, Mr. Whitman, but everyone is well aware of how much you hated and were disgusted by Madeline Crawford. There was absolutely no way that you would cry for her in such a tone even if she was still alive, let alone speak the words you claimed you wanted to say, no?" Jeremy felt a rush of unease wash over him when he recognized the sarcasm and disdain in Madeline's eyes.

Pursing his lips, his gaze drilled into Madeline's eyes.

"As such, it'd be great if you would stop looking for me, Mr. Whitman. I really don't want to be treated as the dead again." Madeline rejected him indifferently.

"It won't happen again."

Jeremy parted his lips to say after a moment of silence.

With his gaze fixated on her, he bent his head to lean closer to her.

"I promise you, it won't happen again."

Madeline chuckled lightly. "Are you admitting to testing me the other day, Mr. Whitman?"

Jeremy remained silent under her inquisitive tone.

Perhaps so. While the entire world was privy to how shamelessly in love Madeline was with Jeremy, Jeremy was the only one who knew he loved her back.

The truth was, Jeremy had lost his mind the other day. He was not testing her, no. He had fantasized that she was still alive...

Yet, that was all it was. A fantasy.

Now, he was awake.

He would not fantasize the woman before

him to be the one in his heart.

Madeline took Jeremy's quietness as silent admittance. 2

Softly, she scoffed. "With that being said, I shall accept your invite, Mr. Whitman. After all, offending you would do no good to my days in Glendale."

Reluctant as Madeline seemed, Whitman Corporations' anniversary was an event she needed to attend!

After all, she was going to reveal the other side of Meredith in front of the celebrities gathered.

After accepting Jeremy's invitation, Madeline quickly mailed it off anonymously to someone else.

After that, she went to the counter of a store to pick up the gown she had ordered from the internet.

What a small world it was. After entering the store, Madeline was met with the sight of Meredith who was being served enthusiastically by several assistants. She did not even realize Madeline's presence.

"These are all the latest styles from last week, Miss Montgomery. Especially these few here, I'd say they match your aura very well." The shop assistants praised

with smiles. Meredith took the dresses to check the price tags. "This won't do. This is too cheap for a person of my status. Don't you

have something more expensive?"

"Yes, yes, of course! This way, please!" Elated by Meredith's desire for more expensive outfits, the shop assistants immediately brought her to a side for more options.

"What about this style, Miss Montgomery?"

"This here is this season's limited evening gown, Miss Montgomery. Its price is also very fitting of your status! I'm sure you'd be the center of everyone's attention should you wear this to the Whitman Corporation's 50th anniversary!"

"Indeed! You'd match Mr. Whitman with this evening gown, Miss Montgomery!" Meredith smiled arrogantly after being put up on a pedestal with the shop assistants' singing her praises after praises.

However, she still felt rather unsatisfied. Her gaze wandered until it fell on a mannequin as if she had been enraptured by the outfit it wore.

"Why haven't I seen this dress before? I like its unique style. I want to try it on," Meredith ordered.

The assistants smiled awkwardly. "The gown has already been pre-ordered by another client, Miss. Montgomery."

"Then give her another one from another warehouse." Meredith was displeased. Desire was apparent in her gaze as it bore holes into the gown.

"I..." The assistant was placed between a rock and a hard place. This dress was handmade, so it was not cheap. It had to be ordered from overseas half a month

before purchase, so this was the only one i

n the entirety of Glendale. Hearing her, Meredith's expression fell

slightly while the possessiveness in her

eyes

flared.

"I want this dress. You can just tell the client their pre-ordered gown hasn't arrived yet. You should wrap this dress up for me if you want me to continue shopping with you."

"I..."

"What are you still waiting for? Are you telling me a casual customer is more important than long-term ones like me?" Madeline urged them, displeased.

The shop assistants shared a glance before breaking out into fawning smiles again.

"Just a moment, Miss Montgomery. I'll wrap it up for you now," a shop assistant said as she took the dress. "It makes sense how Madeline lost to you, Miss Crawford. How could she possibly match your bossiness? She was never your opponent to begin with."

Meredith had not expected such a sentence to come from behind her as she waited happily for the shop assistant to wrap the dress up for her.

Her expression darkened as she whipped her head around. A few shop assistant's gazes fell on her as well.

"Vera Quinn?" Meredith's gaze turned sinister, but the smile remained on her face in the public setting. "It's you? I never thought you'd be able to afford something from such an expensive shop. Maybe selling jewelry does come with quite the salary, huh?" She mocked.

"You're right. It really isn't easy earning money. I'm not you, after all, Miss Crawford. I don't get to spend my family wealth without working for it."

"..." The corners of Meredith's lips twitched as distaste settled on her face. The fake smile she put on disappeared

instantly as she turned to glare impatiently at the shop assistants. "Wrap it up already!" she quirked an eyebrow at Madeline. "Jeremy's still waiting for me for lunch!"

"Yes, yes, of course! One moment, Miss Montgomery," the shop assistants replied, wrapping up the gown and handing Meredith the bag.

Sparing an arrogant glance at Madeline,

Meredith reached out to receive the shopping bag only for Madeline to take it neatly before Meredith's fingers could touch the bag's handles.

"What are you doing, Vera Quinn?" Meredith roared in anger.

The shop assistants were shocked as well, immediately standing on Meredith's side to point fingers at Madeline's behavior. "What are you doing, Miss? This belongs to Miss Montgomery! How could you take other's things?"

"Other's things?" The corners of Madeline's lips quirked meaningfully. "Do you like this gown, Miss Crawford? What a shame, I like it too."

"Hmph. You like it too? Just because you like it doesn't mean it's yours!" Meredith smirked mockingly.

The assistants chuckled as well, a belittling gaze in their eyes. "This is a six figure dress, Miss. You're not the only one who likes it. We like it too. But liking it doesn't mean it belongs to you! Please put the gown down, Miss, or we'll have to call security." *Staring at the snobbish shop assistants and the arrogant Meredith, Madeline casually pulled out a card and threw it at the face of the shop assistant who had threatened to call security. "Pick it up and take a look, then tell me whether I'm allowed such a dress or not."

Taken aback by Madeline's temperament, the shop assistant quickly picked up the card. Reading the words atop, her expression immediately shifted into an embarrassed one. She flushed red as she bowed and apologized to Madeline.

"I'm sorry, I'm so sorry! I didn't know you're Miss Quinn! I'm sorry, really! Please forgive me!"

Seeing their colleague's reaction, the other salespeople came over to read the card Madeline had thrown down. Their expressions shifted immediately at a glance as they began apologizing to Madeline.

Meredith was stunned to see the shop attendants suddenly apologize to Madeline, treating her with respect.

"What are you doing? Why are you so polite to her?" Meredith rolled her eyes in disagreement. "What's so shocking about this woman's name card anyway?"

Meredith smirked as she disdainfully reached out to take and read the card that was in the assistant's hand.

"Hmph. In the end, she's just a person who sells jewelry. What's so great..." Meredith's face fell amidst her mocking words, doubt and unwillingness to believe the truth bleeding out of her eyes as she stared at Madeline. "You're this brand's honorary member?!" a

Pinching the faint purple VIP card in her hands, Meredith's eyes were filled with suspicion and doubt despite the words 'Vera Quinn' boldly engraved on it.

Meredith had become an honorary member of many luxurious stores ever since she became the oldest daughter of the Montgomery family. She wanted to become one for this store to further elevate her taste, yet she found herself unable to meet their requirements just yet.

She had never expected the woman she hated so much to fulfill such requirements, though!

Madeline's lips curled as she turned to face Meredith's fuming face. "So can this jewelry seller take the gown now?"

With that, she plucked the card from Meredith's hands and turned elegantly.

"Wait!" Meredith walked forward to stop Madeline. "So what if you have

that card, Vera? Let me tell you, someone has already pre-ordered that dress long ago." She crossed her arms and smirked. "If I can't have it, neither can you!" 11

Staring at Meredith's ugly selfishness in the face, Madeline's lips tugged into a victorious smile. "I think you're mistaken. The one who can't have it is you, Meredith Crawford. The gown has been mine since half a month ago."

"What?" Meredith's smile hardened.

An assistant hurriedly explained. "That's true, Miss Montgomery. Someone has already pre-ordered the gown half a month ago as we've mentioned earlier and that person is... Miss Vera Quinn."

"Meredith was speechless.

"So can I go yet?" Madeline smiled at the sight of Meredith Crawford being close to blowing up.

The store members quickly stepped

forward to form two lines as they bowed respectfully to bid Madeline farewell. "Have a nice day, Miss Quinn. Please come again. 33

Madeline raised the corner of her lips prettily, her mirthful gaze sweeping over

Meredith's frustrated expression.

"From the behavior you've shown during this short period of time, Miss Crawford, I'm starting to understand why Mr. Whitman's refusing to get married."

"What... What are you talking about? What do you mean, Vera Quinn?"

"I'm speaking in English. Don't you understand, Miss Crawford? That doesn't make sense, unless you're telling me that we're not the same kind?"

"Meredith was close to exploding, but to protect her image of a saint, she clenched her teeth and refrained herself.

Madeline spared her a glance before turning around casually. 'You're angry, aren't you, Meredith?

'Don't get too angry. We've only just started.

'I'll take back every single thing you owe me

!' Meredith returned to the Montgomery household with a belly full of anger. Seeing her return, the housekeeper poured her a cup of tea and brought her a plate of snacks. 2

"What's wrong, Miss Meredith? Here,

have some fruits to chase away the anger." The housekeeper fawned over her smilingly.

"Who are you to poke your nose into my business?" Meredith rolled her eyes, displeased. "Where's my mother?"

The sound of a car drifted in from the door

after she asked, and the housekeeper shot a gaze toward the door. "I believe Madam is back."

With that, Meredith immediately stood. "Tell my mother I'm in my room when she asks." Giving the order, she picked up her bag

and rushed up the stairs. The housekeeper acknowledged and

stared at Meredith's retreating figure with

hatred in her eyes.

"You're Brittany's indirect killer, Meredith Crawford! Brit would still be living happily and easily as the oldest daughter had you not suddenly appeared

and stole her spot!" 5 Having said that, she sensed Eloise' steps approaching.

"Where's Meredith, Diana? Is she back yet?" Eloise's voice drifted over.

While the housekeeper was around Eloise's age, she was no match for the other in terms of physique or temperament. 2

Turning around to face Eloise, she replied respectfully, "Miss Meredith has just returned. She should be in her room."

Eloise nodded and turned to walk up the stairs with a smile.

"Look what Mom got you, Meredith? Only my daughter is worthy of such beautiful jewelry in all of Glendale. With this, I'm sure you'll become the center of everyone's attention during the Whitman Corporation's 50th anniversary celebration." 3

Eloise spoke while she walked into Meredith's room. Stepping inside, she dropped the jewelry box in shock at the scene within the room.

"Meredith! What are you doing?" Eloise rushed forward to take the fruit knife away from Meredith. "What happened, Meredith? Who bullied you? Tell Mom. I'll never let anyone harm my precious daughter!"

Eloise's heart raced in worry and fear as she pulled a 'suicidal' Meredith into her

arms. She had lost her precious daughter once already 20 years ago, and she refused to

lose this precious child again.

Meredith leaned sorrowfully into Eloise's chest, trying her best to squeeze tears from her eyes. "It hurts, Mom. I'm so tired *** Why is my relationship with Jeremy so difficult? It used to be Madeline, now there's a Vera Quinn too. I..."

"Vera Quinn?"

Eloise's mind supplied her with a face of a woman who looked exactly like Madeline.

"What did that woman do to you?"

"She humiliated me in public, made fun of me, and mocked how Jeremy would never marry a woman like me. She's always with Jeremy, even using Jack to get closer to him. I think Jeremy has feelings for her too. She lifted her eyes that had gone red from all the tears. "My feelings for Jeremy are too deep, Mom. I fell for him the moment I saw him when we were kids. I really can't live without him. I'd rather die if it means that I can't be with him..."

"Don't think that, silly child. It won't be the end of the world! Mom can't lose you again!" Eloise comforted her daughter with distress as her eyes darkened. "Vera Quinn is just a shameless b*tch. I can't believe she'd seduce Jeremy even when he already has a fiancée. Don't worry, Meredith, your mom will get her back for you!"

"No, Mom. Don't go." Meredith quickly pulled Eloise back.

"I can't just sit and watch when others bully you like this, Meredith. You can't be too kind. Kindness will only make the bullying worse." "I know you love me, Mom. But she'll

definitely tell Jeremy if you bother her and

I don't want Jeremy to be sad." Meredith wiped off a tear as she grasped Eloise's hand in hers.

"I have another way to get Jeremy's heart back, Mom. Will you help me?"

There was no way Eloise would reject her daughter. "Tell me, Meredith. What's your plan? Mom would do anything to make you happy." The day of Whitman's 50th anniversary arrived in the blink of an eye.

Madeline lazily gave herself a spa treatment before finally plopping herself in front of the vanity to start doing her makeup.

After that, she donned herself in the gown that Meredith could only wish to own, picked up her designer purse, and got into a car toward Glendale's first-ever luxurious six-star hotel.

Rows of street lamps glowed as the night began to darken. Staring at the reflection on the windows in the car, her red lips curled as she raised a hand to rearrange the baby hair around her forehead. a

The beauty of the small smile gracing Madeline's lips was reflected in the rearview mirror, causing the driver to almost run a red light.

It was the first time he had seen such a
beautiful woman.

At that moment, the main entrance of the six-star hotel was already packed with people.

Reporters fought each other for first-hand material while various passersby also stopped to collect small gifts.

Guests with the invitations entered the hotel to arrive at the floor of the celebration hall.

It was an outstanding sight, for numerous celebrities had come to attend the celebration of Whitman Corporation's 50th anniversary.

Despite not getting to wear the gown she wanted to, Meredith had still dressed in a way that gave off a dignified and generous aura. She was attending the celebration as the future Mrs. Whitman, after all.

Not to mention the highlight of the night! She would not allow mishaps when it

came to her appearance!

Donned in a tailored black suit for the night, Jeremy elegantly entered the venue.

Under the warm glow of the chandelier that danced on his attractive features, coupled with the tailored suit that accentuated the man's physique, Jeremy seemed to ooze with princely dignity and grace.

The ladies there stared at him, trying to approach and flirt only to back down at the cold deterrence in the man's eyes.

Whereas Meredith seemed to take the chance to walk by Jeremy's side, greeting people here and there as his wife.

She loved these events for the envious gazes these women would shoot in her direction.

Standing by Jeremy's side signified her exceptional status and fame!

Sweeping over his surroundings, Jeremy pursed his lips in distaste. "Why are there so many reporters?"

Meredith's eyes shone as she quickly answered with a smile, "A 50th anniversary is a big day for Whitman Corporation. It makes sense that reporters are here to witness this grand event."

"That still doesn't explain why we have entertainment reporters here," Jeremy replied faintly, lowering his gaze to look at his watch.

Although displeased at Jeremy's act, Meredith kept the smile on her face. "Are you waiting for someone, Jeremy? Is it Miss Quinn?"

Jeremy did not answer. Instead, he pulled out his phone and walked to the side to make a call.

Meredith pinched the stem of the wine glass in infuriation just as Eloise walked over to her side. "I've already told the reporters, Meredith, and Jeremy's mother too. All there's left to do is announce the date of the wedding. Old Master Whitman's bound to pressure Jeremy when the reporters write about it and

there won't be a way for Jeremy to walk

out of this.

Meredith's smile returned at her mother's words of assurance. "Thank you, Mommy."

"Silly child. Who else would I help if not my daughter? I'm here for you, no matter what."

Meredith took Eloise's hands gratefully. The smile on her face was bright, yet the one in her heart was sinister. 'Yes. Exactly, Eloise Patton. Just like that. I'm your daughter, never forget that!'

At the same time, Madeline received a call from Jeremy just as she was about to

alight the vehicle.

After hanging up, she stepped out of the car.

From a distance, Madeline watched a familiar silhouette march his way into the hotel. The man arrogantly fished out the invitation and walked inside. z

From afar, the corners of Madeline's lips

tugged.

Wonderful.

Tonight's main witness had taken the bait.

Madeline smiled, satisfied. She took elegant steps to the hotel. All eyes fell on Madeline from the moment she got off the car...

Inside, Jeremy was frowning. A deep look flashed in his icy eyes as he found himself frustrated by Madeline not picking up his call.

Suddenly, he felt a tug at his pant legs.

Looking down, Jeremy was faced with Jackson's indifferent expression.

"Where's Big Sis Vera? Is she not here yet?" Jackson was very much looking forward to Madeline's arrival.

Jeremy felt his heart grow distant as he stared at his son.

The sight of Jackson would always remind him of how he had destroyed the ashes of his and Madeline's daughter. His heart raced as frustration bubbled each time the memory of Madeline's last words as she tugged on his collar replayed in his mind.

"Jack," Meredith's voice sounded.

The hand on Jeremy's pants tightened as the light in his eyes vanished. He let go to flee, only to be caught by Meredith in the end. "Where are you going, Jack?"

With a fake smile plastered on her face, Meredith gripped Jackson's small wrist tightly and lifted her head to smile gently at Jeremy.

"Your mother is asking us to go over, Jeremy. She said she has something important to announce."

Jeremy's cold gaze lifted. "Announce? Announce what?"

Meredith blinked her eyes innocently. "I don't know either. Maybe it's to do with the corporation? Perhaps we should head over first."

Staring at his mother who had already walked on stage in confusion, Jeremy's

long legs began to walk.

With Jeremy already taking the bait, Meredith tugged Jackson harshly. "Come on!"

Jackson tried his best to struggle against the hold, but all efforts were futile for his strength was no match for Meredith's.

Mrs. Whitman had taken the stage. Seeing Meredith walk over with Jeremy and Jackson in tow, she took the mic and began. "Dearest guests and reporters, I would like to thank you for your attendance today. I'm Jeremy Whitman's mother. Tonight, I would like to take this opportunity to announce some wonderful news, and I like all of you present to witness such a moment." "Wonderful news?"

"Could it be Young Master Whitman and Meredith Crawford's wedding?"

"It has to be!"

The audience began to whisper among themselves. Jeremy's eyes darkened at the sound of the rumors while Meredith's smile grew.

Jeremy and her wedding date was finally going to be announced!

The moment she had been waiting for had

finally arrived!

Mrs. Whitman smiled and spoke, "Indeed. The announcement I'm going to make will be about this marr-"

"Who's that?"

"Why does she look so familiar?"

"Could it be that woman from the auction?" The ballroom erupted into a rambunctious frenzy, interrupting Mrs. Whitman just as she was about to unwarrantedly announce details of the wedding.

Everyone's gaze fell in the direction of the ballroom doors to see a woman in a luxurious gray gown taking light and elegant steps toward them.

Her dress flowed fluidly behind her every step. z

Everyone was stunned as they set eyes on

Madeline's flawless appearance. 2

From her soulful eyes to the joy exuding from her pink cheeks, Madeline's beauty made one feel an indescribable way.

While beautiful faces were hardly a scarcity in the guests' lives, they could not help but find Madeline's beauty exceptionally breathtaking. It was impossible to tear their eyes from her! Everyone was curious about where Madeline had come from. The woman was smiling calmly while walking over to a crushed Meredith and Jeremy, who had his eyes fixed on her. Stopping in front of him, she smiled. "I'm here, Jeremy.

Jeremy's eyes constricted as he stared at the mesmerizing woman in disbelief. "What did you call me?"

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